

Retired Qualified Animal Behaviourist and Dog Trainer.

Statement of Qualifications Mrs. Sally Sanford

Academic Qualifications

- BSc in Psychology, Open University.
- MSc in Companion Animal Behaviour, University of Southampton.
- CCAB – Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist, ASAB (2005-2012)

Practical Experience

- I own, train & work my own dogs in a variety of breeds to high competitive standards in the disciplines of obedience, agility, flyball, working trials, & gundog competitions. This has included 13 of my own dogs over the last 27 years. I currently own, train and work with my two dogs.
- I have worked for myself as a full time dog trainer & behaviourist since 1992, previously running pet dog training, agility and gundog classes. 2006 – 2013 I concentrated on the behavioural referral side of my work, due to the increasing demand for my services in Southern England.
- In 2013 I moved to Shetland with my husband and became semi-retired. I now do a limited amount of dog training & behavioural work in Shetland.
- In 2014 I retired from being a full member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC) and a CCAB (Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist). As such I worked on veterinary referral with owners and their pets with the full range of behaviour problems. I was a full member of the APBC since 1998, and certified by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) since their scheme started in 2005. The APBC full membership & ASAB certification are the two gold standard qualifications that are recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Pet Insurance Industry.
- I was a full member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT membership no 266) from 1992 to 2013. They assess practical hands on teaching before accepting a membership application. I was also as an assessor for them. Sadly, after letting my membership lapse for less than one year, they advised me that if I wanted to reinstate my membership I would have to start again with their education system. This is not financially viable while living in Shetland.

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- I act as an independent expert in court cases as instructed, and have successfully worked for both the prosecution and defence. This was only in England.
- Previously I have lectured at Kingston Maurward College, Dorset on practical dog training and animal behaviour, hosted a regular pet problem phone in on BBC Radio Solent. I regularly travel abroad running dog training and behaviour courses for European owners in Germany and Austria.
- I have previously been approved by the Kennel Club to act as an assessor for the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) at all three available levels. As part of the qualification for this all my own dogs have undertaken the scheme and passed at the highest level.
- I have previously worked closely with the Young Kennel Club to promote and coordinate opportunities for gundog training with young people and their dogs.
- I have previously been working secretary for the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club of GB, a role undertaken for 6 years 2002 - 2008. This involves running practical dog training events for the clubs members, coordinating demonstrations, manning promotional events and assisting members with their dogs.

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Competitive Achievements with my own dogs.

I started competing in Obedience and Agility in 1984 with my first two dogs (a Border Collie and a Collie x lab). I went on to achieve taking two dogs through to Championship C class in Obedience, and both to senior level in Agility, with two national finals titles to our credit.

With my next generation of dogs (Border Collies) I went on to achieve further successes in Obedience, Agility and started Working Trials. We progressed through the classes in all three disciplines. This included a Rescue Border Collie who found his permanent home with me, when he was in a cage at an agility show with a phone number on the cage – we were his last chance!

During the late 1980's I started to train classes, hold seminars, and began judging at events (agility & obedience).

In 1990 I was approached by Spillers Petfoods to introduce the new sport of flyball to this country – on the north american model rather than the type started by Pedigree Petfoods at Crufts. This involved travelling over to Canada to learn their methods, video the sport, and bring back the latest equipment. I then organised and ran the Spillers national heats and finals competition as well as running training sessions for interested clubs up and down the country. When Spillers pulled out of the sponsorship, and as the BFA (British Flyball Association) started, I formed my own team – who went on to lots of success with two of my own dogs forming half of one of the first sub 18 seconds teams.

I continued to compete in agility with successive dogs – including a Working Cocker Spaniel (mini height), and as my interest in the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed expanded they have slowly replaced the Border Collies in my home! Some of the Tollers are medium height dogs in agility, and some compete at standard height. I had earned a reputation for working & training Border Collies, and felt it would be a good idea to work with other breeds as well!

The Toller breed then introduced me to Ringcraft, showing, and subsequently to breeding a few litters. In the show ring all of my Tollers have been to Crufts more than once, won numerous first prizes at Championship shows, including Best Puppy (Open Show), Reserve Best in Show (Specialist Breed show).

When I had my first Toller and was at Crufts demonstrating agility training I was challenged by one of the Gundog Trainers that the Tollers wouldn't amount to anything as they weren't "proper" gundogs. This was my spur to train my Tollers as proper working gundogs – where they have gone on to compete as Retrievers in Working Tests, and pick up on shoots. My home bred Wings was top dual purpose Any Variety Retriever for the South West of England for three years running (showing and gundog work). He remains one of only two Tollers who have won Working Tests against professionals with their Labradors.

Since it's inception I have been involved with the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Scheme – both taking all my own dogs through to achieving the Gold Award (highest possible), assessing other people taking the tests, and taking a demonstration team that I had trained to Crufts.

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Since clicker training first came over from the USA (when I attended Karen Pryor and Gary Wilkes seminars) I have been an enthusiastic clicker trainer – with my own dogs. When I am helping other people this is frequently my first line of approach however all training while being kind, fair and effective has to be tailored to suit the individual owner /pet combination.

As my behavioural work load increased over the years I concentrated on working with animals with problems and a generation of gundogs have worked alongside me helping dog with problems. They have been ambassadors for my training and approach, frequently being called upon to demonstrate and assist.

I have now virtually retired from competitions due to ligament problems in my knees, but my dogs still enjoy clicker training regardless of the subject of that training. They don't mind whether we aim for more rosettes or not, as long as they can enjoy the mental stimulation that training and socialising with other normal dogs brings.

In late 2014 a new generation Toller puppy joined our family in Shetland. With her I have started competing in KC Rally competitions, and this has lead to starting the RallyOnline Group...and competitions. In her first three shows she has qualified at every attempt, earnt two titles, and only been unplaced in one class.

Other species practical skills -

I have also been involved in clicker training with horses, llamas, and rabbits – providing demonstrations and seminars.

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