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: cedarbendhumanesociety.org](Photo Credit: cedarbendhumanesociety.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: cedarbendhumanesociety.org](Photo Credit: cedarbendhumanesociety.org)

## My Own Experience

- I adopted my dog, Scooby, from CBHS 18 months ago
- He was timid, energetic, and independent 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