

Sharon E. Cudd Wirant

Mobile: 603-568-2404 • Email: Sharon@K9Logix.com

Profile

Energetic leader with excellent advanced and specialized experienced handling and training animals, problem solving, project management and communication skills. Motivated professional with significant experience developing research design, data analysis, writing publications, training curricula, presenting research and training programs to staff and the public.

Skill Summary

- Extensive experience training animals (20+ years)
- Animal behavior evaluation
- Advanced animal training skills
- Data analysis
- Publication preparation
- Team leadership
- Project management
- Objective problem solving
- Critical thinking

Professional Experience

SPECIALIZED ANIMAL HANDLING/TRAINING

- Successfully trained and modified behavior in exotic birds, trained rats for search & rescue research, and trained chickens as a learning tool using non-traditional training methods.
- Developed and implemented successful behavior modification program for shelter dogs.
- Developed and implemented canine scent work curriculum to training center class offerings and to enhance the health and well-being of shelter dogs.
- Evaluated dog breeds banned from military bases as a SAFER™ Assessor for USMC Parris Island, SC and Newburgh, NY.
- Successfully evaluated select canines for drug detection for the Police Department of the Town of Seabrook, New Hampshire. Currently in search of a second canine candidate.
- Assist the Director of Field Services with animal cruelty and neglect cases as needed.

OPERATIONS / TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- Oversee shelter and business operations for the second largest animal shelter in New England.
- Develop, revise and maintain the Standard Operating Procedures manual and dog training class curriculum for the animal shelter's training center. Responsible for training all staff on shelter operational procedures including general care, enrichment, behavioral evaluation and modification of dogs and cats.
- Facilitate the SAFER™ Aggression and Canine-ality™ Assessment tools to organizations nationwide using Dialogue Education techniques.
- Review, provide feedback and certify video submission for SAFER™ Assessor certification.
- Conduct, develop and systematically implement behavior modification/training plans for dog and cat owners seeking resolution to pet behavior problems, including serious aggression cases.
- Instructor and trainer for pet dog and competitive dog sports for 20 years.

RESEARCH

- Designed, carried out, analyzed and prepared for publication research on the scent-marking behavior of female domestic dogs. Two studies have been published in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal.
- Assist with video research review and analysis of the SAFER™ Aggression Assessment data as an Independent Contractor with the ASPCA.
- Present research to academic, professional and public organizations.

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Certifications / Awards

- Karen Pryor Academy – Certified Training Partner (KPA-CTP)
- Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (ACAAB)
- Certified Professional Dog Trainer – Knowledge Assessed (CPDT-KA)
- Certified SAFER™ Assessor
- Received Certificate of Appreciation from Colonel C.D. Henderson for providing successful behavioral assessment of aggressive canine breeds at the Parris Island U.S. Marine Corps base in South Carolina – 2009

Employment History

MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY – SWANZEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Director of Business Operations, 2011 - present

Chief Operating Officer, 2009 – 2011

Director of Operations, 2008 – 2009

Canine Behavior Manager, 2006 – 2008

ASPCA – NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Independent Contract Trainer, 2008 – present

UPPER VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY – ENFIELD, NH

Behavior Intern, 2005 - 2006

SMITH COLLEGE – NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Teaching Assistant (Laboratories: Vertebrate Biology, Ecology, Plant Systematics and Plant Ecology), 2003 – 2004

Teaching Assistant (Vertebrate Biology Laboratory), 2002

Research Assistant, 2001 - 2002

Praxis Internship (Veterinary Technician), Summer 2001

Education

SMITH COLLEGE - NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

- Master of Arts, Biological Sciences with a specialization in Animal Behavior – May 2005
Thesis subject: Urinary behavior in female domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in relation to the estrous cycle
- Bachelor of Arts, Biological Sciences and Neuroscience – May 2002
Special Studies Thesis subject: Urinary behavior in female domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*): influence of reproductive status, location and age.

JAMES W. ROBINSON SECONDARY – FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

- High school diploma - June 1985

Professional References / Development

Professional references and/or extensive list of relevant courses attended provided upon request