

Welcome to Shelter Dog Volunteer Training at the



FLORIDA KEYS SPCA

We're So Happy You're Here

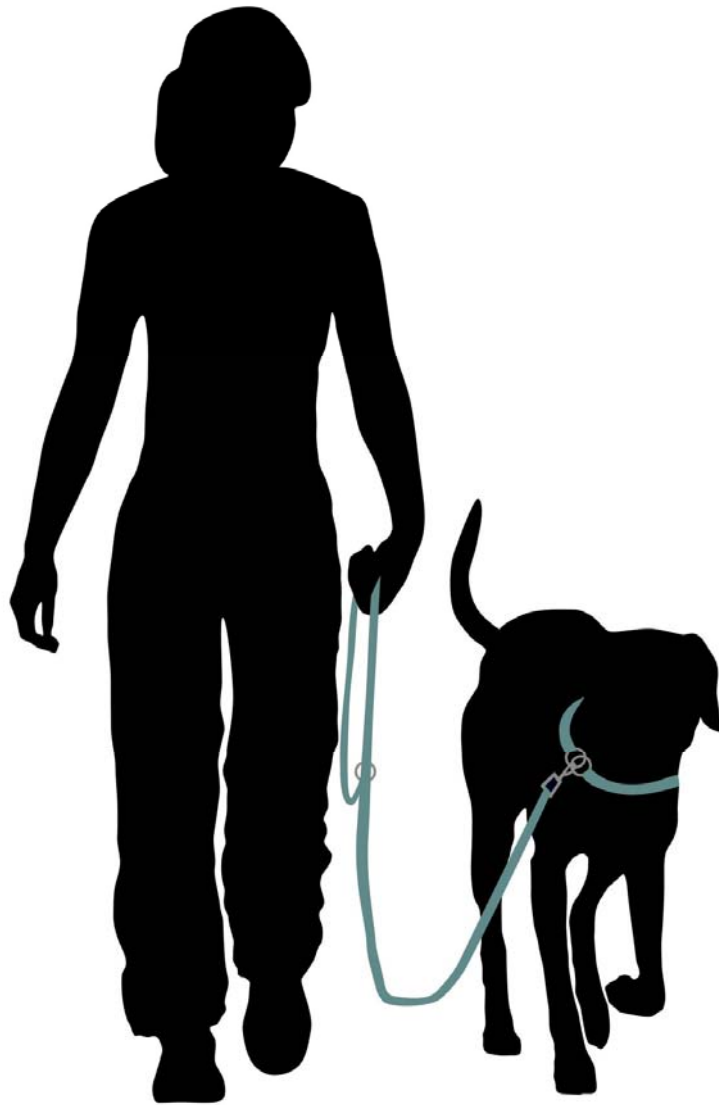


Our Topics for Today

- General Dog Volunteer information
- Safety in the shelter environment
- How to support our staff (ESH)
- Why shelter dogs are different
- Each dog is an individual (color codes)
- Body language/ours and theirs
- How dogs learn and how we train
- How you can help



This is an open discussion! Please ask questions at any point!



**My
Background**

Goals for Volunteers

- Maintain safety for people and dogs
- Develop understanding of behavior and training
- Improve the daily life of our dogs
- Support the kennel staff
- Enjoy a rewarding volunteer experience
- **Help dogs find their lifelong home!**



What We Need From Volunteers

- Commitment
- Willingness to follow instructions and ask questions
- Patience with animals AND people
- Compassion
- Openness to learning new ways of doing things
- Acceptance of challenge of shelter life
- Confidentiality



What You Can Expect

- Structured program
- Limited access at first
- Discovering your specialty as you progress
- Support from trainer and mentor volunteers
- Stressful chaotic environment at times
- New program is work in progress; please have patience with us!



