

# Rachel Johnston

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## Skill Set

- Rescue dog experience in the home, including fostering shelter puppies
- Practical experience in the shelter environment
- Dog-owner consultations
- Running puppy and foundation training classes
- Positive reinforcement clicker training
- Animal handling skills (various companion animals and wildlife)
- Work in India- 5 months spent volunteering on street dog neuter and anti-rabies project
- Pet First Aid certificate

## Education

- M.Sc. Clinical Animal Behaviour with distinction (Edinburgh University)
- Delta Certified Dog Trainer (Delate Institute, Australia)
- M.Sc. Zoology (Canterbury University)
- Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Canterbury University)
- Certificate in Veterinary Nursing (Otago Polytechnic)

## Organisations

- Full member APDTNZ
- Provisional member of the APBC (Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, UK)

## Professional Summary

I am passionate about animal welfare and ethical, reward-based training. Behavioural consultancy and training must be grounded in modern science-based techniques and learning theory. Key components of my services are a committed and caring approach to owners, their dogs, and the problems they are experiencing. Because behavioural issues are frequently related to current or previous medical conditions client referral from a veterinary team is of utmost importance. As is building and maintaining positive working relationships with veterinary professionals.

## Summary of Work History

### **Behaviour and Training Advisor**

Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust

2020 - present

- Permanent part-time role developing and overseeing training and behaviour modification plans for higher-needs dogs.
- Training and mentorship of staff and volunteers.
- Training support for owners of recently adopted dogs and dogs in foster care.
- Assist with the daily care and welfare of shelter dogs, dog adoptions and rehoming assessments.

### **Tutor - Certificate in Animal Care Level 3**

National Trade Academy

Aoraki Polytechnic

- Teaching position delivering NZQA unit standards to young adult learners.
- Subjects taught included animal facility hygiene, zoonotic diseases, animal behaviour, health and husbandry of companion animals, anatomy and physiology, animal ethics and small animal handling skills.
- Effective lesson planning, communication, and transfer of knowledge for different learning styles.

### **Field Ranger – Biodiversity**

Department of Conservation, Massey and Otago University, Falklands Conservation

- Seven years of conservation field work on threatened and endangered species recovery programs (including kaka, Chatham Island petrel, taiko, shore plover, black robin, saddleback, sooty shearwater, Stewart Island robin, North Island robin, NZ fur seals).
- Tasks involved locating breeding pairs and nests, banding and measuring chicks and adults, safe egg handling, installation of artificial burrows, transmitter attachment and radio-tracking birds.
- Accurate record keeping, data entry, report writing, and team participation; critical on remote offshore islands.