

TRAINING AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Created in 2009, HAWS' Behavior Department is meeting an expanding need for not only pet training classes but also independent 1:1 counseling and seminars. In the last 3 years, pet training classes have shown an increase of 36%, while consultation service has grown by 57%!

Poor manners and lack of training are the main reasons dogs are surrendered to animal shelters.

- By making consultations, seminars and training classes available to the general public, HAWS is being proactive and preventing animals, especially dogs, from being surrendered in the first place.
- Counseling is offered to HAWS alumni, free of charge, helping families adjust to their new companion and helping guarantee the pet's success in their new home.
- Our Mod Squad™ rehabilitates dogs with challenging behaviors, preparing them for their new adoptive homes. We are successful at modifying most challenging behaviors before the dogs leave our shelter, leading to fewer dogs returned after adoption. Behavior modification also prevents euthanasia by correcting problems which in the past we were not able to address.

The Behavior Department has grown to incorporate 16 volunteers dedicated specifically to the Mod Squad™. Two employees offer 1:1 consultations. Training classes are held 6 days a week, with seminars interspersed with our popular children's programs.

Specific improvements of an expanded Behavior Department include:

- An additional work room for evaluations, consultations, and smaller training classes such as Kitty College.
- A separate entrance addresses the problem of aggressive dogs, when brought for consultations, walking through HAWS' busy and often-crowded lobby.
- Quieter kennels will be added for those dogs in residence at HAWS for an extended time, while they complete their Mod Squad™ behavior modification programs.

