

Guidelines For Safe Dog Handling

Thank you for joining us! We have assembled these tips and rules to help ensure that everyone – both 2-legged and 4-legged – has a wonderful and safe experience.

1. **All dogs must remain on a leash** – no longer than 6-feet – at all times, and must be walked by an adult. Under no circumstances may a child handle a dog, even their own. This is for everyone’s safety in a crowded environment with lots of dogs unfamiliar to each other.
2. **Retractable leashes are strongly discouraged.** If you have one, please do not extend it beyond 6 feet to ensure you can retain control over your dog.
3. **Ask a dog’s owner permission before approaching with your dog (or child).** Doing so will allow that person to prevent their dog from being startled, and to prepare their dog to calmly meet a new dog or person.
4. **Be aware of your surroundings at all times** to keep your dog from being startled by approaching (unfamiliar) dogs.

A Word About Food/Treats

All dogs react differently when presented with food/treats. While yours might accept them calmly, another may look at food or treats as something to compete for. Therefore, to ensure everyone’s safety, please dispense food/treats only to your own dog and only after ensuring that no other dogs are within reach.

Lastly, you must clean up after your dog! Bags are available from PAWS volunteers.