
P. LEIGH SANSONE, ESQ., CPDT-KA, PMCT

314 WEST 94TH STREET, NO. 1E · NEW YORK, NY · 10025
LEIGH@RUFFCUSTOMERS.COM · WWW.RUFFCUSTOMERS.COM · (234) PLAY – RUFF

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

RUFF CUSTOMERS DOG TRAINING

Owner and Head Trainer

JANUARY 2010 – PRESENT
NEW YORK, NY

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS - BEHAVIOR COUNSELOR

Consulting on adoption consults, evaluations, & behavior work per diem for ASPCA

JULY 2016 – PRESENT
NEW YORK, NY

BAILEY-FARHOODY CHICKEN WORKSHOPS

Assistant to instructors Bob Bailey, ScD, and Parvene Farhooody, MA

SUMMER 2015
COLUMBIA, MD

THE GOOD DOG FOUNDATION

Senior NYC Behavior Consultant for Animal Assisted Therapy

MARCH 2012 – JULY 2015
NEW YORK, NY

PETSMART PET SUPPLIES

Senior Pet Training Instructor, Salon Bather

FEBRUARY 2007 – JANUARY 2010
YONKERS, NY

ANIMAL TRAINING & BEHAVIOR EDUCATION

BAILEY - FARHOODY CHICKEN WORKSHOPS

Intensive operant conditioning and applied behavior analysis workshops, instructed by Bob Bailey, ScD, and Parvene Farhooody, MA. ★ **Successfully completed all five levels.**

2013 – 2015
COLUMBIA, MD

COURSERA / UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH - ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND WELFARE CERTIFICATE COURSE

An overview of public policy, ethics, ethology, behavior, care, and other issues as related to animal welfare. Instructed by professors from Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies & faculty of Jeanne Marching International Centre for Animal Welfare Education <https://www.coursera.org/learn/animal-welfare#>

SPRING 2015
ONLINE

BAT (BEHAVIOR ADJUSTMENT TRAINING) CERTIFICATION COURSE

Instructed by Grisha Stewart on operant training concepts for modifying aggression
Also attended Teamwork seminar - MARCH, 2016

JUNE, 2014
NEW YORK, NY

JOHN ROGERSON INTENSIVE COURSE: INDIA 2012

Attended John Rogerson's three week intensive course in India, learning companion, competition and working dog training, plus tracking, scent detection, guide dog, & gun dog exercises.

JANUARY, 2012
MUMBAI, IN

SUZANNE CLOTHIER ANNUAL TRAINERS' WORKSHOP

Intensive four-day hands-on workshop & lecture series instructed by Suzanne Clothier
★ Currently enrolled in **C.A.R.A.T. Certification course** (ongoing)

JULY, 2011
ST. JOHNSVILLE, NY

RVAA SHELTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Instructed by Sue Sternberg of Rondout Valley Animals for Adoption on safe handling and training for shelter dogs, and learned basic temperament assessments (Assess-A-Pet)

JULY, 2011
ACCORD, NY

PEACEABLE PAWS / PAT MILLER - ACADEMIES AND WORKSHOPS*:

* Training assistant to Pat on two PPaws courses – Reactive Rover, 2011 & Level One Instructors, 2012.

LEVEL THREE AGGRESSION COURSE

Advanced research review and training concepts for modifying aggression.

JULY, 2012

REACTIVE ROVER ACADEMY

Highly structured workshop demonstrating training concepts for modifying aggression.

OCTOBER, 2010, 2011

LEVEL TWO BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION COURSE

Behavior modification consulting & problem solving for dogs with fear & aggression problems.

APRIL, 2009

LEVEL TWO INSTRUCTORS' COURSE

Intermediate level instruction for creating & teaching pet dog & puppy obedience classes.

OCTOBER, 2006

INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE - ACADEMIES

INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE: CONSULTING & PROBLEM SOLVING 2

Instruction on conducting private behavior consults.

JUNE, 2008

METHEUN, MA

INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE: CONSULTING & PROBLEM SOLVING

Advanced consulting & behavior modification techniques.

SEPTEMBER, 2007

METHEUN, MA

INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE: TEACHING & TRAINING

Instructed by trainers and behavior counselors Sue Sternberg, Pia Silvani, CABC, CPDT-KA, & Carolyn Barney, CPDT-KA, KPA-CTP in basics of dog handling and teaching dog obedience classes.

MAY, 2006

ACCORD, NY

CONFERENCES

CLICKER EXPO

Three days of lecture by renowned Karen Pryor Academy staff on operant conditioning

FEBRUARY 2013

STAMFORD, CT

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINERS (APDT) CONFERENCE

Ten days of lecture by world famous behaviorists, veterinarians, & dog trainers

OCTOBER, 2010 & 2006

ATLANTA / KANSAS CITY

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER CONFERENCE

Three days of lectures by leading trainers & behaviorists, including Patricia McConnell, PhD, CAAB, Pamela Reid, PhD, CAAB, Emily Levine, DVM, DACVB, & Susanne Hetts, PhD, CAAB

AUGUST, 2010

EXTON, PA

EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

J.D., JURIS DOCTOR

★ Moot Court Board, Member and Associate Justice of Traveling Teams, 1991 - 1993

★ *Harlan Dodson Award* for Distinguished Service to the Moot Court Board, 1993

AUGUST 1990 - MAY 1993

NASHVILLE, TN

BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

B.A., ENGLISH & PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

★ Deans' List, all semesters, 1987 - 1989

AUGUST 1986 - MAY 1989

NEW YORK, NY

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

★ DIRECTOR, CERTIFICATION COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND CHAIRPERSON, COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

