

Curriculum Vitae

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In 1978 I was a police officer in Streatham South West London. It was at this time I first saw a man named Mr Ed Reid with his American Pit Bull Terrier dogs. These were the first to be imported into the U.K. As the years passed I began to see more of these types of dogs on the streets of London.

In 1989 I became a dog handler. During my career in the dog section I handled four general-purpose police dogs and specialised in Firearms Support roles to Home Office and Association Chief Police Officers Standard at the Regional Training Centre. I had competed in local Police dog trials, and had organised trials at National level. For 3 years I was selected to represent the Metropolitan Police Service in the Central Demonstration Team giving talks, displays and presentations at events to the general public.

As an operational Police dog handler prior to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, I had numerous dealings with members of the public and their dogs, including types known as Pit Bulls, who prior to the Act coming into force would openly talk about their dogs. I noticed a lot of youths with these types of dogs and they spoke very openly about them and how much of a 'status symbol' they were and how intimidating they appeared, which was mainly due to the high media coverage at that time. I assisted on hundreds of raids, where dogs had been present. A significant number of the dogs have been of a Pit Bull type.

When the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into force my involvement with this type of dog increased, and in the following months I was involved in the seizure of a large number of Pit Bull Type dogs. Many had been abandoned on the street, and others were as a result of Dangerous Dog seizure warrants.

I attended a two week seminar where I received presentations from court accredited expert witnesses on the types of dog known as Pit Bull's. I also received inputs from agencies such as the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs Home and a Forensic Veterinary Surgeon who is an expert in dog breed identification, animal behaviour and animal welfare legislation.

I went onto assisting with the running of dangerous dog seminars and gave presentations on legislation and examinations of Pit Bull dogs. During these seminars we visited kennels enabling delegates to have the opportunity to see in excess of 200 Pit Bull type dogs.

I served in a dedicated unit which dealt with the examination of dogs that were believed to be prohibited types under the Dangerous Dogs Act or that had been seized on welfare grounds. I worked with RSPCA Inspectors in North East London, the RSPCA Harmsworth Animal Memorial Hospital (Islington), and the local authorities. I examined stray dogs that had been abandoned to establish if they were prohibited breeds and would also assist with cases of animal welfare. I attended meeting with agencies to discuss problems with dangerous dogs, animal welfare and owner's behaviour. I was authorised to return dogs if I did not think they were subject to Dangerous Dogs Act.

I am familiar with and use the American Dog Breeders Association Confirmation standard with regard to the type known as the Pit Bull Terrier and with the Federation Cynologique Federation standard with regards to the type known as the Dogo Argentino. I am fully conversant with the judgement in the case of Brock and Dunne (1993) with regard to the meaning of the word 'type'.

I have had an officially checked listing in the Sweet & Maxwell directory of Expert Witnesses since 2012 and I have been an independently vetted member of the U.K. Register of Expert Witnesses since 2013.

I attend seminars to keep up to date with current dog behaviour trends. In January 2015 I was invited to, and attended The Kennel Club along with enforcement officers, academics and other experts to discuss the growing concerns of dog aggression and bites particularly on children.

I have given presentations to members of the Chartered Institute Environments Health, Police Officers, registered social landlords, local authority environmental officers and dog wardens on dog legislation, animal welfare and canine aggression.

I have a diploma with merit in 'canine aggression'. Part of my examinations are to assess a dog's temperament and to give an opinion as to whether the dog "**would be a danger to the public**" which is to assist the court post-conviction. I have assessed dogs of all breeds and sizes including Akita's, American Bull Dogs, Border Collie's, Boxer's, Dogo Argentin's, German Shepherd Dogs, Jack Russell's, Mastiff's, Pit Bull types, Rottweilers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and cross breeds.

I examined the dogs and submitted evidence in the following high profile cases.

R v Helton BUSHATI August 2010 London. Three dogs (2 American Bull Dogs and a cross bull breed dog) attacked a male jogger in an East London Park. The attack was

so ferocious the male was stripped of his clothing and was rendered unconscious.

R v Simeon ROBINSON March 2012 London. A Pit Bull dog named 'Poison' that attacked and hospitalised 4 Police Officers.

R v Lee WRIGHT February 2014 Lancashire. The dog named 'Snoop' that was responsible for the tragic death of 11 month old baby Ava-Jane Corless.

R v Elena BUTTERFIELD February 2014 London. The dog named 'Louis' who was alleged to have been dangerously out of control whereby a Police horse was injured.

R v Elwyn JONES November 2015 Neath, Port Talbot, South Wales. It was alleged that the dog named 'Deano' was dangerously out of control in a public place and a postal worker refused to deliver mail to the rural area.

My evidence as an expert witness has been accepted at County, Magistrate, Crown and the Family Courts.