



DOG SOCIALIZATION

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Why We Need Dog Volunteers



Exercise

Play or exercise reduces the dogs stress and energy levels. Dogs need daily play/ exercise...3x's a day. Exercise can include a walk/run or playing in the yard or education room.



Quiet Time

Quiet time for a shelter dog is one of the most critical things they need daily. Quiet time reduces their stress and gives them a chance to relax and be loved and petted.



Training

Training helps increase the adoptability of a shelter dog. Training helps motivate dogs to learn and provide them with mental stimulation and confidence.

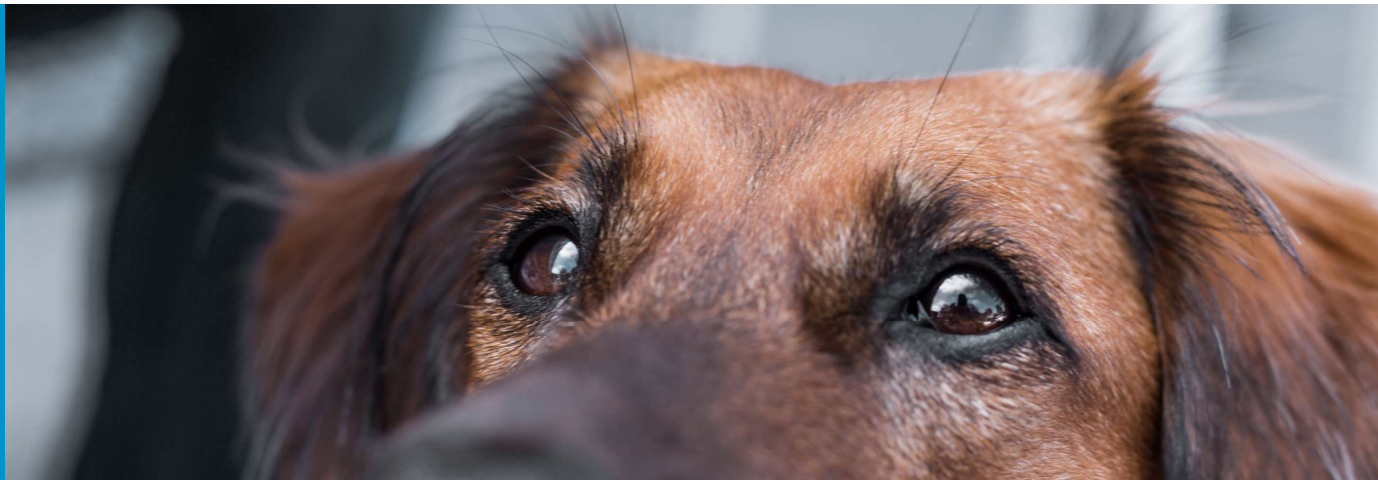
UNDERSTANDING DOGS

Decoding dog body language, both verbally and nonverbally, is an important part of communicating with canines. Dogs use posture, facial expressions, and other body language to communicate with us and other animals. Dogs are “talking” to us all the time. It’s important that we learn what they are saying, to develop a deeper bond of trust and respect. Understanding a dog’s emotional state will help you predict their behavior; help keep you safe and prevent problems before they occur.

Please keep in mind that a kennel environment can be stressful for dogs, and they may act or behave differently in a shelter.

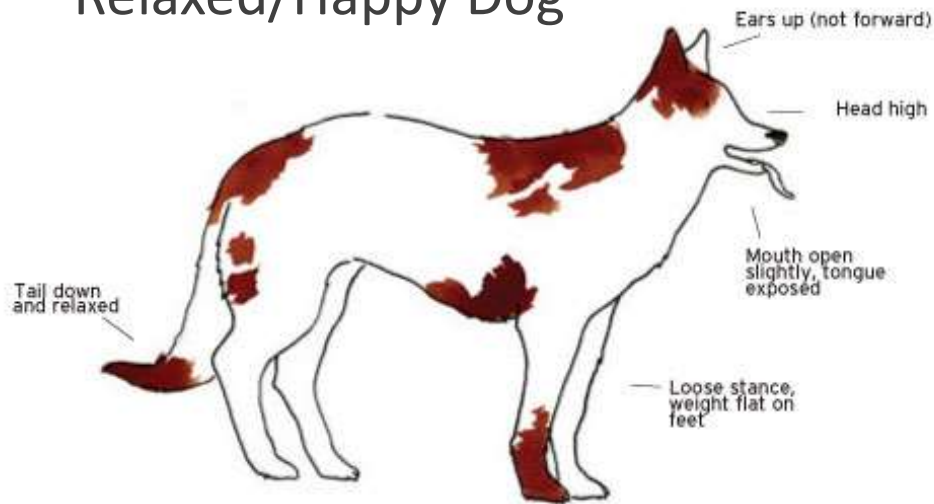
[Dog Body Language](#)

