

Kelly & Bella, Positive Training brings Positive Results

Two years ago I decided to get a dog and after doing some research decided a Labradoodle was the breed for me. I was also interested in the Delta Pet Partners Program and thought a Labradoodle would make a great therapy dog. I researched all the registered breeders and decided on Tallai Labradoodles, I was impressed by the way they raise their puppies and that health and temperament are their main priorities, as is who they chose to sell their puppies too.

Tallai recommends that all their puppies go to training and they referred me to Positive Response Dog Training. It had been at least 25 years since I last had a dog and I was a child at the time, so I had no idea what was involved in training. Tallai Labradoodles also recommends crate training and sent me some information. I decided at the start that as I didn't know much about dogs, I would take the advice from the breeder and trainer and would hopefully then end up with the perfect dog...or as close to perfect as we would want our dog to be !

When my puppy came home, I used the crate from the first night. She learnt to sleep all night. Never once has she toileted in the house, never even a slight mistake and crate training helped make this so easy.

Bella started puppy classes two days after she came home with us at the age of 8 weeks and week 1 fell asleep in class. I was told to let her sleep, as I was the one that needed the training. She didn't fall asleep again in class, it was too much fun and she enjoyed the treats!

Positive Response has a full behavioural program from puppy up to adult hood to help owners cope with their ever changing puppy. In the baby puppy classes I thought this is easy, my puppy is smart and is already following me everywhere...I soon learnt that all really young puppies are like that, but they change after they gain a little confidence. They soon become difficult to catch, love to run off and play with all the dogs the minute they can make a break for it and generally become a lot harder to handle than we initially think. I continued on with training after the initial puppy classes and I'm very pleased I did. Bella and I both really enjoyed the training and we soon completed all the courses with Positive Response and from then on joined the Lifestyle classes each week.

During the training with Bella it wasn't always easy, some sessions didn't feel very productive, as sometimes she would shut down and not respond to my requests but I persevered and the next week she would work very well. I have found it's important not to give up because something isn't working but try it instead a different way. Dee is really helpful when you do have any problems and will advise different options to try, as all dogs don't learn everything the same way.

Bella is such a lovely dog to have around now, I can take her everywhere, she works well off lead and will do as I ask. I often have people comment about how well behaved Bella is and it's such a change to what she was like during earlier training.

A few months ago I contacted Delta about joining their Pet Partners Team. I thought it was the right time to see if Bella could get accepted as a Therapy Dog and she made it! Bella did well during the assessment and is now an accredited therapy dog with Delta. We will soon be working in one of the major hospitals in Brisbane and can't wait. Bella loves people and I know she will do a great job putting a smile on some of the patient's faces or just enjoy cuddling with them for

awhile. It was a real achievement getting accreditation, especially as she hasn't even turned two yet...we have plenty of very happy years ahead of us.

In September last year I added another Labradoodle to our family (Jemma). She has recently turned 9 months old, is very energetic and extremely smart. Jemma has also completed all the training courses with Positive Response and is now joining the Lifestyle classes, which we attend each week or fortnightly depending on the time available. I had some family and friends question my decision to attend the classes with Jemma, as I now had the knowledge to train her myself, after recently going through it all with Bella. Its one thing to have the knowledge but guidance and working around other dogs is of great benefit. My dogs even obey me in a park full of dogs, I think this was easier to achieve because they are used to training with other dogs around. I also wanted Jemma to complete the same training that I did with Bella, because the results have been great and I want my second dog to be as well behaved.

On a weekly basis I get strangers commenting on how well trained my dogs are as their dogs are often pulling on the lead and carrying on because we are walking pass them and my two dogs continue to walk along beside me and ignore the other dogs. I have had numerous examples of how important it is to just get all the basics right and how much easier it makes your life with your dogs. Simply answering the mobile when it rings on a walk, I forget completely about the dogs while I'm chatting. They automatically sit beside me until I finish. My dogs have just done what we have trained them to do and that's to stop and wait until I give them the signal to walk on.

I would just like to finish off and say that we couldn't have achieved what we have without going to training and I am so pleased that Positive Response Dog Training was the one recommended to me.