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RESEARCH INTERESTS

ethology/applied ethology, animal welfare, animal behavior, behavioral ecology, evolutionary biology, genetics/epigenetics, psychology/ecopsychology, neurology/neuro-ethology, human-animal bond/biophilia

EDUCATION

1999 BA - Integrative Studies - The Applied Relationship Between Human & Animal Behavior
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
2025/2026 University of Pennsylvania (PennVet) Masters in Animal Welfare & Behavior (year one, 4.0 GPA)

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2018-present International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), member
2006-present Certified Dog Behavior Consultant (CDBC) - IAABC
2002-present Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT- KA) - CCPDT
2000- 2020 Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), awarded member
1999 Service Animal Access Specialist (SAAS) - Delta Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016 - 2020 Asheville Humane Society (AHS), member
2016 - 2018 International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC), member

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021- present Family Dog Mediation Education Center, online school

Founder, director, & instructor for online school teaching applied ethology to over 5000 canine professional students in more than 25 countries (trainers, consultants, veterinarians/technicians, shelter staff, groomers, breeders, daycare operators, etc.). Flagship 5-star rated L.E.G.S. Applied Ethology Family Dog Mediation Professional Course providing over 2000 students with RACE approved content in ethology & welfare

Facilitating conversations, collaborations & projects with colleagues & stakeholders across the pet dog industry & academia with an annual conference (LEGS in Motion), an FDM Licensure Program with nine professional divisions (National Dog L.E.G.S. Association), & various initiatives (i.e. The Willow Fund, Meet Your Dog Online, DNA My Dog)

2021- present Webinar provider for pet dog industry professionals, online

Golden Dog Adventure Company 2024, National Institute for Canine Ethics 2023, Behavior Vets 2022, Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors 2022, Pet Professional Guild Australia 2022, Grisha Stewart Academy 2022, Fenzi Dog Sports Academy 2021, Separation Anxiety Dog 2021

2021 Beyond the Operant- YouTube conversation series, online

- Co-hosted popular series with UK based colleagues - neuroscientist & veterinarian Dr. Kathy Murphy & psychologist & dog behavior consultant Andrew Hale, hosting various guests & discussing the need to practically integrate other scientific disciplines for a welfare-first industry shift in approaching behavior*
- 2018 TEDx speaker, Asheville, NC - *The Problem With Treating a Dog Like a Pet*
- 2017 Developer of The Dog Key Canine Genetic Heritage Testing Software, online
Developed algorithm for canine morphological features as indicative of primary genetic group heritage & published as free online software program & app for dog professionals, shelters, & general public
- 2016- present Expert witness, WNC
Dog bite case consulting & testimony as CDBC (Certified Dog Behavior Consultant, IAABC)
- 2010- present Seminar provider for pet dog industry professionals & dog families
L.E.G.S. Applied Ethology Family Dog Mediation Professional Course, 2021, Wolf Park, Battleground, IN
Loved to Pieces, Paws Abilities, 2013, Rochester, MN
Camp Unleashed, Berkshires, NY 2010 & Hendersonville, NC 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013
- 2001- 2024 Dog Door Canine Services & Behavior Center, Asheville, NC
Owner, CEO, behavior consultant & trainer, service dog trainer successfully serving local dogs & families with behavior consulting and dog training services from the perspective of applied ethology
- 2001- 2002 United Way - Asheville, NC
Designed & implemented therapy dog program for preschool students
- 2001 Member of the Animal Welfare Review Committee NCDA/Veterinary, Raleigh, NC
Worked with NC State Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture), inspectors, & committee members as behavior & welfare consultant to rewrite the NC Animal Welfare Act, contributing to long term housing requirements for canines in shelters & kennels to address the emergence of no-kill animal shelters
- 2000 - 2019 Educator for students, staff, & pet dog industry professionals, WNC
Providing guest lectures, seminars, & courses (NCVMB approved) for regional colleges & universities (UNCA Psychology Department, Warren Wilson College Psychology Department, AB Technical Community College Continuing Education Department), regional veterinary technician programs (Western Piedmont Community College, AB Technical Community College), veterinary hospitals (Animal Hospital of North Asheville, REACH Animal Hospital, Charlotte Street Animal Hospital, Maple Tree Veterinary Hospital, Appalachian Animal Hospital), shelters & rescues (Asheville Humane Society, Sarge's, Haywood Animal Welfare Association, Charlie's Angels, Animal Compassion Network)
- 2000-2001 Eliada Home for Children - Asheville, NC
Collaborated on therapy animal program development & implementation

1999- 2001 Executive Director & Program Developer – Sanctuary at Valley View Farm, Clyde, NC

Designed, implemented, & managed a non-profit animal shelter & behavior program

1999- 2000 Therapy Dog Program Developer - J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, Morganton, NC

Designed & consulted on implementation of therapy dog program for adult residential facility for mentally & physically disabled individuals after selection & training of resident therapy dog

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Good Life of a Good Dog - A Total Welfare Model for the Future of the Pet Dog Industry, LEGS in Motion Conference 2025, Concord, NH; International Association of Canine Professionals Conference 2025, Savannah, GA (keynote); Aggression in Dogs Conference 2025, Charlotte, NC; Association for Professional Dog Trainers Australia 2025, virtual; Association for Professional Dog Trainers International 2025, Richmond, VA; Humane World for Animals Humane Pet Expo 2026, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Under Pressure - Understanding & Mediating the Effects of Big City Life on the Modern Pet Dog, Dogs & the City Conference 2023, Toronto, Canada

