



Dog Day Out Manual

Sonoma County Animal Services



WELCOME!



Thank you for your time helping our shelter dogs. By taking an adoptable animal out for even a few hours, you are helping them get new experiences, take a break from the shelter, and meet potential adopters in the community. This experience also allows us to learn more about the dogs' personalities and how they are outside the shelter environment.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Emergencies: 707-565-7100 - select the option for emergencies/dispatch

For general questions/info/non-emergencies: call 707-565-7100 or email theanimalshelter@sonomacounty.gov

As a participant, you agree to:

- Stay within Sonoma 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 the back seat.
- Use a leash at all times unless the dog is in your home or securely fenced backyard.
- Keep the dog safe by providing adequate rest, shade and water.
- Highlight the dog in a positive way to potential adopters and members of the community.
- Pick up and return the dog at the agreed upon times.
- Maintain a 20 foot distance from other dogs. Please do not take dogs to off leash dog areas or dog parks, or introduce them to other dogs.
- Do not leave children unattended with the dog or allow anyone 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 faces in front of the dog's face, hug the dog, 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).

You also understand and acknowledge the following:

- We encourage you to consult your healthcare provider to make sure your vaccines are current.
- That there are risks associated with working around animals. These risks include bites, scratches and zoonotic diseases, among others.
- Our priority is the safety of the people and animals involved. For this reason, Sonoma County Animal Services reserves the right to deny participation to individuals who do not meet program requirements or who are not a good match for current our current dogs.

Before you pick up your dog



- Since many of the dogs in our care were previously strays, we don't often have much history on their background or personalities outside of the shelter environment. We will do our best to match you with a dog based on the information you have shared and the behaviors we have observed in the shelter environment. Please be aware that the dog's behavior may differ when they enter the community. One benefit of this program is getting to know more about how the dogs behave in different environments so that we can place them in the most appropriate homes possible. Thank you for your help gathering this important information!
- You will likely be paired with a large dog, as they make up the largest proportion of our long term residents and stand to benefit most from a day away from the shelter.
- An adult over the age of 18 must always be in control of the dog. We welcome family outings, but the leash must always be held by an adult, who will supervise all interactions with children.
- Prepare your car with an appropriate space for the dog. Depending on the dog, you may need space for a crate, a barrier to keep the dog from coming into the driver's seat, or a seatbelt for the dog.
- Please plan to leave your own dog at home. The goal of our doggie outings is to give the dog a break from the shelter and one on one time with humans. although many of our shelter dogs do well with other dogs, we prefer these field trips to focus on interactions with humans, not other dogs. Please maintain 20 feet of distance from other dogs while in public. SCAS is not liable for the treatment or cost of vet bills incurred to your own pets.
- If you plan to take your day trip dog home, please check your fence line and property for holes, loose boards, poisonous plants, foxtails and dangerous household items.

Sonoma County Animal Services will provide you with a leash, collar, ID tag, poop bags, water bottle and bowls, treats, adopt me vest and a crate if needed.

Recommended locations



Scan the QR code for dog friendly parks and businesses around the county.

Sonoma County has
so many beautiful
places to explore with
your Dog Day Out
buddy!



From parks to
wineries and
breweries,
restaurants and more!

During your Dog Day Out



If the 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. Many dogs will 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 someone wants to adopt

Please direct them to our website or send them to the shelter. 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

If aggression or bite occurs

If you see any signs of aggression, even if it seems very minor, please contact us immediately. If the dog bites anyone, including you, please call us right away and return the pet to SCAS 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 and need to follow state laws for quarantine. 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

Call the shelter and return dog

- Please call the shelter 707-565-7100
- All visits to emergency vets must be approved in advance

Behavioral concerns:

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



Medical concerns:

- Signs of overheating, such as dehydration (pinched skin remains tented for 5 seconds, sunken eyes, and their gums feel dry or tacky)
- 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)
- Swelling of the face or eyes
- 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



F.A.Q.s

Can I take my Dog Day Out buddy to a dog park?

For a number of reasons, including disease and potential for injury, we don't allow our dogs to visit dog parks or directly interact with other animals while on their field trip.

Can I let people pat my dog during our outing?

We prefer that contact with the dog be kept to just those in your group. However, if the dog you are paired with shows that they are very social and enjoy the company of other humans, then it is okay to let them meet briefly.

What should I tell people who ask if their dog can meet my dog?

Please tell them that you are still getting to know this dog. If they are interested in adopting, their dog can meet this dog at the shelter before the adoption is finalized.

How long can I keep my Dog Day Out pal?

Please return them to the shelter by 4pm, so we have time to get the dog settled in with their dinner before the shelter closes.





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 on social media, please tag us:
Facebook: Sonoma County Animal Services
Instagram: @SoCoAnimalServices

Use the hashtag #DogDayOutSoCo

You can also send photos to SCASFosters@SonomaCounty.gov

Want to extend your day out? Apply to foster at www.theanimalshelter.org

