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**wpahumane.org**

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## **Western PA Humane Society adds Second Obedience Training Class Facility**

Pittsburgh, PA- January has been declared by the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) as “National Train Your Dog Month.” In honor of that designation the Western PA Humane Society is pleased to announce the opening of our second “Get Smart Training and Education Center” at 57 Noble Avenue, Crafton PA 15205 (formerly the Western PA Kennel Association Headquarters.)

“We operate training classes seven days per week at the North Shore Shelter and we felt there was a need in the community to add additional behavior classes for people’s pet dogs,” says Director of Education Joanna Guziewicz. Almost 1,500 dogs came through classes at the Western PA Humane Society in 2009, a number that the shelter anticipates will grow to more than 2,000 dogs in 2010.

“According to statistics both nationally and locally one of the main reasons that people surrender dogs to shelters is lack of training,” says Executive Director Lee Nesler. “Most of our adopted dogs have an obedience training class included as part of their adoption. We encourage people to attend classes with their dogs so that they can create a stronger bond with their animal. This way the dog is more likely to stay in the home and not be turned in to the shelter.”

The new facility will feature both Basic Obedience Classes for puppies and adult dogs as well as specialized classes for people with “bully breeds.” In addition, “sport classes” for dogs such as Agility and Rally classes are being offered for the first time. Classes at both the North Shore Shelter and the new Crafton Facility are open to the public and are not restricted to dogs adopted from the Western PA Humane Society. All dogs must be current on vaccines. To see a complete list of classes offered at both locations visit our website at [www.wpahumane.org/obedience](http://www.wpahumane.org/obedience).

Founded in 1874, the Western PA Humane Society is Pittsburgh’s oldest animal charity, operating two open-door shelters in Allegheny County. They also provide a low-cost spay neuter program, obedience classes for dogs of all ages, Humane Education programs in schools and businesses, and cruelty and abuse investigations. Last year the two shelters took in over 13,000 animals.

You can find out more about the Western PA Humane Society and view a listing of all available obedience classes as well as all adoptable animals by going to their website at [www.wpahumane.org](http://www.wpahumane.org).

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