



Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: (831) 454-7200 Fax: (831) 454-7210

Melanie Sobel
General Manager

Printed Name: _____

I have read and agree to follow SPOTT guidelines. Signature: _____

SPOTT (Shelter Pets On The Town) Program

Thank you for your interest in spending quality time with the adoptable animals in our care and providing them with an offsite outing or sleepover. The benefits of this program, especially with overnight stays, is to reduce kennel stress and offer some normalcy to the dog's daily life, as well as provide us with information on the adoptable animal – are they housetrained, do they have separation anxiety, do they play nicely with resident pets, or get along with cats. We welcome your feedback on your observations of the dogs and appreciate your emails and pictures while they're out.

While SPOTT outings can be fun and rewarding for both the volunteer and the animal, you are responsible for the animal in your care. Common sense will go a long way! Volunteers taking dogs off shelter property are responsible for the health and safety of the animal and any interactions with other people or dogs. Prior to taking any dog out of the shelter, **volunteers must know the guidelines of the program and follow the guidelines at all times.** Failure to do so can result in disastrous situations making you and/or the shelter liable for damages. Volunteers not following the guidelines while out with a shelter pet, will not be able to take animals out and may be terminated as a volunteer.

Guidelines for SPOTT outings:

Before taking any dog out of the shelter, you must:

- 1) Be an active Dog TLC volunteer.
- 2) Have completed the Dog TLC training, mentored at least once, and logged at least 10 hours of volunteer time at the shelter.
- 3) Have completed SPOTT training. See the volunteer coordinator to arrange.
- 4) Have a signed SPOTT guidelines form on file with the volunteer coordinator.

Eligible SPOTT dogs are TRIPLE A – Adoptable, Altered (spayed/neutered), Age Appropriate (over 6 months)

- 1) **Adoptable dogs that are not 'on hold' or pre-adopted.** Dogs that are stray/non-adoptable must stay on shelter property. These are not our dogs and we are responsible to their guardians to keep them safe and contained.
- 2) **Spayed or neutered.** Unaltered dogs cannot be off shelter property, including when volunteers are doing Dog TLC at the shelter.
- 3) **At least 6 months of age.** No puppies under 6 months are allowed off shelter property and can only go in the approved puppy yards for disease prevention reasons.

Prior to leaving the shelter with a SPOTT dog:

- 1) **Dog must be approved to go by staff - Animal Care, Client Services, or the Volunteer Coordinator.**
- 2) "Out on SPOTT" or "Out for a Sleepover" cards should be placed in the kennel card sleeves on both the inside and outside of the dog's kennel.
- 3) Volunteers can take an 'Adopt Me' vest or bandana for the dog to wear to let the public know they are available. These can be found in the Volunteer Coordinator's office.
- 4) Sign the dog out on the sheet located in the Volunteer Coordinator's office. Information needed is Name of Dog, Volunteer Name, Contact Phone Number, Date/Time dog is going out, Expected Date/Time of Return, Staff member who approved outing. Please write LEGIBLY.
- 5) Make sure your dog has a tag with SCCAS identification. These can be found by the sign out sheet in the Volunteer Coordinator's office.
- 6) SPOTT cards to give out if anyone shows an interest with the dog's name and ID number. These are located next to the sign out sheet in the Volunteer Coordinator's office.
- 7) Emailing Animal Care Staff or Erin ahead of your sleepover or SPOTT outing will be helpful as we can give you pertinent information on the dog, prior to taking it out. (e.g. not good with cats, should be an only dog, children over 12 recommended, afraid of men, etc.)

Rules for dogs on SPOTT outings:

- 1) **Dogs must always be on leash while out in public areas. Never let the dog off-leash even in areas where off-leash dogs may be allowed.**
- 2) **Avoid taking dogs to trails, parks, or beaches that are known for off-leash activity.**
- 3) **Dogs may not be taken to a dog park – ever.**
- 4) **Dogs must be returned by shelter opening time – 10:00 am everyday (unless there is a public holiday).**
- 5) To ensure that dogs are placed in responsible, committed and loving homes, potential adopters must go through the regular SCCAS adoption process.
- 6) Please do not give specific behavior information to potential adopters as you may not have all of the information on a particular dog. Giving misleading information creates awkward conversations for the Client Services staff and adopters.
- 7) If an accident does happen which requires medical attention for the dog or a person, notify the shelter immediately. If Erin Conway (831)535-2949, is not available, contact Ben Winkleblack, SCCAS shelter manager, at 831-566-4717.

When returning SPOTT dogs:

- 1) Record any public appropriate comments on the blue kennel cards and remove 'OUT ON SPOTT' or 'OUT ON SLEEPOVER' cards from kennel sleeves
- 2) Record time and date returned on the sign out sheet in Volunteer Coordinator's office.
- 3) Observations about dogs on sleepovers are very helpful and can be emailed to Animal Care staff – Andrea Jordan, Sarah Goldberg, or Erin Conway, Volunteer Coordinator.
 - a. Andrea.jordan@santacruzcounty.us
 - b. Sarah.goldberg@santacruzcounty.us
 - c. Erin.conway@santacruzcounty.us
- 4) Record your time for SPOTT outings in Volgistics. Once you have completed training, you will have a SPOTT assignment.

Thank you for helping with the shelter dogs and giving them a break from shelter life.

Feb. 10, 2018