



## **Background/Career: Victoria Stilwell**

Born and raised in Wimbledon, England, Victoria Stilwell is one of the world's most recognized and respected dog trainers. Victoria is a world-renowned dog trainer, TV personality, author and public speaker best known as the star of the international hit TV series *Greatest American Dog* and [It's Me or the Dog](#), through which she reaches audiences in over 120 countries. The torchbearer for force-free positive reinforcement dog training methods, Stilwell is the Editor-in-Chief of [Positively.com](#), the CEO of both Victoria Stilwell, Inc. and [Victoria Stilwell Positively Dog Training \(VSPDT\)](#): the world's premier global network of positive reinforcement dog trainers and the President and Founder of the [Victoria Stilwell Academy of Dog Training and Behavior](#).

A co-founder of the National Dog Bite Prevention Task Force, Stilwell is also committed to helping the cause of animal rescue and rehabilitation, working closely with organizations around the world to increase awareness about puppy mills, dogfighting, animal abuse, pet overpopulation, dog bite prevention, breed-specific legislation and other animal-related issues. Appearing frequently in the global media, Stilwell is widely recognized as a leader in the field of animal behavior. She serves on the Advisory Boards of DogTV, Dognition, RedRover and Canine Assistants. She is also the CEO of the Victoria Stilwell Foundation, providing animal behavior expertise and funding to smaller rescue shelters and positive training-based canine assistance organizations.

In the early 1990s, Stilwell began her career in pet training when she created her own successful dog-walking company and immediately recognized the need for qualified professionals to help her clients with the training process. While pursuing a successful acting career (working in London's West End as well as in numerous films, TV series, commercials and voiceovers), she expanded her focus to dog training by learning from some of Britain's most respected positive-reinforcement dog trainers and behaviorists.

After moving to the U.S. with her husband, Stilwell co-founded several successful dog training companies up and down the East Coast, quickly establishing herself as one of New York's most sought after dog trainers. With a particular fondness for rescue animals in need of behavior rehabilitation, Stilwell devoted much of her time and energy to a number of animal rescue organizations in New York and Atlanta, serving as a behavior advisor and giving regular seminars on the subject of dog rescue, training and rehabilitation while becoming one of the leading voices in the field of dog training and behavior.

A regular guest on talk shows, news broadcasts and radio programs in the US, Europe and Asia, Stilwell was named 2009's *Dog Trainer of the Year* at the Purina ProPlan Dog awards and was the recipient of the prestigious 2011 *Excellence in Journalism and Outstanding Contributions to the Pet Industry Award*. Since its premiere in 2005, Stilwell's show, *It's Me or the Dog*, has filmed over 100 episodes in both the UK and US and has been the recipient of multiple honors including 2011 and 2012 Genesis Award Nominations and a 2009 People's Choice Award nomination. Stilwell has been a regular columnist for several magazines including *The Bark*, *American Dog*, and *Dogs Today*, and she has been featured in numerous journals, magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Time.com*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Rachael Ray Everyday*, *MSNBC.com*, *Self Magazine*, *Shape Magazine*, *TheDaily Mail*, the *Sunday Times*, *The Sun*.

Stilwell is committed to helping the cause of animal rescue and rehabilitation and is heavily involved organizations around the world to increase awareness of puppy mills, dogfighting, animal abuse, pet overpopulation, dog bite prevention and other animal-related causes. She is the Executive Director of the [Victoria Stilwell Foundation](#)- a non-profit charitable organization committed to providing financial assistance and dog training expertise to small rescue shelters and assistance dog organizations who practice positive training methods.

Victoria currently resides in Atlanta with her husband, daughter and two rescue dogs.