2016 – PRESENT

★ CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER, KNOWLEDGE ASSESSED (CPDT-KA)

2008 - PRESENT

★ ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS (APDT), PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

2006 - PRESENT

★ PAT MILLER CERTIFIED TRAINER (PMCT)

2009 - PRESENT

★ INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CONSULTANTS (IAABC), MEMBER

2010 - PRESENT

★ AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC) EVALUATOR

2008 – 2016

REFERENCES

PAT MILLER, CBCC, CPDT-KA · [PEACEABLE PAWS DOG AND PUPPY TRAINING](#) · 17816 Spielman Road · Fairplay, MD · 21733 · 301-582-9420 · PAT@PEACEABLEPAWS.COM

DANIEL GRAYSON, DVM · WWW.THEHOMEVET.COM · 2576 Broadway #361 · New York, NY, 10025 · 855-546-3838 · DOC@THEHOMEVET.COM

DANA EBBECKE, CPDT-KA · ASPCA BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT · 424 EAST 92ND ST · New York, NY, 10128 · 212-876-7700 x4425 · DANA.EBBECKE@ASPCA.ORG

ROBERT E. BAILEY, SCD · [BAILEY WEBSITE](#) · HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, AR · BEHAVIORBYBAILEY@GMAIL.COM

ADDENDUM: MISCELLANEOUS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

MULTI-SPECIES EXPERIENCE

Dogs – I've trained many different breeds and mixes, large, small, and giant, both in my capacity as a professional trainer for more than a decade and in my private life; I've also trained other people to train dogs and coached & supervised other professional trainers. I've trained & entertained hundreds of group classes

Horses – I worked for a rental stable in Montgomery, AL (Fisher Farms) from the age of 12 until high school graduation, caring for and maintaining their working horses, including all feeding, grooming tasks, mucking stalls, exercise (including riding), equipment care and cleaning, and training. I also owned three of my own horses and performed those same duties for them.

Chickens – I have trained many chickens at the Bailey – Farhoody Operant Conditioning Chicken Workshops under the supervision of Dr. Bob Bailey and Parvene Farhoody. I trained various chickens to perform such tasks as to run an agility course, complete an obstacle course, “moonwalk”, spin, make color and shape discriminations, peck on cue, go out & return on cue, and more (<https://youtu.be/d5O-Y4er4TE>)

Rats – I've worked with several rats who've ended up on the Broadway stage (on purpose). I've trained rats to target, and I've cared for and fed lab rats

Ferrets – I owned a ferret who I litter-box trained and taught to come when called

Snakes – I've socialized snakes and helped them become accustomed to human handling

Chinchillas - I've socialized chinchillas and helped them become accustomed to human handling

Cats – I have cared for several cats and trained one on a place cue, but I am allergic so I'm limited

Fish – I have owned and cared for various fresh water fish over my lifetime

INTERNSHIPS

Pat Miller – I assisted with several of Pat's Peaceable Paws Academies and Workshops, including Level One Instructors' Course and Reactive Rover Aggression workshops. Duties included coaching workshop attendees and transporting and working with the dogs. I am one of her certified trainers

John Rogerson - Intensive Course: I spent three weeks in India training with John. We worked with dogs and later, with their owners helping to transfer new behaviors. I also worked with narcotics detection dogs. Trainers formed teams to compete with dogs we'd trained to such tasks as a running wait, out of sight recall, water retrieve, tracking, and detection work. My team placed highest in all but water retrieval

Suzanne Clothier – I attended Suzanne's 2011 invitation-only Annual Trainer's Workshop, and I am currently enrolled in her [CARAT certification course \(http://bit.ly/22FrASi \)](http://bit.ly/22FrASi)

Sue Sternberg – Attended a week-long RVAA Shelter internship & learned Sue's *Train to Adopt*, *Assess-A-Pet*, & *Training Wheels* programs, working with shelter dogs, many of whom displayed aggressive behaviors

Emory University Laboratory Animals – I worked for the University caring for their lab rat population of a few hundred rats, cleaning cages, feeding, and watering them daily and to exacting standards

VOLUNTEERISM

ASPCA – I volunteered walking dogs, transporting adoptable dogs to remote adoption sites, & caring for dogs at off-site events. I also helped the behavior department with behavior modification cases

NYC ACC – Walked dogs at Animal Care & Control & taught inexperienced volunteers better leash handling

The Good Dog Foundation – My dog and I volunteer as a therapy dog team, visiting teens and elderly

MISCELLANEOUS

SCUBA – I have scuba dived, but I do not have current certification. I am an experience swimmer

Animal Care - I have cared for and trained both very large and small animals, under supervision and independently, and I've taught care and training skills to other individuals, both other trainers and pet owners

Legal Education and Career – I spent most of my 15-year career in trial practice, developing litigation strategies and speaking publicly in front of a court or administrative judges. I also educated other lawyers & special educators on legal issues in my field. Through my education and experience in a field wholly unrelated to training, I demonstrated that I can conceive and execute intricate, multi-level strategic plans and work in a dynamic, complex environment. I also engaged in countless hours of public speaking & education