

Who Let the Dog Out?

Jacquie Nagy, February 2010 www.holisticdirections.com

Computer problems easily top the list of things that can hinder the success of a home based business. Recently I had an experience that started innocuously and lead to a domino effect of events that could have easily turned into something much worse. It started when a move of my desk to a second floor bedroom, oops I mean office, meant having to deal with a weak internet signal.

With no onsite techie to call, one day I decided to move closer to the modem and proceeded to set myself up on the dining room table to work. Problem fixed! Sunshine, lots of table space and close to the fridge, what could go wrong? It was a temporary fix that many home based business owners experience on a daily basis.

Posturing on a wooden chair, circa 1949, time stood still as I became deeply focused on the design of a new workshop on state management when – ARF, ARF, ARF - our family ‘pet’ Dexter, bolted like lightening across the room in response to a soft knock. Jerked out of a blissfully creative state I swung around and saw a familiar looking young man wearing sunglasses peering through my front door side window. It must be my son. Humph, and he forgot his keys again. Curious as to why he was home 45 minutes early from work but knowing he would be hungry I quickly opened the door to let Dexter out to greet his master and immediately headed in the other direction to the kitchen.

Behind the wall separating the kitchen from the foyer, I declared “You’re home early!”

There was no response which didn’t surprise me. Dexter lives for the moment when my son arrives home – like peas in a pod those two. I pictured them having a wrestle in the front yard.

No less than a minute passed and I heard “Hello?” followed by another knock on the door, which I could feel was ajar by the icy draft wafting over my bare feet.

“You’re home early!” I shouted as I stirred the dinner which had been brewing away in a crock pot all afternoon.

“HELLO!!” A strange voice jerked me out of state once again. This time, instinct kicked in and I sensed something was not quite right. I rushed around the wall dividing the kitchen and foyer and realized it wasn’t my son at the door at all. It was a parcel delivery man. “Your DOG just chased me outside and wouldn’t stop barking!” he asserted using a stern tone paired with a look of incredulity.

“I’m soooooooooo sorry”, I uttered in an attempt toward receiving forgiveness. I repeated the apology as he continued to express his state of shock when after he had set several parcels down outside the door and turned around to walk back to his truck, without warning a 105 lb. ‘monster’ of a DOG came bolting out behind him. I could tell his senses had definitely been attacked. Fortunately his body was unharmed.

Having once been afraid of dogs, I had no trouble putting myself in his shoes and felt simultaneous deep empathy and huge embarrassment. After several more heartfelt “I’m sorry’s”, the young man shook his head and left my door step, but not before I caught a glimpse of the emerging smile on his face.

Later that afternoon when I told my family what had happened, we all had a good laugh. However, the series of events that day could have led to something much worse.

This story with its many lessons demonstrates why home based business owners must maintain a professional state of mind even when the location of the business is as informal as a dining room table.

“There is no scientific answer for success. You can't define it. You've simply got to live it and do it.”
Dame Anita Roddick, Founder, The Body Shop