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**CANINE BEHAVIOR WALKING TIPS**

**BARRIER AGGRESSION**

Barking, lunging or growling at a stimulus while being held back by a barrier (ex. kennel door or leash).

If the dog is showing Barrier Aggression in their kennel, ask a staff member to remove the dog from the kennel for you OR:

* Fill your pouch with high-value treats broken into small pieces.
* Quietly approach the kennel.
  + If the dog is calm, toss them a treat through the bars. Continue to toss small treats into the kennel while they remain calm.
  + If the dog is barking, lunging or growling, step away and wait for them to calm down then approach again and repeat.
  + Do not attempt to open the kennel until the dog is calm when approached.

If the dog is showing Barrier Aggression towards people or other animals while on the leash, say “Let’s Go!” and quickly move in the opposite direction from the stimulus that is causing the reaction.

**CAGE REACTIVE**

Barking, lunging or growling at other dogs while walking past their kennels. This differs from Barrier Aggression because the dog may not actually become aggressive if/when they reach the stimulus, but they do appear highly-aroused if there is a barrier in-between.

* Plan your route before removing the dog from the kennel to decrease the number of dogs they have to walk past.
* Use high-value treats to keep the attention of the dog you are walking while exiting the kennel.
* If possible, close down the kennels for the other dogs in their row so they do not have to walk past them at all.
* Walk briskly past kennels with dogs in them.
* Do not put yourself between the dog you are walking and the dogs in the kennels- this is to prevent misdirected aggression.

**DOG REACTIVE**

Barking and lunging when in the proximity of other dogs. May be due to excitement, fear or frustration and does not necessarily indicate that they are aggressive towards other dogs.

* Plan your route before removing the dog from the kennel to decrease the number of dogs they have to walk past.
* If possible, close down the kennels for the other dogs in their row so they do not have to walk past them at all.
* Walk briskly past kennels with dogs in them.
* Keep far away from other dogs on walks.
* If the dog sees another dog and starts to stare, say “Let’s Go!” and move in the opposite direction.
* Use high-value treats to keep the dog focused on you.
* If the dog starts to bark or lunge at another dog, say “Let’s Go” and quickly move far enough away from the other dog until they calm down.

**FLIGHT RISK**

The dog is prone to run away from- rather than toward- people if frightened. They also tend to startle more easily than the average dog. Flight-risk dogs may have been under-socialized.

* Take care not to startle the dog. Open and close kennel doors softly.
* Move slowly, talk quietly, and do not face the dog head-on.
* Crouch when removing and returning the dog from the kennel.
* Avoid noisy/busy areas.
* Make sure harnesses are on and fitted properly.
* Always keep two hands on the leash and keep a tight grip to prevent the dog from getting loose if startled.
* Attach a long line to their leash when they are playing in the fenced-in play yard and pay close attention that they are not attempting to jump over or dig under the fence.

**If the dog becomes loose:**

* Do not chase the dog. Sit or lie down on the ground and call to them softly. If they come towards you, move slowly to take the leash.
* Use your walkie talkie or call out for help from the staff if needed.
* Let the manager-on-duty know if the dog became loose on the walk.

**FOOD BOWL AGGRESSION**

The dog guards their food dish and may become aggressive if someone comes near it.

* Remove the dog from the kennel on the side opposite their food dish or ask a staff member for assistance removing them from the kennel.
* Return the dog to the side of the kennel that is opposite their food dish or ask a staff member for assistance.

**INAPPROPRIATE PLAY**

The dog is prone to mouth, mount or body-slam people or other dogs while playing. They may use their mouth to grab at pant legs, arms or hands. If the behavior is not curbed it may lead to a bite.

* Avoid playing roughly with the dog.
* If the dog becomes inappropriate on a walk, be boring! Stand very still. You can turn away and cross your arms over your chest to keep them out of the way.
* Ask the dog to perform a more appropriate behavior, such as “sit,” then reward with treats or try distracting them with a toy.
* If there is a lot going on (cars, dogs, etc.) move to a calmer area.
* If the dog becomes inappropriate while playing in the fenced-in yard, lead them by the leash to the catch-pen then leave them in there alone for a couple of minutes until they calm down.
  + Once you release them, if they continue to be inappropriate, take them by the leash and return them to the kennel.
* If you do not think you can safely return the dog to the kennel, use your walkie talkie or call for help from the staff.

**If you are bitten:**

* Immediately report all bite incidents to the manager-on-duty and complete an incident report. The dog will need to go through a mandatory quarantine.

**JUMPY DOG**

The dog jumps on people because they are seeking attention.

* When the dog jumps, do not scold them or push them down. Any form of attention (even negative attention) is a form of reinforcement.
* Instead, give them the “cold shoulder.” Say “off” then turn your back towards them and don’t say anything else until they return to the ground.
* Once all four paws are back on the ground, turn around and reward them with attention and praise.
* If the dog knows “sit,” ask them to sit then reward them with attention and praise. Repeat this throughout the walk so they learn that sitting gets attention and jumping does not.
* While walking, do not face the dog. Look in the direction you want to move in and walk firmly.
* If there is a lot going on (cars, dogs, etc.) move to a calmer area.
* If the dog is jumping excessively, you can stand on their leash to prevent them from jumping until they calm down.

