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## AWA Presents “The Well-Mannered Dog” Training Classes

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Voorhees, NJ– Animal Welfare Association (AWA) will begin to offer “The Well-Mannered Dog” training classes beginning in May 2016. The Well-Mannered Dog introduces dog owners to canine training methods, suggests tips to make training fun and easy, and covers the importance of why good manners matter. AWA’s knowledgeable and friendly instructors will lead the classes, and share their belief that every interaction you have with your dog teaches him something. All training is positive and reward-based. The Well-Mannered Dog class is a great way to bond with your dog and get a leg-up on helping your dog become a very polite pooch.

“From the animal shelter perspective, we know that well-trained dogs are adopted more quickly, and that the training process can bond an owner with their dog,” says Maya Richmond, AWA’s Executive Director. “On the other side of the equation, lack of training or behavior problems that could be corrected are common reasons for surrendering dogs to shelters. Encouraging owners to engage in positive training helps dogs stay in their homes and out of the shelter system.”

The three-week classes will be held at AWA on Thursday nights from 6-7pm. The sessions are **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>; June 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>; July 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>; and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>**. The classes will cover many commands and include weekly practice sessions to reinforce new behaviors. More information and registration (space is limited to 10 human-dog pairs) can be found on AWA’s website at [www.awanj.org/well-mannered-dog](http://www.awanj.org/well-mannered-dog). The cost is \$100. All dogs must be over six months old, well-socialized, in good health and up-to-date on their shots, for the safety and well-being of both the humans and other dogs in the class.

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**Animal Welfare Association**, a private, non-profit, 501(c) 3 animal welfare organization, serves the people and animals of southern New Jersey. AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering, promoting the importance of the human-animal bond, and improving the role of animals in the well-being of people. Through a variety of programs including adoptions, veterinary services, pet therapy and humane education, in 2015 over 23,000 pets were served through AWA programming. AWA is South Jersey’s leader in progressive companion animal care.