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# P. LEIGH SANSONE, ESQ., CBCC-KA, CPDT-KSA

2065 EDMORE DRIVE SE · ATLANTA, GA · 30316

[ANIMALBEHAVIORCONSULTING.COM](http://ANIMALBEHAVIORCONSULTING.COM) · 646.508.9298 · [ANIMALBEHAVIORCONSULTING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANIMALBEHAVIORCONSULTING@GMAIL.COM)

## EDUCATION

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### VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 1990 - May 1993

*Juris Doctorate*

*Nashville, TN*

- ★ Moot Court Board, Associate Justice of Traveling Teams, 1991 - 1993
- ★ *Harlan Dodson Award* for Distinguished Service to the Moot Court Board, 1993

### BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

August 1986 - May 1989

*Psychology & English (double major), Bachelor of Arts*

*New York, NY*

- ★ Deans' List, all semesters, 1987 - 1989

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOR EMPLOYMENT

### Zoo Atlanta | Exhibit Interpreter II

- ★ Engage with zoo guests to educate, entertain, and inspire conservation action, providing excellent customer service
- ★ Presenting and animal handling including facilitation of giraffe feeding program and elephant care demonstrations

February 2024 – Present  
*Atlanta, GA*

### American Society For Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

#### *Professional Behavior Responder - Behavior Science & National Field Response teams)*

- ★ Consulting at temporary shelters on behavior modification & training resident animals

October 2017 - Present  
*Remote Locations*

#### *Animal Behavior Counselor - ASPCA NYC Adoptions Center*

- ★ Consulted on adoptions, behavior assessments, & treatments per diem for ASPCA

July 2016 – October 2017  
*New York, NY*

### Animal Behavior Consulting / Ruff Customers | Founder and Head Trainer

- ★ Owner and operator of a private animal training and behavior business
- ★ Nationally certified in behavior modification & training

January 2008 – Present  
*New York, NY & Atlanta, GA*

### Dekalb County Animal Services of Lifeline | Senior Animal Behavior Specialist

- ★ Created and implemented behavior department structures & protocols for DCAS
- ★ Introduced new safety protocols for the shelter including dog movement, designated handlers, created dog & cat difficulty levels and volunteer skill levels to match for safer handling
- ★ Identified potentially unsafe animals and those suffering from quality of life issues
- ★ Worked with Medical, Kennel & Placement teams to implement protocols for animal welfare and safety

May 2020 – November 2022  
*Chamblee, GA*

### Operant Conditioning Chicken Workshops | Workshop Assistant

- ★ Assisted Dr. Robert E. ("Bob") Bailey with administration of OC training workshops

Summer 2015  
*Columbia, MD*

## LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

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### Advocates for Children of New York | Senior Attorney, Alice Rosenwald Advocate

- ★ Advocated in state & federal court, NYC council, & administrative venues for children with disabilities
- ★ Spoke NYC-wide educating lawyers, school administration, and teachers on education law

November 2002 - February 2008  
*New York, NY*

### Legal Services of Hudson Valley | Children's Advocacy Attorney

- ★ Handled large caseload and litigation for the Children's Advocacy Unit
- ★ Worked on special education, Supplemental Security Income, and ADA cases

July 2000 – November 2002  
*White Plains, NY*

### Legal Aid Society of Birmingham | Juvenile Defense Attorney

- ★ Juvenile defense unit handling juvenile delinquency and dependency cases

October 1996 – January 2000  
*Birmingham, AL*

### Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals | Law Clerk

- ★ Law clerk for Justice John Patterson and also for Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb

May 1995 – October 1996  
*Montgomery, AL*

## ANIMAL TRAINING & BEHAVIOR EDUCATION

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### Shelter Summer Institute

★ Advanced workshop on shelter behavior & welfare issues; included extensive hands-on training component.  
Taught by Erica Feuerbacher, PhD., and Lisa Gunter, PhD.

August 2017

Helena, MT

### Coursera / Univ. of Edinburgh Animal Behavior & Welfare Certificate Course

★ Overview of public policy, ethics, ethology, behavior, care relating to animal welfare. Instructed by professors from Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies

Spring 2015

Online

### John Rogerson Intensive Training Course: India

★ Attended John's three-week hands-on immersive training course in India; learned companion, competition, tracking, scent detection, guide dog & gun dog exercises

January 2012

Mumbai, India

### RVAA Shelter Internship Program

★ Four-day hands-on workshop covered training, welfare, defensive & safe handling techniques, and behavior assessments for shelter dogs

July 2006

Accord, NY

## MULTI-LEVEL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

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### OPERANT CONDITIONING CHICKEN WORKSHOPS / BOB BAILEY – WORKSHOPS:

★ Hands-on operant conditioning & applied behavior analysis training workshops taught by Bob Bailey, Sc. D. & P. Farhooody, MS

★ *Successfully completed all five workshop levels - Discrimination, Cueing, Criteria, Chaining, and Teaching*

Summers, 2013 - 2015

Columbia, MD

### 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

### INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSES – ACADEMIES:

#### **Instructor Training Course: Consulting & Problem Solving 2**

Instruction on conducting private behavior consults.

