

toledo  
humane  
society

# Tails Around Toledo



## Participant Manual

Thank you for participating in Tails Around Toledo, Toledo Humane Society's shelter dog field trip program! You have made the meaningful decision to improve the lives of shelter dogs, and we are grateful for your support! National studies of similar programs have shown that providing shelter dogs with breaks from the shelter can improve their kennel stress and ultimately help them to be more adoptable. Field trip participants also provide invaluable information and photos to aid in adoption marketing! Not only is this program great for the shelter, it's great for participants too!

### Program Goals

- To increase adoptions of medium and large dogs by gathering information about behavior outside of the shelter environment
- To market adoptable dogs and reach a broader range of adopters in the community
- To improve and well-being of shelter dogs and reduce kennel stress
- To engage community and provide an easy, short-term, minimum commitment way for individuals to volunteer with nearly any schedule

### Program Guidelines

- Field trip participants must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, have reliable transportation, and have a working cell phone on the date of their field trip.
- Anyone participating in a field trip must have read and agreed to the program guidelines, be a registered participant, and signed up for their pick up/drop off slots in advance.
- Participants must have read and fully understand the following files: Tails Around Toledo Program Manual and the terms outlined in the Tails Around Toledo Release Form.
- Participants will ensure that accurate contact information is provided and on-file.
- A Tails Around Toledo Release Form must be signed for each outing.

- Staff will make every reasonable attempt to make an appropriate and safe match, including disclosing any pertinent medical or behavioral information. However, participants understand that staff cannot guarantee the health or temperament of any shelter dogs and reasonable caution should be taken with any unknown dog.
- Dogs selected for the program are typically longer term residents. Most of the dogs selected for the program are large active dogs in the 40-70 pound weight range. Staff cannot accommodate requests for size or breed, but will make reasonable attempts to match participants with a dog with an activity/energy level of their preference when available. Due to availability of animals for the program, adoptions, and animals leaving for foster care, we cannot accept requests or reservations for particular animals in advance.
- Participants must take a photo of their Release Form, ask for a photocopy, or have emergency contact information saved in their phone while on a field trip.
- Participants should be on time for their scheduled pick up and return appointments.
- Participants may have guests with them on a field trip, but those guests must also follow the same rules and guidelines. Friends/family/children of the participant may accompany, but are not permitted to have control of the dog's leash.
- THS recommends that children accompanying the participant on field trips should be 7 years or older, as behavior toward children is generally not known in advance. Any requests for younger children to attend should be sent in advance, and the children should meet the potential field trip dog at while at the shelter in the presence of staff. Despite best efforts, THS staff still cannot make any guarantees as to the dog's temperament or safety around children.
- The participant that signed up for the event should have leash control of their dog at all times and never leave the pet alone unsupervised or tethered, including in vehicles. Make every reasonable attempt to prevent escape.
- Dogs may not be taken to public off-leash areas including dog parks.
- You may get your dogs a treat or snack during your field trip, but please keep any people food to a minimum and provide small amounts to limit intestinal upsets. Avoid real bones or large rawhides from the pet stores that may cause an obstruction.
- Please clean up after your dog, including picking up and disposing of waste properly. Do not allow your dog to destroy property or become a nuisance to neighbors or businesses.
- Introducing your dog to other animals (including your own) while on a field trip is not permitted, unless given specific permission by the program supervisor.
- Participants must inform THS staff of any perceived symptoms of illness or behavior concerns including any incidents where a bite may break skin, regardless of if it is accidental or intentional.

### **Handling and Safety**

- The dog should have a well-fit collar and leash attached at all times.
- Many dogs that arrive at the shelter have unknown backgrounds and histories. They may have different levels of socialization, manners/training, and confidence. Although staff will do their best to select dogs that will be appropriate for field trips, it may not always be possible to predict how a dog may react to the stimuli of a public place, bikes/skateboards, car rides, encountering strangers/children, etc. Please take note of your dog's demeanor and body language (see Canine Body Language graphic at the end of the document) during encounters

and in new places, and remove the dog from the situation or give them a break if they are uncomfortable. You may need to adjust the activities of your field trip to accommodate your dog's comfort level.