[Jumpy and Excited Dogs](#)

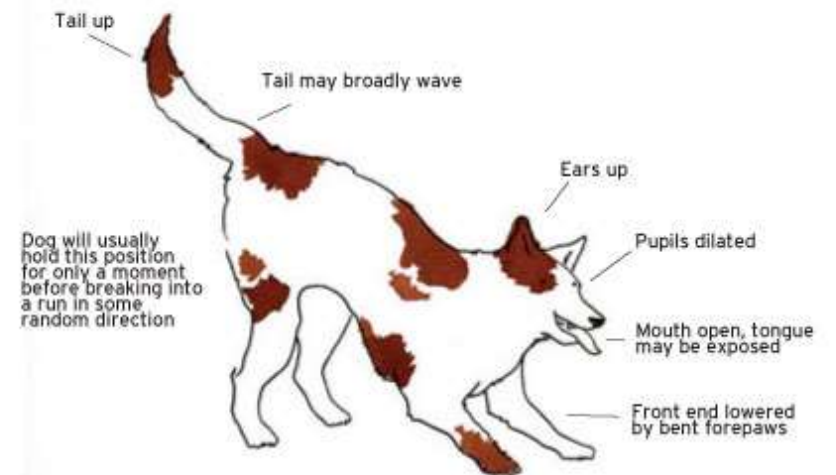


Dog Body Language

Relaxed/Happy Dog

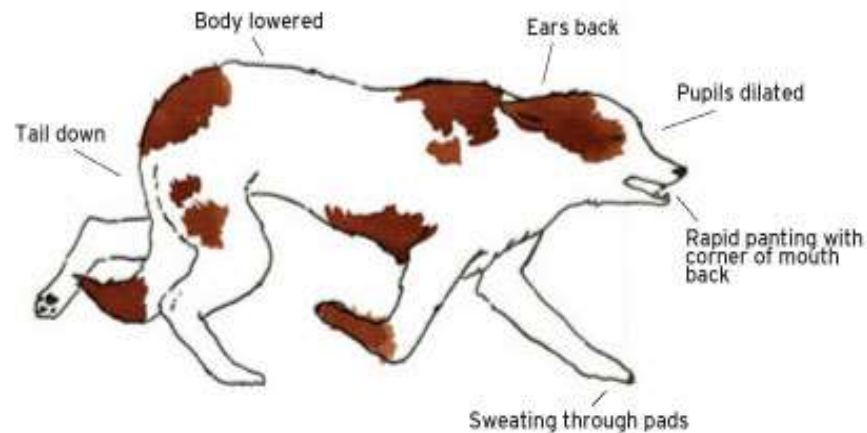


Playful Dog

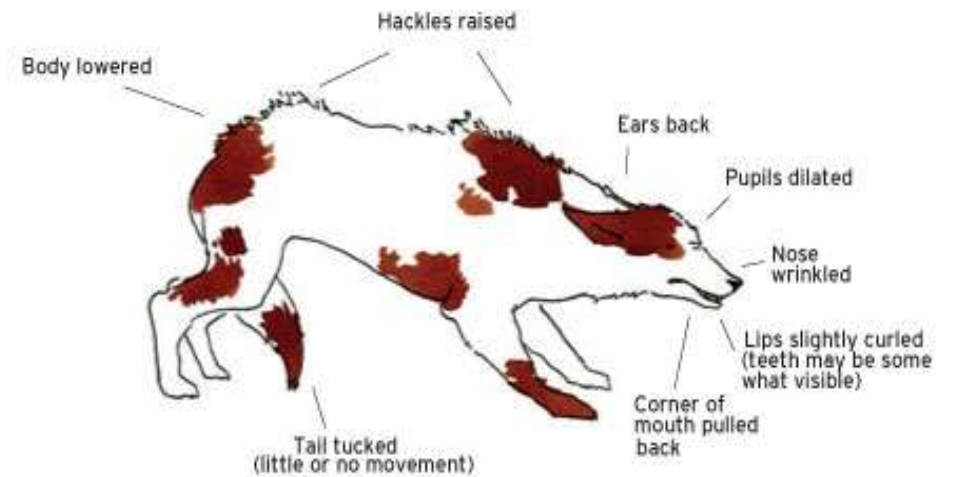


Dog Body Language

Shy/Scared Dog



Defensive



Dog Tail Wags

INTERPRET DOG TAIL WAGS



Happy or Excited

Extensive tail movements, accompanied by hip movements: generally these type of movements are accompanied by signs of play or positive behaviors. They mean that the dog is happy and having fun.



Relaxed

When you notice that your dog does not wag their tail in any particular way, but is in a relaxed position, it means they are calm.



Scared or Nervous

This posture will always be accompanied by other postures related to fear, like ears back, legs back, body hunched...the dog is very afraid.



