

DISTANCE LEARNING TRAILING INSTRUCTOR COURSE



Welcome to The Canine School of Trailing!



The Canine School of Trailing is a specialist training organisation focused on teaching other pet professionals and people passionate about dogs, the art of pet trailing and man trailing, enabling them to add this form of scent work to their business.

Through courses, camps and workshops,
The Canine School of Trailing emphasises:

- Positive reinforcement-based training
- Building strong communication between dog and handler
- Real-world applications of trailing (e.g. behaviour modification, enrichment)

It's all about letting dogs do what they do best. Follow their noses— with purpose and partnership.



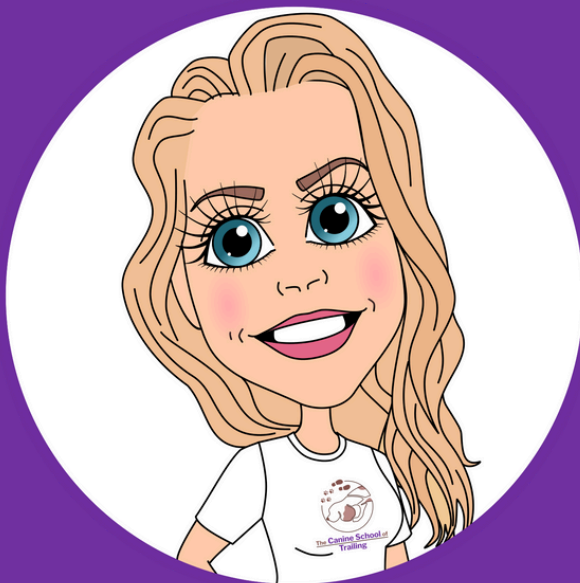
Marilyn Gilchrist and Rachel Rodgers are the dedicated co-founders of The Canine School of Trailing, each bringing a wealth of experience and credentials to the field of canine training and behaviour.

Together, they create a welcoming and supportive environment where dogs can excel and student and owners feel empowered.

Their shared mission?

To help dogs and people connect through the power of scent.

Rachel Rodgers holds a Master of Science in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare and is an accredited Clinical Animal Behaviourist registered with the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC) and the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC). She is also a registered Dog Trainer with the Professional Association of Canine Trainers (PACT) and ABTC. Rachel specialises in assisting small dogs to overcome behavioural challenges by incorporating scent work techniques such as pet trailing and mantrailing. She has been trailing with her own dog, Rico, for over five years.



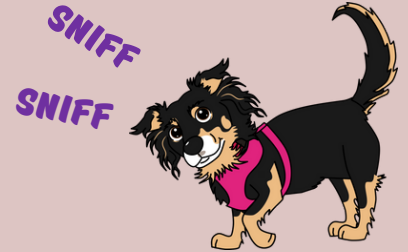
Marilyn Gilchrist has pursued extensive education in dog behaviour and training, earning qualifications from a number of institutions including PACT and is a registered Animal Training Instructor through the ABTC. She has a profound passion for trailing which started in 2017 with her rescue dog Lola! Now trailing her Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Scout and Spicy Dachshund Jem, Marilyn has seen first hand the benefits trailing can bring a dog's wellbeing.

Together, Marilyn and Rachel combine their extensive knowledge and hands-on experience to offer comprehensive training programs at The Canine School of Trailing, fostering stronger bonds between dogs and their handlers through the art of scent trailing.

Course summary

Would you like to boost your current business by running trailing sessions at times convenient to you, with no venue requirements and limited set up costs? Or perhaps, you're looking to change careers and focus on your passion!

