

Curriculum Vitae (2009)



Name RICHARD H. POLSKY

Date of Birth: July 9, 1947

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, PA.

Business Address: **Animal Behavior Counseling Services, Inc.**
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Los Angeles, CA 90064-2002

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Web sites: www.dogexpert.com
www.drpolsky.com
www.lapuppyclasses.com
www.sfdogmauling.com

EDUCATION

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|-----------|--------------|--|
| 1965-1970 | B.Sc. | The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio Major: Biopsychology |
| 1970-1975 | Ph.D. | University of Leicester Leicester, England <i>Area of Specialization: Animal Behavior</i> |
| 1977-1979 | Postdoctoral | University of California, Los Angeles <i>Area of Specialization: Animal Behavior</i> |

ACADEMIC AWARDS & HONORS

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| 1977-1978 | Postdoctoral Fellowship <i>Brain Research Institute, UCLA</i> |
| 1979 | National Research Service Award <i>National Institute of Mental Health</i> |

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 1974 - 1976 *Research Associate in Animal Behavior.* Joint appointments in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, Birmingham England and in the Ethnology Laboratory at All Saints Hospital, Birmingham, England.
- 1979 - 1982 *Research Psychologist in Animal Behavior.* Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California at Los Angeles.

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 1981-present *President, **Animal Behavior Counseling Services**, Inc.,* Los Angeles, CA. Founded 1981. Job responsibilities include: (a) Consultation services to pet owners experiencing behavioral problems in their dogs and cats. Dr. Polsky has personally trained and counseled over 10,000 dogs, cats and their owners; (b) Behavior training classes for dogs - ongoing in Los Angeles since 1985.
- 1997-1998 Part-time staff position at **Los Feliz Animal Hospital**, Los Angeles, CA. Position entailed providing consultation services to the clientele of the hospital regarding behavioral problems in dogs and cats.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 1972 - 1973 *Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Animal Behavior Laboratory,* Department of Psychology, University of Leicester.
- 1983 - 1986 *Instructor, South Bay Adult School, Redondo Beach, CA.*
Course Title: "*Understanding Your Dog*"
- 1992 *Instructor, Home Study Program in Behavioral Modification for Dog and Cats.* Approved for continuing education credit for veterinarians by the California Veterinary Medical Association.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 1972 - 1981 *Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour*
- 1982 - present *Animal Behavior Society*
- 1982 - present *American Psychological Association*
- 1997 - present *Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology Group,*
Division of the American Psychological Association

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|----------------|--|
| 1997 - present | <i>International Society of Applied Ethology</i> |
| 2000 - present | <i>American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> |
| 2003 – present | <i>American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior</i> |

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Certified as an Applied Animal Behaviorist by the *Animal Behavior Society*. Dr. Polsky is one of approximately 40 behaviorists in the United States with certification from this organization. The Animal Behavior Society is the foremost professional organization in the United States dealing with the scientific study of animal behavior.

PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS (Partial listing)

Polsky, R. Factors Associated With Treatment Outcome in Dogs Presented With Behavioral Problems. Paper presented at the *Conference on the Human-Animal Bond*, Irvine, CA. June, 1983.

Polsky, R. Variables Affecting Treatment Outcome in Dogs Presented for Behavioral Problems. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society*, Durham, NC. June, 1985.

Polsky, R. Use of Punishment and Counter-Conditioning Techniques to Eliminate Obsessive Tail-Chasing in a Dog. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society*, Davis, CA. July, 1993.

Polsky, R. Aggression in dogs elicited through the use of electronic boundary training equipment. Paper presented at the *Interdisciplinary Forum in Applied Animal Behavior*, Denver, CO. March, 1998

Polsky, R. Behavioral differences in puppies as measured in self-report data from their owners. Paper presented at the *Interdisciplinary Forum in Applied Animal Behavior*. Atlanta, GA. March, 1999.

Polsky, R. The differential diagnosis of aggression in dogs elicited through the use of electronic pet containment systems. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society*. Atlanta, GA. August, 2000.

Polsky, R. Issues relevant to the animal behavior forensic expert as exemplified in the San Francisco dog mauling case. Paper presented at the *Interdisciplinary Forum in Applied Animal Behavior*. Austin, TX. February, 2003.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (Partial listing)

Invited Speaker, Guide Dogs of America, Sylmar, CA. 1985. Presentation: "Understanding canine social development as it applies to the guide dog."

Invited Speaker, Los Angeles SPCA. 1987. Presentation: "Canine social behavior and problem solving techniques."

