



# Capital Humane Society

# SHELTER SHARING

FALL 2015

*Mission: To fulfill the promise of animals, Capital Humane Society shelters animals, protects animals and teaches compassion and respect.*

Capital Humane Society  
Admissions & Assessment  
Center  
2320 Park Boulevard  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.441.4488  
[www.capitalhumanesociety.org](http://www.capitalhumanesociety.org)

Capital Humane Society  
Pieloch Pet Adoption Center  
6500 S. 70th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
402.441.4488

## Articles

\*A Classy Cause You Won't Pause to Attend

\*Basic Dog Obedience Classes

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## Upcoming Events

+ Upcoming Basic Dog Obedience Classes  
Oct. 6th - Nov. 3rd  
Nov. 17th - Dec. 15th

## A Classy Cause You Won't Pause to Attend

By Shana Perry, Director of Fundraising & Development

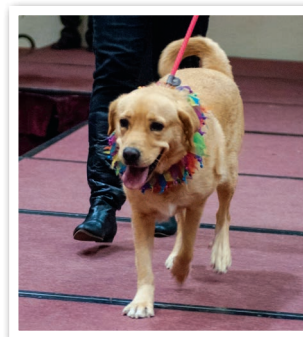


As football season kicks off, don't forget to schedule in Capital Humane Society's Annual Dinner! We will be hosting our Tails 'n Ties Annual Dinner on Friday, October 30th at the Cornhusker Hotel. You won't want to miss the stirring story auctions and the thrilling silent and live auctions! Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

A few furry friends will be in attendance, ready to make your acquaintance and fill your heart with wonderful warm fuzzies. This elegant event generates a nice crowd filled with animal supporters, business men and women, and community leaders.

We would like to thank the businesses and individuals who donated auction items to the event! You can look forward to an animal-themed dessert auction, silent auction, story auction, and live auction. The live auction will include items such as a \$1,000 radio advertising package to DigiTV, a trip to the beautiful Grand Caymen Island, an unforgettable trip to Honduras, and much more!

Our goal is to raise \$75,000 and we need your help! If you would like to attend or sponsor this event, go to our website [www.CapitalHumaneSociety.org](http://www.CapitalHumaneSociety.org) or contact Shana Perry at 402.441.4481.



## Upcoming Basic Dog Obedience Classes

We want to provide individuals with the tools they need to train their dogs to be polite pets. The training classes provide knowledge about proper techniques to modify inappropriate behaviors and teach new skills. Our Basic Dog Obedience Class is available for all canines over 6 months of age. Each session runs for five weeks and is \$60 plus tax. Classes are at the Pieloch Pet Adoption Center on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We have spots available for the following sessions:

October 6th - November 3rd  
November 17th - December 15th

For more information or to sign up, contact our Animal Behavior Department, at 402-441-4490 or [animalbehavior@capitalhumanesociety.org](mailto:animalbehavior@capitalhumanesociety.org).



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*Vice Chair*

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*Treasurer*

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*Director of Operations  
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# Facts or Fables?

## What You Need to Know About Canine Influenza

By Laura Andersen, DVM, Director of Veterinary Medicine

A recent canine influenza outbreak in Chicago resulted in widespread coverage of the disease in the news. Because of the increased coverage I felt it would be beneficial to address this topic. During my residency at the University of Florida, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Cynda Crawford, the veterinarian who first identified the canine influenza virus in racing greyhounds and who is considered an expert on canine influenza. Substantial misconceptions about the disease have developed and I hope to dispel some of the confusion regarding the disease.

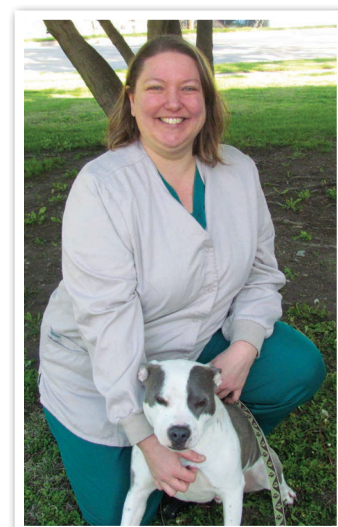
First and foremost I would like to stress the fact that the mortality rate for this disease is very low. Less than 10% of canine influenza infections are fatal. Furthermore, most deaths associated with canine influenza infection are due to complications and/or secondary infections. Infected dogs that are diagnosed and treated within a timely fashion generally recover within two to three weeks.

