

## **Rebecca Ledger BSc (Hons) MSc PhD      Biography**

Dr Rebecca Ledger is a companion animal behaviour scientist and clinical ethologist from Vancouver, British Columbia. Originally from the UK, Dr Ledger was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of London, her Masters Degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from the University of Edinburgh (The Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies) and her Doctorate in the assessment and treatment of behavioural disorders in shelter dogs from Brunel University. Rebecca completed three Post-Doctorate Fellowships (funded by the RSPCA, Sanofi Sante Nutrition Animale and Friskies Petcare) in the adoption, diagnosis and management of dogs with behavioural disorders, in particular, treatments involving the use of pharmaceutical interventions. Whilst holding the post of University Lecturer, Dr Ledger also studied for her MBA.

Dr Ledger came to Canada in 2002 as a Visiting Scholar at the University of British Columbia's Animal Welfare Program, where she lectured and supervised animal science students. She later became the Provincial Manager, and later, Acting General Manager of Behaviour & Welfare Manager for the BCSPCA. Dr Ledger has supervised many undergraduate, Masters and PhD students through their graduate degrees and published widely on the scientific field of clinical animal behaviour and animal welfare, with over a hundred papers, articles and presentations. Her most notable research includes studies of the relevancy of Breed Specific Legislation (particularly in relation to Pit Bull terriers), the use of physiological and behavioural measures in the assessment of welfare in shelter animals, the validation and assessment of personality tests for domestic dogs and cats, shelter management systems, the relationship between diet and behaviour, and more recently, the issues surrounding the welfare of sled dogs.

Her research has appeared in various peer reviewed scientific journals, including the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, *Physiology & Behaviour*, *Anthrozoos*, *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, *Animal Welfare* and *Progress in Neuro-psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*. Furthermore, Dr Ledger has also been invited to write articles for the *BCSPCA Animal Sense*, *The Kennel Gazette*, *Modern Dog*, *HSUS Animal Sheltering Magazine*, and *WestCoast Veterinarian*. Her most recent assignment is as pet health Columnist and pet blogger for the Vancouver Sun.

Dr Ledger is a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, the International Society for Applied Ethology, the Canadian Association for Professional Pet Dog Trainers, an Associate Member of the American Veterinary Society for Animal Behavior, and a Board Member of the Proctor & Gamble PetCare Animal Welfare Advisory Board in Ohio. In addition, she has worked for the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, and was previously a board member for The Pedigree Foundation. Rebecca currently consults to local government, veterinary clinics, the pet food, sled dog, pharmaceutical, shelter, military and service animal industries, and operates a companion animal behaviour clinic, working with veterinarians to help owners with problem pets across British Columbia. Dr Ledger has been approved by Provincial Courts across British Columbia and frequently provides expert witness dog aggression cases.

Rebecca lives in Vancouver with her human and animal family – her husband, three children (aged 2, 5 and 7 years), her 11 and 20 year-old rescue cats, Gilly and Sisko, and her 14 year and 8 month old English springer spaniels, Pippa and Poppy.