

Meagan M. Karnes
President, Senior Behaviorist
The Collared Scholar

The Collared Scholar Founder and President, Meagan Karnes, did not start her professional life in pursuit of a career involving animals. Prior to founding The Collared Scholar in 2007, she earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Biology with Emphasis in Cellular and Molecular Biology from San Diego State University. Upon graduation, she began conducting research at the world-renowned Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and after two successful publications, she pursued a career in business development consulting to several biotech startups. Shortly thereafter, Meagan returned to San Diego State for a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in Entrepreneurship.

While making advancements in the business world and working long hours each day, her four-legged family was suffering due to her extended absences. Wanting the best for her furry friends, she utilized her research skills and scoured the marketplace for a reputable pet sitter to care for her animals while she was at work. After finding that many pet sitting companies were one-man operations that had booked schedules, she did come across a sitter that was available to help her. After meeting with the caretaker, Meagan found the sitter to be attentive and caring, and felt confident that her pets would be well-cared for. This soon proved to be wrong – on the first day Meagan left her pets with the sitter, the individual lost her dog at an unfenced, leash-free park. Devastated, Meagan began her search and after seven days found her dog at an animal care facility.

Out of this horrific experience sprung forth her first venture, Fur-Crazy Pet Care. Meagan began contemplating the opportunity – an opportunity to build a company that offers a variety of pet care products and services, as well as to develop a company with a strong sense of quality and that exercises caution in the care of the clients' companion animals. She also has instilled in her company a culture of excellent pet care to ensure that no pet owner would have to endure the poor service she had received.

Fur-Crazy Pet Care quickly grew to be a leader in its field and was sold in 2007 after experiencing exponential growth since inception. While operating her pet care venture, Meagan refined her training skills, attending numerous classes with local, well known trainers. She also began doing research on her own. Together with Fur-Crazy Pet Care Specialist, Katie Earle, Meagan developed a training program that put a new spin on companion pet training. Originally the program was just offered to rescue dogs but soon the word was out and the calls began to come in. Following the sale of Fur-Crazy Pet Care in 2007, Meagan and Katie partnered to form The Collared Scholar.

In addition to overseeing the company's operations, Meagan is actively involved in her company as the senior behavioral specialist. Meagan is also known as an expert in anti-aggression theory and training, and primarily works with bully breeds. She has also developed her own dog training academy where she teaches dog theory and behavior. She offers her personal training services to all of San Diego County.

The Collared Scholar was founded in 2007 and services all of San Diego County. Their services include puppy and basic obedience, advanced obedience, agility and anti-aggression training.

Katie Earle
Vice President, Certified Dog Trainer
The Collared Scholar

Katie Earle wears many hats at The Collared Scholar. She is the Vice President, a certified dog trainer and she oversees daily operations. Prior to working in the “animal world”, she worked in the health care industry. Most recently she was part of the management team as UNQI Delegation Oversight Coordinator for the Children’s Physicians Medical Group in San Diego.

Katie has always been a lover of animals, and while working in the healthcare industry, she volunteered for several local animal rescue and welfare groups. She was integrally involved in the management of a local Dachshund rescue group, working to coordinate adoptions, manage foster parents and homes and was the organizer of all of the group’s events. She was also very involved in deaf dog rescue as her dachshund, Blue was completely deaf and partially blind.

Through her rescue efforts, she became acquainted with Fur-Crazy Pet Care and first became a client, and then joined the team in 2006. She has since left the health care industry to put her passion for animals and pursue a career in the pet care industry. Katie excelled at Fur-Crazy, quickly being promoted to Business Development Manager and Lead Pet Care Specialist. She also earned her certification as a Fur-Crazy dog trainer.

While involved with Fur-Crazy Pet Care, Katie worked closely with President, Meagan Karnes to develop a dog training program that combined the most advanced theory with practical applications that could easily be taught to students facing any type of behavioral issue. In addition, she helped develop a dog training academy designed to train and apprentice new dog trainers.

Her adoration and passion for working with animals is apparent from the instant you meet her. Katie is actively involved in training the pets that come to The Collared Scholar. She offers training services to all of San Diego County and she specializes in deaf or special needs dogs.

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The Collared Scholar offers a higher education for owners and their pets. They offer all types of training including private and group classes and an in kennel board and train program as well as a broad selection of dog training and pet care products. The Collared Scholar is licensed and insured and guarantees all of their training programs. The Collared Scholar also operates a rescue and rehabilitation program to give assistance to dogs in need. For more information, please visit www.collared-scholar.com or call 1-877-k9-BEHAVE.