



Melissa R. Hartley

125 Sharon Road
Wagener, SC 29164

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Profile

A Professional Biologist and Canine Behavior Consultant with yearly continuing education credits in the subjects of Applied Behavior Analysis, Canine Cognition and Emotion, Origins of Dog Behavior, Canine Sensory Perception, Canine Evolution and Ethology, Social Hierarchy and Relationship Dynamics, Pharmacological Complimentary Therapy, and Canine Aggression; Owner and Behavior Consultant for Sindar Kennel, LLC, a behavior specialty boarding facility and for Weimaraner Rescue of SC, a 501(c)3; Twenty-eight years of experience shaping behavior in canines; Thirteen years experience, department head in a major zoological park during which time developed and implemented animal enrichment and operant conditioning programs for sharks, rays, chambered nautilus, octopus, teleost fishes, and loggerhead sea turtles.

Experience

CANINE BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT SINDAR KENNEL, LLC | NEW HOLLAND, SC | 2006-PRESENT

Owner and Operator of a unique boarding facility focused on a zero-anxiety boarding experience.

Implements strategies and techniques to improve the social skills of canine clients during the boarding experience through off-lead play and carefully chosen extra-small playgroups.

Resolves in-home cases of canine fear, anxiety, and aggression and other canine mental health issues using sound modern canine behavior science.

Follows canine behavior academic study and applies findings to behavior cases and facility design.

CANINE BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT AND PRESIDENT WEIMARANER RESCUE OF SC | 501(C)3 | 2006-PRESENT

Evaluates Weimaraners accessioned into the program in conjunction with foster homes to reveal problem behaviors.

Guides foster families in resolving problem behaviors utilizing classical conditioning, operant conditioning, desensitization and counter conditioning techniques.

Interviews potential applicants for adoption and matches individual Weimaraners to each family based on specific traits and needs of both the families and the dogs.

Resolves behavior issues for Weimaraners while still in the original homes in order to avoid owner surrender.

AQUARIUM SUPERVISOR (AQUARIUM DEPARTMENT HEAD) RIVERBANKS ZOOLOGICAL PARK | COLUMBIA, SC | 1997-2006

Complete responsibility for all operations and conservation programs of a major public Aquarium.

Responsible for creating and implementing all husbandry, animal enrichment and training protocols for aquatic biological specimens.

Developed and implemented operant conditioning and animal enrichment protocols for sharks, rays, octopus chambered nautilus, teleost fishes, and loggerhead sea turtles.

Responsible for writing permit applications and compliance at both the state and federal level including the United States Department of the Interior and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Appointed by American Zoo and Aquarium Association National Office to serve on the AZA Animal Welfare Committee to advise on aquatic welfare standards for all member institutions.

SENIOR AQUARIST RIVERBANKS ZOOLOGICAL PARK | COLUMBIA, SC | 1995-1997

Responsible for all regular Aquarist duties with the addition of supervision of Aquarist staff and Volunteers

Lead the program to develop additional animal enrichment and operant conditioning training for the Giant Pacific Octopus.

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AQUARIST

RIVERBANKS ZOOLOGICAL PARK | COLUMBIA, SC | 1994-1995

Responsible for all aspects of captive husbandry, water quality, maintenance and animal enrichment for the Coral Reef Gallery.

Established husbandry and operant conditioning protocols for Chambered Nautilus that resulted in the closed system longevity record at the time and broke ground in operant conditioning with this invertebrate species.

Education

Bachelors of Science, Marine Science
University of South Carolina

Continuing Education

The Biology of Socialization

Jessica Hekman, DVM, Ph.D.

Cat Behavior Consulting: From Intake to Resolution (Case Studies) (Seminar)

Mikel Delgado, Ph.D.

Applied Behavior Analysis: Living and Learning with Animals for Professionals, Part I

Susan Friedman, Ph.D.

Applied Behavior Analysis: Living and Learning with Animals for Professionals, Part II

Susan Friedman, Ph.D.

Understand Impulsivity (April 2020)

Alexandra Santos

Noise Phobia vs Noise Anxiety

Christine Calder, DVM, DACVB

Epigenetics and Your Dog (webinar)

Jessica Hekman, Ph.D.

Dominance: Myth or Fact? A Detailed Look at What the Science Says (June 2020)

Dr. Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D.

Feeding Puppies for Health and Longevity (webinar)

Linda Case, M.S.

Canine Hormones: from Molecules to Behavior (Certificate)

Jessica Hekman, DVM, Ph.D.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: How it Manifest in Dogs and How We Can Help

Alexandra Santos (June 2020)

Pre-Natal Stress and Anti-Depressants (Certificate with Honors)

Jessica Hekman, DVM, Ph.D.

The Click or Not to Click (May 2020)

Frania Shelley-Grielen, MA, MS

Puppy Socialization During a Pandemic (webinar, July 2020)

Jessica Ring

The Biology of Breed (webinar, September 2020)

Kristina Spaulding, Ph.D.

Overcoming the Dreaded Doorbell (webinar)

Yvette Van Veen

Behavioral Effects of Spaying and Neutering

Christopher Pachel, DVM, DACVB

The Genetics of Canine Behavior (Certificate)

Jessica Hekman, DVM, Ph.D.

Chicken Camp: Poultry in Motion (Shaping Behavior in any species)

Terry Ryan, B.S. CPDT-KA

Fixing the Unfixable: A New Look at Separation Anxiety

Malena De Marini-Price, CTC, Gina Phairas, CTC, BSC Comms

Deconstructing the Growl: Rethinking Aggression

Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM and Sarah Kalnajs

Feisty Fidos: Reintegrating Them into The Canine Community

Pia Silvani

The Umwelt of the Domestic Dog: Imagining the Dog's Point of View

Dr. Alexandra Horowitz

The Wow and How Factor

Victoria Stilwell and Kyra Sundance

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more Continuing Education

Are You Thinking What I Am Thinking: Cognition and Emotion in Dog Behavior

Dr. Patricia McConnell

Origins of Scientific Study of Puppy Love: A Literature Review and History of the Field

Dr. Clive Wynne

New Discoveries About Dog's Understanding of Humans

Monique Udell

Human/Canine Cognition and Emotion as These Relate to Problem Canine Behaviors

Dr. Myrna Milani

Dogs and Dominance: An Ethological Perspective

Dr. Pamela Reid

Dogs and Dominance: Diagnosis and Treatment of Dominance

Kristen Collins

A Dog Is A Terrible Thing to Waste: Behavior Problems and Solutions

Dr. Pamela Reid

Veterinary Use of Behavioral Drugs: A Review of Drug Studies

Dr. Barbara Sherman

How Veterinary Behaviorists and Trainers Can Work Together

Dr. Barbara Sherman

Memberships

International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants

Pet Professional Guild

Animal Behavior Society

Association of Professional Dog Trainers

Subscription to the the scientific Journal of Veterinary Behavior

Society of the Promotion of Applied Research in Canine Science

National Association of Canine Scentwork

Other

Competitive Dog Obedience 1991 - 2006

Aquarium Volunteer 1989 - 1994