

DOG WHISPERER CRITICISED

A RENOWNED canine behavioural expert has criticised a world famous dog whisperer.

Steven Havers, who runs Havers Specialised Dog Training, believes distinguished hotshot Cesar Milan does not truly understand the dog-human relationship.

Mexican Milan, who has gained fame through his television series, The Dog Whisperer, identifies with and attempts to provide solutions for problem dogs on their own level, often using a variety of collars to support his work.

However, leading UK canine expert Havers disagrees with the approach.

He said: "A dog understands that its owner is not another dog, but is in fact a human.

"Whereas Cesar will deal with a problem dog much in the way another pack animal would do, I give the dog more credit than that and work with both the human and the animal in developing a relationship based on mutual understanding and trust, not force or through treats."

It is not the first time Millan has been criticised for his methods, with other canine behaviourists, veterinarians and professionals speaking out about the drawbacks of his work in the past.

Mr Havers added, commenting on the benefits of his own techniques: "This way, both dog and owner are trained in partnership to understand each other.

"One cannot succeed without the other."

The Leicestershire-based canine expert is no stranger to the media himself, having featured on BBC television and radio and working with 20th Century Fox in the promotion of Marmaduke, the motion picture.

Havers runs classes and home visits, specialising in rehabilitating dogs which show signs of aggression and those referred by traditional dog trainers.

He also regularly acts as an Expert Witness, assessing dogs which have legal cases pending after having attacked someone.

For more information about the work Havers Specialised Dog Training does, visit www.haversspecialiseddogtraining.co.uk.