

IS YOUR DOG'S BEHAVIOUR PERFECT.....or does he/she:-

- *Bark a lot?.....*
- *Destroy your house or garden?.....*
- *Growl and snap?.....*
- *Demand your attention?.....*
- *Run away?.....*
- *Become overexcited?.....*
- *Become easily frightened?.....*
- *Seem anxious or depressed?.....*
- *Pick fights with other dogs?.....*
- *Not listen to a word you say?.....*

If you have answered 'YES' to any, several or all (!) of these questions, experienced and understanding help is at hand.

First discuss the problems you are having with your veterinary surgeon, who may then decide that your pet should be referred for a more detailed assessment and treatment. A request for referral will be made by your vet filling in the form overleaf and returning it to me, accompanied by full details of any medical treatment.

- One to one behaviour advice in your own home
- Friendly, understanding and relevant advice for all the family
- Emailed or posted summary of advice with email follow-up
- Video record of consultation if requested
- Liaison with your veterinary surgeon to ensure both mental and physical well-being of your pet
- Follow-up help arranged with other trainers



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Veterinary surgeon and behaviour counsellor



**Working for better
relations between
pets and their humans**



What is behaviour counselling?

Behaviour counselling is a means whereby a better understanding can be achieved of why dogs and cats do what they do. This knowledge is then used to improve the relationship between pets and their humans. Part of the purpose of a counselling session is to determine how much of what may be perceived as 'problem' behaviour is, in fact, normal. From our human perspective, however, it is performed at the wrong times and in the wrong places. On the other hand, certain behaviours may indeed be abnormal or a reflection of an underlying medical condition so that thorough knowledge of the ways in which disease may affect mental state is essential.

Once the reasons and motivation driving behaviour are understood, we are then better equipped to alter behaviour to a more desirable form. In many cases, problems can be resolved simply by improving communication between pet and owner so that the requirements and expectations of each party coincide, rather than conflict with each other.

As the relationship between pet and owner is so important in determining how each behave, it is never possible to treat an animal in isolation. It may therefore be more true to say that pet behaviour counsellors treat relationships rather than individual animals. Unlike clinical medicine, where surgery or tablets do the work in treating disease, the success of behaviour therapy depends upon day-by-day commitment to change for the better by all members of an animal's family.



What to expect if you and your pet are referred for behaviour counselling.

Once an appointment has been booked, you will be sent a questionnaire to fill in regarding all your pet's routines and behaviour which should be returned to the address overleaf prior to your appointment. Counselling sessions are conducted in your own home with as many family members present as possible, including children. Sessions usually last for between two and three hours and appointments are made on weekdays during office hours. It may be possible to arrange evening or weekend visits in exceptional circumstances.

The session will include a detailed discussion of the presenting problem and possible causes with information on how animals learn as well as advice on treatment and practical demonstration of learning and training techniques to suit everyone. To maximise success of treatment, it is of utmost importance to establish realistic and attainable aims for every case and for all concerned.

Following your consultation, you will receive a summary of the advice given, emailed or posted of which your vet will receive a copy. If medication is advised, this will be discussed fully with the referring veterinary surgeon.

Behaviour Referral Request Form

To be completed by the referring veterinary surgeon.

Name:-.....

Practice name and address:-

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Telephone number:-.....

Client name and address:-

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Telephone number:-.....

Pet name, age and breed:-

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Date of last health check:-

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Behaviour problem(s):-

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Duration:-.....
If pet is insured, please state company:-

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I hereby confirm my request for my client to be referred to Kendal Shepherd for behaviour counselling.

Signed:-.....MRCVS

Date:-.....

PLEASE ATTACH ALL MEDICAL RECORDS