### **So if canine influenza isn't a serious, life-threatening disease, why did we hear so much about it in the news?**

The recent outbreaks received national news coverage probably for several reasons. First, canine influenza was discovered just over 10 years ago and is considered a recent or emerging disease agent. Second, because the vast majority of the United States dog population has not been exposed to this virus before, dogs are highly susceptible to infection when exposed. Roughly 80% of dogs exposed to canine influenza virus will become infected. In addition, infected dogs are most contagious to other dogs within the first three to four days after infection, which is before symptoms of the disease are likely to be observed. Third, the virus spreads easily and rapidly in high-risk environments such as pet boarding facilities, animal shelters, and dog daycare businesses—any situation in which dogs are in close contact with one another.

### **What can pet owners do to protect their dogs?**

One reason to be concerned about canine influenza is that the symptoms are the same as infectious canine tracheobronchitis, also known as "kennel cough." Symptoms for canine influenza include coughing, sneezing, clear nasal discharge that can progress to thick, yellow-green discharge, lethargy, loss of appetite, breathing difficulties, and sometimes fever. If your dog develops a cough or any of these symptoms, schedule a visit with your veterinarian. If your dog is at an increased risk for exposure, such as being housed at a boarding facility or venturing to the dog park, discuss vaccinating your pet for canine influenza with your veterinarian prior to the increased exposure risk event. Minimize the chance that your dog might end up at a shelter by fixing any holes in your fence, keeping visible identification on your dog (i.e. collar with tags), and microchip your pets so they can return home to you quickly if they do become lost.



# Playing it Safe: How to Help Your Children Interact with Pets

By Shelby Backhus, Animal Behaviorist

Many people dream of raising their children in a home with pets. They believe if their children have an animal it will teach them responsibility and compassion. The sad reality is that a majority of pets in these situations end up at the shelter. Explanations include "the kids won't take care of it," "the pet plays too rough with the kids," or sadly enough, "the pet bit the children." Many, if not all, of the surrender reasons lead back to improper planning or improper training of the pet and the children.



In a household with children and pets, everyone in the home needs to go through proper education and training. Parents may not realize children need training and education just as much as pets do. Children need to learn about animal body language and how to appropriately interact with animals. Not all pets do well in loud high energy environments. If children are running around roughhousing, and the pet is not accustomed to that atmosphere, the pet can become stressed out. The animal could then display warning signs that he or she is not happy, but if no one in the family knows the signs, the outcome can be tragic. Pets also learn to play rough from the interactions they experience. If family members are rough with the pet, one of two things can happen. The pet could bite out of self defense, or the animal could engage in rough play, potentially hurting someone. Interactions between children and pets should always be supervised and as positive as possible.

Children should also learn how to behave around animals that are not a part of their own family. Neighborhoods are filled with other family's pets that may or may not be good with children. Kids should learn to ask to pet any animal. Once given permission, children should approach calmly and present their hand in a fist with all fingers tucked in. This gives the animal a chance to greet the children. Running up to a pet, yelling, and getting face to face with a strange animal is a recipe for disaster.

If you are looking to add a pet to your family, adoption counselors and trainers can help gauge what type of animal is best for your household. A very active and loud house is probably not the best situation for a shy pet with a reserved personality. Planning ahead to find a great fit for your home, and educating children about animals will go a long way on the road to happily ever after.



## Shy Sadie

By Matt Madcharo, Director of Operations – Admissions & Assessment Center

On an early morning a few weeks back, shelter staff arrived for work and found a black and white Pit bull mix loose in the parking lot. She was scared and would not approach any staff members when they attempted to coax her to them. It turned out her previous owner intended to surrender her to the shelter but she slipped away when they tried to put her in the overnight kennel.

We learned her name was Sadie and she was approximately one year old. During the course of the day, attempts were made to try and coax Sadie to approach and trust us enough to handle her. Unfortunately, she was not ready for this step. Shelter staff set up a live dog trap, in hopes she would enter the trap for food and water, however, she would not enter the trap. Finally on the third day, with the help of some Kentucky Fried Chicken she entered the trap and we were able to bring her inside.