General Information

- No matter what your end goal is (socializer, walker, trainer), all dog volunteers are required to have training on safety, behavior and temperament cues, basic training principles, and some handling. Socialization training will include enrichment and how to reinforce good manners. Dog walkers will be trained in advanced handling techniques, use of appropriate equipment, safety when off property, and how to reinforce good manners.
- Interactions with staff, public, and other volunteers
- Stray hold areas off limits

General Information Cont'd

- Interactions with staff, public, and other volunteers
 - Stray hold areas off limits
 - Grievances
 - Confidentiality
-
- THERE ARE NO DUMB QUESTIONS! Never assume and never be afraid to ask; it can make the difference between a safe interaction and a serious incident.



REMEMBER THE 3 P's

Protect your pets at home

Change of clothes and shoes

Vaccinate your pets

Prevent Cross Contamination

Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands!

Promote Safe Interactions

Alert staff immediately if a dog gets loose or a fight breaks out.
Do not attempt to control dogs when they are overly excited.

Reporting Bites and Other Injuries

All injuries must be reported to a supervisor or staff member immediately. These include bites or scratches that break the skin, any injuries or falls, etc. An incident report will be filed, and first aid offered.

You will not be in trouble!!

ESH= ESSENTIAL SHELTER HELP

Help the staff and dogs by keeping an eye out for these ESH needs as you work in the kennel while socializing etc.

- Spot cleaning
- Fixing bedding
- Refilling water buckets
- Starting a load of laundry or folding clean laundry
- Washing dishes



WHY SHELTER DOGS ARE DIFFERENT THAN YOUR DOG AT HOME

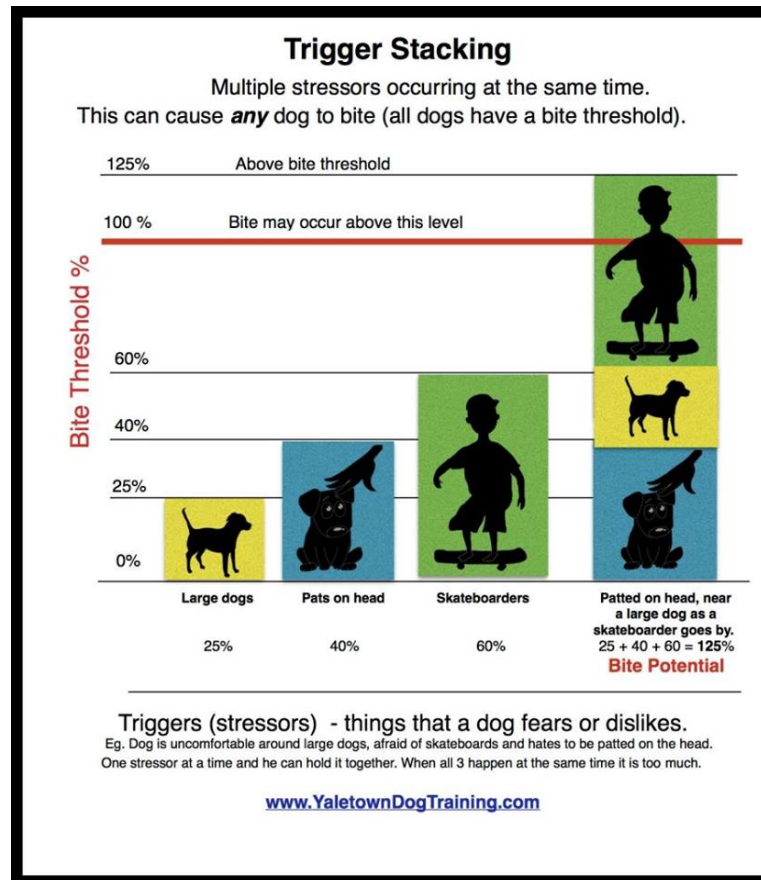
- **STRESS!!**
- Loss of everything familiar
- Unfamiliar sounds, smells, routines, diet changes, people
- Presence of other stressed animals
- Lack of uninterrupted sleep
- Inconsistent handling by different people
- Lack of choice in every aspect of their life

STRESS CHANGES BEHAVIOR !!!

