Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

I love a good joke. I love jokes even when it has the 'moan' factor in it. I do not like mean jokes or derogatory jokes. I love puns. Our good friend, Randy Schwartzhoff, is the pun master! The NHS Thrift Shop volunteers recently got together at our home for a summer picnic (yes, it was last Thursday night with severe weather warnings – but we are a hearty bunch).

In preparing for the gathering I looked up Thrift Shop Jokes and Dog and Cat jokes, puns and memes. I came across an article asking if dogs laugh. My immediate reaction was 'of course they do......well, I know they make us laugh. I came across an article put out by Pet Relief who is out of Minneapolis and makes organic CBC products for pets. (I would talk to your Vet about using CBC products for you pets.). In reading a few other articles on –line, the general consensus was 'yes' dogs can laugh. Dogs and cats know the differences between our emotional states and our emotional needs. I feel they like being part of happy humor and smiles.

Dogs and cats are undeniably funny creatures. From how they jump around to how they curl up in their beds and chase around any small object they set their sights on, there's something extraordinary about our furry pals that always puts a smile on our faces. With the amount our pets make us smile, it's no wonder that many pet owners want to be able to do the same for their furry friends.

But what about our pets and their sense of humor? Do dogs and cats process humor differently than humans, or at all? This question comes to mind for every pet parent at some point, especially given the immense joy and happiness pets bring to our lives.

Do dogs laugh? Dog owners can rejoice because the answer is <u>yes</u>! However, a dog laugh doesn't look the same as a human laugh, making it hard for some pet owners to determine when they tickle their dog's funny bone.

Dogs laugh through forceful panting, also known as a "play pant." The play pant isn't a vocal sound like human laughter, but rather a type of heavy breathing where a dog opens his mouth, revealing his tongue and making an expression that's almost like a smile. A dog's laugh is a way of inviting the owner to play or expressing an excitable mood.

Does my dog have a sense of humor? Dogs have a playfulness akin to a human's sense of humor. To get more in-depth, it's important to note that a dog's sense of humor, much like a human's, is personal, and not all dogs have the same sense of humor. For example, specific breeds typically have a more playful, juvenile humor than others, including the following ultra-playful breeds: Irish Setter, Standard Poodle, Miniature Poodle, Australian Shepherd, English Springer Spaniel, Shetland Sheepdog, Golden Retriever, Miniature Schnauzer, Cairn Terrier or Airedale Terrier.

Do cats laugh? Whether you want to share silly jokes about cats with your pet or understand your cat on a deeper level, it's natural to wonder: do cats laugh?

While cats aren't able to physically laugh, they express their happiness and silliness in other ways. Cats constantly make noises to show you how they feel, from happy purs to attention-grabbing chirps and outdrawn meows. Unfortunately, there's no scientific way to know precisely what these noises mean-but that doesn't mean you can't have fun imagining your pet laughing with you!

Along with these sweet noises, cats show their emotions through movements like slow blinks, a relaxed body, a moving tail, making "biscuits" on you or an object, or rubbing against your leg to show affection. And if your cat greets you at the door with a loud meow, you're in luck: she's excited to see you.

So now to end this article with a few smiles and maybe some groans and a warm feeling about the joy our pets bring us:

What did the cat say after he ate the canary? Yuck! That's the last time I order the tweet and sour! What did the dog say when he saw a clay pot? Oh, look, a fancy terrier-acotta warrior! What do cats like to eat for Breakfast? Some delicious mic Krispies! What did the dog say when he sat down on sandpaper? Rough!

Dates to Save: August 7 - NHS Tag Day – Marketplace – 9 am to 5 pm August 26 – Been There Done That Band – Flat Creek Tavern – 7 p.m.