

Gabriela L. Barrera Nava

PhD Researcher

Researcher specializing in animal behavior and cognition

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am a PhD psychologist specializing in animal behavior, learning, and cognition, with over 15 years of hands-on scientific research. I founded CATADOGERS, an applied research consultancy serving the pet product industry, specializing in palatability studies of pet food and treats and in understanding how dogs and cats engage with toys. By combining scientific rigor with a results-driven business strategy, I bring an evidence-based perspective to the industry, enabling data-driven decisions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2022. Founder & CEO: CATADOGERS. An applied research consultancy specializing in palatability assessments and toy interaction experiences for dogs and cats.

Since 2022, Professor in the "Master's in Applied Ethology and Animal-Assisted Intervention" at the "Universidad Autónoma de Madrid" (UAM). Modules: Fundamentals, Legislation, and Animal Ethics; Cognition of Farm Animals; and Characteristics of Domestic Species.

September 2024 and 2025. Consulting Firm: Workplace Climate Survey. Company: Embat.

From 2007 to 2020. Academic scientific research in the field of canine social cognition and other animal species (Request academic-scientific CV).

EDUCATION

2011. PhD in Psychology, University of Córdoba, Argentina.

2004. BSc in Psychology. UAP. Argentina.

2020. Techniques in Canine Behavior Modification. National Association of Professional Canine Trainers (ANACP), Spain, and European Association of Canine Professionals No. 5703/2020.

SKILLS

- SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).
- Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word, etc.).
- Advanced knowledge of data analysis (ANOVA, regression, multivariate models, and so forth).
- Questionnaire development (Google Form, Microsoft Form, etc.).
- BORIS (Behavioral Observation Research Interactive Software).
- Dashboard Design (Power BI).
- Descriptive and inferential statistics. Management of quantitative and qualitative data.
- English B2, Portuguese B1.

ADDITIONAL CAPABILITIES

- Coordination and co-leadership of working groups.
- Analytical reasoning.
- Analytical abilities.
- Experience in telecommuting.
- Dynamism.
- Creativity and Proactivity.
- Positive interpersonal relationships.
- Collaboration skills.
- Empathy and Flexibility.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gabriela_Barrera8/amp
https://scholar.google.com.ar/citations?user=MkM1v_0AAAAJ&hl=en

Barrera, G., Albiach-Serrano, A., & Guillén-Salazar, F. (2024). Investigating the gaze and asymmetric ear positioning of horses (*Equus caballus*) in relation to human attentional cues. *Animal Cognition*, 27, 67. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-024-01909-y>

Cavalli, C., Dzik, M.V., **Barrera, G.**, et al. (2023). The still-face effect in domestic dogs: a comparison of untrained dogs with trained and animal-assisted intervention dogs. *Learning and Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13420-023-00589-x>

Barrera, G. & Bentosela, M. (2021). The unique bond between dogs and humans: What distinguishes them? Dossier Human-Animal Interactions. *Journal of Psychology of the UNLP*. <https://doi.org/10.24215/2422572Xe102>

Barrera, G., Guillén Salazar, F., & Bentosela, M. (2021). The still-face effect in dogs (*Canis familiaris*): A pilot study. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 1-14. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10888705.2021.1923493>

Fagnani, J., Bentosela, M., & **Barrera, G.** Evaluating canine performance in both social and non-social reversal learning tasks. (2020). *Dog Behavior*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.4454/db.v6i2.118>

Dzik, M. V., Cavalli, C. M., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2020). The effects of oxytocin on gazing at human faces in retriever dogs. *Behavioural Processes*, 178, 104160. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2020.104160>

Fagnani, J., Bentosela, M., & **Barrera, G.** (2020). Inhibitory Control: Can We Consider It a Singular Construct? Insights from Comparative Psychology with Domestic Dogs. *Journal of Psychology*, 16(31), 69-97.

Barrera, G.; Alterisio, A., Scandurra, A., Bentosela, M. & D'Aniello, B. (2019). Training improves inhibitory control in water rescue dogs. *Animal Cognition*, 22(1), 127 - 131. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-018-1224-9>

Barrera, G.; Dzik, V., Cavalli, C. M. & Bentosela, M. (2018). Effect of intranasal oxytocin administration on human-directed social behaviors in shelter and pet dogs. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 2227, 2018. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02227

Dzik, M. V., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2018). The significance of oxytocin in the relationship between dogs and humans. *Interdisciplinaria. Journal of Psychology and Related Sciences*, 35(2), 527-542.