Alert, Self-Confident or Aroused

The slow deliberate wag with tail held high or level with the back. This means the dog is on the lookout for what may happen and may react unexpectedly.

DOG TRAINING

Train to Adopt

SIT

Lure a sit/reward/repeat – do this over and over and over again until the dog auto sits for you.

TAKING TREATS

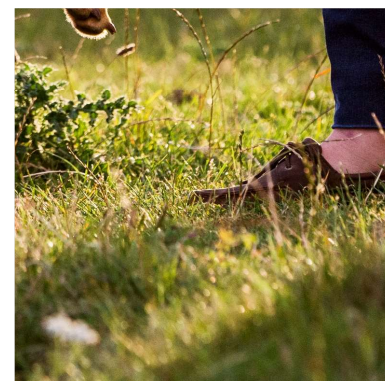
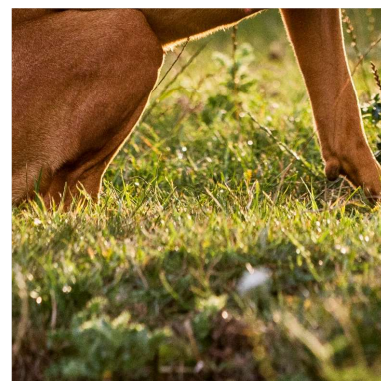
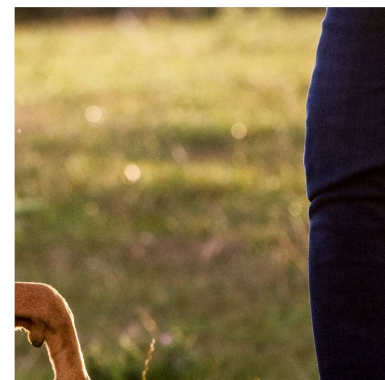
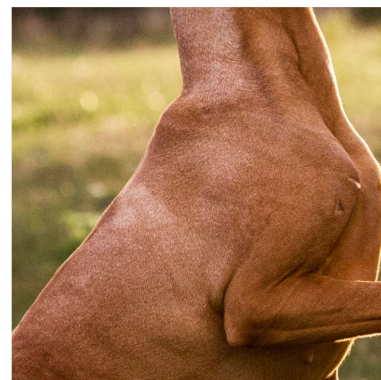
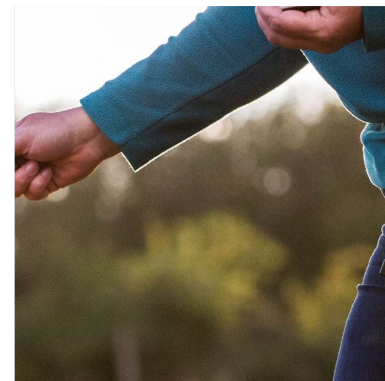
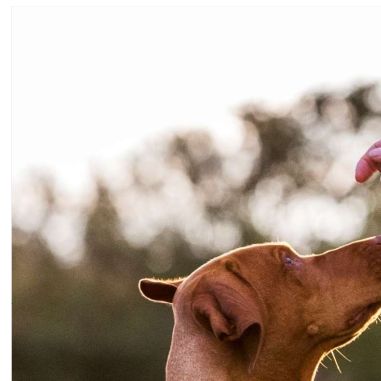
Pull treat back and re-offer until dog takes it gently.
You can add the cue “easy” once the dog is consistently taking the treat in a polite way.

