

Kendal Shepherd, BVSc., CCAB, MRCVS CV January 2018

- a. I qualified from Bristol University as a veterinary surgeon in 1978. I have extensive experience in small animal veterinary practice in the UK, working full-time, part-time and as a veterinary locum. I set up my own practice in Agios Nicolaos, Crete which I ran from 1985 to 1987. Far more recently, I have assisted an animal charity on the Greek island of Skopelos. Although continuing to work in general veterinary practice, my specialised interest for the last 19 years has been the subject of canine behaviour, particularly canine aggression, and the links between medical, surgical and emotional disorders. In recent years, I have spent much of my working time in the treatment of companion animal behaviour problems, mainly in dogs. My interest has extended to include how conventional veterinary treatment of injury and disease may lead to subsequent problematic and unacceptable behaviour. I am therefore also much involved in encouraging veterinary surgeons to promote behavioural health of all their patients, particularly with respect to any propensities for fear and subsequent aggression in dogs.
- b. In my veterinary behaviourist role, I continue to counsel owners on a one-to-one basis and in 2005, was the first veterinary surgeon in England to be accredited by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB) as a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist. I view the vast majority of perceived problems in the pet dog, particularly aggression, as having a misunderstanding of canine social behaviour and poorly executed human/animal communication at their root. People-management and teaching families how better to communicate with their pets, is therefore, to me, the crux of success. I am now the veterinary behavioural specialist at Byre Veterinary Referrals in Peterborough.
- c. In the past, I have run puppy socialisation and training classes, in the belief that it is better to try to avoid the obvious pitfalls in rearing a puppy than having to pick up the pieces once problems have arisen. I have worked in animal rescue; as an associate of Professor Daniel Mills at the Behaviour Clinic of Lincoln University (formerly De Montfort); and of Dr Roger Mugford at the Animal Behaviour Centre in Chertsey, Surrey. In May 2014, I acted as external reviewer of Nottingham University Veterinary School's innovative approach to the inclusion of behavioural considerations in every aspect of a veterinary student's education in order to ensure a holistic (physical and mental) approach to patient care.
- d. I am currently heavily involved in assessing dogs for the courts whose owners have been charged under both Sections 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. I have acted both for the defence and prosecution in cases brought under the Dogs Act 1871 and Animals Act 1971 and have been instructed as a Joint Agreed Expert in these civil cases where my evidence has been used by both parties. I also accept instruction in matters relating to animal welfare legislation, most pertinently under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. I have been employed by Social Services to assess and give my opinion on the suitability of dogs belonging to prospective adopters and child-minders and have recently been engaged by Bedfordshire County Council to revise and update their criteria for child placement in dog-owning families. I have been listed in Sweet and Maxwell's Expert Witness Directory as a colleague at the Animal Behaviour Centre and was accredited as a Full Practising Member of the Academy of Experts in February 2013.
- e. I am familiar with the American Dog Breeders Association conformation standard for the American Pitbull terrier and the judgement in the case of Dunne and Brocke, since when

it is required that the ADBA standard, as described in the Pitbull Gazette 1977 Vol 1 Issue 3, is used for identification purposes of dogs thought to be, not only of the breed, but also of the type, known as the Pitbull terrier. I am familiar also with the taking and interpreting of the required measurements under this standard and am familiar with the protocols used by other assessors, both for the Defence and the police. I have given evidence regarding the degree of conformity a dog may exhibit compared to the ADBA standard and have had my evidence accepted in securing the release of dogs as not 'of the type'. If type is agreed, either by me or another assessor, I have given evidence regarding their temperament following my behavioural assessment as to their suitability for entry onto the Register of Exempt Breeds (under the Dangerous Dogs Amendment Act 1991). A list of cases seen and their outcomes is available.

f. Publications

- I am a contributing author to both 1st and 2nd editions of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association 'Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine', in which my ground-breaking 'Ladder of Aggression' was first published; the 4th and 5th edition of the BSAVA Manual of Veterinary Nursing; and the author of many articles on behaviour in the veterinary press.
- I have developed a teaching resource to be used in schools funded by ASAB, entitled 'Keeping ourselves safe near dogs', which is now published as one of the society's educational resources on their web site as well as on the Times Educational Supplement website. Using information regarding learning principles and human and canine social communication, its aim is to improve understanding of dogs, thereby reducing dog bites, the necessity for rehoming or euthanasia and enhancing the welfare of all concerned.
- I have also co-written the Parent Guide for the Blue Dog project, an international collaboration producing an interactive CD based resource to educate and improve the safety of interaction of 3 to 6 year olds with the family dog.
- My own book for children, and their carers, entitled 'The Canine Commandments', illustrated by Victor Ambrus, was published in 2007 by Broadcast Books.
- My suggestions for educational intervention and prevention of dog bites for veterinary surgeons and their clients entitled 'Teaching dog owners new tricks' was published in the Veterinary Record in June 2013.
- I have recently contributed to a multi-author text on dog aggression, (specifically a chapter entitled 'Assessing Dogs for the Court'), edited by Professor Daniel Mills of Lincoln and Dr Carri Westgarth of Liverpool universities respectively, published by 5m Publishing in July 2017.

