

## **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.

**Proof of current rabies vaccination or proof from your dog's vet is REQUIRED for all dogs to attend.**

- 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.