

MONASH UNIVERSITY and Beverley Manners

Monash University's Initial Approach to Beverley Manners for Collaborative Assistance

Initial email is from Tiffani Howell, Phd student. Correspondence is all cc'd to Dr Pauleen Bennet Phd. on staff at Monash, and included are responses from Dr Pauleen Bennet Phd.

Dr Bennett later wrote a letter published to Debra Tranter's Wordpress hate site denying she had ever had any involvement with Rutland Manor.

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

From: Tiffani Howell [tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au]  
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2009 12:17 PM  
To: privatebox@rutlandmanor.com  
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 0450 298 745 or by email.

Sincerely,  
Tiffani J. Howell  
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  
[www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg)

**Beverley Manners' Response to Monash University's First Approach**

Beverley Manners wrote:  
Cc'd Helen Lawrance, Administrator

Dear Tiffani,

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.

Looking forward to speaking with you,

Warm wishes  
Beverley Manners

Rutland Manor Labradoodle Breeding & Research Center  
Cofounder of the  
ASD Australian Labradoodle  
<http://www.rutlandmanor.com>

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

From: Helen Lawrance <rmadoptions@rutlandmanor.com>  
Date: Monday, June 1, 2009 2:14 pm  
Subject: RE: PhD research on canine development  
To: tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au, 'Beverley Manners'  
<privatebox@rutlandmanor.com>  
Cc: 'Pauleen Bennett' <Pauleen.Bennett@med.monash.edu.au>

Hi All,

Just letting you know that when I spoke with Tiffani in regards to our meeting on the 8th June, I wasn't aware it was a public holiday. Can you let me know if this will affect your plans? I don't work on Public Holidays so we may need to reschedule. Let me know what other days would suit you.

Thanks

Warm Regards

Helen Lawrance  
for  
Rutland Manor Labradoodle Breeding and Research Center.  
Co Founders of the ASD Australian Labradoodle.

Next emails are directly from Dr Pauleen Bennet Phd herself, confirming the arrangements.

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

From: Pauleen Bennett [Pauleen.Bennett@med.monash.edu.au]  
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2009 2:21 PM  
To: Helen Lawrance  
Cc: tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au; 'Beverley Manners'  
Subject: Re: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi Helen

We don't get normal public holidays at uni so Tiffani most probably didn't even think of it. My schedule is fairly flexible that week since we are on a teaching break, so we could meet on either tuesday or wednesday if that suited everyone else. I'm looking forward to it.

Cheers  
Pauleen

Pauleen Bennett, PhD  
Anthrozoology Research Group  
[www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg/](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg/)  
Psychology, Monash University  
Victoria, Australia.

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

From: Pauleen Bennett [Pauleen.Bennett@med.monash.edu.au]  
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2009 3:56 PM  
To: Beverley Manners  
Cc: Rutland Manor Adoptions Dept; tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au  
Subject: Re: RE: RE: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi Beverly

In order to accommodate the public holiday on the 8th the meeting will now take place on 9th. This is confirmed with the exception that Tiffani is currently overseas and I've not been able to contact her. I'm 99.9% certain she'll be able to make it and hopefully she'll access her emails while traveling and let us know for sure. That's the best we can do for now.

Cheers  
Pauleen

--Pauleen Bennett, PhD

Anthrozoology Research Group  
[www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg/](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg/)  
Psychology, Monash University  
Victoria, Australia.

Beverley Manners <privatebox@rutlandmanor.com> wrote:

Hi Pauleen,

OK thanks, we'll look forward to seeing you both on 9th.

Cheers,  
Beverley

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Tiffani Howell [mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au]

>> Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2009 3:05 PM

>> To: Beverley Manners

>> Subject: Re: FW: \*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* Fw: RSPCA -FREE & quick - please do it!!

>>

>> Thanks Beverley,

>>

>> I will let my friends know and post it on a Weimaraner forum that I'm

>> a member of.

>>

>> I am sorry that Pauleen and I didn't get the chance to meet you last

>> week. I hope you are feeling better now. We did enjoy our chat with

>> Helen, however, and we're looking forward to working with you in the

>>

> future.

>

>> Take care and get well soon,

>> Tiffani

>>

>> Tiffani J. Howell

>> 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

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>> [www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg](http://www.animalwelfare.net.au/arg)

Beverley Manners wrote:

> Hi Tiffani,

>

> I think your influence may be wider spread, or have the potential to

> be, more than you might think. Kate Schoeffel was telling me the

> other day that Monash will be working along with her or her group

> too, and I am quite excited that there will be a united voice in self

> governing the breeding of cross breed dogs. Actually I've known some

> really bad situations to be amongst pure breed breeders. The kennel  
> clubs do nothing to police their own code of ethics in the areas of  
> animal husbandry. So it's not only breeders of non pure breeds that need a 'helping hand'.

>

> Yes thanks Tiffani, Helen has given me a basic run down of the  
> conversation she had with you and Pauline.

>

> You are very welcome to come and interact with the puppies as often as  
> you can manage. Just let us know what days it is likely to be so  
> that we can organize someone to be there with you.

>

> I'm glad I don't have any pig viruses too! LOL

>

> Talk soon,

> Beverley

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tiffani Howell [mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au]

> Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2009 3:59 PM

> To: Beverley Manners

> Subject: Re: FW: \*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* Fw: RSPCA -FREE & quick - please do it!!

>

> Hi Beverley,

>

> Perhaps one day there will be more legislation to protect the animals,  
> but for now, the best we can do is use common sense to help the ones  
> in our sphere of influence (yours is much larger than mine!)