LAY DOWN

Lure the down/reward/repeat.
Once the dog is going down easily, add a hand signal.

QUIET TIME

[Quiet Time Exercise Video](#)



Dog Bites



It is the law to report a bite where the skin has been broken regardless of animal age or situation. Not reporting a bite can be grounds for dismissal. Modifications may need to take place if you have two or more bites on record.



Make sure to clean scratches or bites. Thoroughly wash them with soap and water and watch for possible infection.



HSTT carries insurance for volunteers that may cover your out of pocket expenses after utilizing your own insurance. Injuries must be reported immediately.

Please use caution
when working with
HSTT dogs.



A photograph of two dogs in a tense interaction. On the left, a brown dog with a thick coat is shown in profile, its mouth wide open in a growl or bark, revealing its teeth and tongue. On the right, a white dog with grey patches is also in profile, looking towards the brown dog. The background is a blurred field of dry, yellow autumn leaves. The overall scene suggests a potential dog fight or a highly aggressive encounter.

Dog Fights and Safety

Only handle dogs that you feel 100% comfortable handling.

Avoid other dogs at all times.

Inside the shelter, keep dogs on a very short leash.

There is a yield and right of way when entering and exiting the back door.

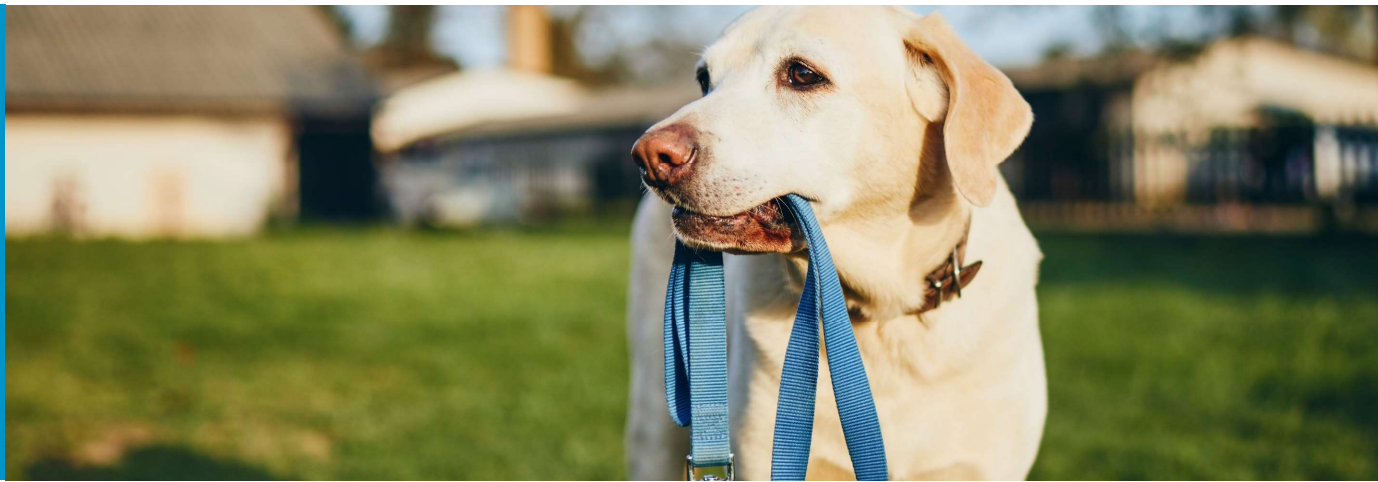
NEVER ever break up a dog fight. Call HSTT immediately.

SHELTER DOG PROTOCOL

Always exercise caution when working with dogs you don't know. Pay close attention to the dog's body language and report any unusual or concerning behavior or health issues.

All dogs must be walked on a harness and stay on the trails. All kennel dogs must be on a leash unless contained in fenced area or inside a room. Never let them off leash. Please have the HSTT phone numbers on you and stored in your cell phone in case you have any issues while out walking a dog (i.e. dog chews through leash and runs off).

If you feel uncomfortable navigating the shelter when you start volunteering, or at any point thereafter, please arrange to have the volunteer programs manager accompany you on subsequent visits.



