



Emma Goodwin, The Canine Guide – profile

The Canine Guide was founded to give all dog owners the opportunity to access their canine's full training and learning potential – regardless of age, breed, size or temperament by utilising nearly 20 years of dog training experience, in a variety of specialisms.

Just like our dogs, The Canine Guide understands that owners learn in a variety of ways – this could be a more hands on, in person experience, or part of a more self-directed approach allowing you to develop your personal skill.

As a handler, trainer, instructor and assessor I have supported the development of over 100 operational dogs and hundreds more pet dogs all of which had their own specific strengths and areas for development.

As the joint manager of one of the largest Police Puppy Development Programmes in the UK, I developed a renowned socialisation and training programme and was responsible for training a large number of volunteers. As an NPCC GP Instructor I was also responsible for organising and delivering refresher training for operational dogs and their handlers as well as the annual licensing of operational Police Dogs. It is within this role I was able to cement my love and appreciation of guarding breeds as well as gundog breeds – many of which I was able to develop in to working roles.

My role within Police, obedience and behaviour modification, as well as my MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour then forged my role training the UK International Search and Rescue (ISAR) Dog Teams. With ISAR I carried out practical training and assessment and provided theoretical inputs including short courses, and introductory practical training prior to final grading assessments.

I often get invited to events as a guest speaker or guest lecturer, I have articles published online and have represented the UK Government Internationally. I have links with the Zoological Society of London, the Institute of Technical Search and Rescue, Dogs Trust, OK9, International Federation for Animal Welfare, UK Police and UK Fire Service, Wrexham University and a number of other specialist trainers within the U.K.

I am an academic dog trainer which means I have a deeper, scientific understanding of practical training, typical development and behavioural issues commonly faced by dog owners. After years of helping and supporting thousands of dogs all with their own strengths, abilities and issues I can also train dogs practically.

My real passion lies within my day-to-day training role and that is supporting our everyday dogs and their owners. On average I see 40 dogs for training every week, some for group training, others for one-to-one training. All owners have the same requirement – I want a dog I can take anywhere, that will walk nicely on the lead and come back when they are called.

For me, this starts with an eight-week-old puppy – correct boundaries, recognition of rapid development (don't believe the seven years to every human year myth!), recognising training needs and the need for progression as well as basic, foundational management that will set you in good-stead for an amazing life with your dog. I have seven dogs at home, some of which I have been developing since before the day they were born, the others from eight weeks of age. All

individuals, all different breeds, all different personalities, all a pleasure to have at home. My own dogs have worked in a number of disciplines – Agility, Obedience, Scentwork, Working Trials, Specialist Training, Gundog and Falconry Dogs. Their foundations have all been the same, structure, routine, clarity, learning and training.

I know the road isn't always smooth, I see many owners who have a more challenging situation with their dog – the only one of their dogs that has been a challenge, the rescue dog, the distressed dog, the anxious dog, the dog that resource guards, a dog that can't hear, the dog that barks and lunges at other dogs; I am here to help with this too. I have extensive experience in supporting owners with dogs who exhibit behaviour issues, through careful history examination and bespoke packages, access to stooge dogs, a wealth of knowledge and experience – this is where my background in clinical animal behaviour can support you and your needs. The aim here is building your confidence as well as modifying your dog's behaviour. Its not about 'stopping' a behaviour, it's about training a new one.

Dogs are my life, not just my once-a-week job. I understand their needs, and my role is to help you understand how their needs can be met with a straightforward and clear approach.

Remember, you might not always be training, but your dog is always learning.

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The Canine Guide Founder