Invited Speaker, Southern California Korean Veterinary Medical Association, 1992.
Presentation: "Diagnosis and treatment of aggressive behavioral problems in dogs and cats."

Invited Speaker, Southern California Veterinary Medical Association. 1983 - 1994
(Approximately 15 lectures on dog and cat behavior presented at veterinary chapter meetings)

Invited Speaker, Annual Meeting of the Sacramento Valley Veterinary Medical Association, Sacramento, CA. 1991. Presentation : "The scientific basis of dog and cat behavior."

Invited Speaker, Law Offices of Bollington, Stilz, Bloeser & Curry (In-house counsel for 20th Century Insurance Co. Woodland Hills, CA.) Presentation: "What the Attorney Needs to Know to Defend Dog Related Injury Claims". October, 1996.

Invited Speaker, Law Offices of Thomas Moore & Associates (In-house counsel for Allstate Insurance Co. Glendale, CA.) Presentation: "What the Attorney Needs to Know to Defend Dog Related Injury Claims". April, 1997.

Invited Speaker, VCA-Wes Los Angeles Veterinary Medical Group. Introductory lecture on companion animal behavior presented to incoming interns in veterinary medicine. (1989 - 2000).

Invited Speaker, 19th Annual Feline Medicine Symposium. School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis. February, 2001. Presentation: "Inappropriate elimination and aggression in cats."

Invited Speaker, San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association. February, 2001. Presentation: "Diagnosis and treatment of aggressive behavior problems in cats."

Invited Speaker, Kern County Paralegal Association, January, 2003. Presentation: "Recurrent Behavioral Issues in Dog Attack Cases."

Invited Speaker, Law Offices of Veatch, Carlson, Grogan & Nelson. Presentation: "Behavioral issues in dog bite litigation as exemplified through three case histories". February, 2003.

FORENSIC EXPERIENCE THROUGH 2007

Number of occasions retained as a dog behavior expert in civil cases: *Greater than 200.*

Number of occasions retained as a cat behavior expert in civil cases: *Approximately 7.*

Number of occasions retained as an dog behavior expert in criminal cases: *Approximately 12*

Division between work for Plaintiff vs. Defense: *50% plaintiff, 50% defense*

Number of Depositions given: *Greater than 110*

Number of times testifying at trial: *Greater than 50*

States outside California where deposition or trial testimony has been rendered: *Alabama, Arizona, Texas, Nevada, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Kansas, Washington, Idaho, Michigan.*

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Counties in California where deposition or trial testimony has been given (partial listing):
Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, Orange, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Alameda, Fresno, Merced, Sacramento, San Mateo, Tuolumne.

Percentage of professional time spent in forensic work in 2007: Approximately 15% - 20%

ASSIGNMENTS AS AN DOG BEHAVIOR EXPERT IN CRIMINAL CASES

May, 1999. *State of California v. Sandoval.* Case # PA 031394. San Fernando Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Meredith Taylor.

June, 1999. *State of California v. Carter.* Case # KA 044228. Pomona Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Judith Vander Lans.

June, 1999. *State of California v. Corral.* Case # PA 029842. San Fernando Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Meredith Taylor.

June 2000. *State of South Carolina v. Speagle.* Case # F-945152. Fairfield County, South Carolina by Judge Paul M. Burch.

August 2000. *State of California v. Graham.* Case # SA 038179 Los Angeles Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Stephanie Sautner.

October 2000. *State of California v. Gomez* Case # KA 046685 Pomona Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Robert M. Martinez.

November, 2000. *State of California v. Bates.* Case # BA 205430 Los Angeles Division, Los Angeles Superior Court by Judge Michael Kellog.

December, 2001. *People v. Robert Noel.* Case # SCN 181813-2. Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco by Judge James Warren.

October, 2008. *People v. Moody.* Orange County Superior Court (CA), Westminster Division.

FORENSIC EXPERIENCE PERTAINING TO POLICE DOG ATTACK CASES

Number of occasions retained by plaintiff counsel: Approximately 4

Number of occasions retained by defense counsel: 1

Number of occasions qualified in court as expert on police dog behavior: 2

MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Certification of Appreciation for speaking engagement to the Southern California Alaskan Malamute Club, 1983.

Paid consultant in animal behavior to the *Los Angeles City Dept. of Animal Regulation*, 1987.

Paid consultant in Animal Behavior to the *Los Angeles SPCA*, 1990.

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Paid consultant in animal behavior to the *Los Angeles SPCA*, 1992.

