

VOLUNTEER SAFETY

ALWAYS:

- Use radios to announce when you're bringing a dog - any dog - in or out to allow volunteers to adequately prepare.
 - When a handler is bringing out a reactive dog, volunteers in the yards should move the dog they are with to the opposite end of the yard they are in - ANY dog can cross a behavioral threshold and become reactive in a particular situation, so prevention is key.
 - Lack of communication between volunteers is not just frustrating for everyone, it can be dangerous.
- Allow dogs that may become reactive and/or have a high "flight response" (likely to flee and try to hide if frightened) to drag a leash during their time in the yards so you can simply step on the leash and guide the dog vs trying to "catch" it.
- Use a proper leash hold - don't wrap leash around your hands or wrist. Use thumb loop method, with your mid-section being the center point. See video on Shelter Playlist.
- "Suitcase wrap" UPDATE
 - Wrap under front legs (armpits) vs. lower down.
 - For dogs that pull and that don't show fear in response to the pressure.
 - Mark/reinforce when the dog does any acceptable behavior other than pulling.
 - Allowing a dog to pull you on a walk reinforces pulling, but this cannot always be helped. Primary goal is to get from point A to point B safely.

NEVER:

- Suddenly grab a dog by the collar. If a dog is over threshold and cannot respond to you, use a leash to physically move the dog.
- Attempt to force a dog (pulling, pushing) into a confined space. If the dog will not follow tossed food, radio for help.
- Surprise a dog from behind.