**Dog Walking Volunteers**

Dog walking volunteers should have attended orientation and the dog portion of the training. Volunteers must be 16 years or older to hold the leash of one of our dogs. If a volunteer is 15 years or under, they may walk alongside their parent and the dog but cannot hold the leash. This is for the safety of our dogs and our volunteers!

Please read any signs on the dog’s kennel door before interacting. Please be aware of any signs which indicate they cannot go on walks. This is typically the case with small puppies, and dogs that may be sick. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered can walk, but shouldn’t jump or play hard.

If the dog is very large, or has a sign indicating it needs a harness, please ask a staff member. There are typically harnesses already fitted to these dogs in the dog kitchen.

When you are ready to start, grab a leash and enter the dog kennel, closing it behind you. Wait for the dog to sit or at least have all four paws on the ground, and then attach the leash. Please keep the dog close to you as you exit the kennel and walk towards the door outside. **Under no circumstances should volunteers allow two dogs to interact outside of the kennels**. This is for the safety of the dogs and our volunteers. Please allow sufficient space between you and any other dog walkers.

You may walk the dogs anywhere on the property, or back in the grass behind the shelter/American Legion building. The grass extends back to the Alum Creek recreation area.

After returning from a walk, please mark the walk on the dog’s Exercise and play log hanging on the front of its kennel.