

Meta Štravs, Slovenia

HOW MY LIFE TOOK A TWIST FOR THE BETTER

What is Tellington Touch? Does it really work? Will it work on my animals? Those and similar questions were mine for quite a while. My first contact with this method was at a Linda Tellington workshop that took place on the ranch Kaja and Grom. For a long time afterwards I did not pursue this direction, but both Darja and Linda made a great impression on me and planted in me a curiosity and a desire to get to know more in that field.

Last year we organized a workshop with the »Smile ambassadors« association. I participated with my dog DeNiro. Before the workshop DeNiro had severe obstipation problems and was also medicated for it. Let me emphasize that DeNiro was a therapeutic dog that finished schooling in our association and was potty trained, normally. For one of the practices that Darja was showing on our dogs she chose DeNiro for an example. The practice was ear work, and I'll never forget it. Why? After that exercise, DeNiro defecated in the middle of our lecture room. I was completely shocked and I almost scolded him, but Darja surprised me and said »it's ok, just go for a short walk outside«. DeNiro was cheerful and I was still in shock about what happened. Many things were going through my mind, like »he is potty trained, we had problems every time he needed to poop, and now he did it all by himself – and without medication«.

Well, that day I was surprised many other times. The 5 kg dog would defecate seven more times that day – his problems with obstipation were over.

Darja helped me, answering my questions; curiosity and the desire for new knowledge rose in me.

At that time we got a new dog member in our home named Marly. Whoever gave that dog the name had a big sense of humor. Marly's past is sad and because of that he has trouble trusting people, severe separation anxiety and a fear of storms. I won't even start about his manners on the leash. A 48 kg dog pulling the leash is no picnic. The first big change in Marly's behavior was when I changed from collar to harness. The pulling was minimized and the walks became bearable. Marly would still pull from time to time, but when I corrected him, he would turn and look at me in a way that said: »Oops... Sorry. It wasn't on purpose«. From that point on, our walks got better and better. With the knowledge that was given to me on a 5-day seminar with Lisa about double guidance, Marly is becoming a whole new dog. Our trust is building from day to day. Slowly he went to tracking leash and by the end of summer, Marly was walking without a leash and without any problems with recall.

I can thank the knowledge that was given to me by Darja, Manca and Lisa that Marly no longer destroys boxes, doors and walls. I decided to help his fear of storms with bandages and by giving him a place to hide in a big plastic box that is also covered during the storm. Marly's fear is much less now and the neighbors have noticed as well that he doesn't bark as often as before anymore.

Working with the Tellington method isn't always easy. Darja emphasized through all her lectures that we always have to work for the benefit of the animal. And that takes an entire

person. I experienced that on my white-breasted hedgehog. It took forever to accept that I can't prevent her from dying with my impact on her, if dying is the best salvation for her. My human nature wanted her presence as long as possible.

I use the knowledge that was given to me on all of my beloved, animals and people. The effect is also obvious in my therapeutic work. In many things I try to work differently and what isn't always the easiest for me is the best choice for the animal I'm working with.