Publisher of newsletter entitled *Bulletin on Companion Animal Behavior*. Published quarterly from 1988 - 1992, 1997 - 1999. (renamed in 1999 to "Dr. Polsky's Newsletter on Dog & Cat Behavior").

Publisher of a newsletter entitled *Dog Behavior and the Law*. Published occasionally for distribution to attorneys. (Complimentary copies available). 1997 - present.

Expert witness on the Judge Judy Show, Dr. Polsky rendered testimony in a custody dispute over a dog. May, 1998.

Paid consultant in animal behavior for television show produced and aired by Fox Television. "When Good Animals Do Bad Things", September, 1998.

Paid consultant to the *Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation*, August, 1999

Editorial consultant / reviewer of manuscripts for veterinary text book publisher *Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins Publishing Company*, Baltimore, MD. December, 2000.

Publisher of newsletter entitled *Literature Review on Applied Dog and Cat Behavior* (2001 - 2002; Complimentary copies available).

Certified evaluator for the American Kennel Club's Good Citizen Test, 2003 – 2004.

AUTHORED BOOKS

User's Guide to the Scientific and Clinical Literature on Dog & Cat Behavior. 2nd Ed.
Published by: Animal Behavior Counseling Services, Inc., Los Angeles, CA. 1995. Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 91-73115. ISBN: 0-9630005-0-0

PUBLISHED PAPERS IN VETERINARY & ANIMAL BEHAVIOR JOURNALS

1974

Polsky, R. Effects of novel environment on predatory behavior in golden hamsters. *Perceptual & Motor Skills*, 1974, Vol. 39, pp. 55-58.

1975

Polsky, R. Hunger, prey feeding, and predatory aggression. *Behavioral Biology*, 1975, Vol. 13, 81-93.

Polsky, R. Developmental factors in mammalian predation. *Behavioral Biology*, 1975, Vol. 15, pp. 353-382.

1976

Polsky, R. Conspecific defeat, isolation/grouping, and predatory behavior in golden hamsters. *Psychological Reports*, 1976, Vol. 38, pp. 571-577.

1977

Polsky, R. The ontogeny of predatory behavior in the golden hamster (*M.a.auratus*). I. The influence of age and experience. *Behaviour*, 1977, Vol. 61, pp. 26-27.

Polsky, R. The ontogeny of predatory behavior in the golden hamster (*M.a.auratus*). II. The nature of the experience. *Behaviour*, 1977, Vol. 61, pp.58-81.

1978

Polsky, R. The ontogeny of predatory behavior in the golden hamster (*M.a.auratus*). III. Sensory pre-exposure. *Behaviour*, 1978, Vol. 63, pp. 175-191.

Polsky, R. The ontogeny of predatory behavior in the golden hamster (*M.a.auratus*). IV. Effects of prolonged exposure, ITI, size of prey, and selective breeding. *Behaviour*, 1978, Vol. 65, pp. 27-42.

Polsky, R. Effects of eating dead prey on the subsequent capture of live prey in golden hamsters. *Physiology & Behavior*, 1978, Vol. 20, pp. 677-680.

1979

Polsky, R. The effects of water deprivation on the initiation of predation in golden hamsters. *Psychological Reports*, 1979, Vol. 44, pp. 995-998

1981

Polsky, R. Review of "Crowding: Theoretical and Research Implications for Population-Environment Psychology." by L. Severy, Ed. *J. Nervous Mental Disease*. 1981, Vol. 169, pp. 66-67.

McGuire, M., S. Essock-Vitale and R. Polsky. Psychiatric disorders in the context of evolutionary biology: An ethological model of behavioral changes associated with psychiatric disorders. *J. Nervous Mental Disease*. 1981, Vol. 169. pp. 687-704.

1983

Polsky, R. Factors Influencing Aggressive Behavior in Dogs. *California Veterinarian*, October 1983, pp. 12-15.

1985

Polsky, R. Understanding the Job of the Animal Behaviorist. *The Latham Letter*, Fall, 1985 pp. 12-13.

1989

Polsky, R. Companion Animal Behavior from the Viewpoint of an Ethologist. *Companion Animal Practice*, 1989, Vol. 19, pp. 3-4.

Polsky, R. Aggression in Dogs: An Introduction. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1989, Vol. 1, pp. 55-57.

Polsky, R. Nature versus Nurture: Are Both Equally Crucial? *Animal Behavior Consultant Newsletter*. 1989, Vol. 6. pp. 1-2.

