

# How becoming a dog trainer changed my life



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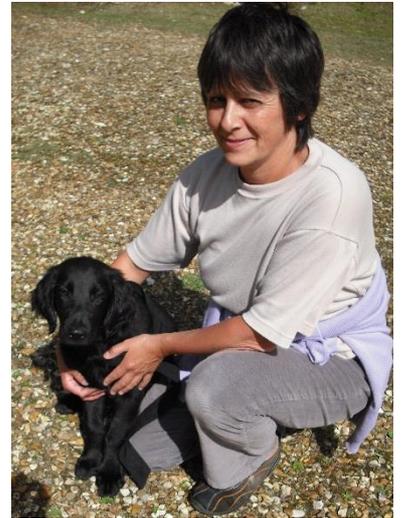


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## *Who is Sandra Lawton?*

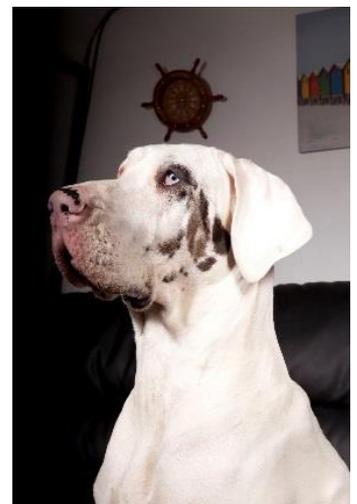
I have owned many dogs over the past 40 years but bringing home my gorgeous flat coated retriever puppy, 11 years ago now, completely changed my life. It was this unruly puppy, as he was from 3 months to 9 months of age, leaving me in tears, that led me to becoming a dog trainer.



I just couldn't find the help to train him. We were invited to leave not one, but two local training classes because he was too disruptive. That was when I decided the only way forward was to find out how to train him myself so I set off on a mission to become a dog trainer. I'm delighted to say, a couple of years later Rolo and I completed our Working Gundog Certificate.

Joining Rolo and I, a few years later, came Doris. The most adorable Great Dane. Doris joined us at 3 years of age, deaf, partially sighted and poorly socialised. Wow, what a lot my team and I learned from her.

Thank you Doris



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Becoming a dog trainer completely changed my life and the life of my dog. My only regret is that I didn't do it years earlier.

From nurse, to project manager and finally back to the NHS, when I could have just been a dog trainer, with freedom to make life choices and earn more money.

You might have to reason with those around you who think your crazy to give up a well-paid job. You might have to reason with those around you who think running a business or working for yourself is a crazy idea. BUT, it's not their life is it. It's yours.

Being a dog trainer is great fun, rewarding, frustrating at times, but an amazing way to earn a living. Customers often say, 'you have the best job in the world.' They're right, I do, but I just think, 'well why don't you come and do it too?'

I set out 10 years ago now with the aim to replace the income I lost from my full-time job. I'm fully responsible for the income in my household – no-one else to pick up the tab. Initially I started part time, working alongside my full-time job.

It's so easy to start part-time, combining it with your current job if that's what you need to do. The most popular time for people

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attending classes is weekends and evenings.

Within 6 months I gave up my well-paid, senior manager job and became a full-time, self-employed dog trainer. Within a year I realised I was inadvertently building a business not just creating a job for myself.

I did very little marketing. I did what they say you can't do, 'I built it and they came.'

The pet dog population is growing and growing. People are spending more and more time and money on their dogs.

During my first year I took on full-time use of a field and my first part-time trainee. Thankfully she is still with me too.

I chose when to work. I worked 3 mornings in the week and all day Saturday. All that free time, in charge of my life and still a good income. Why oh why didn't I do it sooner.

When my grandchildren were born I was free to support and help. I didn't have to ask a boss for time off. When a friend was ill, I was there to support and help. I could do what I chose.

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For me, the opportunity to build a business became exciting and challenging so that's what I decided to do.

I love my work, I love training people, I love watching people blossom and achieve their goal.

I could have chosen to just carry on working part-time hours, working hours to suit, taking holidays as and when I wanted but I wanted to see just what I could achieve.

Here I am now, 2 full-time members of staff, 4 part-time members of staff. I do very little standing in a field, dog training because that's what I've chosen.

My time is spent helping others to become a dog trainer. Whether people then come and work with me or set up on their own, is their choice, but I just love getting people started.

I love working 'on' my business, so I spend a lot of time doing that too.

Do you see, all the way through, since I made the decision to become a dog trainer, it's all been about what I choose to do.

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Isn't that what life is supposed to be about. If you want more information about my Train the Trainer programme you can,

Check it out on my website,

<https://www.thenationaldogtrainingacademy.co.uk/dog-trainer-certificate/>

Send me an email with questions or to arrange a call,

[sandra@thenationaldogtrainingacademy.co.uk](mailto:sandra@thenationaldogtrainingacademy.co.uk)

Arrange to pop along for a visit and watch a class

e: [sandra@thenationaldogtrainingacademy.co.uk](mailto:sandra@thenationaldogtrainingacademy.co.uk)

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