She was examined by our veterinarian and given basic vaccinations and dewormer. Over the next couple of weeks our Animal Behaviorist worked with her and she gradually came out of her shell. She came up to the office areas towards the end of her stay at the Admissions & Assessment Center and would sprint back and forth happily throughout the offices. She was ready for the adoption center!

Sadie was adopted on her second day at the Pieloch Pet Adoption Center! Congratulations to Sadie and her new family!



**Capital Humane  
Society  
Out & About**

**Critter Corner**

Time Warner Cable, Ch 13  
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

**Lincoln  
Journal Star**

Pet of the Week - Friday

**Neighborhood  
Extra**

1st Saturday of the month

**KOLN-TV 10/11**

Monday, 6:20 a.m.  
Thursday, 12:20 p.m.

**KLKN-TV 8**

Every Wednesday,  
11:50 a.m.

**KZUM 89.3 AM**

Saturday, 10:15 a.m.

**KLIN 1400 AM**

Thursday, 6:55 a.m.

**KFOR 1240 AM**

Monday, 6:50 a.m.  
Thursday, 8:45 a.m.

**KFRX 106.3**

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

**FROGGY981.com**

Click on Pics/Videos to  
find Frogs for Dogs



CapitalHumaneSociety



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youtube.com/  
capitalhumanesociety

**Web Site**

capitalhumanesociety.org

# Volunteer Spotlight: Angela & Sarah Melton

By Charleen Engberg, Director of Education & Volunteers



"I have always loved dogs and wanted to volunteer at the Capital Humane Society since I was little," said Sarah Melton. "I began counting down the days until my thirteenth birthday, the required age for volunteers. A few months after my birthday, my mom and I signed up to become volunteers."

Angela Melton and her daughter Sarah are outstanding volunteers who provide exercise and attention every week to the dogs in the adoption program.

"Volunteering has not only given us the chance to spend time with some amazing dogs and tell people about the great work of the humane society but it has also given us time to spend together," they explained.

"We've walked dogs before that look completely crazed inside, but will trot right beside you on their walk, calm as can be," they said. "Sometimes, the dogs just need a little time away from the chaos of the kennels in order to allow their true self to shine."

One story that came to mind was about a dog named Cuddles that was in the adoption program for many months and liked to take a toy along on his walks.

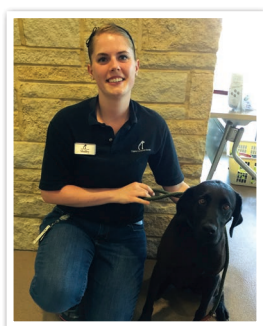
"Once when walking Cuddles he dropped his toy down the embankment and was devastated," Angela shared. "He stood on the sidewalk, whining and straining against the leash, refusing to leave without it. We climbed down the embankment and retrieved the toy and Cuddles was overjoyed."

Angela and Sarah never hesitate to step in and help in other ways, which includes assisting at special events. "Sarah has her team for the annual pet walk—the Waggin' Walkers," explained Angela. "She places jars at various local businesses and also raises money and donations at our church and from friends and family."

We are so fortunate to have their kind friendship and generous support.

## Staff Profile: Shelby Backhus

By Shana Perry, Director of Fundraising & Development



Shelby Backhus began her journey with animals at a young age; a husky was always part of the family while she was growing up. She began working at Capital Humane Society in mid-May of 2014 as our Animal Behaviorist. She spends her days temperament testing our pets, working with animals in need of behavior modification, and creating and implementing pet enrichment programs.

Shelby is from Lincoln, Nebraska. She attended Lincoln Lutheran High School, then she went to college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science, concentrating primarily on companion animals.

Outside of work you can find Shelby catching the latest movie, heading to a concert, or spending time with her two dogs, Balto and CHS alum Lanie.

While Shelby witnesses many success stories at CHS, one of her favorite successes happened when she first started her role as the Animal Behaviorist. A beautiful Blue Heeler and Cattle dog mix named Rowan arrived at CHS as a lost pet. She was terrified of everything and everyone. After weeks of working with her, Shelby was able to find Rowan's true personality and temperament. Rowan's progress was easy to see each morning, as she would happily approach the edge of her kennel ready to greet Shelby with a wag of her tail. After Shelby completed Rowan's behavior modification, Rowan went up for adoption and was adopted shortly thereafter.

We are grateful for Shelby's diligent work with the animals each day, and we appreciate having her on our team!