

New Adopter Workshop

Where: Humane Society of Charles County Humane Education Room or, weather permitting, Play Yard

When: March 6, April 3, May 1, May 22, and June 5, 2021 @ 10 am - noon

The Objective of the Workshop

The workshop's goal is to present the participants with a basic understanding of what to look for when adopting a pet that fits their lifestyle. Attendees will gain a perspective on researching general traits of breeds and create a safe home for their new pet. The participant will learn how to identify critical indicators to assess a dog or cat's realistic expectations to find the ideal match.

The focus will center on a solution-based pedagogy turning "I can't" statements into "I can" thinking. We will stress full family participation for the most successful adoption possible.

Specific Topics Covered During the Presentation

1. Assessing your current lifestyle, home environment, and time constraints in an average day.
2. Identify the basic needs and requirements a dog and cat need in a safe home.
3. Re-assessing how to adapt your lifestyle, home, time, and family responsibilities for a new pet.
4. Discuss the different behavior characteristics among the breeds. Use some well-behaved example dogs from the shelter as examples. (Use the AKC's website to give a general idea. Since many of them are mutts, talk about how each animal may trend towards one breed or the other).
5. Translating Shelter-Speak: Understanding specific shelter notations.
6. Giving your new pet a decompression period to settle in.
7. Training methods