

Dog Trainers & Behaviourists in Ireland

Tips to find a Certified,
Ethical trainer or
behaviourist in
an unregulated industry.



Dog Trainers

Dog Trainers teach the fundamentals in how to teach your dog different exercises such as loose lead walking, recall, getting your dog to be able to focus on you when you're out and about. puppy training, socialisation etc and in turn these help in preventing unwanted behaviours. They can teach skills to your dog, including building impulse control

They teach you about your dog's body language, which helps you understand your dog and learn to communicate with each other. Trainers can specialise in different areas and work with dogs including rescues, restricted breeds. Some trainers have an interest in behaviour and may be studying to become a certified behaviourist, however they **refer a client to a behaviourist if it is outside their scope of work and will always advise they are not behaviourists.**

Dog Behaviourists: Clinical Consultant or Technician?

Clinical Consultants/ Behaviourists work with dog guardians to address more complicated behaviours. All behaviour is communication. They assess the reason a dog is reacting in their environment in a certain way and what the dog is achieving and can then look at methods of overcoming this. They can also work alongside your vet for clinical diagnosis and also rule out pain. Examples: reactivity with other dogs or humans, resource guarding, separation anxiety. They do an assessment and create a plan. There is not one route to become a behaviourist, some have a degree level qualification or similar and others have done numerous independent courses and are registered with the IAABC or ABTC or similar.

Technicians have studied behaviour and work under supervision of a Clinical Consultant. They can implement a plan that has been developed by a Consultant with you and your dog on an ongoing basis. Some Technicians in Ireland have trained with Ani-ed.

Check the ABTC or the IAABC to find a fully certified behaviourist that requires behaviourists to do annual professional development.

Always ask what their educational background is as this can vary!



Dog Trainers and Behaviourists



Certified Dog Trainers and Behaviourists

What to look for & why.....

Question: Ask Questions and ensure you are getting clear and transparent answers. Ask about their methods, tools they use and their ethics, along with their qualifications and Organisations they are members of. Choose Force and Fear Free Training/Positive Reinforcement training.

When in doubt check it out!

- Ensure the person you hire is a certified member of a Professional organisation that assesses their knowledge and requires them to do annual professional development!
- **Tip....check out the members list on the organisation website to ensure the trainer or behaviourist is actually listed!**

- **Do no harm:** Instructors only use equipment that does not cause pain such as a harness and lead, dog treats and they use skills and techniques that are evidence based, science led and ethical
- **Empathy:** They aim to understand the reason behind the behaviour so you can teach the dog alternative behaviours after addressing the dog's needs. An example of this may be a dog barking and lunging because they are fearful. In this case you would work on the emotional response and the confidence of the dog around other dogs and not just loose leash walking.
- **Trust:** They teach exercises that build confidence and teach people about dogs' body language so that the relationship between you and your dog is built on trust and not fear.
- **Accountability:** Trainers are members of organisations that hold them accountable and undertake Professional development and upskill annually. **Check the ethics of the organisationa and if they actually are members!**
- **Certified and Qualified:** Trained with organisations that are externally accredited and uphold their trainers and behaviourists to high standards. There is a big difference between a company certifying a trainer and an organisation who uphold standards inspected by an educational body. External educational bodies certifying trainers include:

QQI
Ofqual
OCN
City and Guilds

Force and Fear Free Training Organisations

Professional Organisations that are ethical and assess their members knowledge and are required to do annual Professional Development to retain membership.

Trainers that are members of these organisations below have been assessed and have signed an ethical code of conduct and uphold professional standards.

To find a trainer near you, check out the websites of the organisations below:



Companies that provided certified training and behaviour courses that are externally assessed by an educational body.

