

WORKING AT BATTERSEA

WHAT IS A CBTA?



**WE ARE
HERE FOR
EVERY DOG
AND CAT**

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ABOUT OUR CANINE BEHAVIOUR TEAM



Above: CBTAs lead Battersea Academy sessions with delegates from rescue organisations from around the world.

Battersea has always welcomed every animal in need of our help, and we always will. We've been offering our love and expert care to the animals who need us for over 160 years, and we take in any dog or cat regardless of their age, breed or medical condition, without judgement. This means that our dedicated canine behaviour team have the opportunity to deal with a wide variety of interesting and sometimes challenging animal cases every single day.

Our expert team of canine behaviourists consists of both Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisors (CBTAs), CBTA leads, and Canine Behaviourist and Training Managers (CBTMs). Together they provide behavioural support and advice to teams within Battersea, members of the public, and the rescue organisations we work with around the world.

The team design and help implement behaviour modification and training plans for dogs whilst coaching members of the canine care groups through the practical day-to-day steps. They also assist with behavioural and welfare assessments of animals who come into our centres and are on hand to help manage and provide further support with behaviourally challenging dogs.



WHAT DOES A CBTA DO?



Above: CBTAs work closely with our rehoming and welfare team to design and help implement training and care plans for every animal.

CBTAs at Battersea provide behavioural support and guidance for every animal that arrives in need of our help. While some animals will only need more general behavioural support and care, more and more we find our new arrivals coming to Battersea with more complex needs that require extensive training and specialist support. As a result, our varied and complex intake provides CBTAs with the opportunity to strengthen their existing skills, whilst also creating the perfect learning environment.

CBTAs at Battersea have the opportunity to work with the Battersea Academy team, sharing their hands-on knowledge and expertise with other rescues and animal charities, both in the UK and abroad. Members of the CBTA team are heavily involved in both the design and delivery of the Academy's canine-related training programmes, and they also have the opportunity to run and host online puppy and adolescent dog training classes to pet-owning members of the public. CBTAs also provide support to members of the public through the behaviour advice phone line and by informing the scripts and appearing in front of the camera for the Battersea Way YouTube advice series. Crucially, they also share knowledge internally at Battersea, delivering training programmes and curating the Dogs Digest newsletter for Battersea staff members, volunteers, foster carers, and community rehoming volunteers.



Behaviour Plans
Work with care groups to design bespoke behaviour plans for all our dogs.



Dog Training Classes
Design and run weekly online training classes to help owners train their pets.



Academy Training
Educate and empower delegates from rescue centres around the world.



Mentoring
More senior CBTAs are matched with new starters as mentors to get them up to speed.



Media Opportunities
Chance to share Battersea knowledge in the media, on TV, and social media channels.



Work with other Teams
Train other teams at Battersea and beyond to better understand dogs.



Aftercare
CBTAs might provide new owners with training plans, plus ongoing support.



Muddy Dog Events
Travel to fun events across the country to safeguard and steward dogs and their owners.



Learning Opportunities
Build on existing experience to develop in specialist areas and types of training.

CBTAs learn so much, every single day, helping care for dogs across our three centres.



Above: CBTAs work across all three of our Battersea centres in London, Old Windsor, and Brands Hatch.

The canine behaviour team at Battersea also attend our Muddy Dog fundraising events, ensuring dogs and their owners stay safe and healthy while also having plenty of fun.

All of this knowledge helps further the aim of providing the best care for the dogs at Battersea. Sadly, with the increase in more challenging cases, this can sometimes include having sensitive conversations about a dog to decide on their outcome, including euthanasia.

CBTAs at Battersea have the unique opportunity to help define and apply the best principles of canine behaviour modification and training, supporting dogs on their whole journey, from rescue to rehabilitation all the way through to rehoming.



RESCUE IS OUR FAVOURITE BREED

ALICE'S BATTERSEA CAREER STORY

My name's Alice and I'm a CBTA lead at Battersea. I've been at Battersea for 3 years and actually started out as a kennel support volunteer before I joined the team full-time.

Working as a CBTA is such a varied role, and no two days are the same. Most of our time is spent coaching the kennel staff in individual care groups who work directly with the dogs. We're on hand to demonstrate and guide the kennel staff through a dog's training and behaviour modification plan and to help handle more challenging dogs. We also work closely with different operational teams, assisting the intake department when animals come into our centres and working with our clinic team to help safely handle dogs for clinical procedures.

The canine behaviour team is responsible for educating staff members and volunteers about dog behaviour. As a CBTA this means you also work closely with the Battersea Academy team delivering training to local authorities and other rescue organisations across the UK and abroad.



ALICE
**CANINE BEHAVIOURIST
AND TRAINING ADVISOR
LEAD**

3 years in the Canine Team

BSc Zoology

MSc Applied Animal
Behaviour and Welfare

"One of my favourite things about working at Battersea is being able to foster animals. I love helping set a dog up for success in their new home and giving them new positive experiences."



There are so many exciting and varied opportunities to get involved with as a CBTA at Battersea including working with our Marketing and Communications team on the filming for Paul O'Grady's For the Love of Dogs (or POGDOGS for short!) which is shot on-site at our centres and broadcast on ITV. You will also find us assisting at Battersea's Muddy Dog events across the UK to ensure all owners and dogs remain safe and have a fun time!

Battersea is fantastic at allowing you to develop your personal interests and career opportunities. As a CBTA I was lucky enough to attend Caroline Ingraham's training to become a specialist in aromatic enrichment, and I'm also now a trained specialist in scent search training after attending the School of Canine Science's Scent for Six course. I've also been able to develop my knowledge more generally by being encouraged to attend different webinars, talks and conferences. This allows CBTAs to make sure our knowledge is up to date and ensures that current best practice can be applied to creating the best possible outcomes for the dogs in our care.

The best thing about Battersea is the dedicated staff members. Everyone is so friendly and trying to do the best for the dogs in our care to ensure they get the best chance at a happy new life! If someone was to ask why they should work at Battersea I would say that the CBTA role is so varied, and there aren't many other places where you have access to so many great opportunities to develop your personal interests and career.

YOU CAN BE
HERE FOR
EVERY DOG
AND CAT

JOIN OUR TEAM

If you understand dogs and are as passionate about them as we are, we would love to hear from you.

There has never been a better time to join the canine behaviour team at Battersea as we continue to innovate with the help of our supporters and find new ways to benefit the lives of every animal we meet, and even those we don't.

All current vacancies are listed on the jobs section of our website: battersea.org.uk/about-us/jobs

As an organisation we are committed to providing equality of opportunity and valuing diversity for all current and prospective staff, volunteers and Trustees. We aim to ensure that this commitment, reinforced by our values, is embedded in our day-to-day working practices and our work together.

To find out more about working at Battersea, email: jobs@battersea.org.uk



BATTERSEA

HERE FOR EVERY DOG AND CAT



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, 4 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4AA
Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity registered in England and Wales (206394)