>

> We too are looking forward to working with you and the Labradoodle puppies!

> Did Helen give you a basic idea of our plans? I imagine she did, but

> if you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

> Pending animal ethics approval which should probably come some time in

> August or September, I would really like the opportunity to come and

> observe a litter of puppies for a few minutes a day -- around lunch

> time or whenever they are up and active -- a couple of times a week,

> as I have very limited experience with very young puppies. I will, of

> course, scrub and wash to your satisfaction before being close to the

> puppies. This will help me develop hypotheses that can be formally

> tested later on. Would that be fine with you?

>

> Thanks very much and I look forward to meeting you soon. Glad you  
> don't have any pig viruses :)

>

> Take care,

> Tiffani

>

> Tiffani J. Howell

> 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

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>

>  
>  
> Beverley Manners wrote:  
>  
>> Thanks Tiffani,  
>>  
>> It's so little that we can do to help the unfortunate dogs in the  
>> shelters isn't it, but means such a lot. I've believed for so long  
>> now that one of the best ways to combat the tragedy of the plight of  
>> unwanted dogs would be a relatively simple matter of mandating  
>> desexing to be carried out by breeders prior to puppies leaving them,  
>> and secondly that anyone who breeds any animal should be required to  
>> study and pass exams after which they would be allocated a breeder  
>> registration number. Anyone breeding who was not qualified would be  
>> illegal and it would be easy enough to track seeing as microchipping  
>> is now mandatory.  
>  
>> Sometimes I think the simple solutions are missed because the  
>> politicians who handle these things are not acquainted well enough  
>> with their subject.  
>  
>> I was so disappointed that I was feeling off color on the day you and  
>> Pauleen came. I was really looking forward to having a good chat  
>> with you both. I'm very interested in the work we will be doing together.  
>> I'm starting to feel more like myself now, and I'm glad it wasn't the  
>> swine flu!  
>  
>> Cheers,  
>> Bev  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>

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

From: Tiffani Howell [mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au]  
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2009 3:06 PM  
To: Beverley Manners  
Subject: Re: Working together

Hi Beverley,

My apologies for the delayed response; I have been mired in bureaucracy for the past few days, which of course has a deadline!

Pauleen has spoken to me about Kate Schoeffel and her Labradoodles in NSW. I think it's great that breeders like you and Kate are willing to work with researchers like us to help answer some of the questions about breeding practices that seem to plague the entire "industry" (I know it's not really an industry, per se!)

I would like to visit sometime soon, perhaps next week or the week after, to look at new litters as they progress.

Unfortunately, the distance prohibits too much visitation on my part (my poor little Hyundai will suffer from exhaustion) but perhaps once a week when the puppies are quite young would be enough to give me a basic idea of their developmental changes. Do you have any new litters at the moment, or are you expecting any soon? I would be interested to see them after their eyes open and they start to move around a bit, but perhaps before they start weaning to see them change socially from mom-oriented to human-oriented. Does that make sense?

Thanks again for all your help.

Have a great weekend!  
Tiffani

Tiffani J. Howell  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Tiffani Howell [mailto:[tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au)]  
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2009 4:52 PM  
To: Beverley Manners; Rutland Manor Adoptions Dept  
Subject: Re: PhD research on canine development

Dear Beverley and Helen,

I called a moment ago but I got voicemail in your office. I just wanted to re-confirm my intention to visit tomorrow, assuming this weather calms down a bit! I don't know how it is down in Warragul, but here in Melbourne the wind and rain are a little, er, enthusiastic, and it should be like this for the rest of the evening.

The only other potential problem I see is that I woke up this morning with a throat tickle. However, it has remained a throat tickle all day, so it is probably allergies instead of a cold. If it gets worse, I will let you know by email tomorrow morning. I don't think it will though, if it hasn't by now.

Anyway, if there's any problem with me visiting tomorrow (if the weather is alright), please let me know. Otherwise, I will plan to be there around 11am unless you hear from me again.

Thanks very much  
Take care  
Tiffani

Tiffani J. Howell  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Beverley Manners [mailto:[privatebox@rutlandmanor.com](mailto:privatebox@rutlandmanor.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2009 7:55 PM  
To: [tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au); 'Rutland Manor Adoptions Dept'  
Cc: 'Helen Lawrance'  
Subject: RE: PhD research on canine development

Hi Tiffani,

I'm sorry we missed your call.

The weather is quite wild here this evening and is supposed to get worse during the course of the night. But if your throat is feeling ok in the morning, and the weather conditions are safe for driving, then we will still be happy to go ahead with the appointment.

If it's wet windy or cold, the puppies will not be outdoors, but they are in cosy warm rooms and we can all sit inside with them, talk, handle the puppies etc and get the project at least underway.

If this sounds suitable to you, then we will be looking forward to your arrival around eleven in the morning. Don't worry too much about being punctual. We'd rather you stay safe on the roads than rush.

Warm wishes,  
Beverley

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

From: Tiffani Howell [mailto:tiffani.howell@med.monash.edu.au]  
Sent: Tuesday, 30 June 2009 8:07 PM  
To: Beverley Manners  
Subject: Re: PhD research on canine development

Thanks Beverley,

I appreciate your concern :) Hopefully the weather will clear up tomorrow at least so that it will be safe to drive.

So, unless I wake up feeling terrible tomorrow, I will plan to be there tomorrow late morning. If I'll be more than 5-10 minutes after 11, I'll give you a call just so you know.

I look forward to seeing the puppies, and of course meeting you finally!

Have a great night,  
Tiffani

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