Some trainers and behaviour clinicians do these courses below and also become a member of a professional body to sign up to a code of ethics and professional



Caption



*Examples of Local Trainers by County

Criteria: Certified by educational body and/or in the process of registering with a professional body that is ethical and requires annual professional development

*for up to date lists please check organisation websites such as the IMDT, PPG, IAABC, APDT,Ireland and the ABTC

Alot of trainers also do online video calls so check in advance with them

County Clare

	Classes and Workshops Offered	Contact
Burren School for Dogs	Group Classes, 1:1 sessions, Scent Work, Mantrailing, Puppy consults, Rescue Dogs , Reactivity, burrenschoolfordogs@gmail.com	+353 8795469
Dog Scouts	Behaviour Technician and trainer. Reactive, fearful dogs, life skills and puppy classes, games based training Agility	+353 873981110
Dogstories	One to one sessions, dog walking, rescue dogs and behaviour, puppy foundations and social skills.	+353871777941
Gaol Dog	1:1 sessions and group classes. Rescue dogs.	+353 851855568
Harley's K9's	Dog Training, Dog Walking, puppy packages, reward and game based training Canicross Instructor	+353 862055386
Sound as a Hound	Training Instructor and Technician, one to one sessions, group classes, reactivity, rescue dogs soundasahounddogtraining@gmail.com	

County Galway		Classes and Workshops offered	Contact
Burren School for Dogs		Training and Behaviour, Group Classes, 1:1 , Scent Work, Mantrailing, Puppy consults, Rescue Dogs and reactivity	+353 858890100 burrenschoolfordogs@gmail.com
Evokin Behaviour and Training		1 to 1 training and behaviour sessions for example resource guarding, lunging, Rescue Dogs, human or dog aggression, fear, puppy consults, loose lead walking	+353 86 366 8541
Harley's K9's		Dog Training, Dog Walking, puppy packages, reward and game based training- canicross instructor	+353 862055386
Redline Canine		Behaviour and Training Consults, Puppy, Rescue, group classes, Mantrailing	+353 87 666 3968
SamSa-Dog Training		Training Consultant, Rescue Dog specialist & Restricted breeds, Puppy consults. IMDT trainer	+353 838344509
Suzanne Mc Donnell		Group Classes, 1:1 sessions, Mantrailing, Puppy consults, Rescue Dogs	+353 879036527

County Limerick & Tipp

Dog Scouts		Reactive, fearful dogs, life skills and puppy classes, games based training	+353 873981110
Dogstories and social skills.		One to one sessions, dog walking, rescue dogs and behaviour, puppy foundations	353871777941
Gaol Dog.		1:1 sessions and group classes. Rescue dogs	+353 851855568
Sound as a Hound		Training Instructor and behaviour Technician, one to one and group classes	soundasahounddogtraining@gmail.com

Other counties	County		Contact
Canine Connection Suzanne Mc Donnell	Mayo	Group Classes, 1:1 sessions, Mantrailing, Puppy consults, Rescue Dogs	+353 879036527 canineconnectionmayo@gmail.com
Five Star Dog Training	Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo	Dog Trainer, puppy consults, 1:1 sessions, group sessions	+353 861048765
LKDog Training	Kerry	One to one, group classes, mantrailing	+353 867741774 hello@lkdogtraining.com
Pawfessional- Meredith	Dublin	Behaviourist, dog trainer, Mantrailing, Scent Detection, Rescue Dogs, Separation Anxiety, Puppy training, behaviour	+353 834810569
Pawsative Steps	Cork	Dog trainer, One to one classes, agility, adolescence, puppy classes	087 6990303
Polite Paws	North Dublin	Judgement free, Behaviour Technician and dog trainer, Puppy packages	info@politepaws.ie
Positive Dog Training	Sandyford	Group classes, puppy classes, 1:1 sessions, doggie day care, shop	01 9013018
Rescue Remedies Dog Training	Dublin	Dog trainer, Training programmes 1:1 service, Rescue dogs, Muzzle training, restrictive breeds	+353 879783533
The Crate Escape	North Dublin	Dog Trainer, Group classes, 1:1 consultations, life skills puppy training	+353 872328496



*we advertised for trainers and behaviourists who wanted to be listed on social media who met the criteria.

*If you are a certified trainer or behaviourist and would like to be listed please contact us to register.

