SEECA, (Students for Education in Exotic and Companion Animals), is a club for UNL students. A key activity for the club is hosting a dog-training course for members of the community each semester. This is a service to the city by producing dogs that are qualified to become ‘Canine Good Citizens’ after administrating the test at the end of the course. Assisting with the training course is beneficial for both the UNL students and the community.

- Students strongly indicated that assisting with the dog training classes helped them learn skills they could apply to their own dog ownership (mean = 4.9) and improved their understanding of dog training.
- Students were interested in taking a similar dog training course with their own dog in the future.
- The dog-training course provided a hands-on opportunity to work with dogs and their owners as well as trainer, Dr. Jill Morstad.
- Students assisting with the dog training course indicated it allowed them to be better prepared for the future through improving life skills like communication (mean = 4.6) and organization (mean = 4.3).
- The community members indicated improvements in their dog’s behavior (mean = 4.7) and their understanding of dog training (mean = 4.6).
- Participants in the training class indicated that they felt they had a stronger bond with their dog (mean = 4.6).
- Dog handlers enjoyed working with the students (mean = 4.2) and found the students to be helpful (mean = 4.2).
Tips for Choosing a Rabbit Diet
Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal

When choosing a diet for a rabbit, there are several important factors to consider. Here are some tips to look for:

Consider your rabbit. The specific diet you choose will depend on several factors, including age and weight of the rabbit, environmental conditions, and purpose of the animal.

Consider the age of your animal. There are diets designed for different life stages of rabbits. A diet made primarily of alfalfa hay provides added protein and calcium for younger, growing rabbits and those that are pregnant and nursing. A pellet with primarily grass hay (generally, timothy) is better for an adult animal.

Always have fresh water available. Rabbits actually have a very high water intake for their size. You may notice your rabbit goes through the bottle of water very quickly. Always ensure that it has a full bottle of water to prevent dehydration.

Choose a consistent pelleted diet. Rabbits naturally pick and choose foods higher in energy density. Providing a pelleted rabbit food helps ensure that your animal is getting all the nutrition it needs in each bite of food. Seed mix diets are not ideal for everyday feeding because the rabbit may pick and choose items based on its taste preferences and may not choose the most healthful seeds.

Evaluate supplements carefully. Rabbits on a high-quality diet do not need additional supplements such as salt licks or vitamin and mineral tablets. However, depending on your rabbit and your veterinarian’s recommendation, you may want to look into supplements for hairball control such as pineapple or papaya based treats or for joint health in older animals.

Offer unlimited access to grass hay. Grass hay is vital to dental and digestive tract health and it helps prevent obesity, diarrhea, dental disease, and boredom. Such grass types include but are not limited to timothy, orchard, brome, and oat hays.

Choose a variety of healthy treats. Feed your rabbit a variety of nutrient-dense vegetables with a limited amount of fruit. Vegetables such as dandelion greens, Brussels sprouts, parsley, and other dark-colored vegetables are ideal. Avoid or limit carrots and iceberg lettuce because these contain fewer nutrients.

Don’t overfeed. Adult rabbits have fairly low nutrient needs. The tendency to overfeed treats and to provide a higher calorie diet (alfalfa based) into adulthood has led to health problems in many rabbits. Overweight rabbits have difficulty grooming, increased risk for many other health concerns like sore hocks, and have shorter lifespans.

Pay attention to your rabbit’s eating habits. Changes in eating habits are the first sign of disease in rabbits. If you notice that your rabbit is not eating, they should be taken to the veterinarian immediately.
UNL Equestrian Team  
Fall Semester 2012 Highlights

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Equestrian Team had a great Fall Semester in the show circuit for Hunt and Western. The Hunt team received two first place ribbons and Colorado University, October 6-7; one in beginner walk/trot/canter (Alex Rommelfanger) and one in novice flat (Emma Link). The ladies of the team swept the competition at second show held at The University of Wyoming, November 11. Laura Wondra was Reserve High Point Rider and received first place in novice flat and novice over fences. Nicole D’Angelo of the hunt team received first place in intermediate flat.

