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## THE DANGEROUS DOG ACT

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IS IT WORKING?

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### Educational needs of Dog Owners, Parents & Children.

This year's topic is the Dangerous Dog Act and its ins and outs with a short session on the role of education, including a new resource to be made available by ASAB, developed by our speaker, Kendal Shepherd BVSc, CCAB, MRCVS.

Kendal Shephard is the author of The Canine Commandments and a contributor to the "Blue Dog Parent Guide", which accompanies an interactive CD, aimed at parents and 3 to 6 year old children to prevent dog bites. She serves as an expert witness on canine behaviour and has advised many major organisations on policy and behaviour guidelines for animals.

The Dangerous Dog Act prohibits four types of dog: - the Pit Bull Terrier, the Japanese Tosa, the Dogo Argentino and the Fila Brasileiro. The act classifies by "type", not by breed label. This means that whether a dog is considered dangerous, and therefore prohibited, will depend on a judgment about its physical characteristics, and whether they match the description of a prohibited 'type. This assessment of the physical characteristics is made by a court.

The 1991 Act was amended by the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997. The 1997 Act removed the mandatory destruction order provisions of the 1991 Act by giving the courts discretion on sentencing, and re-opened the Index of Exempted Dogs for those prohibited dogs which the courts consider would not pose a risk to the public. Only courts can direct that a dog can be placed on the list of exempted dogs.

Much controversy surrounds the DDA and many would argue that numerous injustices to both owners and dogs have taken place since its inception. Others would argue that it protects the public from attack and bites by dogs out of control.

Kendal will present an educational and informative day discussing the DDA and presenting the pros and cons of the Act in all its many aspects.

The final session will discuss the need for education of all dog owners, but particularly parents and children, new proposals being put forward to achieve this, what these proposals mean for us and how they can help us to prevent dog bites to children.

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With Kendal Shepherd BVSc, CCAB, MRCVS

- 09:00 Registration and coffee
- 09:30 Welcome  
Sheila Hamilton-Andrews MSc, CCAB  
Chairman UKRCB
- 09:45 Dangerous Dogs Legislation  
Is it working?  
Implications for welfare of dogs and people
- 11:00 Tea & Coffee
- 11:15 Why and when dogs bite  
Behavioural evolution of the domestic dog  
Social communicative behaviour
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:45 Behaviour and temperament assessment  
Explanation of bites in the past  
Prediction and prevention of bites in the future
- 3:00 Tea & Coffee
- 3:15 Dog bite prevention  
Education, education, education!
- 4.30 Questions & Answers
- 5:00 Close

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## TICKET APPLICATION FORM

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UKRCB SYMPOSIUM

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms .....

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I would like to book ..... ticket(s) to  
attend the UKRCB Symposium, September 26th 2010 at:  
(includes lunch)

..... £60 each (non member)

..... £50 each (member)

Cheques/POs made payable to UKRCB, should be  
sent to Bob Haynes, 6 Gardenia Drive, Allesley Village,  
Coventry, CV5 9BN

Tel: 07966 535854

Email: deltaonecanines@aol.com

Ticket applications must be received by September 17th.

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