Safety and Sanitation



Caution

Use caution and common sense in all your dog interactions. Do not grab the dog by the collar or take things from their mouth.



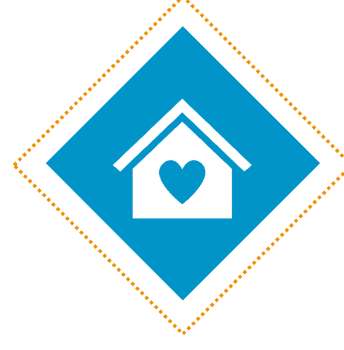
Calm is Key

The calmer you stay, the calmer the dog will stay. Do not let the dog jump up on you.



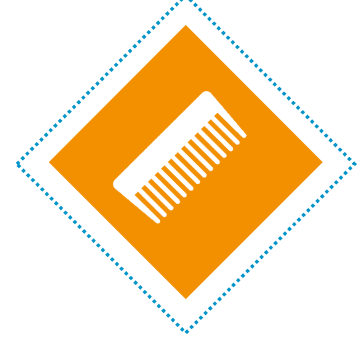
Hand Washing

Always use hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands when going between dog rooms.



Leash/Harness

All dogs must be fully leashed and harnessed to go for walks. Dogs are to never be off leash when out on a walk. Stay on the trails.



Toys and Brushes

To prevent the spread of illness, do not share toys or brushes with dogs in other rooms. Dirty items are to be placed in the “dirty toys/brushes” laundry bin.

SELECTING DOGS TO WORK WITH

Color Dot System



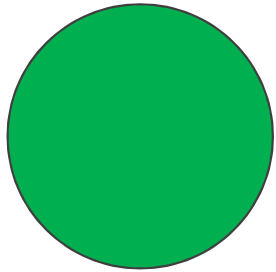
Gold Star

- Volunteer 8yrs and older can walk and handle these dogs
- This is the only color that a child 8-15yrs can walk (meaning hold the leash)
- A parent/guardian still needs to be with any child under the age of 16yrs at all times
- These are very easy dogs to handle



SELECTING DOGS TO WORK WITH

Color Dot System



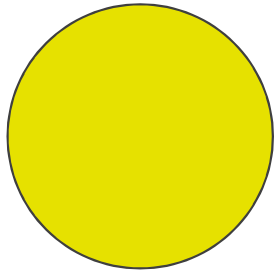
Green Dot

- Volunteer 8-15yrs old may play or sit with the dog or go on walks with their parent/guardian as long as they aren't holding the leash (or they are using two leashes)
- Volunteers 16yrs or older can walk these dogs without an adult
- Green means that the dog is a pretty easy dog for most volunteers to handle