- Stress makes behavior more unpredictable
- Threshold for aggression is reached more quickly when a dog is stressed or highly aroused
- Human behavior needs to be modified depending on the level of stress a dog is dealing with in order to maintain safe interactions.



What is trigger stacking?



BODY LANGUAGE / THEIRS AND OURS

- Dogs talk with their bodies and they are talking to us and to each other all the time!
- Canine body language and primate/human body language is often at odds, causing problems for both species.
- Learning to read their language is essential to staying safe and becoming a friend and advocate to dogs.

***WHAT* did you just say?**



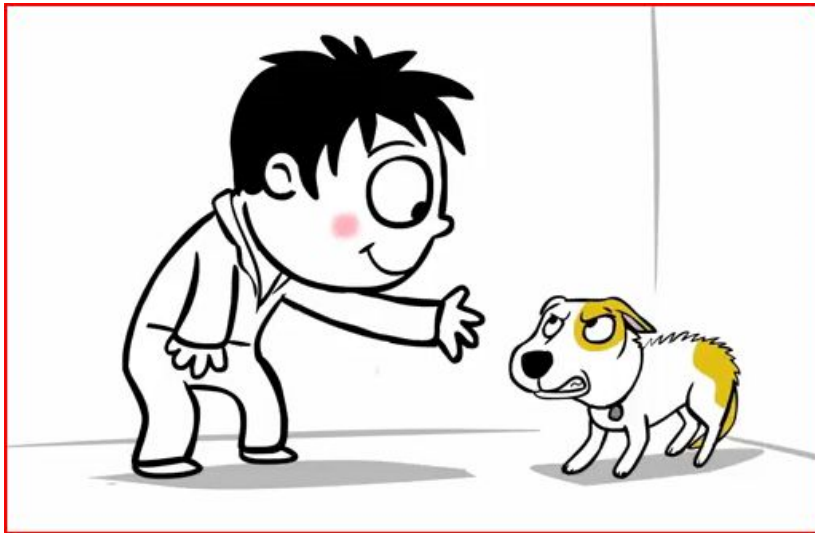
So let's test our knowledge!

- Does a yawn mean a dog is tired?
- What does a wagging tail mean?
- What's one of the most important body parts to watch when working with a dog?

DOGS WANT US TO KNOW WHAT THEY
ARE
FEELING

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bstv
G_SUzMo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bstvG_SUzMo)

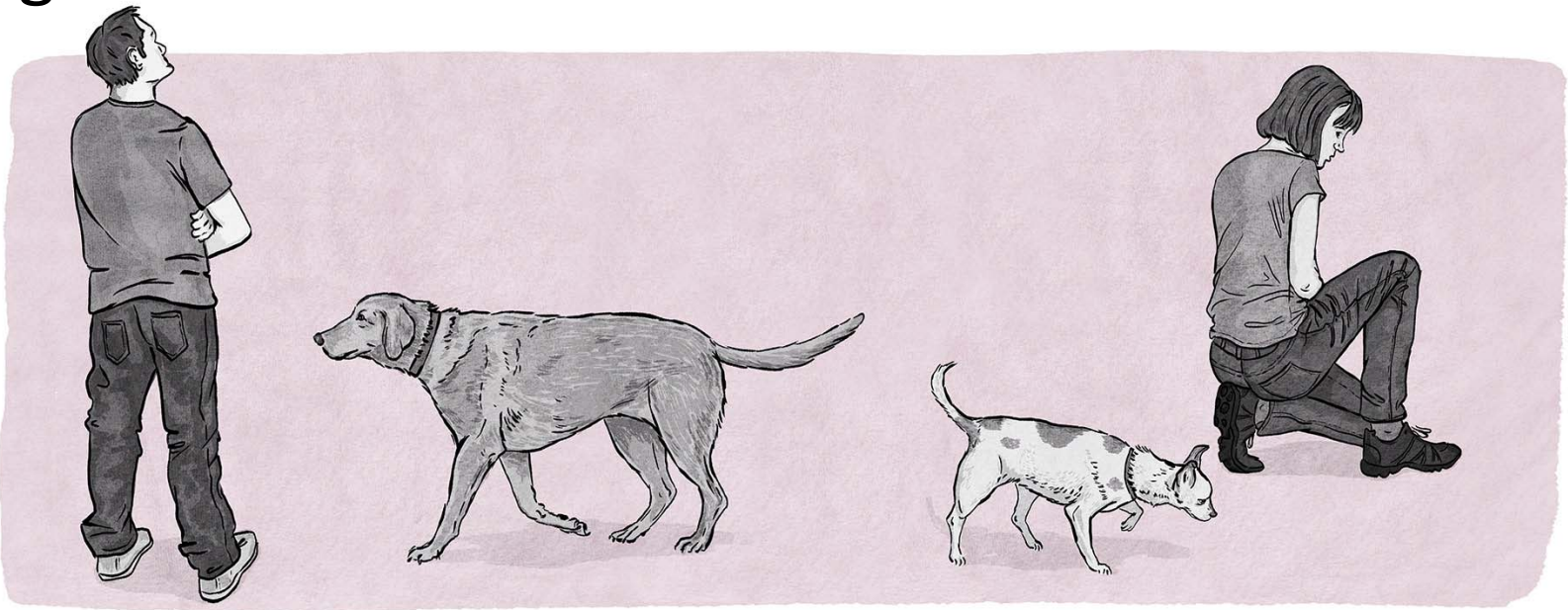
Our body posture, our energy, and how we approach a dog will affect behavior.



