



Joint Press Release

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Veteran Maine Pet Professional Takes A Stand on Ethical and Humane Training Methods by Changing and Upgrading Credentials

[*Bangor*]
Green Acres Kennel Shop and Force Free Pets are proud to announce that Don Hanson has become credentialed as a Professional Canine Behavior Consultant-Accredited (PCBC-A) by the Pet Professional Accreditation Board (PPAB). Hanson has demonstrated he has an understanding of; a dog's emotional and physical needs, how they communicate and express emotions, how they learn, how to teach the dog using humane tools and methods based on the latest science, and how to transfer this knowledge to the people living with the dog. To maintain his credential, Hanson must complete a minimum of 30 continuing education credit hours every two years and comply with the PPAB Guiding Principles and operating policies. [FMI – <https://www.credentialingboard.com/Accreditation-Board-Ethics-Code>]

When asked about the new credential, Hanson said

"Ethics and the humane treatment of pets drove my decision to apply for this credential. Five major pet care organizations in the US; the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB), the Pet Professional Guild (PPG), the Pet Professional Accreditation Board (PPAB), and Pet Industry Advocacy International (PIAI), have all taken the position, based on scientific research, that aversives such as shock, prong and choke collars should never be used in the training or care of a pet. Unfortunately, my previous credentials were granted by organizations that continue to allow for the use of aversives such as shock collars, despite science demonstrating these tools and methods are inhumane. Continuing to be associated with those organizations sends a mixed message that I believe negatively reflects on my ethics and the reputation of my businesses; Green Acres Kennel Shop and ForceFreePets. Therefore, I have notified the organizations that issued my previous credentials that I am terminating my affiliation and relinquishing my credentials. I became a pet care professional because of my love of pets and a desire to help people and pets live together in harmony. I cannot support those that allow for the use of tools and methods that science has found unnecessary, inhumane, and therefore abusive. I hope like-minded colleagues will also switch to a credential from the PPAB."



PPAB is currently the only accreditation body in the canine behavior and training profession that offers an independently assessed, psychometrically sound examination for Training & Behavior Consultants. In addition, it requires that those accredited follow a Code of Ethical Conduct, criteria currently lacking across other independent credentialing organizations.

About Green Acres Kennel Shop and ForceFreePets

Green Acres Kennel Shop and ForceFreePets are owned by Don Hanson and located at 1653 Union Street in Bangor, Maine. Their joint mission is to provide humane, ethical, and effective pet care and education based on science while prioritizing the needs and welfare of our client's pets. In business since 1965, Green Acres offers boarding, daycare, grooming, and wholesome pet food and supplies. Founded in 2020, ForceFreePets provides behavior consultations and group, private, and online dog training classes and education for people with pets. FMI- 207-945-6841, www.greenacreskennel.com, www.forcefreepets.com/.

About The Pet Professional Accreditation Board

The Pet Professional Accreditation Board offers the only Accredited Training Technician (CTT-A) & Professional Canine Trainer (PCT-A) certification for professionals who believe there is no place for shock, choke, prong, pain, force, or fear in pet training and behavior practices. The Board also offers the only psychometrically sound examination for Training & Behavior Consultants (PCBC-A), supporting these humane and scientific practices. FMI - www.credentialingboard.com/