

## DOG WALKING PROCEDURES

### Safety First, but Have Fun!

Ideally, we need for dog-walkers to sign-up for a two-hour shift each week. We'll be counting on you, and so will the dogs. If you can't make it or need to change your shift, please inform the Volunteer Coordinator. If you want to come in additional times, feel free! We just need that one shift to be scheduled.

Please follow all the rules, and let us know of any questions or ways you think we can improve.

- 1) When you arrive at the SPCA find a staff member or Volunteer Coordinator to introduce yourself and let them know you are there to walk dogs, please also sign in on the volunteer sign in/out sheet.
- 2) Next go into the middle building and go into the second room on the left that is where the leashes and collars are. Pick one of each and then go back through the door you came in and take a left.
- 3) Head to the end of the hallway and enter the door at the end. Go through and make sure to shut the door behind you. Walk by all the cages to look for the dogs you would like to walk. Look for ones that you feel are at your level of control. If there is a dog that is new to you, read the pet portfolio and walk sheet notes. Plan in 2 hours to walk 8 different dogs.
- 4) Once you have one picked, walk up to the cage and say hello so the dog gets to know you. Once comfortable open the gate into the cage and slide in so the dog is not able to sneak by. Once in pet and get to know the dog while you fit the collar around its neck. Make sure that it is not too tight (you should be able to get two fingers in between it their neck) and make sure it is not able to slide off over their head.
- 5) Once the collar is on and checked attach the leash and go back out the way you came in making sure to shut the gates behind you. Head outside and then around back where there is an open area to walk them in, and a trail that they love to go on.
- 6) Only walk one dog at a time.**
- 7) Keep a short, tight leash until you exit the kennels. Then you can relax the leash and let the dog enjoy the walk.**
- 8) While walking, keep dogs away from all fences. Otherwise great dogs can fence fight and re-direct on you or another dog passing by if the barking or cage aggression is too frustrating for them. The best way to stop a dog fight is to prevent one from happening.**
- 9) Approaching other dogs or people while walking: This is tricky and requires some judgment. You need to balance the need to keep your dog safe and out of trouble with the need to help it become socialized and have fun. It is best to always keep dogs a part, especially the bully breeds and two males. When you approach another dog, you can let**

**them meet if the other dog walker is willing and if neither dog shows signs of aggression. Do not let the leashes cross, that way you can pull your dog away if there is any trouble. Do not let children approach your dog without parental supervision. Some dogs are nervous around young children, and some children don't know how to behave with dogs. Use your judgment but make sure to keep the dog out of trouble and the child safe.**

**10) If your dog gets loose, let someone know asap, and we'll help you capture him. It's happened before, and it will happen again! Mistakes happen to all of us.**

11) When you are done walking take the dog back the way you came out and be sure to shut the cage and put the collar and leash back where you got them.

12) If you noticed anything wrong with the dog in the process please let a staff member know.

**IF YOU'RE EVER IN DOUBT, ASK! WE'RE ALL HERE TO HELP THE ANIMALS.**