

Walking a dog

For a dog that spends most of its time in a cage, the walk should be relaxing and as stress-free as possible. A quality walk should last about 40 minutes, letting the dog stop to smell along the way, chew on a stick, or go wherever it wants, keeping in mind both our safety and the dog's. During the walk, we can observe the dog's behavior and report back to the person in charge if we notice something strange, like problems with urination or defecation, limping, or possible injury. If the dog does not want to continue walking or the weather is bad, we can instead sit with the dog and pet or brush it. We should have control of the situation at all times, avoiding dogs from other cages or from the neighborhood as well as unknown people, bicycles, motorcycles, or cars that may cross our path.

Do NOT:

- Use behavioral techniques or scold the dog. This is their time to relax and we do not want to raise their level of stress or frustration toward people.
- Give treats, other food, or toys. Follow the instructions provided in your training on dog walking.
- Let the dog off leash, for your security and theirs.

Leaving the shelter

We should take a harness that fits the dog and a leash. Make sure they are both in good condition. As you enter the cage (*see protocol How to Enter a Cage*), only take the dog we have been authorized to walk. In you do not know how to put on a harness and/or collar, ask the person responsible to help you. Before leaving the cage, make sure the harness and leash are properly fastened in order to avoid the dog escaping during the walk.

When leaving the cage, hold the dog with the leash as short as possible or grab the harness in order to avoid confrontations with dogs from other cages. If there are other dogs that remain in the cage, ask someone to help you ensure they do not escape as you're exiting.

Do NOT:

- Use choke collars or adjustable leashes.

PROTOCOLS



- Use chain collars unless you are given permission by the person in charge.
- If the dog is categorized “PPP” (potentially dangerous), you must have a license in order to walk them and follow the necessary protocols.

Returning to the shelter

When returning to the shelter from your walk, put the dog back in the same cage you took it from. To do so, shorten the leash to avoid confrontation with other cages. Open the cage door, and enter with the dog, closing the door behind you. Once inside, remove the dog’s harness and leash. Sit with the dog and pet it for a few minutes, unless there is food in the cage as some dogs may protect their food and become aggressive. When you leave, stand up calmly, ignoring the dog, leave the cage, making the sure the dog does not escape and the door is properly closed.

Do NOT:

- Take off their collar, unless you are told otherwise. This helps workers to quickly put a leash on dogs that do not want to go back in their cage. This also helps to identify dogs that look alike.
- Leave toys in the cage. This way, we avoid fights, or medical problems from swallowing parts of the toy.
- Leave leashes or harnesses inside the cage. If a dog grabs the leash to play or doesn’t want to give it to you, ask for help from the person in charge.
- Give treats or other food. This way, we avoid fights or medical problems, like diarrhea.