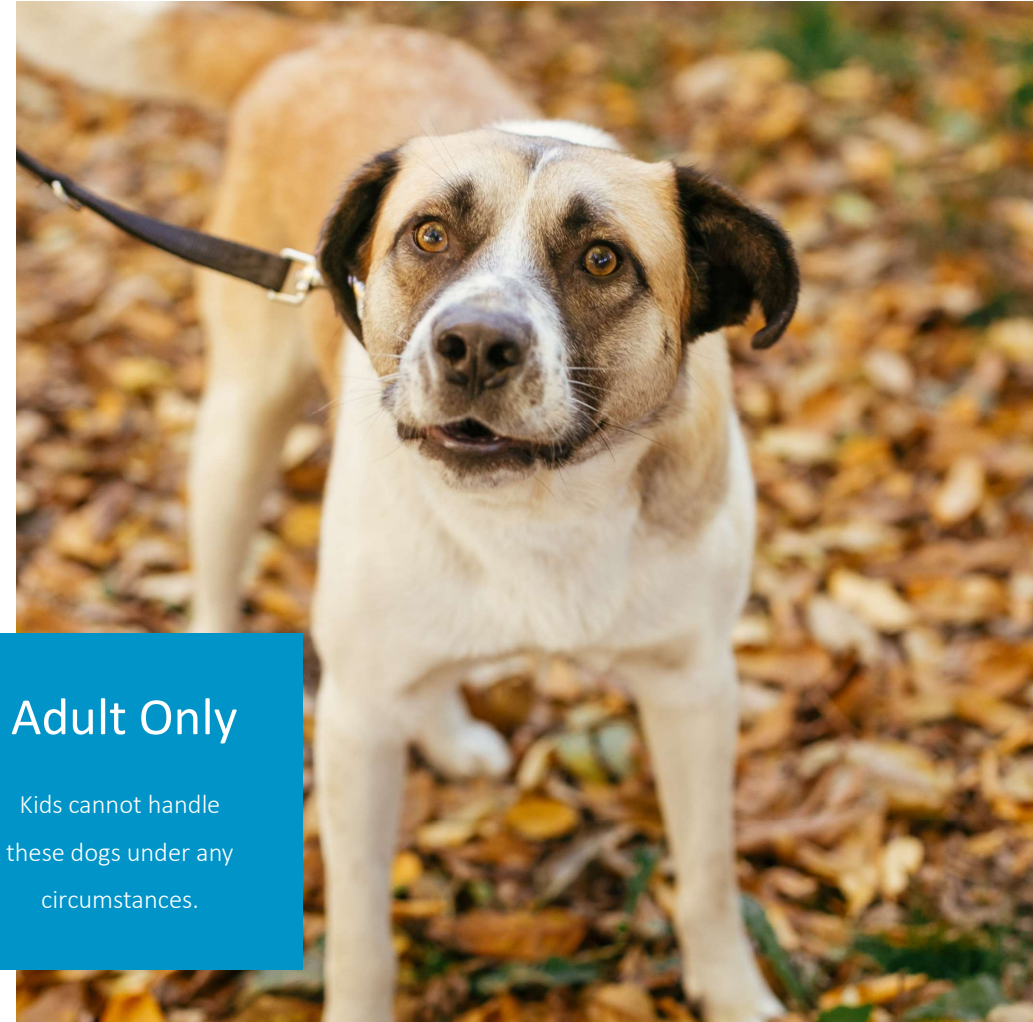
SELECTING DOGS TO WORK WITH

Color Dot System



Yellow Dot

- Volunteers 18yrs or older can handle and walk
- No one under 18yrs of age can handle these dogs, no exceptions (even if a parent/guardian is with them)
- Long sleeves are mandatory to work with yellow dot dogs
- Yellow means that they are more challenging to handle
- Do not attempt to work with these dogs without first reading their board

