

Shaun Patrick Hesmondhalgh BSc (Hons)

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PROFILE

A highly professional and accomplished **Canine Clinical Behaviourist**, specialising in the formal observation, analysis, management, and modification of dangerous dogs and dogs exhibiting inappropriate behaviour. Routinely providing expert witness services to legal counsel in the civil, criminal, and coroners' courts on matters related to dog behaviour, dog welfare, and serious dangerous dog incidents involving human fatalities.

KEY SKILLS

- Outstanding management and leadership skills developed and expanded through 24 years distinguished service in the challenging and complex Ministry of Defence (MOD) Community, serving in the Royal Air Force Police as a Service Police Dog Handler and a Specialist Criminal Investigator.
- First class written skills routinely practised through the production of formal and specialist reports for both lay audiences and legal counsel.
- Excellent verbal communication skills as demonstrated and developed through Professionalising the Investigation Programme (PIP) Specialist Investigative Interviewer adept in the Management of Conversation, Cognitive Interviewing, and Enhanced Cognitive Interviewing (National Occupational Standards).
- Accomplished team worker verified through the management of serious and complex criminal investigations, operational deployment in the most austere of circumstances, in addition to excelling in high profile representative sport.
- Strong sense of initiative and self-motivation regularly put to the test through the development of innovative training and behaviour modification programmes that produce functional solutions for complex dog behaviour problems.
- Time management effectively demonstrated through the prioritising of expert witness reports and behavioural diagnostic reports concerning legal or complex dog behaviour cases.
- Planning and organising proven through professional teaching practice, setting achievable and measurable aims and objectives, action plans, and strategies for reaching targets.
- Analysing and investigating matters as demonstrated through skilled crime management during high profile criminal investigations, and the observation and analysis of complex dog behaviour.
- Computer literate and practiced in operating Business Area software and commercial software.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

Owner and Director of The Way of the Dog Ltd

Developed and incorporated The Way of the Dog Ltd, a professional dog behaviour consultancy providing expert witness services, behaviour modification and management, and specialist breed-specific dog training. Expert witness services extend to professional consultancy with legal counsel, Home Office Police Forces, and interested stake holders on matters related to dangerous dogs and a variety of other dog related themes. Such work includes the assessment and identification of prohibited breeds in addition to providing expert opinion on dog behaviour, dog related human fatalities, and whether a dog constitutes a danger to public safety. Additionally, supporting dog owners to live in harmony with their dogs; achieved through best teaching practice, the formulation of productive management strategies, and the successful implementation of intuitive behaviour modification protocols.

BSc (Hons) Canine Clinical Behaviour (CCB)

Obtained a first-class BSc (Hons) CCB through the University of Chester with notable emphasis on a dissertation concerning dogs seized by Home Office Police Forces for being dangerously out of control and public perception of dangerousness in breeds or types of dogs.

Canine & Feline Behaviour Association (CFBA) – Behaviour Practitioner

Accredited Member of CFBA and listed on the CFBA Directory of Expert Witnesses. The CFBA is one of the UK's leading authorities in dog behaviour and part of the Pet Education Training & Behaviour Council of Great Britain (PETbc).

Pet Education Training & Behaviour Council (PETbc)

Canine Criminal Law Consultant to the council.

Professional Diploma in Education (PDE) (Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector)

Obtained a PDE with distinction through the University of Bolton. Achieved distinctions on both theory and practice throughout, with notable emphasis gained on a 20-hour curriculum designed and aimed at delivering responsible dog ownership and status dog awareness to young adult learners.

Crime Manager RAF Police Special Investigations Branch

Flight Sergeant Crime Manager of Special Investigations Branch directly responsible for the investigation of 'serious and complex' crimes committed by Service personnel within Northern England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. Responsible for the motivation, supervision, direction, welfare, and discipline of multiple investigation teams. Force Nationally Accredited Specialist Interview Advisor responsible for providing strategic interview advice to Senior Investigating Officers during 'major' investigations in accordance with PACE and the Guidelines for Achieving Best Evidence. Responsible for the development of the Force investigation and interview skills.

Service Police Dog Handler

Selected by the Provost Marshals (RAF) Dog Inspectorate (PMDI) to be trained and employed as the first Service Police Dog (SPD) Handler (General Purpose Police Dog equivalent) in the RAF. Later leading to managerial responsibility for the first fully operational SPD Section in the UK. A five-year tenure requiring the preparation of SPD teams prior to their annual Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) licensing by the PMDI.

