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**Doggy Day Out Program**

**The Purpose and Mission of this Program:**

* Getting our dogs out of the shelter creates an environment that is less stressful for them
* Our dogs getting the chance to be out in the public allows our dogs to be exposed to more people and allow our fosters to give us more intel on their behavior of the dogs in their care
	+ Take them to places like the park, lake, pet friendly restaurant, or even a hike!

**Welcome to Richardson’s Doggy Day Out Program**

* Richardson’s Doggy Day Out is a community-based group dog program geared towards socialization, fellowship, and education of all breeds. We'd like to remind everyone that events should be inclusive to dogs, as that is the nature of this group. We would love for this program’s Facebook page to a forum for questions and advice about all things, but please keep posts to the topic of the group. So, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to ask, share pictures, and comment! Please do not be concerned with appearing silly as “No questions are Stupid Questions”, we rather you ask us so that you can always be informed than feeling lost and no idea what to do. This is not a place to post adoptable pets or events that do not relate to dogs in some way. This is also not a place to rehome pets. If you are interested in cross posting events from other groups, please create a Richardson’s Doggy Day event for that event. That way we can track how many people from the group are going and we know who to look for when we get there. If you are cross posting to gauge interest, that is fine, but make sure to create an event afterwards. Thank you everyone and welcome to the group! If you have any questions, please let us know!

**WELCOME!**

First and foremost, THANK YOU for gifting your time to our shelter dogs! By taking them out for just a few hours a day, our temporary residents can exert pent up energy as well as be mentally stimulated to new experiences and people! As a result of a Doggy Day Out, our dogs are less anxious or exuberant when they meet potential adopters and they gain useful life skills that they wouldn’t get from just sitting and waiting in the shelter. Another added bonus is that people who are not likely to come into shelters are still able to see our available animals!

**Important Phone Numbers and Contacts**

***Richardson Animal Shelter****: 972-744-4480*

For general question/ info /non-emergencies:

**amber.norman@cor.gov**

**joshua.polando@cor.gov**

**noura.jammal@cor.gov**

**In case of an emergency**

Please call *972-744-4480* and return dog immediately!

**\*\*\*All visits to the emergency clinic must be approved in advance\*\*\***

 **Emergencies that require immediate attention:**

* Sudden or blowout diarrhea where dog has no control at all
* Temperatures over 104 degrees
* Extreme dehydration – If you pinch the skin and the skin remains tented for 5 seconds. (The eyes may appear to be sunken in. The gums will feel dry or tacky.)
* Excessive vomiting or vomiting blood or green or yellow bile
* Vomiting combined with diarrhea and lethargy
* Difficulty breathing or very shallow or labored breathing
* Extreme lethargy - dog is barely moving or not moving at all
* Swelling of the face or eyes
* Prolapsed rectum
* Ingestion of something toxic
* Swollen or broken limbs
* Seizures
* Uncontrolled bleeding
* Sudden disorientation or incoordination
* Anything else that makes you think that your dog is in pain or in danger of passing away

**Non-emergency concerns can be noted at the time of drop off**

**Before You Pick Up Your Dog**

1. Be prepared for anything. Remember, we don’t know what many of these dogs have been through. We don’t know their past, we don’t know how they have been treated, we don’t know how their living situation once was, and most importantly, we don’t know their true personality. All we do know is what we see here at our facility and what little (if any) information their previous caretaker provided. We try our very best to match you with a dog that we think will do well with you, but your dog may have a very different personality once they are comfortable.
2. Ready your car with the appropriate amount of space for the dog. Depending on the dog, you may need enough space for a size appropriate crate, a friend to help contain the dog to the back seat, or a barrier to avoid the dog from getting to the driver and passengers’ seat.
3. **Please plan to leave your own dog at home!** The goal of our day trips is to give the dog a break from the shelter and some one on one time with humans. Although we might have some of our shelter dogs that do well with other dogs and enjoy doggie playtime, we prefer these field trips be geared towards interacting with humans and not with other dogs. ***Richardson Animal Shelter*** *is not liable for the treatment or cost of vet bills incurred for your own pets at your private veterinarian.*
4. If you plan to take our dog home, please check your fence line and property for holes, loose planks, poisonous plants, foxtails, and dangerous household items. Even if you have/had a dog that has never gotten loose, please don't assume that your property is secure. We don't know the history of most of the dogs we place and the majority of them were strays.

***Richardson Animal Shelter* will provide you with a leash, collar, ID tag, doggy seat belt, poop bags, water bottle, water bowl, crate if needed, and some doggy business cards.**

**IF YOUR DOG GETS LOOSE**:

Sometimes despite our best intentions, a dog will get loose. Please try not to panic. If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of our more social guests may come right to you, but very often even social dogs get frightened once they get loose. You may be more successful calling them to get their attention and then walking the opposite direction, kneeling down and digging in the dirt like you've just found something extremely interesting. Reaching for a scared dog will often cause them to bolt and can also result in a bite, so please use caution and only reach for the dog if you feel you can safely do so. If the dog is in an area that is secured but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so that we can help! If the dog is already in a flat out run and is panicked, they may not respond to you at all. Please try following them from a distance so that you can see the direction they are going and hopefully catch up to them once they have slowed down. If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to make sure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you. We understand that every circumstance is different and that luring your dog to you may not be possible, please call us if this is the case!