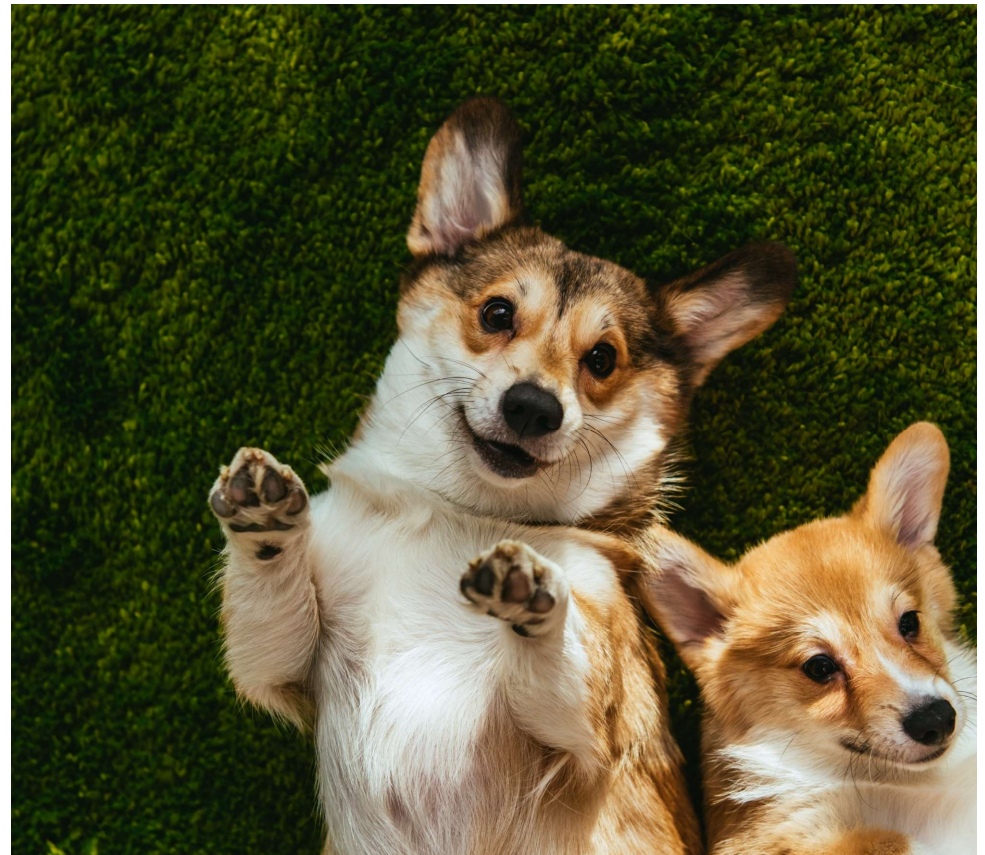


Adult Only

Kids cannot handle
these dogs under any
circumstances.

Outside Dog Yards

- No puppies (they are too young)
- If the dog goes to the bathroom, please pick it up.
- Check for other dogs before bringing a dog out into the yard.
- Avoid fence fighting – if it occurs leave the yard and get a staff member.



Required Attire for Volunteering

Closed-toed, closed heel shoes must be worn at all times.



Nametag – this will be given out after your first walk and needs to be brought in with you each time you come to volunteer.



HSTT Volunteer Aprons – These stay at the shelter and are washed and disinfected after they are worn.



SAFETY: Long sleeves must be worn when working with Yellow dot dogs.

HSTT advises all volunteers to change out of their shelter clothing after leaving the shelter as a precautionary measure. There is inherent risk in working with shelter dogs and it is possible that dogs in the care of HSTT may be shedding a virus or illness unknown to us.

