

Dog Walking Information

509-332-3422

shelter@whitmanpets.org

Shifts

- Shifts are available first come, first serve basis, and only one name per open line.
- All dog walkers will need to first attend general volunteer orientation and complete at least one full general volunteer shift before attending dog walking orientation. Dog walking orientation is held every Sunday at 2:15.
- Dog walking shifts are held every day, from 8:30-11. On Thursdays and Sundays, shifts are available from 8:30-11, 1-3/3:30, and 3:30-5:30.
- If you cannot make a shift, call us in advance. If you miss two shifts without letting us know, we will ask you to reevaluate your schedule before signing up again-this may lead to you being asked to not come back.

Basics

- Please do not pass judgment on our dogs for their behaviors, for many we don't have history on. Don't assume the dog's history-staff would be more than happy to discuss what we know! Shelter dog behavior is also different than dog behavior at home. Please let staff know if any dog makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Staff will go into detail of proper interactions with dogs, but in general:
 - Wait for dogs to be quiet before interacting with them
 - Pay attention to dog body language and react accordingly
 - Use positive reinforcement when interacting with our dogs
 - Each dog is an individual and needs to be treated as such. All dogs have their unique background-staff would be more than happy to talk about their history if you'd like to know!

Levels

- We use a colored-level system for our dogs: Green, Blue, Orange, and Red. Please read the dog's kennel card and any notes before taking them out on a walk.

- Green: These dogs are ready for anyone to walk them! They're overall the calmer dogs that someone with not a lot of experience could interact with and walk.
- Blue: There can be a variety of reasons a dog could be leveled as Blue. Usually, they have more energy, will pull on the leash, or jump when excited. Staff will introduce you to them before taking them on a walk.
- Orange: These dogs are only for experienced dog walkers and must be pre-approved before walking them. Staff will introduce you to them and discuss their personality traits and how to handle them during walks.
- Red: These dogs are STAFF ONLY, they cannot be walked by volunteers. There can be a variety of reasons why they're staff only: unvaccinated, stray, bite quarantine.

Equipment

- We will always use a Gentle Leader, Easy Walk Harness, or a regular harness when walking our dogs. This is to help encourage positive leash etiquette.
- If no harness or Gentle Leader has been fitted to the dog and in their bucket, please ask a staff member for assistance.
- Leashes should be 4-6ft long, we do not use retractable leashes.

Miscellaneous

- Always wear appropriate clothing when walking dogs, you must wear closed-toe shoes. Please note: sun glasses, hats, and similar items can be scary to some dogs.
- During the summer, please monitor the temperature of the ground. If you can't hold your hand against it, it's too hot for our dogs!
- Make sure to take poop bags and clean up any messes the dog makes while out and about
- On Tuesdays we can take our dogs to the Pooch Park to run around and play!