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## **Cedar Bend Humane Society Pre-Professional Experience**

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# Cedar Bend Humane Society Cassidy Crosser - Psychology Major

## Mission and Location

Mission: P.E.T.S. Place animals in loving homes for life, Educate on the issues of humane care, Teach responsible pet ownership, Shelter the stray, neglected, and unwanted.

CBHS is located in Waterloo, IA



Photo Credit: cedarbendhumane.org

## Who Does CBHS Aim to Help?

- Cats
- Dogs
- Small pets
- Any person who wishes to give an animal a loving home

## What Services Does CBHS Offer?

- Pet adoption
- Fostering programs
- Micro-chipping
- Paws Pantry Food Bank
- Education programs for school children
- Tours and scheduled group visits

## Tasks Completed at Shelter

- Bathe and walk dogs
- Socialize cats and dogs
- Clean dog kennels
- Spend 1-on-1 time with dogs
- Place fresh blankets in kennels and cat rooms

## What I learned at CBHS

- Animals must be evaluated before being available for adoption.
- All cats and dogs have personalities. Many of the dogs are excited and cuddly and almost all the cats sleep all day.
- The animals see a lot of people in a day which provides them with stimulus and positive human interaction.
- Animals only spend an average of a few weeks in CBHS before being adopted.

## Plans After Graduating

- I was looking for a way to combine my interests in animals and psychology. and CBHS showed me it is possible
- I will receive my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology May 2020.
- I am interested in School Counseling, Mentoring, and Animal-Assisted Therapy.
- A bachelor's degree in psychology allows me to pursue any of these careers plus many more.

## Research Question

- How can classical and operant conditioning be used to train animals, specifically dogs?
- I focused specific attention on avoidance motivated aggression.

## Research

- Dogs have been the subject of scientific experiments for centuries due to their social nature
- Avoidance motivated aggression is different than aggression stemming from fear or pain (Feuerbacher & Wynne, 2011)
- Aggression can be extinguished with proper safety training (Tortora, 1983)

## Real Life Application

- Service dogs
- Search and Rescue
- Police dogs
- Therapy dogs
- Hunting
- Agility competitions
- Seeing Eye dogs

## Advice for Others

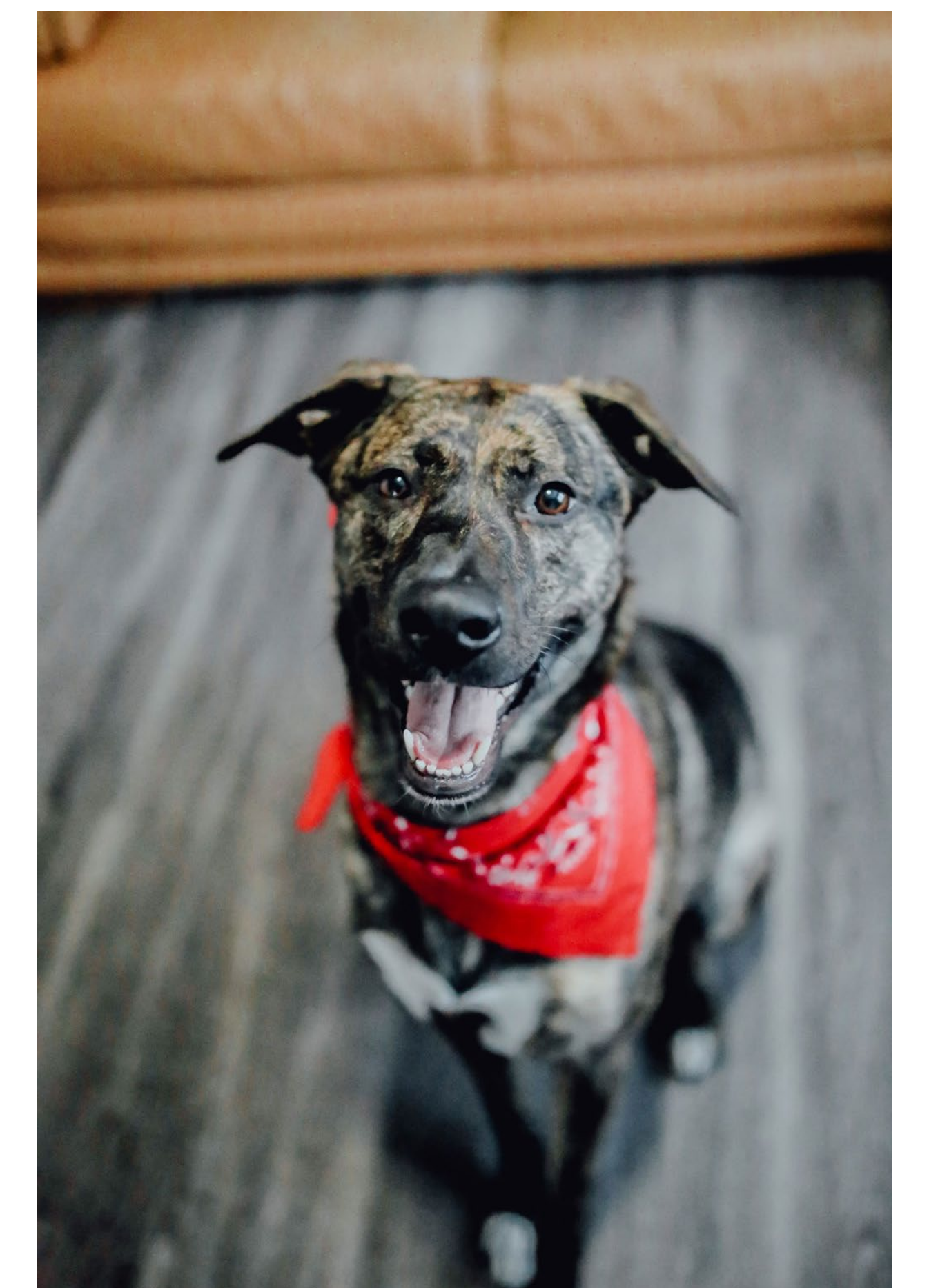
I highly encourage everyone to visit their local shelter when searching for a new pet. I also strongly recommend researching the dog's or cat's breed before selecting your furrever friend.



Photo Credit: cedarbandhumane.org

## My Own Experience

- I adopted my dog, Scooby, from CBHS 18 months ago
- He was timid, energetic, and independant when I first brought him home
- Now he is incredibly brave, loyal, and responsive
- Regardless of any undesirable behavior he may exhibit, his forever home is with me



Pictured above: Scooby  
Photo Credit: Jordan Allen

## External Links

- Feuerbacher, E. N., & Wynne, C. D. L. (2011). A history of dogs as subjects in North American experimental psychological research. *Comparative Cognition & Behavior Reviews*, 6, 46-64
- Tortora, D. F. (1983). Safety training: The elimination of avoidance-motivated aggression in dogs. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 112(2), 176-212

