

# BAD DOG-SCIENCE

Dr Roger Mugford council advisor to the PETbc

As a response to 'In Defence of Dogs' an extensive review by

Dr David Sands, Dr Roger Mugford provides his reflections

## Pet Education Training & Behaviour Council

Britain's leader in training & behaviour organisations in education



### Dr Roger Mugford MCFBA

**Human-companion animal practitioner**

Dr Roger Mugford is a psychologist and farmer who introduced the concept of behavioural therapy to the veterinary profession by founding The Animal Behaviour Centre in 1979. Since then, his referral practice is seen as the leading authority in the field and has seen more than 50,000 pets.

He invented the Halti headcollar plus other training and reward based behaviour aids distributed by The Company of Animals, of which he is the CEO.

Roger is a patron of Dogs for the Disabled, a trustee of Cancer and Bio-detection Dogs and was awarded The Blue Cross Welfare Award in 2005.

His major current pre-occupation is the defence of dogs facing unjust treatment before the law with owners living in either palaces or poverty.



*"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is."*

## As a response to 'In Defence of Dogs' an extensive review by Dr David Sands, Dr Roger Mugford provides his reflections:

"So much **tosh** is disguised behind this facade of academic respectability, and it is **dangerous tosh** because converts to this nonsense end up with blood on their hands: dead dogs and worse injured people.

After all these (my) 30 years of practice and as many years of watching the spawning of the 'love, cuddle and treat Taliban', we have MORE dog bites, more complaints, rehomes and euthanasias of young healthy dogs than ever before."

"The man-dog relationship should be a fascinating field for scientific study, but sadly it has attracted the least able academics exploring the most anodyne research topics. A recent analysis by Liverpool University (and sponsored by DEFRA) into the scientific worth of ALL recent published papers on dog behaviour concluded that only 3 out of hundreds were properly conducted and produced robust data. None of John Bradshaw's numerous publications passed the Liverpool test."

"Bradshaw's working 'method' whilst at Southampton University, then later at Bristol, was to pick a populist topic likely to excite Daily Mail readers (such as about dog defecatory habits), set unpaid students onto a tiny pool of pets and owners (aka subjects), then run fancy statistical analyses: factor analysis and correlation coefficients on dubiously scored behavioural data. Rubbish in and rubbish out, which is used to outrageous effect in Bradshaw's latest book."

"In Defence of Dogs, contains a litany of untested theories that were probably only promulgated to milk the academic grant system and never meant to seriously contribute to development of our dog culture. Unfortunately, this pretentious book does just that, and will have damaging consequences were it to be taken seriously.

"Payoffs without penalties produce spoilt and dangerous children.....and dogs. Imagining that dogs are the only species on the planet that do NOT develop social order by competitively determined dominance-subordinance systems is a narrow interpretation of the ethological consensus and that will cause the death of many more dogs that have bitten their people."

"Dr Bradshaw has done well 'working' the university and commercial grant system to his own benefit: he has worked in an uncritical world that rewards apparent effectiveness, numbers of post graduate students and of course, papers published. But now he has retired, I had (just)hoped that his malign influence on our dog culture might cease. Not so, and more is the pity."

