

Success Story from Claire Staines and Simone Müller

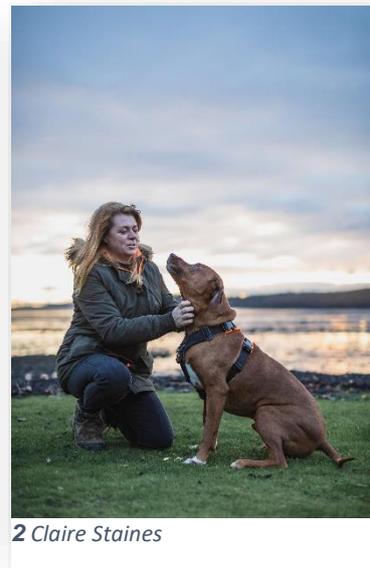


Zitat Simone:

“The exchange with Claire has not only enriched my entrepreneurial knowledge and developed my skills as a dog trainer, it has also touched me on a very personal level. The most important thing that I learned from Claire is to see something special in every single dog, treat every owner with respect, create a learning environment in which every human – dog –team can thrive without fear and to surround myself with a wonderful team.”

Zitat Claire:

“I absolutely loved the exchange. I learned so much from Simone and we have already implemented changes and training ideas influenced by her. I would definitely encourage others to take part in the programme. It’s an excellent way for people from different countries to exchange ideas and experiences.”



„Pavlov is always sitting on your shoulder“ – every science based dog trainer has this sentence in mind when working with dogs and clients, as it perfectly describes the massive impact that Pavlov’s classical conditioning has on our work, no matter which training method we apply.

I have always had the dream of living in Scotland for a period of time and getting to know the culture. Thanks to Claire and the Erasmus Young Entrepreneurs programme, I was even able to combine this with my passion for dog training, how amazing is that! I’m grateful for this wonderful opportunity!

When I chose to apply for the Erasmus Young Entrepreneurs Programme and to ask Claire if she wanted to be my mentor, I had just finished my dog trainer

education, started a second career as a dog trainer and founded my own business. My head was full of theoretical knowledge but I hadn't found my personal way of dog training yet. I had yet to ask myself: What kind of dog trainer do I want to be?

It was clear from the start, that Claire and I shared the same values that are promoted in the EYE Programme and that we both see as an enrichment in our professional and personal lives, such as life-long learning, the exchange of best practice and the humane treatment of animals and people in our society.



3- Team Loth on a night out

During my three months with Lothlorien Dog Services near Edinburgh, I shadowed 1-2-1 lessons in the mornings, when clients came into the training centre with their dogs to work on behaviour modification programmes for fearful or aggressive dogs or for basic training, such as walking on a loose leash or recall.

In the evenings, I participated as a Co-trainer in group classes, like puppy class, teen class, trick training or focus class.

On Fridays, I shadowed Claire in her dog walking business, which basically meant that we took beautiful walks at the beach with a lovely bunch of dogs, had long conversations about humane dog training in both our countries and picked up a lot of poop.

One of my highlights was a three days visit to the wolf pack of the Royal Highland Wildlife Park in Kincaig on behalf of Lothlorien Dog Services, assisting the team of keepers in their daily routine and providing feedback on their training with the wolves.

In order to secure our exchange and our learning outcome, Claire and I wrote a blog on different training methods in Scotland and Germany that can be accessed at www.Training4Paws.de/blog

Claire has been running her business for 14 years and she feels a strong responsibility to mentor and to share her knowledge, so that more dogs and owners can benefit from humane dog training methods. I was able to gain



4 Nanook in front of the iconic Scottish Kelpies

insight into a successful and modern dog training business, to adopt cutting edge training methods and to learn about Claire's corporate culture and internal procedures.

She says about the Erasmus Young Entrepreneurs Programme: "I absolutely loved the exchange. I learned so much from Simone and we have already implemented changes and training ideas influenced by her. I would definitely encourage others to take part in the programme. It's an excellent way for people from different countries to exchange ideas and experiences."

The exchange with Claire has not only enriched my entrepreneurial knowledge and developed my skills as a dog trainer; it has also touched me on a very personal level to an extent that I hadn't expected before. The most important thing that I learned from Claire is to see something special in every single dog, treat every owner with respect, create a learning environment in which every human – dog – team can thrive without fear and to surround myself with a wonderful team with a similar mindset, that I can trust and exchange my ideas with.

Claire has named her training centre "*Lothlorien Dog Services*" after the place in "*The Lord of the Rings*", a place of peace and love. A place no evil could touch and where learning can take place. That's her promise to both the owners and their dogs and an inspiration for me on what kind of dog trainer I want to be and how I want to run my own business back home.

When working with dogs and clients, "Pavlov is always sitting on my shoulder" - but Claire will always be sitting on the other shoulder.