Either way our course offers you:



- Up to SIX hours of video calls with your mentor when YOU need them! You'll book these using our online booking system. The six hours can be taken in either 30 minute or 60 minute blocks giving you flexibility to manage your own learning.
- Self-directed study - comprehensive, online learning via videos and our manual, will be released at the beginning of the course so you set your own timetable. Our instructor manual and trailing films will take you through how to lay and teach from complete novice up to experienced teams. You can work through this in your own time.
- Access to our Online Line Handling Course so you are better able to coach your own students.
- Learning and assessment via virtual trails sessions with hypothetical customers to build your knowledge and understanding of laying trails. Using Google My Maps you'll plot virtual trail sessions to help you build your knowledge of laying trails at all levels with different types of teams.
- Practical video homework to help your understanding of laying trails and finding locations. You'll pick some trail teams (these can be friends, family, customers...) and work through taking them from complete beginners to experienced trailers. We'll set specific trails we'd like to complete, you'll film them and send them in to your mentor for review and feedback.
- Final practical video assessment to demonstrate your ability at running a trailing session. When your virtual trail sessions and practical homework are complete you'll be given your final practical assessment which will involve running a trail session. This will need to be filmed and submitted in full (no edits) to your mentor for final assessment!
- Facebook support group run by the founders of The Canine School of Trailing.
- Opportunity to become affiliated with The Canine School of Trailing on successful completion of the course.

How does it work?



Once enrolled, you'll receive a welcome email from your mentor.

In this email, you'll be invited to book your first mentor call —a friendly, one-on-one video or phone session designed to set you up for success.

This call is your chance to:

- Learn how the course is structured
- Get top tips on how to plan and get the most from your training
- Understand how your progress will be supported throughout
- Ask any questions you may have

At this point you'll receive full access to all course materials enabling you to dive straight into the content at your own pace and start familiarising yourself with the world of scent trailing. Your mentor will walk you through all elements of the course, helping tailor your experience to fit your goals and lifestyle.

Whether you're brand new to trailing or already have some experience, this is your opportunity to feel fully prepared, informed, and supported from day one.

How much time does the course take?



We know life gets busy—which is why this course is designed to be completely flexible and work around your schedule.

You'll have a full twelve months to complete the course which is made up of seven learning blocks. Each block is designed to build your skills step by step.

Every block includes:

- Short, engaging films
- Virtual homework to deepen your understanding
- Practical homework for you to apply what you've learned in a real life situation

On average, each block takes around 2–3 hours to complete however, this can vary depending on how many people are in your practical training sessions or how often you're able to train.

The beauty of this course is that you set the pace. Whether you want to work through it intensively or take it steady, you're in control. You can spread the learning across your week or dive into it on weekends—it's entirely up to you.

If you need longer than twelve months, don't worry - you can extend your student status for a further year!

No deadlines. No pressure. Just progress that works for you and your lifestyle.

What can I do once I've passed?

Completing the course opens up exciting opportunities for your career!



Once you've passed, you'll be fully equipped to run your own trailing sessions. The best part? You don't need a venue—trailing takes place outdoors, meaning no costly rental fees and minimal overheads.

That means you can start earning quickly, with many trainers charging an average of £100 per session.

Trailing is especially popular during weekday, daytime hours, making it a great way to fill those quieter work slots and generate reliable income throughout the week.

If you already offer dog training services, adding trailing to your skillset can take your business to the next level

Many of our graduates find that training and trailing naturally feed into one another—clients who start with trailing often go on to seek behaviour or obedience support and vice versa.

This creates a powerful cross-referral loop that boosts your business in both areas.



What can I do once I've passed?

In short:

- Start earning straight away with minimal setup costs
- Make use of quieter work hours with weekday sessions
- Attract more clients and grow your reputation as a well-rounded, specialist trainer

Whether you're looking to add a new service, expand your offerings, or simply do more of what you love—passing this course sets you on the path to success.



What happens if I don't pass the final assessment?



We know assessments can feel daunting—but rest assured, we're with you every step of the way.

Throughout the course, your progress is continually assessed by your mentor. This means any issues or areas needing improvement are spotted early, giving you time to build your skills and confidence well before the final assessment.

That said, if you do happen to fall short on your final assessment—don't worry. You'll receive detailed feedback and a second chance to re-sit the assessment for free.

If a further resit is needed after that, there will be a small charge to cover admin and assessment time.

We want you to succeed and we'll make sure you're fully supported to do so.

Your mentor sessions

Support when you need it—flexibility when you don't.

