



Dog Handling Rules

We pride ourselves on providing a high level of care and treating each pet in our center with respect and gentleness. The K9 Club Employee Manual – section 5.2 - clearly states that in our facility mistreatment of animals by any employee will not be tolerated. This is grounds for immediate termination of your employment. We expect our staff to be observant of the pets they are working with at all times, and to take action when you observe signs of stress.

We always handle all pets gently, and use tools to entice dogs into housing when they are reluctant. It is never acceptable to pull, drag or force a dog into any enclosure. When you are working with a pet to perform a physical check, bath brush-out, nail trim, etc., it is important to keep in mind the natural movement of all parts. Do not handle any part of the dog in an unnatural way as you may cause injury to the pet.

Tools available to entice a reluctant dog include:

- Your voice. Raise the pitch and excitement so you are more interesting than anything else.
- Place a pet's meal or treat into the enclosure. They may enter eagerly. Be sure to check for food allergies prior to giving a house treat to a dog.
- Maintain patience and give the dog time to adjust to new surroundings.
- Lower your body posture by kneeling down to dog's level turning sideways (this is a polite & inviting body posture in dog language) and call the dog to you.
- Use the obedience command to enter the enclosure - "kennel-up"

Care also must be taken when removing pets from enclosures. Speak to the pet so they are aware of your presence, and consider the location of the dog to the enclosure door or gate. Block the opening so pets cannot accidentally squeeze or jump out prior to your gaining control of them. Once you get the door open, quickly slip a kennel lead around the pet's neck, and then gently guide them out of their

kennel. When a pet shows reluctance or gives you a warning growl, pause and reassure the pet verbally. Ask for assistance if you are not comfortable proceeding, your safety is important and any pet can bite when they feel they are cornered.

When housing dogs be sure to match the size of the dog to the enclosure. Pets must be able to stand normally and turn fully around in any crate or cage. Ask for assistance if you have trouble finding an appropriate sized enclosure.

Only family pets that live together at the same address are allowed to share a kennel.

