

# Dog Day Out

## MANUAL





## Dog Day Out Manual

# WELCOME!

**THANK YOU** for gifting your time to help our shelter dogs! By taking an adoptable dog out for even just a few hours, you are helping them release energy, take a break from the shelter, experience new places and people, and meet potential adopters out in the community. This experience is incredibly valuable for the dogs in our care, since it allows us to learn more about their personalities outside the shelter and market them to potential adopters! Plus, it allows members of the public to meet our available dogs, which helps more animals find homes — and in turn, opens up more space for other dogs in need!

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**An emergency contact number will be provided when you pick up the dog.**

For general questions / info / non-emergencies: call 619-299-7012 or email [info@sdhumane.org](mailto:info@sdhumane.org)

### As a participant, you agree to:

- Stay within San Diego County and keep a cell phone with you, in case we need to contact you.
- Keep the dog under your supervision at all times.
- Transport the dog safely by placing them in a crate or securely restraining them in a back seat.
- Use a leash unless the dog is in your home or securely fenced backyard.
- Keep the dog safe by providing adequate rest, shade, shelter and water.
- Highlight the dog in a positive way to potential adopters and members of the public.
- Pick up and return the dog at the agreed upon times.
- Maintain a 20-foot distance from other dogs while walking or in public. Please do not take the dog to off-leash dog areas or dog parks, or introduce them to other dogs.
- Do not leave children unattended with the dog or allow a child under 18 to hold the leash or be in physical control of the dog. Ensure children move slowly and let the dog approach them and pet the dog gently on their side or back. Kids should never

- put their face in front of a dog's face or take food or toys away from the dog.
- Let us know right away if the dog bites anyone (including you) or shows signs of aggression.
- Report any behavior or medical concerns you notice to your coordinator.
- Use only positive reinforcement training (do not verbally or physically punish the dog).

### Additionally, you understand and acknowledge the following considerations:

- When handling animals, it's recommended to have a current tetanus vaccine. We suggest discussing this with your healthcare provider.
- That there are certain risks involved in working with animals. Although uncommon, these risks include but are not limited to bites, scratches, zoonotic diseases and allergic reactions.
- Our priority is the safety of the animals and people involved. For this reason, San Diego Humane Society reserves the right to deny participation to individuals who do not meet program requirements or who are not a good match for current canine candidates.

# Before You Pick Up Your Dog

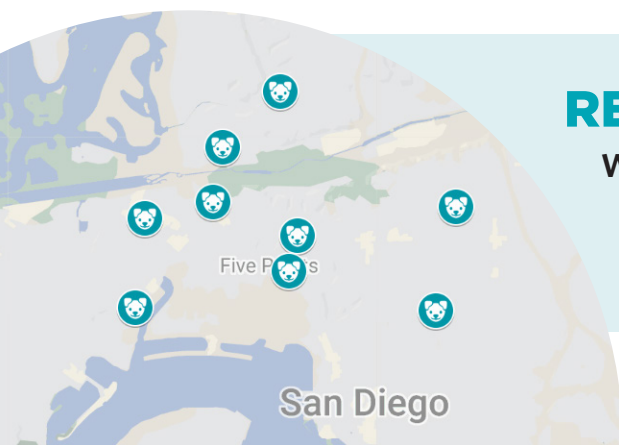
1. Many dogs enter our care as strays, meaning we often don't have information about their background or their personality outside of the shelter environment. This is important to keep in mind, as we will do our best to match you with a dog based on the information you have shared with us, but behaviors we have observed in the shelter environment may differ when the dog enters the community. One of our goals with this program is to learn more about how a dog behaves outside of the shelter — thank you for helping us gather this helpful information!
2. Please note that you're likely to be paired with a large dog, as they stand to benefit most from a day out! We will do our best to match you with a dog who fits your handling abilities and plan for the day.
3. Remember that an adult over the age of 18 must always be in control of the dog. While we welcome family outings, the leash must always be held by an adult, and dogs and children should never be left unsupervised.
4. Prepare your car with the appropriate amount of space for the dog. Depending on the dog, you may need enough space for a crate, a friend to help contain the dog to the back seat, or a barrier to prevent the dog from getting to the driver and passenger seats.
5. 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 some of our shelter dogs 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. Maintain a 20-foot distance from other dogs while out in public. San Diego Humane Society is not liable for the treatment or cost of vet bills incurred for your own pets at your private veterinarian.
6. If you plan to take your dog home, please check your fence line and property for holes, loose planks, poisonous plants, foxtails and dangerous household items. Even if you have a dog who has never gotten loose, please don't assume that your property is secure. It's always better to be safe than sorry!

