



The world of Puppy Training - Start as you mean to go on



I'm often asked what the key to successful puppy training is; and my answer is always the same: "Start as you mean to go on" - be positive and be consistent.

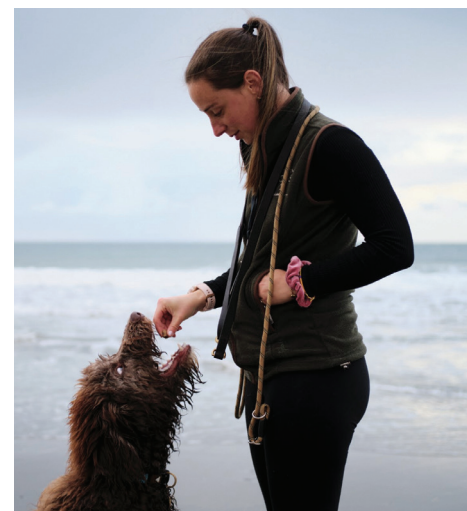


My name is Hannah, founder of Kentwone Dogs, although many recognise me through my 3-year-old red fox labrador

Oakley as he is where the Kentwone journey began. Through educating my own dog and watching him excel in his training, I developed a genuine passion for dog psychology, leading me to go on and achieve a level 3 Higher Diploma in Canine training and behaviour.

My role within the industry has allowed me to observe how dogs interact within a family unit; leading to the development of my own training styles and determining how I work around the young dogs I am training. From day dot, you are building the foundations of a partnership that has respect at its core, and in which the dog knows their place. A young pup will naturally challenge your authority and status as pack leader, we have all seen it; therefore consistency from the beginning is key.

A puppies training is most successful when it is threaded into their everyday life in a subtle manner; For example, I encourage all of my clients to train using a dogs set meals - a positive and simple way to teach new commands and build the foundations for a strong relationship when training. As well as making you far more valuable to them! Routine is another crucial example of "indirect training"; teaching our dogs



where to be and when, is one of the corner stones to building that respect your training journey will be dependent on. For example, teaching your puppy "Place" in conjunction with a stimulus such as the doorbell gives them direction in those highly stimulating situations and, when reinforced as part of a routine, will support other areas of behaviour, such as impulse control.

The process of socialisation is another vital element in your puppy's development and most certainly relates to the idea of "starting as you mean to go on". Often people assume that socialisation simply stands for a dog-to-dog interaction. However, whilst meeting other dogs is important, socialisation stretches far beyond a puppy play date. The process should encapsulate new sights, sounds, smells, environment, and interactions. Desensitising a young pup to areas such as cafes, pubs, busy roads, train stations etc

while reinforcing with a positive reward, will create a confident and trusting canine companion. Nevertheless, all in moderation. Keep these experiences short but sweet to begin with; too much too soon could set you back in your training.

Finally, make the investment early! A staggering 53.1% of dog owners will choose not to invest in some form of formal training when they welcome a new dog into their home. In fact, most will only seek support from a trainer once the problems have progressed or when these bad behaviours have become a learned habit for the dog. Surely prevention is better than cure?



I have had many experienced dog owners join our foundation course with new puppies, who have still learnt many new things by investing in a modern dog trainer.

Hannah X

Founder at Kentwone Dogs LTD

Find out more

www.kentwonedogs.co.uk

07827 683908

info@kentwonedogs.co.uk

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