The UNL Western also kicked the competition at Colby Community College, University of Nebraska, and LCCC this fall semester. The team racked up a total of 4 High Point Team and 25 first place ribbons in open reining, open rail, advanced horsemanship, intermediate II horsemanship, novice horsemanship, intermediate I horsemanship, and beginner horsemanship (Katrina Quick, Kallie Kayton, Dustin Renken, Mackenzie Schneekloth, Melissa Matulka, Blake Preston, Morgan Mardock, Brooke Preston, Linsey Bode, Cara Peters, Emily Waring, Katie Brock, and Courtney Spilker). The team also received three high point rider awards (Katrina Quick and Kallie Kayton) and two reserve high point rider awards (Morgan Murdock and Katrina Quick). Spring Semester 2013 is looking bright for both teams!

UNL Equestrian Team participants can be found on page 4.
• Amelia Becher, Freshmen, Platte Center, NE - Western Team
• Heidi Black, Freshmen, Elkhorn, NE - Hunt Team
• Linsey Bode, Senior, Elgin, NE - Western Team
• Melissa Braun, Freshmen, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Kathryn Brock, Freshmen, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Jenna Brown, Freshmen, Staten, NE - Western Team
• Ethan Callahan, Sophomore, Brady, NE - Western Team
• Kelsey Cartagena, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Hunt Team
• Meghan Clemens, Junior, Scottsbluff, NE - Western Team
• Beth Cosentino, Freshmen, Omaha, NE - Western Team
• Nicole D’Angelo, Senior, Auburn, CA - Hunt Team
• Lindsey Driggs, Junior, North Platte, NE - Western Team
• Molly Gruener, Freshmen, Phillips, NE - Western Team
• Katie Halva, Junior, Amherst, NE - Hunt Team
• Katie Higgins, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Western Team
• Emma Huber, Freshmen, Troy, MI - Hunt Team
• Katie Husman, Freshmen, Chapman, NE - Western Team
• Kallie Kayton, Sophomore, Albino, NE - Western Team
• Cheri Klabenes, Senior, Lincoln, NE - Western Team
• Katherine Kurth, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Hunt Team
• Emma Link, Sophomore, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Maria Luedtke, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Hunt Team
• Morgan Mardock, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Western Team
• Melissa Matulka, Senior, Thedford, NE - Western Team
• Valerie Matulka, Sophomore, Thedford, NE - Western Team
• Nikki Novak, Sophomore, Unadilla, NE - Hunt Team
• Leighlynn Obermiller, Sophomore, Grand Island, NE - Hunt Team
• Jordan Perez, Sophomore, Gretna, NE - Hunt Team
• Cara Peters, Senior, Firth, NE - Hunt/Western Team
• Blake Preston, Sophomore, Firth, NE - Western Team
• Brooke Preston, Senior, Firth, NE - Western Team
• Katrina Quick, Junior, Hordville, NE - Western Team
• Carolyn Reiland - Smith, Sophomore, Sioux Falls, SD - Hunt Team
• Dustin Renken, Junior, Bertrand, NE - Western Team
• Megan Rhoades, Sophomore, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Alex Rommelfanger, Sophomore, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Mackenzie Scheekloth, Sophomore, Schulyer, NE - Western Team
• Courtney Spilker, Junior, Beatrice, NE - Western Team
• Jordan Swan, Freshmen, York, NE - Western Team
• Emily Taylor, Senior, Battle Creek, NE - Hunt/Western Team
• Brittany Tisthammer, Sophomore, Omaha, NE - Hunt Team
• Shayanna Torres, Freshmen, Norco, CA - Hunt Team
• Emily Waring, Senior, Omaha, NE - Hunt/Western Team
• Sarah Warner, Junior, Lincoln, NE - Western Team
• Lauren Welch, Junior, Papillion, NE - Western Team
• Lauren Wondra, Senior, Bellevue, NE - Hunt Team
• Taylor Wynn, Junior, Papillion, NE - Hunt Team
Paws-On Dog Workshop

Saturday, March 9th 10:00am– 4:00pm
Greater Lincoln Obedience Club Building
5740 Johanna Road Lincoln, NE

Do you want to learn more about dogs and improve your training and showing skills?

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is once again holding a statewide 4-H Dog workshop that covers obedience, agility, showmanship, grooming, and many other skills that will enhance your dog training and care techniques.