Committee work

- I have been part of an international group convened under the auspices of Professor Daniel Mills at Lincoln University, whose aim is to determine all the fields of expertise which ought to be brought to bear on the analysis of dog bite incidents, as well as fatalities, and to reach an internationally agreed means of carrying out risk assessments in dogs as well as dog bite prevention. It is from this initiative that the concept of the above book was born

- I have been a full member of the ASAB accreditation committee, assessing other both veterinary and non-veterinary candidates for certification.
- I was a founder member of the Dog Assessment Focus Group, convened in 2011, whose aim was to provide a consensus of current opinion, using both the academic and practical expertise of current members, upon the means and reliability of assessing dogs, to the welfare benefit of both dogs and human society.
- I was invited onto the Council of the British Veterinary Forensics and Law Association in June 2011 and am now Junior Vice-Chair.
- I served on the Board of the European Society for Clinical Veterinary Ethology from September 2012 to August 2015. In this capacity, I initiated the sharing of information regarding individual European country's means of dealing with 'dangerous dogs' issues, both behaviourally and legislatively.
- I am now advisor to a European working party on behalf of ESVCE, led by Dr Valerie Jonckheer-Sheehy, whose aim is to collate information on international legislation, the means of assessing canine behaviour, and the efficacy of legislation in preventing dog bites.

Presentations

I am in demand to give presentations, particularly on the understanding and prevention of canine aggression and the implications of the Dangerous Dogs Act for both people and their canine companions, in the UK and abroad -

- April 2011 at the European Veterinary Congress in Amsterdam;
- Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors veterinary seminar series in November 2011;
- The British Veterinary Forensics and Law Association meeting in June 2012 and in January 2014;
- A veterinary association behavioural meeting in Oslo in March 2013;
- Keynote speech at the International Veterinary Behavioural Meeting in Lisbon in September 2013, on the subject of how veterinary surgeons can keep themselves safe with improved understanding of canine behaviour;
- APBC conference in 2014 on the welfare implications of dangerous dog legislation.
- Together with other ESCVE colleagues, I presented to veterinary surgeons in Portugal in September 2014 regarding methodology of risk assessments in dogs.
- I co-presented with a human maxillo-facial surgeon in October 2014 at the British Veterinary Behaviour Association/Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors meeting and at ESCVE in Munich in November 2014, on a newly-proposed collaboration between veterinary surgeons, veterinary behaviourists and medics to properly investigate and treat all facets of a dog bite incident. The essence of our proposal is that a non-adversarial, One Health, and evidence-based approach to dog bite prevention using all available expertise might be the most effective.
- British Veterinary Association congress at the London Vet Show on November 27th 2014, in association with PS Peter Madden of the Metropolitan Police Status Dogs Unit.
- In 2015, I presented at an invitation only meeting at the Kennel Club as well as a YouGov briefing on dealing with dangerous dogs, again promoting a One Health investigative, rather than simply punitive, approach.

- The National Dog Bite Prevention conference at Lincoln University in June 2015 entitled ‘Human and Canine welfare implications of dog bite incidents – a One Health approach’;
- August 2015 at Dogs for the Disabled on ‘Canine aggression – causes, control and case histories’;
- March 2016, a day’s CPD lectures on ‘Forensic canine behaviour – the veterinary responsibility’ at Nottingham Vet School.
- September 2016, 1st Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare, poster presentation on ‘A One Health approach to dog bite prevention’.
- March 2017, I presented to MSc students in animal behaviour as well as veterinary undergraduates at the University of Edinburgh on behavioural and veterinary aspects of dangerous dogs legislation
- June 2017 at the National Dog Bite Prevention conference on how kennelled dogs’ behaviour may be misinterpreted.
- September 2017 in the welfare and ethics stream at the International Veterinary Behavioural Medicine conference in Samorin, Slovakia, I presented on the veterinary responsibility to legal cases brought under the Dangerous Dogs Act.
- December 2017 via webinar, I presented to the British Veterinary Behaviour Association giving an introduction to acting as an expert witness in DDA cases.
- January 2018, joint British Forensics Ethics and Law Veterinary Association (BVFLA) and Animal Welfare Ethics and Law Veterinary Association (AWSELVA) on the essential nature of behavioural considerations when assessing welfare concerns.