Fagnani, J., Bentosela, M., & **Barrera, G.** (2017). Detection of human attentional states in captive foxes: Influence of sociability levels. *Journal of Psychology*, 26(1), 1-12. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5354/0719-0581.2017.46392>.

Barrera, G. & Bentosela, M. (2016). Interspecific social skills in a highly socialized Guazú waterfowl (Maned Wolf; *Chrysocyon brachyurus*): A case report. *Current Ethology (Journal of Ethology)*, 15(1), 55-63.

Fagnani, J., **Barrera, G.**, Carballo, F., & Bentosela, M. (2016). Is prior experience significant for inhibitory control? A comparison of shelter and pet dogs in A-not-B and cylinder tasks. *Animal Cognition*, 19(6), 1165-1172. DOI 10.1007/s10071-016-1024-z

Fagnani, J., **Barrera, G.**, Carballo, F., & Bentosela, M. (2016). Tolerance for delayed reward tasks in social and non-social contexts. *Behavioural Processes*, 130, 19-30.

Werhahn, G., Virányi, Z., **Barrera, G.**, Sommesse, A., & Range, F. (2016, May 30). Wolves (*Canis lupus*) and Dogs (*Canis familiaris*) Differ in Their Ability to Follow Human Gaze into Distant Space but Respond Similarly to the Gaze of Their Packmates. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/com0000036>

Fagnani, J., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2016). Inhibitory control in domestic dogs: What do we know thus far? *Advances in Latin American Psychology*, 34(3), 587-603. <https://doi.org/10.12804/apl34.3.2016.11>

Barrera, G., Fagnani, J., Carballo, F., Giamal, Y., & Bentosela, M. (2015). The impact of learning on social and non-social behaviors during a problem-solving task in shelter and pet dogs. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*, 10, 307-314.

Helbling, J., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2014). Can domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) recognize human emotional expressions? A critical review of the evidence. *Journal of Ethology*, 13(1), 47-59. doi: 10.22491/etologia.v13n1.art5

Barrera, G., Giamal, Y., Fagnani, J., Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2013). Assessment of temperament in shelter and family dogs: A comparative study. *Colombian Journal of Psychology*, 22(2), 307-320.

Barrera, G., Giamal, Y., Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2012). The relationship between accommodation type and gaze, sociability, and fear-appeasement responses in dogs. *Suma Psicológica*, 19, 7-18.

Barrera, G., Jakovcevic, A., Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2012). Learning Interspecific Communicative Responses in Pampas Foxes (*Lycalopex gymnocercus*). *Behavioural Processes*, 89(1), 44-51.

Barrera, G., Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2011). Communication Between Domestic Dogs and Humans: The Impact of Shelter Housing on Human Gaze. *Animal Cognition*, 14, 727-734.

Barrera, G., Jakovcevic, A., Elgier, A., Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2010). Responses of Shelter and Companion Dogs to an Unfamiliar Human. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research*, 5(6), 339-344.

Barrera, G., Elgier, A., Jakovcevic, A., Mustaca, A., Bentosela, M. (2009). Behavioral Issues in Domestic Dogs (*Canis familiaris*): Insights from Learning Psychology. *Journal of Psychology of the University of Chile*, Vol. 18 (2), 123-146.

Elgier, A.M., Jakovcevic, A., **Barrera, G.**, Mustaca, A., & Bentosela, M. (2009). Communication between Domestic Dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and Humans: Dogs as Proficient Learners. *Behavioural Processes*, 81, 402-408.

Barrera, G., Jakovcevic, A., & Bentosela, M. (2008). Quality of life in shelter dogs: Interventions to enhance their well-being. *Suma Psicológica*, 15(2), 337-354.

Bentosela, M., **Barrera, G.**, Jakovcevic, A., Elgier, A.M., & Mustaca, A.E. (2008). The impact of reinforcement, reinforcer omission, and extinction on communicative responses in domestic dogs. *Behavioural Processes*, 78(3), 464-469.