As part of your course, you'll have access to dedicated mentor sessions designed to guide you through key points in your journey. Here's how it works:

Kick-Off Call:

Your first session happens at the start of the course. This one-on-one chat is all about setting you up for success. Your mentor will walk you through how the course works, share top tips and help you plan your learning to fit around your lifestyle.



Pre-Assessment Session:

Before your final assessment, you'll have another mentor call to ensure you fully understand the brief, feel confident and are set up to showcase everything you've learned.

Additional Support—On Your Terms:

The rest of your mentor sessions? Totally up to you. You can book them in as you go, whether you want regular guidance or prefer to work independently. We're here to flex with your learning style, whatever that looks like for you.



Whether you use every session or just check in at the key milestones, your mentor is in your corner, ready to support you whenever you need it.

Course cost

All of this for £950...



That's right—full access to seven in-depth learning blocks, personalised mentor support, practical training and a clear path to running your own professional trailing sessions... all for a single, competitive price.

Compared to other professional dog training and trailing certifications on the market, this course offers exceptional value—without cutting corners.

You'll make back your course fee in no time. With trailing sessions typically earning £100 or more each, this course quickly pays for itself—and puts you on track to grow a flexible, fulfilling and profitable part of your business.

We also offer discounts to individuals who are registered/certified with certain organisations – just get in touch to see if this applies to you.

Affiliation

Once you've successfully completed the course, you'll have the exciting opportunity to become an Affiliated Instructor with The Canine School of Trailing.



Affiliation allows you to run sessions under The Canine School of Trailing name, receive exclusive resources and become part of a like-minded community of instructors.

Here's what's included:

- Your Trailing Avatar - as an affiliate, you'll receive your very own Trailing Avatar!
- Ready-to-Go Session Plans - to help you hit the ground running, you'll receive access to session plans for: Puppy Trailing; General Sessions; Advanced Sessions
- Use of Branding - you'll be granted permission to use official TCSOT instructor logos
- Find a Trainer Listing – your profile will appear on the TCSOT website's 'Find a Trainer' page
- Train the Trainer Sessions - stay sharp with at least four Train the Trainer sessions per year, held via Zoom or face-to-face (minimum instructor numbers apply). These sessions focus on: best practices; networking with fellow instructors; laying more complex trails
- Guest zoom calls with industry professionals to help you succeed
- Affiliate Facebook Group - access to a private instructor group for support, advice and community.
- Discounted Logbooks to resell at profit to your business
- Your clients will be eligible to join TCSOT workshops, assessments and Trail Camps, all bookable through the main website.
- As an instructor, you'll also receive 25% off TCSOT assessments and workshops you attend.

Affiliation gives you the support, identity, and structure to build a thriving trailing practice with the backing of a trusted, professional brand. It's your next big step—and we can't wait to see where it takes you!

Code of Conduct

Our Code of Conduct sets out the professional conduct and training practices to which all The Canine School of Trailing Affiliated Instructors and Student Instructors agree to abide:



- To act with integrity, in a professional courteous manner.
- To not unfairly elicit trade or clientele to the detriment of others within The Canine School of Trailing.
- To be able to work in the best interest of the individual trail team.
- To promote and use suitable and motivational methods consistent with principles of kindness, fairness and good welfare.
- Not to use or promote any aversive training methods or techniques.
- Not to use electric shock collars, similarly coercive electric equipment, pinch, prong or choke collars.
- To take every reasonable care to control activities which may cause injury or aggression to or by dogs.
- To have an understanding of dog behaviour and the mechanisms of learning.
- To have an understanding of the human skills of learning and communication.
- To teach to the level of their experience and recognise their limitations and consequences of advice given, directing to higher level TCSOT instructors or other accredited individuals as required.
- To be willing to keep up to date with relevant developments, to improve their own skills and to expand their knowledge.

Unlock your potential!



Join our immersive course and gain the skills, confidence and certification to teach others in this exciting field.

Don't just follow the trail—lead it!

**Book your spot today and start your journey with
The Canine School of Trailing!**

**Complete our registration form and we'll be in
touch about next steps:**

[Registration Form](#)

**If you have any follow up questions or would like to
set up a discovery call to discuss further please
contact admin@thecanineschooloftrailing.co.uk.**

