



Q + A BREANNE TABBERT

BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

BREANNE TABBERT, CCHS's Animal Behavior Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator, earned her degree in Animal Sciences from the University of Illinois in 2014. Starting at the shelter as an intern in the Animal Care Department and working her way up from there, Breanne has gained a lot of experience in various areas of the animal shelter world. Going on her 6th year here, Breanne shares what she learned along the way.

Q. Do you constantly get stopped at the grocery store with dog and cat questions?

A. I don't often get recognized outside of the shelter - so generally not, but my friends and family seem to have plenty of questions.

Q. What is the most common question you hear? What is the answer?

A. For dogs: how do I stop my dog from pulling on leash? For cats: how do I get my cats to like each other? The answers usually involve time, patience, and lengthy conversations.

Q. What is something that has surprised you most about dog behavior?

A. How quickly dogs learn blows my mind, especially the dogs that have behavioral issues. Often dogs that engage in destructive behavior are quite smart and "act out" because they have no outlet for their mental energy. When you give them a job to do or a game to work on, they are such fast learners they succeed quickly.

Q. What do you wish everyone knew about pet behavior?

A. Animals communicate differently than we do as humans. A positive relationship and understanding of your pet can go a long way.

Q. How has the pandemic impacted you?

A. Part of my job is training volunteers, and since the pandemic, we have been unable to have most of them here at the shelter. We hope to be able to welcome them back soon.

Q. What do you do when you are not training animals?

A. Relax, read, hike with my dog, and binge-watch reality shows like "90-Day Fiancé." I also love watching hockey and am an avid Blues fan.

Q. What do you wish you had more of?

A. Simple answers for pet owners.



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