Ethological Roots of Adaptive Trauma in Animals, CTM Trauma in Animals Conference 2022, virtual

Trapped - The Effects of Captivity on the Modern Pet Dog, Dog Behavior Conference 2022, virtual

Screw the Pooch - Ethology Explains the Masterpiece of Natural Selection & the Mess of Artificial Selection in Modern Canine Aggression Cases, Aggression in Dogs Conference 2022, Warwick, RI

The Antecedent Iceberg- Embracing the Natural Integration of Ethology & Behaviorism, International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants Lemonade Conference 2022, virtual

Ethological Contributions to Behavior Problems in Dogs, Merck Veterinary Symposium 2021, virtual & Association of Professional Dog Trainers Conference 2021, virtual & International Association of Canine Professionals Conference 2021, virtual & Assistance Dogs International Conference 2025, Orlando, FL (keynote)

Who Are You, Really? - Unlocking the Key to What Makes That Dog Tick, VMX Veterinary Meeting & Expo 2020 with Steve Dale, Orlando, FL & WVC 92nd Annual Veterinary Conference 2020 with Steve Dale, Las Vegas, NV

I'm 85 Years Old...Maybe a Border Collie Isn't Right For Me?, VMX Veterinary Meeting & Expo 2020 with Steve Dale, Orlando, FL & WVC 92nd Annual Veterinary Conference 2020 with Steve Dale, Las Vegas, NV

Ethological Contributions to Aggression in Dogs, Aggression in Dogs Conference 2020, Warwick, RI

The Millennial Dog, Congreso Internacional de Comportamiento Animal Conference 2020, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico

The Relationship Between Genetics & Behavior in Dogs, Congreso Internacional de Comportamiento Animal Conference 2020, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico

Learning Theory in the Real World, Association of Professional Dog Trainers Conference 2012, Louisville, KY

What in the World?, Association of Professional Dog Trainers Conference 2012, Louisville, KY

FEATURES

2018 TED.com

TEDx talk - The Problem With Treating a Dog Like a Pet - in the less than 1% of TEDx talks honored annually to be featured on TED.com

2018- present Podcast featured guest interviews

The Bitey End of the Dog, The Functional Breeding Podcast, Animal Training Academy, Cog-Dog Radio, Canine Conservationists, Writer's Voices, The Perfect Pup, The Infinite Approach, Unleashed & Unhinged, Puppy Talk, Hair of the Dog, Drinking From the Toilet, Doggie Dojo, Podtail, Barking From the Wooftops, Pod to the Rescue, Rescue Tails, Let's Say I'm Talking About Dogs, Comprendre Son Chien, A Dog's Life, Dog Speak, The Chihuahua Podcast, Dog Words, Dog Training Book Club, Steve Dale's Pet World, Canine Conversations, Straight Up Dog Talk, The Deal With Animals, Pick of the Litter, Fenzi Dog Sports, Canine Hooper's World, Pooch Parenting, Family Pups, Animal Radio, Family Paws, The Healthy Dog Pod, Unapologetically Sensitive, Mystic Dog Mama, Let's Talk Dog Business, The Canine Complexity Podcast

2009- present Publication & book references

Psychology Today (multiple), DROOL Magazine, HGTV Magazine, The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) Resource Library, Tender Paws, Welcoming Your Puppy From Planet Dog, Positive Training for Aggressive & Reactive Dogs, Who's a Good Dog?, Everyone Needs a Timeout, Old Dog, New Dog, The Dial Method, Fifty Places to Travel With Your Dog Before You Die

2009- 2022 News & television features

The Washington Post, National Geographic, WLOS (multiple), Pet MD, Asheville Citizen Times (multiple), Henderson Times-News, Mountain Xpress

2009- 2020 Radio interviews

NPR All Things Considered, NPR Here & Now, Blue Ridge Public Radio, WAMC, KPR, KAXE, Radio Pet Lady, Animal Radio, WCCO, WRKF, KYMN, KMA

BOOKS

2018 *Meet Your Dog: The Game Changing Guide to Understanding Your Dog's Behavior*

Published by Chronicle Books - over 22,500 copies sold

AWARDS

2024 Best Advanced Dog Training Book, US News & World Report- *Meet Your Dog*

2013- 2023 Best of WNC Dog Trainer, Mountain Xpress

2009 Association of Professional Dog Trainers - Outstanding Trainer of the Year

ENDORSEMENTS

2018 Dr. Hal Herzog, professor of Psychology at Western Carolina University, author

"In Meet Your Dog, nationally known behavior consultant Kim Brophey introduces L.E.G.S. (Learning, Environment, Genetics, & Self), an innovative model for understanding how dogs think and why they behave the way they do. Based on the latest findings in the field of canine cognition & behavior, this book is an invaluable resource, both for experienced dog lovers & for individuals seeking their first four-legged friend."

2018 Dr. Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Colorado, Boulder, author

"Meet Your Dog is a valuable book based on solid science, good stories, representative case studies, & respect & love for each & every individual dog using the author's principles of L.E.G.S. (Learning, Environment, Genetics, & Self)."

2017 Dr. Raymond Coppinger, professor emeritus of Biology at Hampshire University, author

"In my 49 years (and counting) of working as a scientist with dogs as my primary focus for studies of behavior and evolution, I have never seen such a creative, imaginative, and well-coordinated program as the new L.E.G.S. initiative."