MORE GUIDELINES

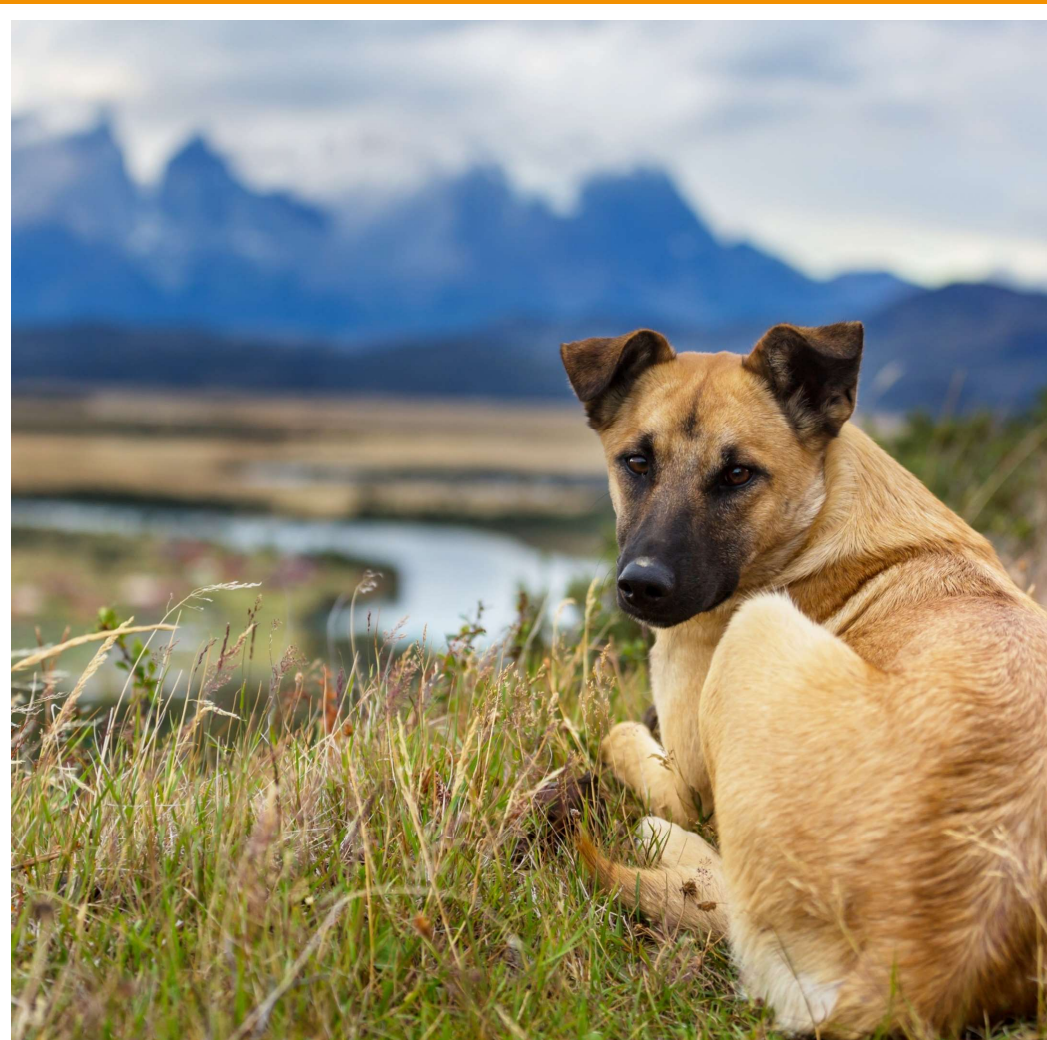
HSTT Dog Guidelines

Age Restrictions

- Volunteers must be at least 8yrs of age. Youth between the ages of 8 and 15 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times.
- Teens 16-17yrs of age may volunteer without a parent but can only handle gold star and green dot dogs.
- Yellow dot dogs can only be handled and walked by volunteers who are 18yrs and older (with no children present).

Bringing Your Own Dogs

- Town of Truckee - Animal Services does not allow non-shelter animals on the premises.
- If you are looking to adopt a dog and have a dog of your own that you would like the potential dog to meet, please make arrangements with an Adoption staff member.



COVID Protocols

Masks

Masks are optional indoors for those that are fully vaccinated. If you are not fully vaccinated volunteers must wear a mask properly at all times indoors.

Schedule

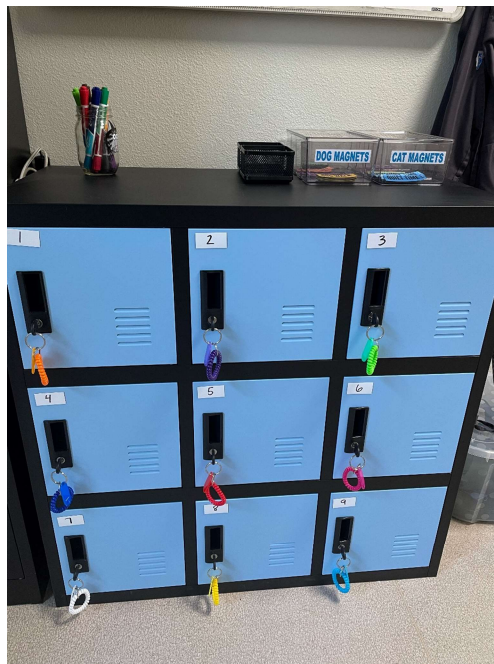
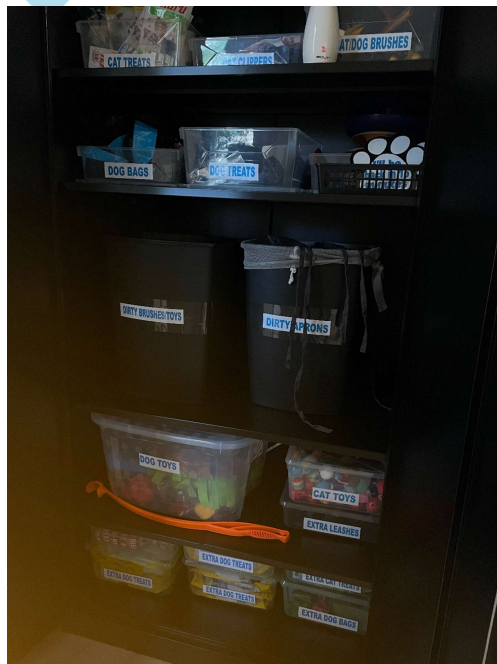
We have a flex schedule for volunteers and ask for a minimum of 2hrs a month. Make sure to sign out on the computer so we can keep track of hours.

Handwashing

You must wash hands or use sanitizer before volunteering, in-between all animal interactions.



Volunteer Room



THANK YOU!



HUMANE SOCIETY
OF TRUCKEE-TAHOE

