Pet Professional Guild Expands Steering Committee with Three New Appointments

Representatives from Canine and Advocacy Divisions will aid key mission to drive change in the fields of pet care, training and behavior consulting

TAMPA, Fla. - Nov. 18, 2019 - *PRLog* -- The Pet Professional Guild (PPG) has appointed three new members to its Steering Committee with immediate effect. The appointments mark PPG's continued commitment to promoting humane, science-based, force-free and positive reinforcement-based training methods and skill application in the fields of pet care, training and behavior consulting, an industry that is currently unregulated.

PPG's Steering Committee is tasked with driving new projects, building awareness of scientifically sound, nonaversive training methods for animals, educating both pet professionals and the pet owning public in all matters related to training, behavior consulting and pet care, and expanding core membership worldwide. The new appointees are Judy Luther, chairwoman of PPG's Canine Committee, Daniel H. Antolec and Don Hanson, co-chairmen of PPG's Advocacy Committee.

Judy Luther is based in the St. Louis, Missouri metro area and Branson, Missouri and has provided training and behavior consulting services for a variety of species, both domestic and exotic, for over 27 years. She is a board certified pet dog trainer through the Certification Council of Professional Trainers, a certified nose work instructor, a graduate of the Karen Pryor Academy, a certified canine massage therapist, a Canine Good Citizen evaluator, an AKC Puppy S.T.A.R. evaluator, member of the American Humane Educators Association and a mentor trainer for Animal Behavior College. She is also the creator of Trust Centered Training™, which utilizes the latest scientific research on canine cognition and social learning, and runs her own training business, Dog Star Training, LLC, where she provides private training and consulting.

Daniel H. Antolec is a certified behavior consultant canine (knowledge assessed), a certified professional dog trainer (knowledge assessed) and was one of the first 27 accredited professionals worldwide to earn the title of professional canine trainer-accredited through the Pet Professional Accreditation Board. Having completed a 30-year police career, which included several years as an instructor of two tactical fields, in 2007 Antolec took a job in a dog day care and began studying canine behavior and training, which led to his credentialing as a professional trainer and behavior consultant. In 2012, he founded Happy Buddha Dog Training in Brooklyn, Wisconsin and also works with his Labradors, Buddha and Gandhi, in the Pet Partners therapy dog program.

Don Hanson is a Bach Foundation registered animal practitioner, certified dog behavior consultant, associate certified cat behavior consultant and a certified professional dog trainer (knowledge assessed). He is the co-owner of the Green Acres Kennel Shop in Bangor, Maine, where he has been helping people with their pets since 1995. He also produces and co-hosts The Woof Meow Show on AM620-WZON every Saturday, also available as a podcast. Hanson has a long history of involvement in the pet community, serving on the board of his local shelter for 15 years and the board of a training organization for nine years.

"As PPG continues to grow, it is essential that the Canine and Advocacy Committees also have a voice in the advancement of the organization, so I am especially thrilled to welcome our latest members to the

Steering Committee," said PPG president Niki Tudge. "All three are long-standing, respected members of their local communities as well as the industry at large. They are also all committed to the continued education of professionals and pet owners about scientifically sound, force-free training, behavior consulting and pet care, which is one of PPG's key missions. I am confident that their influence and contribution will be a huge asset to PPG as it moves forward in its quest to make a substantial and lasting impact in these areas."

The Pet Professional Guild (PPG) is a 501(c)6 international member organization founded on the principles of force-free training and pet care. Its membership represents pet industry professionals who are committed to force-free training, pet care philosophies, practices and methods. Pet Professional Guild members understand force-free to mean that shock, pain, choke, fear, physical force, or compulsion-based methods are never employed in training or caring for a pet.

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