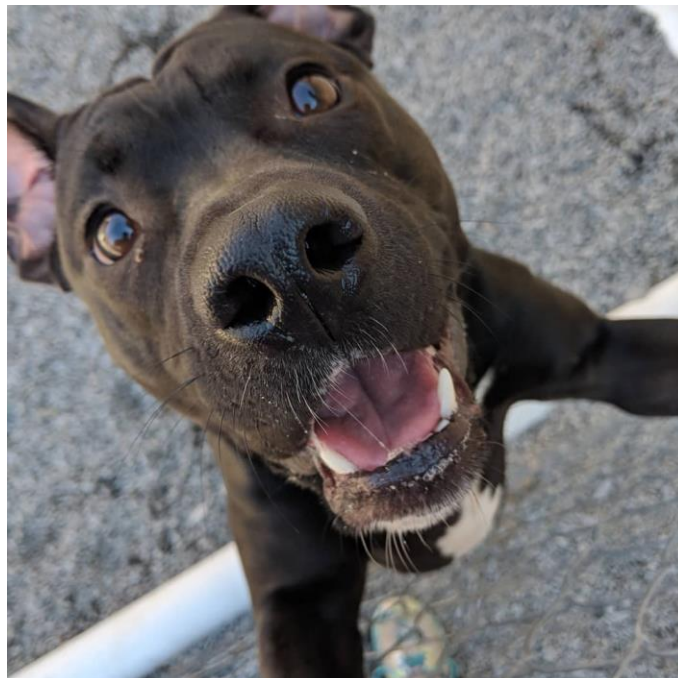




## Doggy Day Out Manual



# 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

***Pitt County Animal Services: 252-902-1726 / Fax number: 252-902-1875***

***Email: pittshelter@pittcountync.gov***

## In case of an emergency:

Please call 252-902-1726 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
- Ongoing 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

## 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 her 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 passenger's seat.
3. **Please plan to leave your own pet(s) 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 most of our shelter dogs do well with other animals and enjoy doggie playtime, we prefer these field trips be geared towards interacting with humans and not other pets. *Pitt County Animal Services 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 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/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.

**Pitt County Animal Services will provide you with a Doggy Day Out Bag and necessary materials, including:**

- **Leash**
- **Collar/Harness**
- **Doggy seat belt**
- **Poop bags**
- **Water bottle**
- **Water bowl**
- **Crate (if needed)**
- **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, 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 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 minor, please contact the shelter immediately.

### 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. You can also direct them to call the shelter. In general, the adoption fee for dogs is \$110 and includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, and microchipping.

Many 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 send these to [kelli.young@pittcountync.gov](mailto:kelli.young@pittcountync.gov) or message them to the Pitt County Animal Services Facebook page. We need your help to make sure your dog is seen as much as possible!

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

- Have the dog under YOUR supervisor at all times
- 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 the Pitt County Shelter property)
- 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

A few doggy day out ideas for you and your doggy date to enjoy:

- A walk through the park
- Coffee at a dog-friendly café
- A shopping trip to dog-friendly stores
- Snuggling and a movie at home
- Walking or hiking trails
- Swimming at safe, dog-friendly locations
- And of course...taking lots of pictures together!

**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 pictures on social media, please tag us:**



**Facebook: *Pitt County Animal Services***



**Instagram: *@pittcountyanimalservices***

**Use the hashtags: #doggydayout #PCAS**

**You can also email photos to: *pittshelter@pittcountync.gov***

**Woo-Hoo! Doggy Day Out! Thank you for participating!**

