



5 WAYS TO
IMPROVE YOUR
BEAGLE'S
BEHAVIOUR

by Kellie Wynn
The Beagle Lady



1. SLEEP AND LOTS OF IT!

Beagles need lots of sleep. In fact, all dogs need lots of sleep. It's because they get overstimulated just like a toddler and need to nap to recharge and rest their brains.

Beagles need to be taught to sleep from a puppy because they won't know when to nap. This results in hyperness and destructive behaviour.

You will need to enforce the naps.

- 8 weeks to 6 months - 18-20 hours of sleep per day.
- 6 to 18 months - 17-18 hours a day
- Adult beagles - At least 17 hours a day.



2. AWAKE TOO LONG

The one thing beagles are good at is having us believe they can be awake for hours. When in reality for every hour they are awake their behaviour deteriorates.

Again this is something you will need to be hyper-aware of when you have a puppy or adolescent beagle. If you get this right during this crucial time then they will know to nap when they are feeling overstimulated as adults.

- Beagles under 6 months- awake no more than 60 minutes (90 at a push the closer they get to 6 months).
- Beagles between 6-18 months- awake for 60-90 minutes.
- Adult beagles- awake no more than 2 hours.

There will be the occasional day when your beagle will be awake longer and that's ok. As long as they are allowed to rest for a period of time after or for the entire next day, this will reset the balance.



3. WALKING TOO MUCH OR FOR TOO LONG

It is a big myth that beagles need hours of exercise per day.

It is more about their noses than the cardio. 10 minutes of scent work is the equivalent of your beagle doing 1 hour of cardio.

This is why they can get overstimulated on a walk, especially the younger they are.

One-two walks a day is ideal. 30-60 minutes each. But you don't want to go over 3 hours. Because this will cause your beagle stress.

The odd day is ok, but you will need to ensure your beagle gets lots of rest after. Or if your beagle has been out and about all day, give them the next day to completely rest.

A hunter would not have used them every day. They would hunt and then have 24 hours at least to rest.



4. TOO MUCH PLAY

If you play with your beagle a lot during the day two things will happen:

- You can cause your beagle to become stressed. Rough play may seem exciting for you and your beagle but in reality, this can overstimulate them and then they link you to stress. And if they are hurt in the process they may start to become hostile towards you.
- You'll create an attention-seeking monster! Beagles are geared to learn to hunt through play. They will get this through playing with another dog. If you replace their doggie playmate, anytime they are bored they will seek you out. They will link you with the only way to relieve their boredom. We want to teach our beagles to play independently.



5. TOO MANY ACTIVITIES OVER THE WEEK

We over-humanise our beagles and think that because we must be doing something every day our beagles must too.

The reality is they need a huge amount of sleep and rest to make sure they don't become stressed and anxious. If your beagle is experiencing more than three activities a week, this could be causing many of your behavioural issues.

Beagles love the safety and comfort of their own home.

Activities can be:

- Daycare
- Agility/man trailing/scent classes
- Visiting places (family, friends, pub)
- Having visitors over to their home
- Holidays
- Long walks over 3 hours



BEAGLES WEREN'T BRED TO LISTEN

The biggest thing to remember about beagles is they weren't bred to take instructions from humans or to please them.

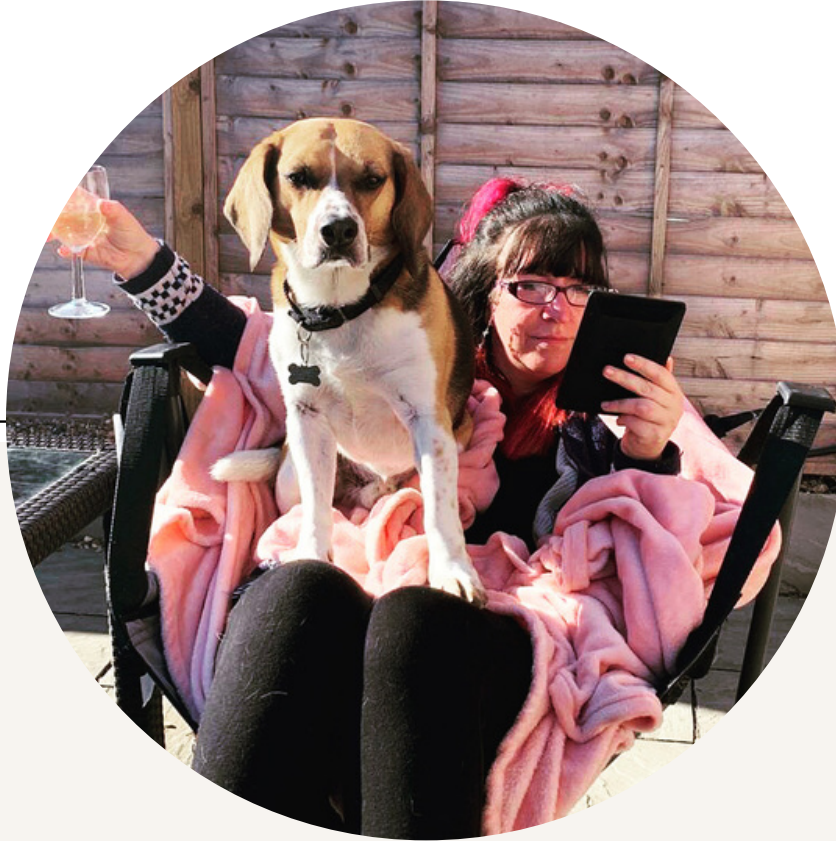
They were taken out and allowed to track and chase on their terms. The hunter would follow the sounds of their yipping.

Then when the beagles had caught or cornered the prey they would bay and howl to recall the hunter to them. Which is why recall is difficult for beagles because it goes against their instincts.

When training a beagle it is more about action than words. And they will be extremely inconsistent until they are around three years old.

This is because they have little to no impulse control when young. They were genetically engineered to be this way to make the perfect hunter.

So yes, it may feel like you are telling them to get down a hundred times a day. But it isn't that they don't respect you. It is quite simply that their brains are telling them to investigate.



GET IN CONTACT WITH KELLIE WYNN

Kellie has worked with beagles for the past six years. In that time she has had four beagles herself.

Kellie currently lives in Guernsey (a small island off the coast of France) with her husband, daughter, and her beloved beagles Daisy and Pepper.

All her training is conducted virtually because she trains you to understand the breed and then provides techniques that are specific to beagles and their traits.

From puppyhood to senior she has dealt with everything you could possibly imagine including living with a beagle who had severe resource guarding, fear aggression, separation anxiety, and lead reactivity.

Billy was the love of her life and since his passing, in August 2021 there isn't a day goes by when she doesn't talk about her experiences with him and how he taught her so much about anxiety in dogs. (Billy is in the picture above).



GET IN CONTACT WITH KELLIE WYNN

You can get in contact by emailing Kellie:

kellie@thebeaglelady.com

You can book an initial FREE 20-minute zoom call with Kellie using this link:

<https://thebeaglelady.as.me/>

Or can join The Beagle Lady Facebook Group to get FREE tips and guidance:



<https://facebook.com/groups/thebeaglelady>

