



## Companion Animal Behavioural Services

Creating Contentment From Knowledge And Kindness

[www.companionanimalbehaviouralservices.co.uk](http://www.companionanimalbehaviouralservices.co.uk)

### Case History - Bella

Bella is a medium-sized feral crossbreed dog imported from Cyprus at 4 months old. Bella's owners opted for a **pre-purchase consultation** in addition to their training options and so were as fully prepared as possible when they collected their new puppy.

As we suspected, Bella's background and early experience had made her very nervous and she was overwhelmed by her long journey and the many changes that she had encountered in her short life.



I was able to see her the morning after she arrived so that we could start straight away to help her to adjust step-by-step to her new world. I worked with the whole family so that everyone in the house understood what Bella would need.

At first, Bella was reluctant even to step into a different room, but soon she became confident indoors and out and we embarked on a mixture of one-to-one and group training sessions. Bella loves playing with her owners' children and became more and more confident playing with other dogs. Bella also loves the local wildlife so recall training has been a challenge with squirrels and pigeons to contend with.

Now Bella has progressed to walking well on a loose lead and even coming back when she spots a cat. Her confidence is increasing daily as she progresses through adolescence and she has become a loving, trusting addition to the family.

Her owners are now teaching her a raft of tricks to amuse their friends and are even considering training to compete in agility.



Street dogs like Bella often find it difficult to adjust to life in a very different environment to that in which they were born. By the time that they reach their new owners, they have often been through several traumatic changes even if they are only a few weeks old.

Gentle, careful introductions to their new environment, including children, other pets, other dogs, wildlife and strangers is essential if they are able to join in family life with confidence and eagerness.

Tragically, many such dogs are surrendered by owners and many contributed to the 57,000 dogs picked up as strays by local authorities (Dogs Trust Stray Dog Survey, 2019). Most problems are preventable with a little effort so that owners do not go through heartache and dogs do not suffer.

If you need help with a dog like Bella or have any other problem with a dog or cat, please contact me on [info@dogsnet.org](mailto:info@dogsnet.org).

No dog or cat is too young or too old to learn and you too can make your life with your chosen companion easier.

Find out more here:

<https://companionanimalbehaviouralservices.co.uk/about/>