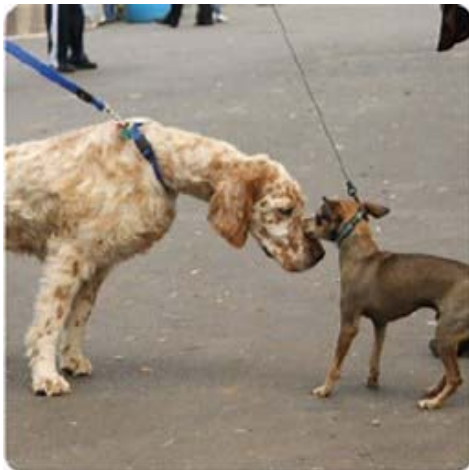
How to Greet

- Allow a dog to decide if he/she wants to come closer to greet you; (dog closes the distance)
- Approach from the side instead of frontally
- Avoid leaning forward, reaching out or petting the top of the head, pet on the chest or side
- Avoid leaning over dog or putting you face close to theirs.
- Choose slower calmer movements.

Sometimes what can appear unfriendly to a human bystander is the most respectful to a dog!



Dogs can be inappropriate/impolite with each other



It's all about respect. No one likes space invaders, and this applies to animals too!

Consent testing

Let's ask the dog if he wants to be petted!

[://www.facebook.com/Dogkindtraining/videos/1925372737553563/](https://www.facebook.com/Dogkindtraining/videos/1925372737553563/)

What happens when we don't ask
and don't pay attention.
(Remember trigger stacking?)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v

Common Behaviors that can get us in trouble

The Tap Out



Freeze/ Resource Guarding

“The threat of stillness”

[://youtu.be/TWvIRS2UlsU](https://youtu.be/TWvIRS2UlsU)



Our final topic for today is
How Dogs Learn

What do the color squares mean?

Behaviors you may see from each color label

Removing from kennel	Easy to leash	Challenging to leash	Challenging to leash
Leash Walking	Manageable on leash walk	Challenging to walk on leash	Severe leash pulling
Reactivity	Not kennel reactive	Displays mild-moderate kennel reactivity	Severe kennel reactivity
Behavior Traits	Attentive	Rough	Easily overly aroused
	Low to moderate arousal	Sensitive	Severe Fearfulness
	Gentle	Fearful/Timid	Face Jumping
	Resilient	Fractious	Overly Mouthy
Who Can Walk?	Great for all Volunteers	Great for more experienced Volunteers	Volunteers must be approved by Staff

If a dog does not have a color, please alert a staff member.