**IF A BITE OCCURS:**

If the dog bites anyone (you included) we **NEED** to know right away. If the dog bites a stranger, please take all of their information so that we can contact them to fill out the appropriate paperwork. We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound. We are **required by law** to report any bites that break skin to the appropriate animal control agency. ***We will also need to follow state laws for quarantine.*** A bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate reporting it. If you are seeing any signs of aggression, even if it is very minor, please contact your coordinator immediately.

Questions that are necessary for our bite reports are:

1. Who was bitten? How old are they? Where do they live?
2. Where on the body is the bite? Were there multiple bites or just one?
3. How did the bite occur? (Was the victim (person bitten) reaching out to touch the dog or was it unprovoked, etc.)

**IF SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN ADOPTING**

If you encounter someone who is interested in adopting your dog, please give them the dog’s business card so that they may follow up with them. You can also direct them to your coordinator. In general, the adoption fee for adult dogs is ***$25*** and includes ***an adoption pack and engraved name tag***. Most of our adoptions occur as a result of the dogs being seen on our website. It is very important that we have adorable photos, and if possible a great video of your dog. Please share these at ***amber.norman@cor.gov***. We need your help to make sure your dog is seen as much as possible!

**AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU MUST AGREE TO:**

* Always Have the dog under YOUR supervision
* Never leave children unattended with any dog
* Inform us if the dog bites anyone (you included) right away
* Keep the dog on leash unless confined in your home/back yard.
* Do not take the dog to off-leash dog areas, dog parks, or do dog introductions while on your trip
* Pick up and return the dog at the agreed upon times
* Transport the dog in a safe manner by either being in a crate or safely restrained in a back seat
* Keep the dog offsite (aka do not walk it around ***Richardson Animal Shelter*** property or take into our dog parks)
* Report any behavior or medical concerns to your coordinator
* Keep the dog safe by providing adequate rest, shade, shelter and water
* Utilize only positive reinforcement training (do not verbally or physically punish the dog)
* Have a cell phone with you at all times that can be used to contact you
* Present the dog in a positive way to potential adopters and members of the public

**Woo-Hoo! Doggy Day Out!**

**We love to see and hear about your adventures today and pictures of your day can help them find an awesome forever home.**

**If you post pics on social, please tag us:**

Facebook: *Richardson Animal Shelter*

Instagram: *@richardson\_animal\_shelter*

Use the hashtag #doggydayout #adoptdontshop

You can also send photos to *amber.norman@cor.gov*

Please take photos or video of our dogs with you, your friends, a hat, a mat, a tv, a statue or anything and tag us in them. Please use these tags #RASDogs #doggydayout, #RAS which would allow us to repost your content on our page and share those photos with the public.

**Ground Rules**

To ensure the safety of you, our groups, and the public these rules MUST be followed, or the consequences is immediate suspension from the group:

* ALWAYS ask before introducing dogs to each other. Some dogs are reactive, and others are working on mastering specific skills. Assumptions can lead to risk; communication is key to the success of every walk!
* EVERY dog must be on a leash, 6 feet or less, and handled by an adult (18+) at ALL times. NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES. Minors are welcome to participate in the walks but must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
* It is expected that all parties participating follow all ordinances set forth by City of Richardson. We encourage you to read over the laws established by City of Richardson.
* As the dog’s guardian, it is your sole responsibility to walk your dog, engage in safe procedures, address any warning signs your dog gives and heed fellow walkers’ warnings.
* Pay attention to your dog’s needs and make sure to maintain a safe distance between dogs and others. Be aware of your surroundings and please be respectful of the needs of other dogs and individuals in the group.
* Dogs with specific needs should wear a yellow bandana to notify other walkers.
* Richardson Doggy Day Out walks are open to anyone who has joined Richardson’s Doggy Day Out Foster Program.

**Expectations from Volunteers:**

* Always have the dog on a leash when they are outside (especially when meeting new animals/strangers)
* Document everything:
	+ Behavior/reaction to the volunteer and to strangers
		- Are they aggressive or sweet? Are they shy or very outgoing?
	+ Signs of illness
		- Coughing, wheezing, any signs of blood, is there any discharge coming from the eye, nose, or rectum?
	+ Behavior in a home or in new territories
		- Are they urinating in the house?
		- Are they trying to tear up everything?
		- Are they adapting quickly to the new environment without prompting or do they need coaxing/reassurance?

**Type of Foster:**

* Power Hour Fosters
	+ This program is best suited for that would like to take our dogs out for a short time which could last from an hour until about 15 to 20 minutes before our shelter closes.
		- The purpose of this group is to learn more about the dog’s behavior outside of the shelter and to help get them adopted by taking photos, video, and making notes so that we are can share this info with potential adopters. Help us find our dogs their Forever Home!!
* Dog Walking
	+ This program is best suited for those that would like to take our dogs on 20 to 30-minute walk (20 minutes would be best for dogs over the age of 8), and to help train our dogs to walk on a leash properly
* Overnight/Weekend Care (Not available yet!)
	+ This program is best suited for those that would like to take our dogs home for the night or keep for the weekend so that our dogs’ kennel stress is decrease and they have a mini vacation away from the shelter

**Items Needed:**

* *Doggy Go bag*
	+ Richardson information: Emergency Contacts, Flyer
	+ Collar with tag that has the dog’s name and COR info on the back with our contact number
	+ “Adopt Me “Harness or Bandana
	+ Treats
	+ Leash
	+ Medications (Overnight/Weekend Care Fosters: If the dog is on meds, please double check that they are in the bag: as we are human and make mistakes or forget)
	+ Dog waste bags
	+ Dog bowl/water bowl
	+ Information on what to do if the dog gets loose or bite someone
	+ Impound records