* Up to date June 2026

Registered Clinical Behaviour Consultants & Behaviourists with third level qualifications

Canine Connect Clodagh Walsh	Cork	Group classes, one to one sessions, Behaviour sessions	+353 873884021
Catalyst Canine- Lauren Tapp	Mayo Online	dog behavior consultant specialising in complex cases involving separation anxiety, aggression, fear, sound reactivity	lauren@catalystcanines.com
Claire Quinlan Dog Behaviour	Kerry and West Ireland Online	Behaviour Consultant, registered with IAABC, fear based behaviours, aggression and Mantrailing	cqdogbehaviour@gmail.com 085 7763870
Harmony for Paws	North Dublin Online	Specialist in separation related anxiety and behavioural consultations	353892138024
Inn the Doghouse	Waterford	Puppy and dog training, one to one sessions	+353 85 7442821 info@innthedoghouse.ie
Sabrina Phelan	Sligo Online	Dog Behaviourist Consultant and Dog trainer	k9consultantirl@gmail.com
Suzi Walsh	North Dublin Online	Behaviour Consultant and Trainer 1:1 Behaviour Consults, Puppy Consults	+353 852150915
Suzi White	Kilkenny Online	Dog trainer and Behaviour Consultation, Mantrailing	+353 851485578
The Dog Lady	South East- Waterford	Dog Trainer and Behaviourist, Dog Reactivity and Separation anxiety	+353 873627575
The Driven Dog	Cork and online	Behaviour Consultant and Nutritionist working with sports and high drive working dogs	+353 852277939

Resources to find Ethical, R+trainers and Behaviourists

iabbc.org Behaviourists that are registered Consultants with the IABBC

anied.ie List of Behaviour Technicians

APDT.ie Dog Trainers that are registered members of the APDT

IMDT.co.uk Dog Trainers and Behaviourist that are registered members of the IMDT

petprofessionalguild.com List of Trainers that are registered members of the PPG

For advice or information about training your dog you can contact
info@clareanimalwelfare.ie

Training Methods to Avoid

Balanced Trainers or Punishment based trainers

Any trainer that calls themselves balanced uses punishment that causes pain and fear in your dog. We know we don't cause increased fear or pain to children to change a behaviour so why would pain or punishment work with dogs! It has been proven scientifically that these methods are not only unethical but also are unnecessary. High prey drive dogs, working dogs and restricted breeds all have better success when trained using force free methods.



Tools of a Balanced Trainer (positive reinforcement and punishment)

Balanced Trainers don't just use ecollars (shock collars) and prongs, they also use other corrections with choke collars, slip leads, shaking bottles, throwing items, which scare or injure your dog etc. Yanking a dog on a flat collar or choke collar can seriously damage your dog. These tools such as ecollars, prongs, choke chains are currently banned in other countries. Balanced trainers also use words like submission, pack leader, call themselves Master of, or falsely claim guaranteed success.



Activities that Enrich your Dog's Life and Grows Confidence

Enable your Dog to Problem Solve and Work Autonomously



Dog Sports Ask the same questions you would a dog trainer or Behaviourist. What are their qualifications and are they ethical! Ensure your dog is healthy before trying a new sport and have a vet check.

- ★ Agility- jumping, running, tunnels. Active training for a dog and guardian
- ★ Hoopers-low impact sport that go around a course similar to agility but low impact
- ★ Mantrailing-teaching your dog to find a person
- ★ Scent Detection- train your dog to find odour like gun oil, clove oil, truffle oil
- ★ Adventure Walks- group dog walks in scenic areas
- ★ Urban Herding/ Treitball- herding games with a ball
- ★ Canicross- running with your dog and running competitions

Toys and Feeding Methods

Dogs like to chew, lick and work for their food. It reduces stress hormones and increases their feel good hormones. Ensure your dog is not frustrated and that these are not instead of their meal in a bowl at first. Always supervise!

Why not try....

- ★ Licki Mats- squish pate, yogurt, dog food onto the mat
- ★ Stuffable food holders such as kongs or honey pots (brand) or simply stuff a bell pepper or buffalo horn. You can freeze these to add additional interest (avoid freezer burn and defrost 5 minutes prior to feeding)
- ★ Puzzles that your dog has to work out how to release the food.
- ★ Wrap treats in layers of paper and put in cardboard boxes to shred or stuff in toilet roll holders
- ★ Scatter feed treats in the garden for your dog to find