



Can Do Canines Program Standards

+ Equipment

Can Do Canines strives to teach every dog the value of keeping a loose leash while walking, for both control and safety purposes. We believe that dogs can be taught to walk nicely through positive reinforcement and consistent handling, along with the approved tools described here.

- Please use only 4 to 6' leashes; no retractable or European-style body leashes
- Use only plain or martingale type buckle or clip collars
- Gentle Leaders and Haltis may be introduced after the dog reaches five months of age
- Halti front clip body harnesses may be used for dogs 12 months and up
- Long lines and tie outs may be used to help exercise or train dogs as long as the dog is always directly supervised
- Training capes will be provided to volunteers committing to longer term care of a dog once the volunteer has received Public Access training
- Vehicle harnesses or tethers attached to collars must be used when transporting program dogs over 25 pounds

+ Crating

It's important that program dogs view crate time as positive and safe. Always reward kenneling and never use crate time as a punishment. It's ok to kennel a dog if you need a break though!

- Always kennel program dogs if you cannot directly supervise
- Remember to lock the kennel door
- Crates may be in the primary handler's bedroom or in main areas of your home
- Please ensure that the kennel is empty prior to crating a program dog, aside from approved toys
- Program dogs may be crated with Kongs and inedible Nylabones
- Ensure that the collar is removed prior to kenneling the dog at home
- Please do not allow program dogs to share kennels or allow other pets or family members to enter their kennel
- Program dogs must be kenneled while riding in vehicles until they surpass 25 pounds
- When kenneled in the car, keep the collar on in case of an emergency, remove all other equipment

+ Household

The most valuable lessons that our volunteer homes can provide happen in the home. These manners are basic but critical for the success of the dogs.

- Four on the Floor- no jumping on people, furniture or placing feet on counters
- Program dogs should work for their kibble- no human food, aside from Xylitol free peanut butter or plain yogurt
- Nylabones may be used without supervision, make sure to watch program dogs closely when playing with other toys



- Interrupt behaviors such as stealing or playing with non-toy items

+ Safety

The health and welfare of the Can Do Canines in training is our primary concern. Please help us by following these simple standards.

- If a program dog becomes lost, sick or injured, call 763-331-3000 immediately
- Report any ingestion of foreign bodies
- Make sure every program dog's collar has a red, bone-shaped ID tag and that the collar is on them at all times when outside their kennel
- Program dogs are allowed off leash in secure, fenced in areas only and must be supervised at all times when outside
- Program dogs are not allowed to visit dog parks, zoos or fireworks displays. No pet stores until fully vaccinated
- Please do not take program dogs on escalators or moving carpets
- Program dogs should not be taken jogging or running until they are over a year old
- Never leave program dogs in a vehicle unattended
- Only transport program dogs in the back seats or cargo areas- never in the front seat
- Be sure to always supervise children and program dogs
- Program dogs should only interact with healthy animals, vetted for good behavior by Home Visit Volunteers or Puppy Program Staff.

+ Handling

Our volunteers receive special training to work program dogs in public. Contact Puppy Program if you are interested in learning more about Public Access training.

- Only approved Puppy Program Volunteers may handle program dogs
- Primary handlers must be 16 years of age or older
- Always maintain the leash when in public or outside
- Please do not allow greetings when the dog is on leash or in cape
- We ask that you do not take any dog in public unless you have had them for more than one week and have Public Access. This will allow you to build a relationship with the dog