

Animal Behavior College

ABC Shelter Facts – “Students Saving Lives”

Who:

Animal Behavior College (ABC) is a school specializing in animal-related career training and is the largest vocational school of its kind in North America. Home learning, hands-on training courses for certified dog training, pet grooming and veterinary assistants are offered in all 50 states and every western Canadian province. More than 27,000 students have enrolled at ABC and the school boasts the highest number of certified dog trainers (10,000+) in the United States.

What:

The “Students Saving Lives” program is embedded within the ABC coursework and is an international campaign that was developed to improve shelter dog rehabilitation and adoption. All dog training students are asked to volunteer for a minimum of ten hours of training time to a local shelter, humane society, or rescue organization to help socialize and train the dogs which helps them get noticed, and gives them a greater chance of adoption.

Where:

Throughout North America and Canada, ABC students enrolled in the Certified Dog Training Instructor program participate in the “Students Saving Lives” campaign.

Why:

Research shows that 1.8 million dogs are surrendered to shelters every year by their owners. A high percentage of these surrenders can be linked to untreated behavior problems.

Shelter Statistics (Source: ASPCA):

- Approximately 5 to 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide annually.
- Every year, approximately 3 to 4 million of these animals are euthanized with 60% of them being dogs.

- Shelter intakes are essentially evenly divided between those relinquished by owners and those picked up by animal control.
- Approximately 65% of pet owners acquire their pets for free or at a low cost.
- 10 to 20% of cats and dogs are adopted from shelters and rescues.
- More than 20% of people who relinquish their dogs to shelters adopted their dogs from a shelter.

Training does make a difference. These numbers are more than just statistics; they represent the lives of dogs, and ABC is dedicated to helping these animals.

Results:

Since 2004, **more than 8,000 students** have participated in this successful program and volunteered more than **98,000 hours** at shelters all across North America. The “Students Saving Lives” campaign will continue to dramatically increase the adoptability of dogs and help stem the tide of homeless animals. Students have an opportunity to establish a career that is not only fulfilling but truly helps make a difference in the lives of animals, one volunteer hour at a time.

“Students Saving Lives” is the single-most rewarding project that I have ever set in motion throughout my entire career in the animal industry,” said Debbie Kendrick, vice president of ABC. “I have witnessed first-hand the countless happy ‘tail-wagging’ endings our students have made possible. I am proud to be associated with such a dedicated group of individuals who donate their own time and newly acquired dog training skills to help shelter dogs find forever homes.”

Websites:

www.AnimalBehaviorCollege.com
www.BecomeAVetAssistant.com
www.BecomeAGroomer.com