June, 2008

#### **Instructor Training Course: Consulting & Problem Solving**

Advanced consulting & behavior modification techniques.

Metheun, MA

September, 2007

#### **Instructor Training Course: Teaching & Training**

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

Metheun, MA

Instructed by trainers/behavior consultants 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

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

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- ★ Admitted to practice law in New York and Alabama 1994 - Present
- ★ [Certification Council For Professional Dog Trainers](#), Board of Directors & Chair, Certification Compliance Cmte. 2016 - 2022
- ★ [Animal Behavior Management Alliance \(ABMA\)](#), Member 2020 - Present
- ★ [Certified Behavior Consultant Canine, Knowledge Assessed \(CBCC-KA\)](#) 2019 - Present
- ★ [Certified Professional Dog Trainer, Knowledge & Skills Assessed \(CPDT-KSA\)](#) 2006 - Present
- ★ [Pat Miller Certified Trainer \(PMCT\)](#) 2009 - Present
- ★ [International Association Of Animal Behavior Consultants \(IAABC\)](#), Member 2008 - Present

## REFERENCES

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Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA · [Peaceable Paws training](#) · 17816 Spielman Rd · Fairplay, MD · 21733 · 301.582.9420 · [pat@peaceablepaws.com](mailto:pat@peaceablepaws.com)

Daniel Grayson, DVM · The Home Vet (retired) · Southampton NY · 855.546.3838 · [Doc@thehomevet.com](mailto:Doc@thehomevet.com)

Lauren Zverina, MA, CPDT-KA · Director, ASPCA Behavior Sciences Team · Weaverville, NC · [Lauren.Zverina@aspca.org](mailto:Lauren.Zverina@aspca.org)

Robert E. Bailey, ScD · Behavior by Bailey · 714 Arkridge Circle · Hot Springs · AR · 71913 · [BehaviorbyBailey@gmail.com](mailto:BehaviorbyBailey@gmail.com)

## **ADDENDUM: ANIMAL EXPERIENCE**

### **MULTI-SPECIES EXPERIENCE**

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**Dogs** – I've trained many different breeds and mixes, large, small, and giant, both in my capacity as a professional trainer for more than 18 years 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 livery stable in Montgomery, AL (Fisher Farms) from the age of 12 through 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 have owned my own horses and daily performed all care and enrichment duties for them. I have also cared for other hoof stock, including goats and sheep.

**Chickens** – I have trained many chickens at the Bob Bailey Operant Conditioning Chicken Workshops under the supervision of Drs. Bob Bailey and Parvene Farhooody. 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 (Chicken training demonstration video – <https://youtu.be/d5O-Y4er4TE>).

**Marine Mammals** – I have trained sea lions, dolphins, and manatees at the Riveria Maya Dolphin Discovery facility

**Cats** – I have cared for, trained, created enrichment for cats in a professional setting. Taught a place cue to a cat.

**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.

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

### **INTERNSHIPS**

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**Pat Miller** – I have completed and also 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 tasks* except water retrieval (we placed second).

**Sue Sternberg** – Attended multiple Sternberg seminars, including a week-long animal shelter internship & learned Sue's Train to Adopt, Assess-A-Pet, & Training Wheels programs, working with shelter dogs, many displaying aggressive behaviors.

**Shelley Wood** – I completed her Basic & Advanced Marine Mammal Instructor Courses ([abcanimaltraining.com](http://abcanimaltraining.com)).

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

### **VOLUNTEERISM**

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**ZooAtlanta, Trees Atlanta, ACLU** – I volunteer for all these organizations wherever I am able to lend a hand.

**NYCares** – I volunteered for various art and education projects for teens & elderly folks over 15 years.

**ASPCA** – I volunteered walking dogs, transporting adoptable dogs to remote adoption sites, and caring for dogs at off-site events. I also helped the behavior department on rehabilitation cases and finally consulted professionally.

**NYC ACC** – Walked dogs at Animal Care & Control & taught inexperienced volunteers leash handling techniques.

**The Good Dog Foundation** – My dog and I volunteered as a therapy dog team for three years, visiting teens & the elderly

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

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**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 legal career in trial practice, developing litigation strategies and speaking publicly to full courts, administrative judges or panels and in many public forums. I also taught other lawyers & 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, stressful environment. I have engaged in countless hours of public speaking & education throughout my professional life.