1990

Polsky, R. Aggression in Cats: An Introduction. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol. 2, No. 1. pp. 1-7.

Polsky, R. The Causes of Aggression in Dogs. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol. 2, No. 2. pp. 37-39.

Polsky, R. Aggression in the Veterinary Hospital. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol. 2, No.3. 27-29.

Polsky, R. Behavioral Alternatives to Declawing. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol. 2, No.4. 27-30.

Polsky, R. Another Look at Nature versus Nurture: Problem dogs or problem owners? *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol.2, No.5, pp. 7-10

Polsky, R. A Question of Labels. *American Kennel Club Gazette*. Oct. 1990. p. 216.

Polsky, R. Elimination Problems in Cats: Making a Diagnosis. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1990, Vol. 2, pp. 21-23.

1991

Polsky, R. Elimination Misbehaviors in Puppies. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1991, Vol. 3. No.1. pp. 20-22.

Polsky, R. Examples of fear aggression and territorial barking in companion dogs. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1991, Vol. 3, No.2. pp. 1, 7-10.

Polsky, R. Genetics and dog behavior. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1991, Vol. 3, No.3. pp. 22-24.

Polsky, R. Time-Out: An underemployed punishment training technique for puppies. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1991, Vol. 3, No.4. 8-10.

Polsky, R. Should food reward be used to train a dog? *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1991, Vol. 3, No.5.

1992

Polsky, R. Interviewing owners about pet behavioral problems. *Veterinary Practice Staff*. 1992, Vol. 4. No. 1. pp.17-19.

Polsky, R. Questions about dominance aggression in dogs. *Veterinary Practice Staff*, 1992, Vol. 4, No.3. 1, 7-9.

1993

Polsky, R. How do you know if a dog's aggressive behavior can be changed?

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Veterinary Practice Staff, 1993, Vol. 5, No.1. 15-19.

Polsky, R. The misbehavior of owners. *Veterinary Practice Staff*, 1993, Vol. 5, pp. 3-6.

Polsky, R. Diazepam induced defensive aggression in a cat. *Feline Practice*, 1993, Vol. 21, 21-22.

Polsky, R. Does Thyroid Dysfunction Cause Behavioral Problems? *Canine Practice*, 1993, Vol. 18, 6-8.

Polsky, R. Helping Rover to Relax: A Complete Guide to Understanding Canine Stress, Anxiety and Emotions. 1993. HWE, Inc. North Hollywood, CA. pp. 1-19.

1994

Polsky, R. Comments on buspirone for urine spraying in cats. *Advances in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery*, 1994, Vol. 7, pp. 3-4

Polsky, R. Electronic shock collars: Are they worth the risks? *J. American Animal Hospital Association*. 1994, Vol. 30, pp. 463-468.

Polsky, R. Ethology: A foundation for treating behavior problems. *Veterinary Medicine*, 1994, Vol. 89, pp. 192-195.

Polsky, R. The steps in solving behavior problems. *Veterinary Medicine*, 1994, Vol. 89, pp. 504-507.

Polsky, R. No-nonsense textbooks on dog and cat behavior. *Veterinary Medicine*, 1994, Vol. 89, pp. 941-943.

1995

Polsky, R. Guidelines to follow when using drugs in behavioral therapy. *Veterinary Medicine*, 1995, Vol. 90, pp. 289-311.

Polsky, R. Methods used in behavior therapy. *Veterinary Medicine*. 1995. Vol. 90. pp. 524-527.

Polsky, R. Wolf hybrids: Are they suitable as pets? *Veterinary Medicine*. 1995. Vol. 90. pp. 1122-1124.

1996

Polsky, R. Recognizing dominance aggression in dogs. *Veterinary Medicine*. 1996. Vol. 91. pp. 196 - 201.

Polsky, R. Medical treatment of dominance aggression in dogs. *Veterinary Medicine*. 1996. Vol. 91, pp. 416 - 419.

1998

Polsky, R. Review of "Veterinarian's Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior." by Bonnie Beaver. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*. 1998, Vol. 58, pp. 205-207.

2000

Polsky, R. Can aggression in dogs be elicited through the use of electronic pet containment systems? *J. Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 2000, 3(4), 345-357.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES IN LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

1998

Polsky, R. Provocation as a defense in dog-bite cases. *California Lawyer*, February, 1998. p. 28.

Polsky, R. Guidelines for behavioral discovery in dog-related injury cases. In D. Favre and Peter Borchelt, Eds. *Animal Law & Dog Behavior*. Lawyers & Judges Publishing Co. Tucson, AZ. 1998. pp. 333-340.

