

Steve's taking the lead as a dog trainer

By LUCY KNIGHTON

A MARKFIELD dog trainer has become a leading light after his success at correcting the behaviour of dozens of dogs and their owners.

Amongst Steven Havers' fans is Ashes cricket star Matthew Hoggard, whose pet Doberman named Billy has completely transformed since meeting Steven.

Matthew, who plays for Leicestershire said: "I decided to do something after I came back from tour.

"Billy jumped on me and when I pushed him off he growled at me and I knew it was a problem.

"I wouldn't let strangers anywhere near Billy, and he would lunge at other dogs. He was just an absolute nightmare.

"We found three or four dog trainers and Steve was the only one who got back to me. He came all the way from Leicester up to us in Yorkshire, and within five minutes he told us Billy wasn't a vicious dog. Steve said he was just getting confused messages."

Mr Havers added: "Billy suffered from stress aggression, any situation he would find stressful he would go

and bite to try and make it go away.

"Billy is now fine with Matthew's little boy. It is all the evidence you need that the dog training has been successful. Billy was four years old when he came to us so it took a long time to change him and Matt had to put a lot of work in.

"I can get a dog to a point where it is working but then it is up to the owner to carry it on. It is very much a partnership."

Steven aims to educate the owners as well as the dogs through a combination of dog classes and home visits.

Kim Attwood from Whitwick, sought out Steven's help after her

Alsatian, Keesha, started to become a problem.

She said: "Keesha was boisterous, guarded me all the time and very territorial and attention seeking. She wanted your attention all the time.

"She is a lot more calm now and she listens to your commands. She still has her moments but that's just her being a dog! She's a very happy dog now.

"I would recommend them to anyone. What makes the difference is Steve's training gets you to realise things through the eyes of the dogs. You understand what they are thinking."



Cricket star Matthew Hoggard and his Doberman, Billy