**LEASH BITER**

The dog grabs the leash (and may attempt tug-of-war) while on walks. This may be because the dog is under-exercised or under-stimulated.

* When leashing the dog for a walk, use a calm voice.
* Pay attention to posted signs. The dog may have a favorite toy that they can carry in their mouth while being walked, or may have a metal leash in place of a nylon leash.
* Use high-value treats to keep the attention of the dog and reward them when they are being calm.
* Toss treats on the ground throughout your walk to encourage your dog to keep moving forward without grabbing the leash.
* Provide the dog with plenty of exercise and mental stimulation on their walks. Let them run in the fenced-in pen or practice obedience training with them. Throw the ball or use a flirt pole to encourage them to exercise.

**MOUNTER**

The dog is prone to mounting people. The drive to mount can come from multiple sources, including anxiety or a need to test boundaries and is not always sexually-driven. Most mounting dogs are just very pushy without ever becoming aggressive.

* Provide the dog with plenty of exercise but avoid playing roughly with the dog.
* When the dog mounts, do not scold them or push them down. Instead, give them the “cold shoulder.” Say “off” then turn your back towards them and don’t say anything else until they return to the ground.
* Once all four paws are back on the ground, turn around and reward them with attention and praise.
* While walking, do not face the dog. Look in the direction you want to move in and walk firmly.
* If the dog is mounting excessively, you can stand on their leash to prevent them from mounting until they calm down.
* If the dog is mounting while playing in the fenced-in yard, lead them by the leash to the catch-pen then leave them in there alone for a couple of minutes until they calm down.
  + Once you release them, if they continue to mount, take them by the leash and return them to the kennel.
* If you do not think you can safely return the dog to the kennel, use your walkie talkie or call for help from the staff.

**OVER AROUSAL**

The dog is prone to becoming too excited, even in seemingly calm situations. Over-arousal is characterized by jumping, grabbing hands/body parts with their mouth, biting at clothing and/or biting the leash.

* Provide the dog with plenty of exercise but avoid playing roughly.
* Practice obedience commands.
* While walking, do not face the dog. Look in the direction you want to move in and walk firmly.
* If the dog becomes inappropriate on a walk, be boring! Stand still. Cross your arms over your chest to keep them out of the way.
* If the dog becomes inappropriate in the fenced-in yard, lead them by the leash to the catch-pen then leave them in there alone for a couple of minutes until they calm down.
* Once you release them, if they continue to be inappropriate, take them by the leash and return them to the kennel.
* If you do not think you can safely return the dog to the kennel, use your walkie talkie or call for help from the staff.

**If you are bitten:**

* Immediately report all bite incidents to the manager-on-duty and complete an incident report. The dog will need to go through a mandatory quarantine.

**PULLS ON LEASH**

The dog pulls on the leash and needs to learn how to walk loosely on the leash.

* Take note of the dog’s size. If you don’t think you will be able to physically control them, do not walk them.
* When you feel tension on the leash immediately stop walking.
* Hold a treat right in front of your dog’s nose (let them sniff and lick it), then use the treat to lure the dog to the left side of your body into a “heel” position. Say “Yes!” give the treat and continue walking.
* You can also feed the dog treats as you walk so the dog stays close. Eventually slow the flow of treats from continuous to every so often.
* If the dog is not interested in treats, change direction whenever the leash goes taught so that the dog has to learn to follow you. The reward is moving forward.

**SHY DOG**

Shy or fearful dogs may be under-socialized or have difficulty adjusting to new environments. These dogs require extra patience to help them feel comfortable.

* Make sure to use any assigned walking equipment such as harnesses and be sure the equipment is on and fitted properly. Shy dogs may be a flight risk if they get loose.
* Use extra care not to make loud noise when opening and closing kennel doors.
* Turn your body to the side or kneel down to appear less threatening when approaching these dogs and avoid direct eye contact.
* If the dog will not come to you to be leashed, lure them with treats. Toss a treat to them. If they eat it, toss one a little closer. Continue this until they get close enough to be leashed.
* If you are unable to leash them, ask a staff member for assistance.
* Never drag a shy dog by their leash! This will only create more fear.
* If they show signs of fear on your walk (cowering or trying to get away from something) move away from that object.
* Be careful! Shy dogs may be a risk for biting if they are scared. Only pet them if they initiate the interaction by coming to you.

**TOUCH SENSITIVE**

This dog is sensitive to being touched in certain areas. They may not like having their paws touched or may be sensitive to touch on a certain part of their body due to a medical condition.

* Avoid touching the dog in the sensitive areas.
  + Make sure to read all posted signs for relevant information, such as known medical conditions.
* Use extra care when putting on and removing leashes or harnesses.
* Look for body-language signals such as whale-eye, furrowed brows or freeze.