I have 3 small dogs: Shelby, 7 years old, Jet, 6 years old, and Hatch, 2 year old. They are all Teddy Bears (Bichon and Shih Tzu mix). When I added Hatch to the pack, Shelby wanted to kill Hatch! So, I called Susan with Canine Concierge, who was recommended by my vet’s office, Detroit/Dover Animal Hospital. Susan explained to me after a demonstration, that Shelby had to be corrected right at the moment of aggression and even before! This was done by constant daily work with Shelby and Hatch. Jet stayed out of the battle. The day was broken down into approximately 4 segments of 15-20 minutes of working on this one problem. Early and stern corrections were key, with many hours of practice! Corrections were simple and straight forward. “Shelby NO!” and me blocking her from getting at Hatch was very effective and worked every time. It was clear that she wanted to be the alpha dog, which needed to be toned down. After many hours of corrections, she learned to rid herself of this aggressive behavior and accept Hatch as part of the pack.

Another point of contention was dealing with space. While Shelby was on the couch, I would put Hatch on the couch with me. When we moved closer to Shelby, I would give her a correction as soon as any sign of aggression was noted. After many hours of training like this, they now lay side by side peacefully.

The same method of stern corrections was applied to getting their treats. As they were about to get a treat, if Shelby showed any signs of taking the treat or being aggressive towards Hatch, it was a loud and stern “Shelby No!’ Again, this too took hours of work, but they now line up side by side and take their treats one at a time without any aggression or stealing treats.

Lastly, while playing fetch, Shelby would pay more attention to snapping at Hatch while chasing the toy. While getting the toy and returning it to me, she would growl and go after Hatch. Big problem! My tactics, which Susan explained to me, was to get Shelby to play the game and leave Hatch alone. Again, timing the corrections and getting in between Shelby and Hatch while facing Shelby was the answer. This took the most work as Shelby was very competitive. Susan explained that this was Shelby’s most valuable resource. This took approximately 3 months of daily work. It takes a large commitment on the pet owner’s time and patience! The good news is that they now play fetch all the time and whoever gets to the toy first, gets it and brings it back to me without any aggression!

