

-----Original Message-----

From: T

Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2009 12:17 PM

To:

Cc: Pauleen Bennett

Subject: PhD research on canine development

Dear Beverley,

I am new PhD student at Monash University working with Dr. Pauleen Bennett, and she recommend that I contact you about possible collaborative research opportunities. I have looked at your website, which is very interesting and informative. It is clear that you have done a lot of research on what's best for your dogs!

For my own research, I am hoping to look at cognitive abilities of dogs at different stages of their development. There have been a lot of studies over the past decade or so that look at the ability of dogs to read human signals, problem-solve, etc, but most of these have only used adult dogs.

We would like to know if puppies are capable of these sorts of things, and at what age they are particularly adept at picking up new skills.

Since you have clearly spent a long time working to continually improve Labradoodles, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet you and discuss possible research with your litters. Of course, nothing we do with the puppies would have any detrimental effect; if anything, it might simply be a little extra enrichment for them. But the knowledge that they could give us would be extremely useful.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and I thank you in advance for any help you can provide us.

I can be reached by telephone on XXXX XXX XXX or by email.

Sincerely,

T

PhD Candidate

Anthrozoology Research Group

Coordinator - 2nd Australian Positive Psychology and Well-Being

Conference Monash University Building F, Caulfield Campus 900

Dandenong Road Caulfield East, VIC 3145 AUSTRALIA

Beverley Manners wrote:
Cc'd Helen Lawrance, Administrator
Wednesday, May 6

Dear T

Thank you for your enquiry.

The cognitive ability of dogs and puppies has been a study of deep interest to me for many years. Working with you would provide a window of opportunity for me to learn more, which I would greatly welcome.

To assist you in deciding when you would like to begin your project, we currently have a litter of puppies who are just over a week old, another litter ten weeks old, which is awaiting the required age for import into various other countries, and we are expecting two more litters in late May/early June.

The current young litter could be of significant interest to you, because the dam of the litter is a bitch we purchased as an adult.

She was raised by her breeder in an isolated environment lacking in human interaction, which has left her extremely timid with human beings. She has had one litter previously and all puppies in the litter had outgoing confident temperaments, so it is our opinion that her timid behavior is environmentally caused and not a hereditary issue.

It is an interesting study for us to note how much the nature of puppies is influenced by the behavior of their mother as compared to the genes they inherit. We did not wean the first litter early, but observed them along with their mother to age eight weeks,

I would be delighted to have a chat with you and I can be contacted on either (xx) xx xx xxxx during business hours, or on my private (silent) home number (xx) xx xxx xxx at any time.

Looking forward to speaking with you,

Warm wishes
Beverley Manners

-----Original Message-----

From: T

Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2009 4:54 PM

To: Beverley Manners

Cc: Pauleen Bennett

Subject: Re: PhD research on canine development

Hi Beverley,

It was really nice talking to you this afternoon. I am looking very forward to meeting you and your dogs.

Unfortunately, Pauleen can't get away from Caulfield until 3pm next Thursday, which wouldn't put us in Warragul before 4pm. That is probably too late for you; would you be able to accommodate a weekend visit? Or perhaps the morning of Wednesday the 13th?

Otherwise, we could plan to meet some time after the 5th of June, when I return from overseas.

Thanks very much,

T

PS I think I found the Prodigy Pups website with the videos. Is this it?

<http://www.puppyprodigies.com/>

T

PhD Candidate

Anthrozoology Research Group

Coordinator - 2nd Australian Positive Psychology and Well-Being

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Dandenong Road Caulfield East, VIC 3145 AUSTRALIA

www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg

----- Original Message -----

From: T

Date: Friday, May 8, 2009 10:39 am

Subject: RE: PhD research on canine development

To: Beverley Manners <

Cc: 'Pauleen Bennett'

< 'Rutland Manor Adoptions Dept'

<rmadoptions@rutlandmanor.com>

Hi Beverley,

I understand that you prefer Helen to be at the meeting, so waiting until I return from overseas is alright. I too would like to meet you sooner, but I thought it might be hard to organise a visit on such short notice!

I am happy to go ahead and plan a meeting for when I return, so that we can see each other as soon as possible after I come home and further discuss potential projects.

I will be back in Australia late evening, Friday, 5th June, so anytime the following week would work for me. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are best for Pauleen. Tuesdays I usually work (part-time job) but if Tuesday is the best option, I can give my supervisor enough notice at this point for it not to be a problem. Alternatively, Wednesday mornings or Thursday afternoons would be OK most weeks.

So, perhaps we can plan around one of those days for the week of my return?

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Sincerely,

T

AND

PAULINE WROTE:

-----Original Message-----

From: Pauleen Bennett

Sent: Friday, 8 May 2009 1:09 PM

To: T

Cc: Beverley Manners; ; 'Rutland Manor Adoptions Dept'

Subject: Re: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi guys

First semester ends on June 5 so I get a break from teaching and have lots of flexibility time wise. Should be able to make a meeting practically any day so will fit around your availability.

Am very much looking forward to a good chat Pauleen

--

Pauleen Bennett, PhD
Anthrozoology Research Group
www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg/
Psychology, Monash University
Victoria, Australia.

-----Original Message-----

From: T

Sent: Wednesday, 1 July 2009 2:30 PM

To: Beverley Manners

Subject: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi Beverley,

Thanks again for allowing me to meet the new puppies and for giving me some information about your breeding/socialisation practices at an early age.

I don't have an electronic copy of the Paul McGreevy article about nose length in the dog and the visual streak, but next time I come around I'll bring a hard copy for you. it's pretty interesting stuff.

It was also great to finally meet you (sorry I wasn't particularly chatty today and I didn't want to get too close to you just in case this sore throat is contagious! I don't think it is but I don't want to risk it).

I look forward to seeing you again in a couple weeks

Take care,

T

-----Original Message-----

From: T

Sent: Wednesday, 1 July 2009 4:22 PM

To: Beverley Manners

Subject: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi Beverley,

The laid-back puppies are important to see just like the excitable ones because I really need to know what sort of genetic differences exist even at a very young age with these puppies, so believe me, the visit was extremely helpful! Don't worry because I really enjoyed myself and had fun playing with the puppies. They are so sweet :)

I'd definitely like to see them interacting with you and other humans in the next couple of weeks though as well, and perhaps next time I'm there I can give you more details about the specific experiments we are planning. That way you can advise on what sort of behaviour we might expect from your puppies at various ages.

Thanks for the advice on vitamin C. I am eating oranges as much as I can and I'm not so miserable that I need to rely on medications ... hopefully I won't get worse!

Have a great afternoon and thanks again!

T