BOOKS

Barrera, G., Carballo, F., & Bentosela, M. (2020). *Getting to Know Our Dogs: A Scientific Perspective*. Santa Fe, Argentina: UNL Editions. ISBN: 978-987-749-142-5

Jakovcevic, A., **Barrera, G.**, Elgier, A., & Bentosela, M. (2011). Sociability and communication between domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and humans: Contributions to the understanding of an enduring bond. In Chapter of the book of the Argentine Association of Behavioral Sciences (AACC), pp. 675-694.

Elgier, A., Jakovcevic, A., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2011). The impact of associative learning on the interpretation of human communicative signals in domestic dogs. In AACC book (pp. 695-714).

Jakovcevic, A., Elgier, A., **Barrera, G.**, & Bentosela, M. (2009). Communication between domestic dogs and humans: Contributions to the understanding of social cognition. *Research in Behavioral Sciences. Ibero-American Advances*, Vol. II, pp. 875-892. CIIPME-CONICET, Buenos Aires.

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Barrera, G. Presentation titled "Consulting in Canine Behavior" at the I Conference on Applied Ethology UAM, conducted on May 20 and 21, 2024, in Madrid.

Barrera, G. Course "Social Cognition in Dogs." Two hours of theoretical instruction and two hours of practical sessions. Organized by Club Etología Campus Life - Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera, Valencia, Spain, on February 24 and 25, 2022.

Barera, G. Presentation "Environmental Enrichment in Shelter Dogs and Their Unique Characteristics" 4-hour theoretical-practical session. Organized by Club Etología Campus Life - Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera, Valencia, Spain, November 20-21, 2021.

Barrera, G. Seminar titled "Human Attention Affects Facial Expressions in Domestic Dogs," presented by Kaminsky et al. (2017). Duration: 1.5 hours. Organized by the Ethology and Animal Welfare Unit of CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Valencia, Spain, on January 29, 2018.

Barrera, G. Seminar titled "Socio-cognitive Capacities of the Domestic Dog: Current Knowledge." Duration: 2 hours. Organized by the Ethology and Animal Welfare Unit of CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Valencia, Spain, on June 6, 2017.

Barrera, G. Ateneo "Interspecies Communication Between Dogs and Humans: A Perspective from Comparative Psychology." Organized by the Institute of Psychological Research at UCSF. June 26, 2017.

Barrera, G. Open talk "Communication, Learning, and Canine Behavior: Research and Practical Applications." As part of the University Volunteer Project activities of the Ministry of Education of the Nation "Zoolidarios" Res. SPU 1394/12, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL, Santa Fe. November 20, 2013.

Barrera, G. Open lecture "What Our Dogs Tell Us." Orientation Library. Oral presentation. Crespo, Entre Ríos, June 1, 2012.

Barrera, G. Open lecture "Learning, Communication, and Behavior of the Dog: Practical Applications." As part of the National Volunteer Project "Zoolidarios: A Special Way to Learn and Enjoy with Animals." Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL. November 7, 2012.

Barrera, G. "Learning and Animal Ethology." Presentation as part of the "Internship Program of the Experimental Zoological Station, La Esmeralda Farm." Oral presentation. La Esmeralda Farm, Santa Fe, December 23, 2011.

Barrera, G. "How Do Dogs Communicate? Interspecific and Conspecific Communication in Canids and Its Applications." Open talk as part of the University Volunteer Project "Zoolidarios." Oral presentation. Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL, November 23, 2011.

Barrera, G. "The Dog: Learning and Behavior." Open discussion as part of Animal Week. Refugio Esperanza Collaborative Group, Municipality of Crespo, Entre Ríos, April 28, 2010.

Barrera, G. "Research on Canine Behavior and Learning" Declared of municipal interest by Resolution No. 049-10. Oral. Conciencia Civil Association. Municipality of LSM, Entre Ríos, April 28, 2010.

Barrera, G. "Canine Learning and Its Applications: Classical and Operant Conditioning Theory." Open Talk as part of the University Volunteer Project "Zoolidarios" (Ministerial Resolution No. 668 SPU). Oral presentation, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL, September 27, 2008.

Barrera, G. "Theoretical-Practical Course on Canine Learning" within the comprehensive framework of the chair "Activities and Therapy Assisted by Animals," Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL, second semester, 2006.

