



The 3 Biggest Mistakes Dog Owners Make When Trying to Fix Behaviour at Home – And How to Avoid Them

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INTRO: If You're Struggling, You're Not Alone

Every week, I meet good, caring owners who are frustrated, tired, and second-guessing themselves because their dog just isn't responding the way they hoped.

You're here because you've likely tried your best – maybe you've watched countless YouTube videos, asked friends for advice, or even followed some tips from social media “experts.”

And still... the barking, pulling, ignoring, or anxious behaviour continues.

This short guide is here to help you understand why it might not be working – and to show you a better way forward.

Mistake #1

Treating the Symptoms, Not the Source

"I just need my dog to stop barking..."

"He pulls every time we walk past another dog..."

"She jumps up when guests come in..."

It's easy to focus on the behaviour we can see—but those behaviours are just surface-level symptoms.

What's usually underneath is:

Frustration

Insecurity

Lack of clarity

Confusion about what's expected

When we only address the surface (like saying "No!" or trying a new collar), we miss the chance to build true communication and calm.

What to do instead:

Start by asking why the behaviour is happening. Is your dog unsure? Overstimulated? Not engaged with you? The moment you shift your focus to understanding, you change the entire dynamic.

Mistake #2

Inconsistency (Without Realising It)

Many owners don't realise that their dog is picking up mixed signals every day.

Here's what that might look like:

Asking your dog to "sit" four times before they do it – and rewarding anyway

Correcting barking one day, ignoring it the next

Giving attention during jumping, then getting upset about it later.

In your dog's eyes, this creates grey areas – and dogs don't do well with grey. They thrive in clear, calm, consistent boundaries that don't change day to day.

What to do instead:

Decide what the rules are. Stick to them every time. And ensure everyone in the home follows the same approach – even small shifts make a big difference.

Mistake #3

Waiting Too Long to Get Help This is the hardest one.

Many owners wait months– or even years – hoping things will improve.

By the time they reach out, they're exhausted, their dog is more rehearsed in bad habits, and they feel guilty for not acting sooner.

This is not your fault. But it is something you can change starting today.

Because the truth is:

The longer the pattern continues, the harder it becomes to undo. The earlier we start, the easier it is to get calm, consistent behaviour.

So What Now?

If you've made one (or all) of these mistakes—please know that you're not alone.

They're common, understandable, and fixable.

Ready to Stop Guessing and Start Making Real Progress?

The Key Is Not Doing More Alone.

It's about having someone experienced walk you through it – calmly, clearly, and without judgment.

And that's exactly what I help dog owners do every day.

Book A Limited Free 15-Minute Call Today.

Let's talk about what's going on with your dog. I'll listen, ask a few questions, and if I can help – I'll explain how. Get In touch via the two buttons below.

WhatsApp

Email Me

If I'm not the right fit, I'll point you in the right direction.