

## Dog Walking Policies

These are the dog walking policies for approved dog walkers:

- Volunteers may only walk dogs on Rows A-C in the kennel area. Animals in Row D and F are typically off-limits for volunteers, unless they have “Avail” for Available next to their name. Any that have SH or Eval next to their names are off limits as these are new arrivals who are still on their stray hold.
- Only give short walks to dogs that have “Cage Rest” written on their slot of the kennel board. These dogs cannot be active due to medical reasons. For those on cage rest due to heartworm treatment, being active can cause a deadly embolism due to pieces of dying heartworms breaking off in the bloodstream.
- Dog walkers are not allowed to introduce the dog you are walking to any other dogs, cats, or other animals. The leash dynamic adds a lot of tension to introductions. Many dogs become nervous or afraid during introductions, which activates the fight or flight response. When off-leash, the nervous dog would simply walk away from the interaction. When on-leash, the dog may feel trapped and as though they need to defend themselves, leading to a fight.
- Do not walk dogs through the front area where the cats are located.
- Only walk dogs that are within your comfort zone. If you're not sure, try to select a dog that is smaller and calm in the kennel, or check with staff.
- Dog walkers MUST check the kennel board before walking any dogs. The board includes information that is crucial to ensuring your safety and the safety of our animals.
  - a. Staff Only or Manager Only- You may not walk any dogs with that designation as a volunteer dog walker.
  - b. Cage Rest- You may not walk or play with dogs who have this designation due to a health issue. If you're assisting with afternoon dog walking and staff instruct you to do so, you may walk them outside just to use the restroom. If you would like to take one of these dogs out just to pet and cuddle with them, check with staff first. Our staff will evaluate your request based on that dog's situation.
  - c. HWTX- Cage Rest- These dogs have very recently been treated for heartworms. It is VERY dangerous for these dogs to play or be active. If they become too excited, a piece of the dying heartworms in their system could break off and cause a potentially deadly embolism.
  - d. WC (Watch with cats)- Be especially careful with these dogs when you take them outside, past the carport, and by the area with the kudzu across from the back door, which are areas where our community cats hang out. The dog may pull especially hard in these areas. Keep them on a very short leash with as much distance between the dog and any cats as possible.
  - e. WD (Watch with dogs)- On-leash introductions aren't allowed between any dogs, but with dogs labeled with WD, be especially careful. Keep them on a short leash with plenty of distance between the dog and any other dog being walked.

- f. WF (Watch with food)- Dogs labeled with WF have a history of resource guarding with food. Do not bring any treats or food items with you when walking these dogs.
  - g. In Heat- Female dogs who are in heat shouldn't be allowed near our male dogs.
  - h. JF or FR- Jumps Fence or Flight Risk- These dogs may not be allowed off-leash in our play yards because they are likely to escape, where they could run in the road or encounter other dangerous situations.
- Always work with the dogs you are walking using the loose leash walking method.
  - Always utilize our kennel routines with dogs that you walk (tossing a treat into the kennel before opening the door, entering the kennel with the dog, waiting until they sit or calm down and make eye contact before opening the door.
  - Try to work with dogs that you walk on basic commands, such as Sit and Down, that may promote adoptability.