

Hello Guys,

It's been more than a year since I am associated Xcellsa and hence thought of sharing my experience with you all and also about the wonderful dog I was lucky enough to bring up.

It all started the day when I (my family) started building a house in Bangalore. I've always been a fan of pets of any kind or breed. So owning a dog was always a dream. Having an individual house in Bangalore just brought my hope alive. That's how it all began.

I was in Zurich for 2 years and that's when I started doing a research in the internet about the kind of dog I could have in a 1600sq feet plot (That's where my house is built). I looked up different websites and narrowed down to two breeds of which I had to choose one. A German shepherd or a Rottweiler. Later I was convinced that I needed a Rottweiler (For aesthetics, the looks, the pride etc.). I was never going to have smaller breeds. On a lighter note, for me the word dog represents a big animal with canine features and could never imagine a poodle or a Chihuahua. This is just a personal opinion and no offense meant.

The next task was to find out a reputed breeder. I could find many breeders in the internet. So I mailed them all. As many as 30 to 35 breeders! Got a reply from most of them. I was very impressed with the kind of response I received from Xcellsa (Dhanu). The rest of the breeders just sent me a one liner, stating the time the puppy would be available and the price tag of the puppy. But Xcellsa gave me enough details which got me convinced that they are the one I should go for. Email correspondence continued which further gave me full confidence on them, the knowledge Dhanu had on dogs and more importantly the touch of care and that's really the element which made me choose Xcellsa and the same element which made me think about writing this for them.

After I returned to India, I along with my wife and brother visited Dhanu's house in Coimbatore from where I was supposed to take my puppy. Dhanu's father (Uncle Roy) was very patient explaining all the aspects of bringing up a dog and he even brought two of his male dogs (Jack and Amigo) in the sitting room so that he is assured that we are the right people to bring up a Rottweiler:). But trust me, seeing a fully grown male Rottweiler (Amigo) I almost fainted, having never seen such a large dog so closely. My wife looked at me with thousand question marks on her face. So did my brother. But I still continued the conversation with uncle Roy where I didn't show any predicament of any sort. That night, my brother and I discussed about the challenges of having to bring up a dog of this size. After sifting through various points, we decided we could definitely have a Rottweiler. So we brought the puppy home. We named him "Appu"

I have heard that many breeders don't stay in touch with their customers. Their sole aim being giving away the puppy and making money as soon as possible, making their kennel a kind of puppy mill where puppies are mass produced just for money. This is where Xcellsa really stands out. I have been in constant touch with Dhanu, troubled him with many stupid questions and doubts as it was my first experience taking care of a puppy of a certain pedigree. I used to have cats before. Dhanu used to message me if he was busy and call me after he was free. There was a time when Appu got bored of his food. We used to feed him Royal Canine and he just won't eat unless I go behind him and force him, which was not very pleasant experience. I contacted Dhanu, who suggested me a trick which worked a charm!!

Appu was developing beautifully. He has a very beautiful face and everyone who saw him asked me where I got the dog. My neighbor has a Rottweiler but its muzzle was quite sharp and elongated. That's when I understood that breeding dogs has a lot of science behind it. To be honest, I was a bit upset at one point of time when my neighbor told me that he got his dog for a much lesser price. But when I look at Appu and his dog, I sure can tell the difference now :). I was very happy having Appu in our family until a misfortune fell on him.

Well, there are good times and then there are bad times. Appu wouldn't eat and he became sick. I have seen him not eat his food at some point, which would go away in a day where he would become active again. But this was different, he became weaker the next day and we took him to the doctor. He was running a high temperature and the doctor told that he was just having a fever. I took him home. The next day, situation was worse. He couldn't stand up. He urinated while he was lying down on his side, unable to stand up or eat. All he could do was lift his head and look me in despair and I was heartbroken. I took him to the vet again and decided to admit him there. The vet told that he was infected with tick fever and his kidneys were affected as the blood sample showed a high creatinine level. He was on drips for 2 to 3 days. Things didn't improve at all. It was 5 days since Appu was admitted and I was called upon by the vet. He told me that if things wouldn't improve then he might have to think about taking a decision on him. The decision to put him down. My worst fears came alive and I stood there in the clinic unable to control my tears. My brother and I decided that we would go to any extent if there was any hope that he could survive. We just couldn't imagine him gone. The clouds of uncertainty moved away when I got a call from the doctor informing that Appu started drinking water and responding positively. The treatment (intravenous drips and antibiotic tablets) continued. The creatinine level dropped and he slowly came back to life. We kept him on k/d diet so that his kidneys are not impacted due to high protein. As usual, I was in constant touch with Dhanu, and he never failed to follow up on Appu checking his condition every day. As per his advice, we fed him a lot of liquid food, especially tender coconut water and curd. Appu lost weight, in fact too much weight. We observed that he drank a lot of water and urinated a lot, which was a good sign as it would flush the kidneys. The urine was of pale color, unlike the normal yellowish urine which he used to pass when he was healthy. Things improved and now he is totally fine. He regained his weight and we are happy again.

Tick fever as per the vet happens due to an infected tick. It's not necessary that a dog could have tick fever even though its coat is swarmed by ticks. But one infected tick could do the damage. Same as dengue fever. So I now apply a vial of "Protektor" once in 3 months. This is very effective as it would kill all the eggs and the ticks on a dog's body. From past 3 months, Appu doesn't even have a flea on his body, let alone the tick. I used to spray Ridd solution on him, but Protektor is strong and effective.

It's been one hell of a roller coaster ride with Appu. He is now 16 months old and doing great. I hope I will have years of joy with him. I would like to thank Xcellsa and its great ambassador, Dhanu Roy, for being there for me in all kinds of situations with Appu. Without his advices, I wouldn't have been able to bring him up to a dog what he is now. I Thank and wish the entire team behind Xcellsa a great success. And to all my friends out their having a dog, no matter what breed they are, I wish you a wonderful time with them. The joy of having a pet cannot be explained in words. You need to have one to experience it. Take care.