RAF Police Dog Section Management

Managed and supervised five different operational RAF Police Dog Sections during RAF career assuming responsibility for operational deployment, the protection and security of high value military assets, and the delivery of counter terrorism duties. This included all operational police dog training, veterinary management, adhering to animal welfare legislation, kennel husbandry, feeding, transportation, and the procurement of dog training aids and protective equipment.

Won the title of the best RAF Police Dog Section in the UK and receiving runner-up during two successive years whilst managing RAF Cottesmore Police Dog Section. This success was rewarded with the personal award of Commander in Chief Strike Command Commendation.

Supervised and directed operational Military Working Dog teams serving in Iraq during coalition occupation and conflict with insurgents. Routinely advised high ranking military commanders on the proper deployment of canine assets during operational missions and emergency situations. Coordinated the evacuation of a Military Working Dog from operational theatre to an overseas veterinary hospital for emergency blood transfusion.

Motivated, inspired and enhanced the operational effectiveness of 20 RAF Police Dog Teams deployed on operational duties in the Falkland Islands. Trained and prepared dogs for protection of military assets against foreign Special Forces, specialising in amphibious beach assaults and tactical helicopter deployments, and search and rescue duties. Transformed young inexperienced handlers into confident and effective operational Police Dog Teams.

CAREER HISTORY

The Way of the Dog Ltd, Consultancy & Legal, Canine Behaviour & Training	2012 – Present
Bolton College, Sports Development & Public Services Department	2012 – 2014
HM Forces, Royal Air Force Police	1988 – 2012

TRAINING AND CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aggression in Dogs Conference	2022
Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors Annual Conference	2018
Malena DeMartini – Fixing the Unfixable (seminar)	2016
Duke University, Dr Brian Hare, Dog Emotion and Cognition (online course)	2015
The University of Edinburgh, Animal Behaviour & Welfare (online course)	2015
Dr Ian Dunbar – Simple Solutions for Common Behaviour and Training Problems (seminar)	2015
Professor Roger Abrantes – The 20 Principles all Animal Trainers Must Know (seminar)	2015
David Ryan – Dogs that Bite & Fight, Predatory Chase (seminar)	2015
Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors Annual Conference	2014
Cooper & Co, Dog Law for Professionals (seminar)	2014
Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors – Professor Patricia McConnell (seminar)	2013
Cooper & Co, Dog Law for Professionals (seminar)	2013
COAPE Association of Pet Behaviourists and Trainers (seminar)	2013

QUALIFICATIONS

Level 6 BSc (Hons) in Canine Clinical Behaviour (University of Chester) (2022)
Level 5 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (University of Bolton) (2014)
Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (University of Bolton) (2013)
Level 4 Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (University of Bolton) (2013)
Graduateship Award in Leadership and Management (Level 6 equivalent) (City & Guilds) (2012)
Initial Management of Serious Crime Course (Lancashire Police) (2012)
Nationally Accredited PIP Level 2 Specialist Interview Adviser (Greater Manchester Police) (2011)
PIP Level 2 Specialist Interviewer (Witness) (Greater Manchester Police) (2010)
Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership (Chartered Management Institute) (2010)
Level 4 Diploma in Management and Leadership (Chartered Management Institute) (2010)
Advanced Management and Leadership Course (Airman's Command School, RAF Halton) (2010)
Nationally Accredited PIP Level 2 Specialist Interviewer (Suspect) (Greater Manchester Police) (2009)
Nationally Accredited PIP Level 2 Investigator (Suspect & Witness) (Greater Manchester Police) (2007)
Serious Crime Investigators Course (Defence College of Police and Administration) (2005)
Level 3 Certificate in Management (Institute of Leadership & Management) (2003)
Service Police Dog Handlers Course (Defence Animal Centre) (2001)
Kennel Managers Course (Defence Animal Centre) (1998)
Qualified Police Dog handler (RAF Newton Police School) (1989)
Basic Police Officers Course (RAF Newton Police School) (1988)

ORGANISATIONS

Full member of the Expert Witness Institute	2016 – Present
Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners (Signatory)	2016 – Present
Full member of the Canine & Feline Behaviour Association	2015 – Present
National Register of Dog Trainers and Behaviourists (Founder Member)	2014 – Present
Full member of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers	2013 – Present