

Advance Training for Dog Walkers and Enrichment Volunteers

Dog walkers/Enrichment volunteers must schedule a time that works the best for them and the ADSO to have one-on-one training to gain more knowledge/experience with interacting with Yellow and Orange level dogs.

The number of training sessions that a volunteer has had with the ADSO will be tracked in the Dog Walker and Enrichment Volunteer Training Tracking Sheet. Completing the necessary number of sessions will not automatically approve you to interact with that level dog. The volunteer **MUST** also be approved by the ADSO so they know that you are able to be alone with the dogs so volunteers will take longer before the ADSO feels comfortable and confident with them.

Rules:

All rules for Dog Walkers and Enrichment volunteers still apply for volunteers that seek more training.

- Gaining more experience does not put them better than DW/EVs that have not sought extra training.
- If anything, they are to be held more accountable to the rules set in place
- If rules are broken their privileges may and will be revoked if necessary

Dog Walkers vs Enrichment Volunteers

Same information applies from initial orientation

Likes/Restrictions Board

Same information applies from initial orientation

Dog Board

- Color System:
 - Green & Blue: Approved to interact with
 - Yellow: Not too hot, not too cold.
 - Dogs that need more attention to manners and basic commands.
 - Dogs that are yellow need some extra time in the area of training, whether it is with basic commands or higher level ones like roll over or heel.
 - These dogs may also be more testy to your interactions with them and require diligence and consistency when training or interacting and may try to be the one in charge instead of you.
 - Provide examples as to why a dog on the Dog Board is that color, help them understand the thought process
 - Orange: Testy and in need of training and manners and may have behavioral issues.
 - Dogs that need more attention to manners and basic commands.
 - These dogs are in need of consistency in their training.
 - They may or may not know basic commands. If they do know basic commands they have a behavioral issue that requires the orange leveling ie extreme mouthiness or leash reactivity.
 - Very nervous with exams and being in new environments or around new people.
 - Dogs may also be coded as Orange if they are not vaccinated and/or spayed/neutered.

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- They can only go to the play yard (no offsite enrichment). Once they are altered and vaccinated their color level may be changed to fit their level outside of their health status.
- Red: Staff only. NO EXCEPTIONS!
 - These dogs are off limits to any and all volunteers. They are usually stray, quarantine, have aggression towards people, sick, pregnant/nursing, not vaccinated, and/or not spay/neutered.

Training

- Positive Reinforcement: Positive behaviors are rewarded with a positive experience.
 - Ex: Giving a treat to a dog that executed your command
 - This mode of training is very time consuming and takes a lot of effort to accomplish.
 - The benefits to the dogs far outweigh the time required
 - Works far better for a dog in a high-stress environment
 - Helps the dog to build trust with the person working with them and reduces stress
 - Use the things that are “high value” to the dogs as a reward
 - Tasty treats, favorite toys, affirmative voice
- Negative Punishment: Taking something away that is of value due to a negative behavior
 - Ex: When a dog jumps up on you turning your back on them or leaving their kennel.
 - Does not put the dog into any physical harm
 - Teaches them that they do not get what they want when they behave negatively
 - It is essential that you are consistent with negative punishments
 - If you let a dog get away with a negative behavior they will not learn to not do it.
 - Ex: If you let them jump up on you sometimes but do not other times, they will not know why you are getting upset with them. YOU are not communicating effectively to them about what YOU expect them to do
- Training Methods we NEVER use:
 - Negative Reinforcement: Attempting to encouraging a behavior you want by taking away something the dog does not like
 - Ex: Letting go of a dog’s mouth after holding it closed because they nipped or attempted to bite you.
 - This is not an effective way to train a dog that is in a high stress environment/
 - Promotes aggressive behaviors
 - Destroys any trust the dog may have had with you
 - Becomes more difficult to rehabilitate, if at all and if extreme leads to euthanasia
 - Positive Punishment: Negative behaviors are punished by adding an aversive.
 - Ex: Spraying a dog with a spray bottle, yelling at the dog, pinning a dog to the floor, choke collars.
 - Reasons for not using this method are the same for negative reinforcement
 - Exception to the rule:
 - If a dog slips out of its kennel and gets into a fight with another dog you can use a positive punishment like an air horn or spraying them with a hose to stop the fight as soon as possible.

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Behaviors/Body Language

It is essential that you pay attention to the behaviors and body language that the dog is communicating to you. You will be working with dogs that take more time to get used to new people and you **MUST** be aware of the potential dangers if you are not paying attention.

Take the time to introduce yourself to the dogs so they feel comfortable and can trust you. It may take an entire shift, if not more, before they let you take them on a walk or do an enrichment activity. You can never go too slow with getting a dog to know you.

- Fearful/Timid/Anxiety
 - Whale eyes, lip licking, leaning away, hiding, pacing
 - Do not force these dogs to interact with you
 - Get on their level by crouching down or sitting on the floor.
 - Go at the pace of the dog, do not make them do something they do not, it will only increase the behavior
 - Offer them treats by tossing them towards to dog
 - Slowly bring the treats closer and closer to you. If the dog doesn't take a treat throw it further away.
 - When the dog feels comfortable getting closer to you try offering treats right out of your hand
- Aggression
 - Stiff on approach, whale eyes, growling, haunches raised, snapping jaws
 - No volunteers will interact with a dog that has aggression towards people. They will ALWAYS be red.
 - Types of aggression
 - Resource guarding - protects items that are of value
 - Barrier aggression - lunge, snarl, bark, bite at a fence
 - Leash aggression - reacts negatively to other dogs when on walks
 - Fear aggression - reacts negatively when in uncertain/new situations
 - Food aggression - protects food, food bowls, long lasting chew treats
 - Explain how to interact with dogs that have these types of aggression(s) and why it is important
- Excitement - same from initial orientation]
- Just because a dog communicates one body language does not mean that they have that behavior. You must look at the ENTIRE body. ****Most people report that the dogs were wagging their tail before they got bit!****

Hands On

- The rest of the orientation should be going into dog kennels to help them gain experience working with dogs of the level they are on/working towards