**San Diego Humane Society will provide you with a leash, collar, ID tag, dog seat belt, poop bags, water bottle, water bowl, treats, safety tools and a crate (if needed)!**

## RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS

We've put together a list of ideas for places to take your furry friend-for-the-day during your Dog Day Out! The list also includes locations to avoid, including dog parks and dog beaches.

View the list [here](#).



# During your Dog Day Out

## If someone is interested in adopting the dog:

If you encounter someone who is interested in adopting the dog, please give them the link to the dog's profile on our website, which includes their current adoption fee. You can also direct them to visit our shelter in person.

You can share with people who are interested in adopting that there are great benefits to choosing a shelter pet! For example, adoption fees include valuable benefits, such as spay/neuter, current vaccinations, permanent microchip identification, an incentive for 30 days of pet insurance from MetLife and a license for residence in the city limits of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach and Vista.

## If your dog gets loose:

Sometimes, despite our best intentions, a dog will get loose. This can be scary, but try not to panic. If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of our more social dogs may come right to you, but often even social dogs become 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. It can help to use the leash to make a slip lead instead of trying to clasp the leash to the collar. If the dog is in a secure area but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so that we can help! If the dog is already panicked and running, they may not respond to you at all. Please try following them from a distance so 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 aggression or a bite occurs:

If you see any signs of aggression, even if it seems very minor, please contact your coordinator immediately. If the dog bites anyone, including you, please call us right away and return the pet to San Diego Humane Society as soon as possible.

If the dog bites a stranger, please take all of their information (including first name, last name and phone number) so we can contact them to complete 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. **We will also need to follow state laws for quarantine.** Please rest assured that a bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate reporting it. This information will allow us to better meet the animal's needs and take any necessary documentation steps.

# In case of emergency

**PLEASE CALL THE EMERGENCY POINT OF CONTACT  
FOR THE CAMPUS OF PICKUP AND RETURN THE DOG IMMEDIATELY**

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

## **Emergencies that require immediate attention:**

### **Medical concerns:**

- Temperatures over 104 degrees
- Excessive vomiting
- 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)
- Sudden, severe diarrhea (dog has no control over elimination)
- Extreme dehydration (you pinch the skin and the skin remains tented for

- 5 seconds, their eyes appear to be sunken in, and their gums feel dry or tacky)
- 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 serious pain or in danger of passing away

### **Behavioral concerns:**

- Excessive jumping
- Mounting
- Mouthing or snapping
- Attempting to bite or biting
- Lunging
- Growling

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

# Enjoy your Dog Day Out!



**We love to see and hear about your adventures!**  
Pictures of your day can help your Dog Day Out companion find a loving home. Please send us your photos and share them on social media to help spread the word about this amazing dog!



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

**Facebook:** San Diego Humane Society

**Twitter:** @sdhumane

**Instagram & TikTok:** @sdhumanesociety

Use the hashtag **#DogDayOutSD**

We re-tweet and re-gram!

You can also send photos to:

**[adoptersupport@sdhumane.org](mailto:adoptersupport@sdhumane.org)**

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**Want to extend your Dog Day Out? Sign up to foster the dog you took out (or a different pet) at [sdhumane.org/foster](https://sdhumane.org/foster) or talk to your coordinator to be fast-tracked!**