- Never hug, kiss, or put your face near an unfamiliar dog's mouth, and please ask those interacting with your field trip dog to exercise the same caution and approach/greet correctly (see Approaching/Greeting a Dog graphic at the end of the document). Use reasonable caution when helping/lifting your dog into the car, and avoid suddenly grabbing a dog or their collar. Never try to take a food item away from a dog.
- If your dog becomes reactive toward another person, animal, or object, please use the leash or treats to distract your dog away. Do not put your body or hands between your dog and the stimulus.
- Please use only positive force-free handling techniques during your field trip. Choke, prong, or electronic collars and retractable leashes are not permitted for use with any shelter dog. Although helpful for control, we discourage the use of head collars on a field trip as they typically require desensitization prior to use and may allow escape if not properly fit. The provided leash should be attached to the correct loop (the one that allows the collar to tighten and fit snugly) of the martingale collar during the field trip. A well-fit harness may be used.
- Please be mindful of extreme temperatures during your field trip, and provide plenty of water breaks. Walk your dog in the grass when possible during times of extreme heat on hot pavement, or during the winter when ice/salt is present.
- Never leave a dog alone in a hot car for any length of time, and provide breaks from the sun, heat, freezing temperatures, rain, or extreme weather. Watch for signs of heat intolerance such as excessive panting, sudden collapse, dark red gums, or vomiting/illness. Brachycephalic (short faced dogs) are most vulnerable to extreme heat.

### **Emergencies**

- If there is an emergency or you feel that you cannot safely handle your dog, you may return to the shelter immediately, even before your scheduled return appointment. If the door is locked when you arrive, you may call (419)891-0705 or ring the bell at the Intake Door toward the back of the parking lot.
- If your dog gets away from you, do not chase, yell, or run toward your dog. Instead, calmly walk parallel to the dog to try to maintain visual sight of the dog. Call the dog calmly and in a friendly tone. Use treats, entice with toys, or open your car door to encourage the dog to return. If the dog is staying in one place, you may also try to sit/lay on the ground to encourage the dog to approach.
- If you cannot quickly regain control of your dog, contact the shelter at (419)891-0705. If there is no answer, you may leave messages at ext. 301, 303, and 305. You may also contact Lucas County Canine Care and Control at (419)213-2800 to make a lost report and notify them of a dog at large.

### **Code of Conduct**

- While out in the community on a field trip, you are representing THS as a volunteer. Your conduct during a field trip will reflect on the Toledo Humane Society as a whole. We ask that

you conduct yourself professionally during the field trip and at any point while engaging with the organization's social media accounts.

- You are encouraged to advocate for Toledo Humane Society's programs/events and promote adoptable animals. However, please confirm that you have the most accurate and current information in your communications, and avoid making statements or guarantees on the organization's behalf.
- Treat THS staff members, volunteers, and members of the community/public with respect.
- Please clean up after your dog, including picking up and disposing of waste properly. Do not allow your dog to destroy property or become a nuisance to neighbors or businesses.
- Ensure that you are handling your dog with appropriate handling techniques as described in earlier sections, and that your field trip activities are appropriate for your dog.
- Failure to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner may impact future participation.

### **Help Your Dogs Get Adopted**

- The information that you learn about your Tails Around Toledo dog is invaluable, and can help staff to make better adoption matches and help adopters to determine if a dog may be the right fit for their families! Making observations such as how they ride in the car, how they walk on a leash, what their activity level may be, if they have any favorite toys/activities/treats, and how they react toward strangers or animals on field trips can all be added to the dog's bio to help staff and adopters learn more about them!
- Taking a dog out for an outing can help your dog feel more comfortable and also provide great locations to showcase your dog's personality through photos! Snap some great photos of your shelter dog enjoying some of their favorite activities or taking a break! Please see the THS Adoption Photo Infographic on the Tails Around Toledo page on the shelter's website for tips!
- Tell everyone how great your field trip dog is! Share your own notes and photos on your own social media, and help spread the word that there's a great dog looking for a new home!
- Sign up again! There are an endless number of shelter dogs that need your help to find new homes!
- Email all of your field trip notes and photos to [tailsaroundtoledo@toledohumane.org](mailto:tailsaroundtoledo@toledohumane.org)!

### **Helpful Information**

Main Contact Email: [tailsaroundtoledo@toledohumane.org](mailto:tailsaroundtoledo@toledohumane.org)

Tails Around Toledo shelter website link: [www.toledohumane.org/tailsaroundtoledo](http://www.toledohumane.org/tailsaroundtoledo)

- Files and info included on the Tails Around Toledo page include:
  - Tails Around Toledo FAQ Infographic
  - Tails Around Toledo Participant Manual
  - Tails Around Toledo Release Form
  - Tails Around Toledo: Where to Go in the 419
  - THS Adoption Photo Infographic
  - Sign Up Genius Field Trip Link

# HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!  
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

## THE CORRECT WAY:



- \* No Eye contact
- \* Let the dog approach you in his own time
- \* Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- \* Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.

# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



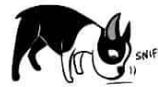
"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"