



## Animal Behavior College ABC Shelter Facts – “Students Saving Lives”

### Who:

**Animal Behavior College (ABC)** is a distance learning, animal services career college that is the educational choice for more dog trainers, cat trainers, pet groomers, and veterinary assistants than any specialty school of its kind. Since the school's inception in 1998, ABC has graduated more than 24,300 students – with 14,395 from the Dog Obedience Program alone.

### What:

The Students Saving Lives program was created in 2004 as an international campaign to improve shelter dog rehabilitation and adoption. Concerned about the inordinate number of dogs that were euthanized each year after being surrendered by frustrated owners unable to cope with difficult behavior problems, Debbie Kendrick, Vice President of ABC, created a volunteer program that gives ABC students enrolled in the dog trainer program an opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills to work one-on-one with shelter dogs in their communities. The purpose is to socialize, correct unwanted behaviors, and increase each dogs' chances for adoption. The program was also added to ABC's Dog Obedience Program coursework.

### Where:

ABC Programs are available to students in North America and Canada.

### Why:

Approximately 3.3 million dogs wind up in shelters every year, according to the ASPCA's National Rehoming Survey. As many as 47% of dog owners rehome or surrender their dogs due to problematic behaviors, aggression and other conditions owners find difficult to handle.

### Shelter Statistics (Source: ASPCA):

- Every year, approximately 670,000 million dogs are euthanized.
- Approximately 40% of dog owners learn about their pets through word-of-mouth

- 620,000 dogs that enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners
- As many as 23% of pet owners obtained their dogs from animal shelters or humane societies

### Results:

Since 2004, more than 10,000 students have participated in this successful program and volunteered more than **137,000 hours** at shelters 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 to make a difference in the lives of animals, one volunteer hour at a time,” said Ms. Kendrick.

“Students Saving Lives” is the single-most rewarding project that I have ever set in motion throughout my entire career in the animal industry, 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](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/dog-trainer/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/dog-trainer/)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/VeterinaryAssistant](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/VeterinaryAssistant)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/grooming](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/grooming)  
[www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/cat-training/](http://www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/cat-training/)

### Media contact:

Angela Peña, Director of Media & Public Relations  
[angelap@AnimalBehaviorCollege.com](mailto:angelap@AnimalBehaviorCollege.com)  
888-338-7778