Barrera, G. "Course on Dog Behavior and Training" conducted at the "Special School" as part of the Territory Extension Project under the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL (Res. HSC 238/04), titled "Zoolidarios: Animal-Assisted Activities for Individuals with Special Needs," second semester, 2006.

Barrera, G. "Canine Learning Course" (theoretical modality). Duration: 6 clock hours. Organized by the Kennel Club Santa Fe, with the sponsorship of the Zoolidarios Project of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL (Res. HSC 238/04), November 13, 2005.

Barrera, G. "Autism and Behavior Modification: Insights from Zoolidarios." A one-and-a-half-hour lecture delivered in the ATE Auditorium as part of the Extension Project associated with the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at the UNL (Res. HSC 238/04), titled "Zoolidarios: Animal-assisted Activities for Individuals with Special Needs," June 16, 2005.

Barrera, G. "Workshop on Animal-Assisted Activity and Therapy: Theoretical Approaches to Practice," lasting 3 hours, presented at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, National University of the Litoral, as part of the Extension Project to the territory associated with the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UNL (Res. HSC 238/04) titled "Zoolidarios," October 16, 2003.

CONFERENCE & SCIENTIFIC EVENT PRESENTATIONS (Full academic CV available upon request)

Author & co-author of over 70 conference presentations, selected highlights include:

- Canine Science Forum (CSF)
- Conference of the International Society for Comparative Psychology
- Congress of the Spanish Society for Comparative Psychology
- International Conference of the Argentine Association of Behavioral Sciences (AACC)
- Annual Conference on Ethology, Animal Behavior, and Conservation

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Workshop titled "Utilizing Quantitative Measures of Goat Behavior from Standardized Stress Tests to Validate Qualitative Descriptors" on March 18, 2020.
- "Introduction to Ethology: Theoretical and Methodological Principles." CRILAR – CONICET La Rioja. Course Duration: 40 hours. Approved. June 23-28, 2014.
- "Introduction to Psychoneuroimmunoendocrinology." 12 modules. Time commitment: 100 hours. Approved. No qualifications specified.
- "The (mis)behavior of dogs and cats: An introduction to applied animal behavior," lasting 6 hours, was conducted as part of the XXVIII Annual Meeting of Ethology, Animal Behavior and Conservation, held in Minas Gerais, Brazil, from November 12 to 15, 2010.
- Subject: "Ethology." FHUC - National University of the Littoral. Second semester, 2009. Grade: 8 points.
- "Scientific Writing Workshop." CAICYT-CONICET Postgraduate Courses, 70 contact hours. From September 11 to November 13, 2009. Approved. Grade not specified.
- "Research Design and Techniques II" 30 hours. Center for Research in Psychology and Related Sciences, CIPCA, UAP, Entre Ríos, April-June 2008. Grade: 9 points.
- "Experimental Design and Sample Size Determination in Research Involving Laboratory Animals" 40 hours. Animal Facility, Faculty of Exact Sciences, UBA, Buenos Aires, July 30 to August 3, 2007. Grade: 9 points.
- "Statistical Analysis with SPSS, I" 30 hours. Center for Research in Psychology and Related Sciences, CIPCA, UAP, Entre Ríos, September – November 2007. Approved. Grade: 8 points.

HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING

- Supervision of Master's Theses (TFM), Master in Applied Ethology and Animal-Assisted Intervention, UAM, Madrid, Spain. TFM defenses are scheduled for June 6, 2023, March 7, 2024, and May 29, 2024.
- Co-Direction of Doctoral Thesis in Psychology, University of North Carolina, Argentina. Defense conducted in October 2021.
- Co-Director of Doctoral Scholarships, CONICET.
- Direction of Doctoral Thesis in Psychology, UNC, Argentina. Completed in May 2019. -Direction and coordination of professional practices for Theoretical-Practical Research on "Learning and Social Cognition in Domestic Dogs (Canis familiaris)" in 2012, 2014, and 2015.

