



DOG HANDLING TIPS FOR VOLUNTEERS

GENERAL RULES

1. Do not talk, touch or make eye contact when first meeting a dog. **Allow it to get to know you through smell first.** When they are calm and submissive, you can acknowledge and give affection.
2. Have Patience! If the dog is not doing what you've asked, wait the dog out.
3. Consistency, please! All volunteers need to follow the same routine to maintain our standard of dog behavior.
4. A compatibility grid is posted and updated to keep volunteers informed of dog compatibility with one another and with new people. Please check the board before entering pens or socializing dogs.

DOG BEHAVIOR AND MANNERS

1. Do not allow the dogs to jump on you. Even if you like it, do not allow it. A well-mannered dog is more adoptable. Many prospective adopters have children or elderly parents or neighbors. Dogs that jump can cause injuries to others. Teach them to stay OFF! Bring your knee to block the jump and say "OFF" in a calm, firm tone.
2. Some of our volunteers have attended dog training workshops. Partner with one who has and observe what commands are being taught and the training methods used. Mirror those methods and commands to reinforce what the dog has been working on prior to your coming on board.

WALKS

1. Have the dog sit for you before collaring the dog. It may take the dog several minutes to calm down and sit. Please be patient.
2. Exit the gate in front of the dog. In the dog world, whoever is in front is in charge. Do not let your dog start the walk thinking it is walking you!
3. Walk with the dog beside you. Do not let the dog get in front and pull you to and fro. Keep walks brisk. If needed, shorten the leash to keep the dog beside you. You may have to stop or give corrections on the leash to remind the dog to stay beside you and walk at the pace you set.
4. Ideally walks should be 20 – 30 minutes each at a brisk pace.
5. Whenever possible, walk with other volunteers who are also walking dogs. Keep at a safe distance. When dogs walk together, they get to know each other in a non-threatening way.

PLAY

1. Several play pens are located on the shelter property. Toys are available for your use in one-on-one play time.
2. Ask an experienced volunteer for guidance if you are interested in supervising play time between CCA dogs.
3. Please pick up after the dogs inside the pens. Poop bags are available near the dumpster.

Concerned Citizens for Animals

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