For more information call:
Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal at (402) 472-6458 or email at lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or visit www.companionanimal.unl.edu for details.
Well behaved dogs may attend.

2013 NEBRASKA DISTRICT 4-H HORSE SHOWS
All entries due to county office May 10, 2013

Note: ALL Level testing required for participation in the 2013 District 4-H Horse Shows MUST be completed by May 10, 2013

2013 Districts Dates and Sites
June 11 – Chadron
June 12 – McCook
June 13 – Lexington
June 14 – Beatrice
June 18 – O’Neill
June 19 – West Point

Reminder: All Entries for the State Horse must be mailed by May 10, 2013. These include Showmanship, Halter, All Cattle Classes, Hunter Hack, Dressage, Advanced Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, Trail, 2 year old and 3 year old Western Pleasure and Working Ranch.

2013 Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Show July 15 – 18, 2013
UNL’s Equine Extension is a partner in Upcoming Equine Business Online Short Courses offered to Equine Professionals by Land Grant Universities.

Free online courses will focus on human resource, liability, and farm safety issues.

Equine business professionals are invited to participate in a dynamic, online short course series where they will be connected with land grant universities, equine business experts, networking opportunities, and other invaluable resources. There are over 1 million horses and 162,000 horse farms in the North Central Region of the United States. It is estimated that 4.6 million Americans in the U.S. are involved in the horse industry as horseowners, service providers, employees and volunteers. The industry employs 701,946 people directly.

Five courses will be offered with a focus on contract/employee labor law, liability issues, working with youth and volunteers, immigration documentation, and farm safety practices. Each course will consist of a webinar, interactive quiz, a decision tool, and online resources.

Live webinars will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM EST, 6:30 PM Central time beginning on February 7, 2013 to coincide with the launch of each short course. All webinars will be recorded and available for viewing at anytime on the next day. Webcast speakers include experts from the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation at Iowa State University and an expert on worker safety from Michigan State University. Upon completion of each course participants will receive a certificate of completion. These courses are offered free of charge.

Equine industry professionals are also encouraged to...
join the Equine Business Network (EBN) community through Facebook and Twitter. Through partnerships with eXtension/horses and My Horse University, EBN offers an array of free online resources and networking opportunities for equine businesses.

Advance online registration is required however, the courses are offered free of charge. For registration information visit: http://myhorseuniversity.com/ebn.

Funded in part by a grant from the North Central Risk Management Education Center, the Equine Business short course series is a collaborative effort between My Horse University, eXtension/horses, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, and the University of Nebraska.
Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, assistant professor in Companion Animal Science. Lisa received a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from Illinois State University and then received her master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in Companion Animal Nutrition. Her research has focused on nutrition of dogs, cats, and other non-ruminant animals.

She advises undergraduate students and teaches courses, in Companion Animals. She also serves as the adviser to Students for Education of Companion and Exotic Animals. She oversees and develops youth extension and outreach programming related to companion animal care and management.

Dr. Lena Cottle, Equine Extension Specialist. Lena received her bachelor’s degree in Equine Business and Industry, a master’s degree in Animal Science and a doctorate degree in Systems Agriculture from West Texas A&M University.

She oversees and develops youth extension and outreach programming related to the horse. She is taking over the 4-H Horse Youth activities including but not limited to the Stampede, District and State 4-H Horse Shows, 4-H Horse Show Judges clinics, and other youth related activities.

Dr. Kathy Anderson, Extension Horse Specialist. Kathy received her bachelor’s degree in Animal Science/Agriculture Education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, a master’s degree in Physiology of Reproduction from Texas A&M University, and doctorate degree in Animal Science Kansas State University.

She advises undergraduate students and teaches courses, on Horses. She oversees and develops extension and outreach programming related to horse care and management; such as eXtension (Horse Quest) and Equine Science work group and producer education.

Kathy Potthoff, UNL 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator – has been with the UNL with experience working in the Southwest Four Extension Program Unit and the Nebraska State 4-H Office. Kathy is working with 4-H programming in animal science areas of horse and companion animals, youth development and volunteer training, and cultural competence.

She has presented 4-H educational programs on the national, regional, state, and local levels in Positive Youth Development, Volunteer Development, Cultural Education, Outdoors, Companion Animals, Horse, and other Animal Science areas.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.