



## Safety Rules

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These guidelines are designed to ensure a safe environment for our visitors and volunteers as well as our animals. We ask that you review them thoroughly and abide by them at all times while volunteering at CompAnimals Pet Rescue.

- Please let us know if you have any health or physical issues.
- For the safety of both people and animals, children five years and younger are not able to volunteer. Children between the ages of six and 17 may volunteer if the child/children is/are accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
- Please be aware that your behavior will have an effect on the animals. Calm and gentle behavior has a soothing effect. Loud noises, exaggerated gestures, running and horseplay tend to disturb the animals.
- When you arrive at an animal area at the beginning of your shift, please check in with the shelter manager (usually Leslie on weekends or Leanne on weekdays). At the current facility, we text and/or make in-person contact in the parking lot to coordinate getting dogs out and returning them.
- Don't walk in the front door (could be a dog loose in the office).
- At the current facility, a few individuals handle getting dogs out of (and back into) building. Do not go get a dog yourself. If there is ever a situation where you enter or leave an animal area, be sure to close and latch the door or gate behind you. If there is an airlock system, make sure one gate is latched before opening the other.
- Don't hang out by the back kennel (arouses dogs too much).
- Stay behind yellow rope fence by the back kennel. That was installed to create a comfortable distance for the dog(s) inside the kennel.
- Don't stick your hand in the fences.
- Good hygiene can prevent the spread of illness. To protect your health and the health of our animal friends, please sanitize your hands after working with the animals and before leaving the animal area.
- Any injury, however small, either to an animal or to yourself, should be reported immediately to the volunteer coordinator.
- It is important to wear clothing that is appropriate to the environment and the volunteering you are doing. Closed-toe shoes are a requirement for volunteering in any of the animal areas. For your own protection, long pants, a shirt that will protect you from scratches and sunburn, and a hat are recommended. (Please note that some animals are afraid of strangers with hats so they may have to be removed temporarily.)
- In the summer, drink plenty of fluids and tell the shelter manager if you would like to take a break during your volunteer session or need to cut your session short.



#### Dog handling:

- Safety first! When in doubt, take the conservative approach.
- Always remember these dogs don't know us very well. While some may enjoy petting, don't assume all dogs want to be touched. Touch respectfully (see "How Not To Greet A Dog" image).
- Don't let dog run away.
- No flexi-leashes. (Handlers need more control than a flexi-leash provides.)
- If using harness, it must be fitted and approved by shelter manager. (A dog can wiggle out of a loose harness.)
- Don't put dog in situations they aren't ready (or we're not sure they're ready) to deal with. Putting stress on them, and making them feel they have to protect themselves (offensively or defensively) could hurt their chances for adoption.
- Cold paws - may need break from snow/ice. Your hands can quickly provide body heat if dog shows signs of discomfort. You can give the dog a break from snow in the back of your vehicle.
- Hot paws - the hot pavement can burn dog pads in the hottest part of summer - don't hang around on the pavement during hot weather.

# HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!  
 I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



**DON'T**  
 Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



**DON'T**  
 Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



**DON'T**  
 Grab or Hug him



**DON'T**  
 Stare him in the eye  
 (This is an adversarial gesture)



**DON'T**  
 Squeal or shout in his face



**DON'T**  
 Grab his head and kiss it  
 (This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

## THE CORRECT WAY:



- \* No Eye contact
- \* Let the dog approach you in his own time
- \* Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- \* Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.