THESIS SUPERVISOR & PEER REVIEWER

- Member of the Master's Thesis Tribunal, Master in Applied Ethology and Animal-Assisted Intervention, UAM, Madrid, Spain, 2024.
- Member of the Doctoral Thesis Committee, Doctoral Program in Health Science and Technology (CEU - International Doctoral School, CEINDO), Spain. January 2020.
- Member of the Doctoral Thesis Evaluation Committee in Biology, UNNE, Argentina, 2013.
- Peer reviewer for six scientific articles and one book chapter.

UNIVERSITY LECTURER

Assistant Professor, "Quantitative/Qualitative Research Methods." UCA, Santa Fe. First and second semesters of 2017.

Participant in the 2007-2008 University Volunteer Project, Ministry of Education of the Nation, titled "Zoolidarios: A Unique Approach to Learning and Engaging with Animals," Ministerial Resolution No. 668 SPU. File No. 5470/07.3.

Participant in the University Volunteer Project of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Nation 2006, titled "Zoolidarios: A Unique Approach to Learning and Enjoying with Animals." Ministerial Resolution: No. 7 RSU, dated September 8, 2006.

Participant in the Territory Extension Project associated with the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, National University of the Litoral (Res. HSC 238/04), titled "Zoolidarios: Animal-assisted Activities for Individuals with Special Needs," from 2005 to 2006.5.

Professor in the elective course "Activities and Therapy Assisted by Animals," Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, National University of the Litoral, second semester, 2006 through 2012.

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

Speaker at various panels, discussions, and workshops on scientific dissemination in canine learning, cognition, behavior, and animal-assisted interventions.

Attendee, "Scientific and Environmental Communication" course (24 hours), URJC Campus, Madrid, November 18–20, 2019.

Audiovisual content

- Radio Interview Program "The Protagonists," Radio EME Centro AM 1600, Santa Fe, June 23, 2016.
- Radio Interview Program "Mañana Federal," Radio Federa FM 99.5, Buenos Aires, June 23, 2016.
- Radio Interview Program "The Lens of Galileo," Radio AM Libertad 1100 kHz, Rosario, May 19, 2016.
- Radio Interview Program "Argentina Investiga," Radio UNLP, February 3, 2015.

- Press release. Argentina Investigates. "Psychologists Examine Communication Between Dogs and Humans" January 5, 2015.
- Note from Diario UNO Santa Fe: "Man's Best Friend in Therapy," July 20, 2014.
- Newspaper article "El Eco de Sunchales," Sunchales, Santa Fe "The Man-Dog Relationship Analyzed by Psychologists" July 26, 2014.
- Interview on the television program: "Before Leaving" Channel 3, Rosario. June 2014.
- Note from Diario UNO, Santa Fe: "Analysis following the incident involving a girl and her mother, bitten by a dogo." General Information, January 6, 2014.
- Interview on the television program "Escena Urbana" on Canal Veo, Santa Fe, September 2013.
- Interview featured on Crespo City News, Entre Ríos, Channel 6, June 1, 2012.
- Interview of the Day. Television program "Todo que ver," Channel 6. Crespo, Entre Ríos, June 1, 2012.
- Interview featured on Crespo City News, Entre Ríos, Channel 6, May 17, 2012.
- Radio interview regarding the efforts of the ICOC group – Canine Behavior Research Group. FM Libertad 98.3, Crespo, Entre Ríos, May 17, 2012.
- Note from Diario Uno, Santa Fe. "Animals, Their Behavior and Learning." Section "Being One" Research and Pets. February 12, 2012. pp. 4-5.
- Note Psiencia Journal 2010, 2 (1): 16-18. A map of research in neuroscience and experimental psychology in Argentina. Laboratory of Experimental and Applied Psychology (PSEA). "Dr. Alfredo Lanari" Institute of Medical Research (IDIM-UBA-CONICET) 2. Interspecific learning and communication between domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and humans p. 18.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

- Ethology and Animal Welfare Department (UnEBA), CEU University, Valencia, Spain, in 2018. External collaborating researcher on research projects.
- Canine Ethology Laboratory of Dr. D'Aniello, Department of Biology, University of Naples "Federico II," Naples, Italy. May 2017. "International Exchange Program with Foreign Universities and Research Institutes for the Short-Term Mobility of Educators, Researchers, and Scholars."
- Wolf Science Center (WSC) in Ernstbrunn, Austria. July-August 2011.