Polsky, R. Issues about animal behavior relevant to dog-bite statutes. In D. Favre and Peter Borchelt, Eds. *Animal Law & Dog Behavior*. Lawyers & Judges Publishing Co. Tucson, AZ. 1998. pp. 345-357.

FEATURED STORIES IN NEWS MEDIA

Early in his career, Dr. Polsky's work as an applied animal behaviorist was the subject of feature stories in the news media. A partial list of stories that appeared are as follows:

Television

Eye on L.A. (October, 1986)

Two on the Town (February, 1984)

Italian National Television (May, 1983)

PM Magazine (September, 1983)

Newspaper

San Gabriel Valley Weekly (Supplement to the Los Angeles Times - San Gabriel Valley Edition, May, 1998)

Santa Monica Evening Outlook (August, 1990)

Pasadena Star News (July 10, 1983)

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Daily News (July 15, 1983)

Los Angeles Times (April 20, 1983)

Long Beach Press Telegram (July 20, 1983)

Magazine

Picture Week Magazine (October, 1986)

Orange Coast Magazine (May, 1984)

Cats Magazine (December, 1985)

Radio

KABC Radio, Live 60 minute interview on Michael Jackson Show (March, 1985)

KFWB News Radio, L.A. At Large with Cleeve Herman (July, 1983)

KNX-FM Los Angeles, Live 60 minute interview on show entitled " Free Forum" (June, 1983)

MEDIA CONSULTATIONS

2/15/01. Invited expert on live internet broadcast discussing San Francisco dog mauling of Diane Whipple: *Sam Donaldson @ ABC NEWS.com.*

6/28/05. Interviewed live on KGO radio, San Francisco, about a recent pit bull mauling in San Francisco.

8/5/05. Interviewed by Los Angeles Times new reported about dog-bite fatality in Los Angeles,

11/8/05 Interview with Alex Helmick of *Chicago Public Radio.* Subject: *Pit Bulls.*

12/1/05 Interview with Amelia Nielson-Stowell of the *Desert News* in Salt Lake City, UT.
Subject: *Cat bites.*

6/2/06 Radio interview with Beth Whisman and Steve Fast of WJBC Radio, Bloomington, IN.
Subject: *Laws pertaining to dangerous dogs.*

7/14/06. Interviewed for news story on proposed dog park in Camarillo, CA.

10/5/06 Interviewed live on Newstalk 1350 KSRO, Santa Rosa, CA. (CNN affiliate) Subject: *Pit Bulls.*

12/1/06. Interviewed for news story appearing in Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica, CA.
Subject: Depression in dogs over holidays.

3/7/07 Interviewed for news story appearing in Taunton Gazette, Taunton, MA. Reporter: Rory Schuler. Subject: Propensities and myths about pit-bull type dogs.

4/27/07 Interviewed for news story appearing in The Arkansas Democratic Gazette - a state-wide circulated newspaper in Arkansas. Reporter: Richard Massey Subject: Attacks by put-bull-type dogs.

5/29/07 Interview with reporter Dennis Nishi representing BBC World New Service for radio program Culture Shock. Subject: Opinions on Rent-a-Dog business conducted by company named FlexPetz.

6/8/07 Interview with reporter from Chicago Tribune for possible news story. Subject: Temperament testing in dogs and how these test can be used to warrant euthanasia in dogs.

8/3/07 Interview with reporter from Los Angeles Times for story regarding dog fatality that occurred at the Los Angeles home of actor Ving Rhames.

8/4/07 Interviewed for live appearance on CBS Saturday Morning Show: Topic - Fatal dog attacks.

11/15/07 Interview for story about pros and cons of dog parks, by Scott Horesman. Press Enterprise, Riverside, CA.

4/20/08 Interview with editor of *Shape Magazine* regarding safety for joggers during potential hostile encounters with dogs.

4/23/08 Interview with KFWB radio commentator Paul Lowe regarding recent human fatality caused by grizzly bear at commercial enterprise in California that trains exotic/non-domesticated animals for the entertainment industry.

9/5/08 Interview for the *Herald Sun* newspaper, Durham, NC. Reporter Dan Way. Topic: Tethering in dogs.

9/8/08 Interview for the *New Jersey Herald* newspaper. Topic: Fatality inflicted by 3 yo husky dog on 6 day-old infant. Reporter: Tow Howe.

Updated 1/1/09