



Pet Partners

Providing fun, collaborative, community education since 2012

2018 Community Education Workshops

January - March

Monday, January 8, 2018 6:00-8:00pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Dog's Day Out: Life Skills (sessions start at 6pm and 7pm)

Grab your dog and come and join us for fun ways to work on your dog's life skills through games and activities. We will work on things like how to walk nicely on leash, take it, wait, and back-up, just to name a few! We will start each session on the hour to give everyone time to get settled.

Monday, January 22, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Does your cat or dog have bad breath?

Dental disease seriously affects the organs, especially the heart, and can shorten your pet's life while causing unnecessary pain and discomfort. What can you do? What products work? How can you avoid expensive, useless gimmicks? Certified Veterinary Technician, Megan Levake, explains why regular brushing and checkups are an important part of your pet's health care routine. All participants will receive free supplies for in-home dental care.

Saturday, February 10, 2018 10am-12pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Four on the floor (sessions start at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, and 11:30am)

Is your dog gravity-challenged? Come learn how to teach "four on the floor". Dogs jump on people to get attention and as a form of greeting. Although they may mean well, dogs can knock over small children, tear clothing, and rip skin in their enthusiasm. Many commonly-used techniques being used to discourage a dog from jumping up often make the problem worse, hurt the dog, or put a person in danger. **Limited to 10 dogs per session.**

Monday, March 12, 2018 6:00pm-8:00pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Dog Park Dos and Don'ts

Thinking about taking your dog to the dog park? This session will cover how to keep your dog (and you) safe at the dog park, how to determine if dogs are playing appropriately, and what to do if there's a problem. We'll also talk about how to decide if a dog park is the right place for your dog. Not all dogs are "dog park dogs", just like not all people are social butterflies!

Monday, March 26, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months: How to help a new dog or puppy settle into your home

If you just got a new dog, or are thinking about getting one, then this is the workshop for you. Join Mittsy Voiles and Alli Jerger from the Lake Mills Veterinary Clinic to learn what to expect in the first days, weeks and months, to get you and your dog off to a great start. Topics include socialization, exercise, nutrition, manners, potty training, and how to avoid common mistakes that may trigger fearful/defensive behavior.



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April - May

Monday, April 2, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

It's potty time!

Did you know that dogs are not considered potty trained until they have not had an accident for 90 days? Dogs and cats can have a hard time learning our potty training routines for them. Join the behavioral team from the Lake Mills Veterinary Clinic (Mittsy Voiles, Alli Jerger, Danielle Bartz) to learn how to gently and quickly teach cats and dogs good toilet routines. You'll also learn what things don't work, and what things (rubbing noses in the mess) will make the problem much worse. This workshop will cover the basics for dogs and cats who are being newly potty trained, as well as techniques to use to get back on track if toilet training has gone astray. Learn about common health problems that can throw off toileting behavior, and when to check in with your veterinarian.

Saturday, May 5, 2018 10am-12pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Teach a great recall (sessions start at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, and 11:30am)

It will take approximately one year of regular, consistent training for most dogs to come when called at least 95% of the time. Does that sound like a lot of work? It is . . . but consider this: most dogs live ten or more years. If your dog comes when called for nine out of ten years, isn't that worth it? Get off on the right paw with your recall training at this FREE workshop! You will learn simple, effective techniques and how to avoid common mistakes that can ruin your dog's recall.

Monday, May 7, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

What is your dog saying?

Dogs communicate all the time with people, other dogs, and other animals. A growl might stop you in your tracks, but do you notice a yawn? Dogs speak with their bodies. They use tails, ears, mouth movement, eyes, posture, and vocalization to signal their intent (let's play!) and display emotions like stress. Come learn how to listen better to your dog, and to "speak" dog back!



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June - July

Monday, June 4, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Help, there's a loose dog!

You're out walking your dog (or walking alone) and a loose dog comes running toward you. What do you do? How do you handle the situation safely and escape unscathed? Learn some simple, effective ways of protecting yourself and your dogs in this frightening situation.

Monday, June 25, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Separation anxiety

Does your dog pace when you start getting ready to leave? Has she remodeled your house while you were gone? Separation anxiety is a common phrase used to describe dog behavior when left alone, but it might surprise you to learn that not all destructive behavior falls into this category. Maybe your dog is displaying symptoms of separation anxiety, or is it simply boredom? How do you tell the difference? Knowing the difference is critical, because fixing the problem depends on understanding the cause. In this session we'll talk about what separation anxiety is... and is not. We'll also discuss ways to help dogs who are having trouble being left alone, whatever the cause.

Monday, July 9, 2018 6pm-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

And baby makes 5!

Just as couples prepare for their baby's arrival by taking childbirth classes and by practicing their diapering, holding and feeding skills with a friend's baby, there are ways to help a pet prepare for the new family member. Children reap deep benefits from growing up with a pet. Animals give unconditional love and are loyal companions, both of which help promote self-esteem and a sense of security. They provide stability during periods of change, such as a move to another location or a divorce. And, under the supervision of a parent, children learn responsibility through chores such as feeding, grooming and walking pets. Some parents have noticed improvement in an infant's motor coordination as he/she crawls in pursuit of cats or dogs. The pets, who gain another playmate, can benefit, too.



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August - December

Saturday, August 11, 2018 10am-12pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Let's go for a walk! (sessions start at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, and 11:30am)

Need a little help getting your pooch in sync with your step? Dogs sit, lie down and run to each other as part of their natural behavior. When was the last time you saw a dog leading another dog around on a lead? However . . . your dog's daily walks are important times for the dog to get out and enjoy the neighborhood and it is important to teach your dog to enjoy walking on lead—even if you live in an area where your dog doesn't generally go on lead walks. Leash manners are simply to keep your dog from pulling your arm out of its socket—not to have your dog in a perfect “heel” all the time. Start now and life will be easier later.

Monday, August 13, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

How to help your fearful dog

Is your dog afraid of ordinary things like vacuum cleaners or items dropped on the ground? Does your dog run for cover during thunderstorms or fireworks? Join us for a casual conversation about why dogs develop fears and phobias - from the common to the bizarre. Learn ways to help your dog get past his/her fears, and maybe how to understand your dog a little better. We'll also learn how to recognize common signs of stress in dogs. Dog body language is subtle... and fascinating!

Monday, September 10, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

Help, there's a loose dog!

You're out walking your dog (or walking alone) and a loose dog comes running toward you. What do you do? How do you handle the situation safely and escape unscathed? Learn some simple, effective ways of protecting yourself and your dogs in this frightening situation.

Monday, October 29, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

What is your cat saying?

Cats are both social and solitary creatures. They learn quickly, but they learn differently than dogs. They have specific territorial needs, and their means of showing stress is often subtle. Come learn more about the secret life of your cat!

Monday, November 12, 2018 6-8pm (Location: Humane Society of Jefferson County)

3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months: How to help a new dog or puppy settle into your home

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