

Housing People and Their Animals Together

Presented by: My Dog Is My Home

DHCS Welcome

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Community Services Division

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program

Department of Health Care Services



MY DOG IS MY HOME

Housing People and Their Animals Together

Developed for The Behavioral Health
Bridge Housing Program
by My Dog Is My Home

Delivered by Christine Kim, MSW

May 30, 2024



MY DOG IS MY HOME

Storytelling | Community Building | Technical Assistance

About My Dog Is My Home

My Dog Is My Home is a national nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.

We work to assist service providers like homeless shelters expand their programming to allow humans and their companion animals to remain together.

About the Training: What We Will Cover Today

- The Human-Animal Bond
- Reasonable Accommodations and Assistance Animals
- Models of Co-Sheltering Facilities
- Addressing Animal Behavior Concerns
- Recommended Supplies
- Identifying Animal Welfare Partners
- Other Resources

Spirit, Kyya, and Miniaga

[Video from Google Drive titled Spirit](#)



Brigette and Nuebian

[YouTube video titled "My Dog Is My Home - BRIGITTE"](#)



Myra and Prince

[YouTube video titled "My Dog Is My Home - MYRA"](#)



Reflection Questions

- What are the themes across these three stories?
- How did these stories make you feel?
- Have you worked with program participants who were caring for a companion animal? Reflect on:
 - Their relationship with their animal.
 - The process they went through to obtain shelter/housing services.
 - The outcomes of their case.

“If you’re gonna help me, help me”: Barriers to housing among unsheltered homeless adults

Wusinich, C, Bond, L., Nathanson, A., & Padgett, D. (2019). Evaluation and Program Planning, Vol 76.

“Virtually all barriers street homeless New Yorkers face stem from bureaucratic policies that, however well-intentioned, do not address their diverse needs. Thus, long delays and poor communication, combined with crowded, unsafe shelters, lead to frustration and alienation. While homelessness is ultimately the result of a severe and chronic shortage of affordable housing, creating accessible, safe, pet-friendly shelter and safe haven options and instituting a smoother, more transparent process for moving from the streets could substantially reduce street homelessness.” - Wusinich et al (2019).

Pet ownership in the unsheltered homeless population in Los Angeles

Henwood, B., Dzibur, E., Rhoades, H., St. Clair, P., & Cox, R. (2021). Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, 30(2), 191–194.

Placement into Scattered-Site or Place-Based Permanent Supportive Housing in Los Angeles County, CA, During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Henwood, B.F., Kuhn, R., Gonzalez, A.L. *et al.* (2024). Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research.



Interactive Tool: Reasonable Accommodation Requests for Assistance Animals in Housing

Disclaimer:

This material is based upon work supported, in whole or in part, by Federal award number C-17-TA-MA-0001 awarded to Abt Associates Inc. by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. Neither the United States Government, nor any of its employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately-owned rights. Reference herein to any individuals, agencies, companies, products, process, services, service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not constitute or imply an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the author(s), contributor(s), the U.S. Government or any agency thereof. Opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, HUD or any Federal agency.



Next

[Housing Request for Assistance Animals Interactive Tool \(hudexchange.info\)](http://hudexchange.info)

Joint Statement of HUD and DOJ: Reasonable Accommodations Under the Fair Housing Act

"Depending on the individual's circumstances, information verifying that the person meets the Act's definition of disability can usually be provided by the individual himself or herself (e.g., proof that an individual under 65 years of age receives Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or a credible statement by the individual). **A doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, a non-medical service agency, or a reliable third party who is in a position to know about the individual's disability may also provide verification of a disability.** In most cases, an individual's medical records or detailed information about the nature of a person's disability is not necessary for this inquiry."

Models of Co-Sheltering: Co-Located | Kennels



PATH Hollywood PetCo Place kennel (2012)

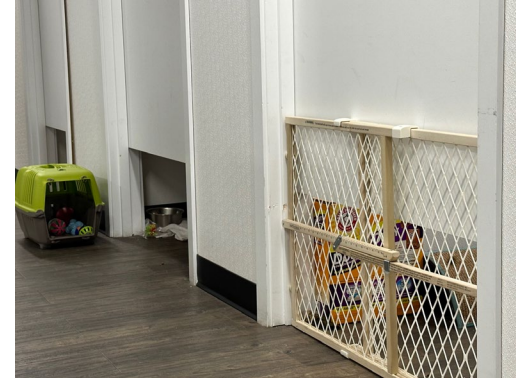


Found House IHN day shelter (2023)

Models of Co-Sheltering: Co-habiting | Private Spaces



Urban Resource Institute (n.d.)



New Horizons (2024)



PATH
(2018)

Models of Co-Sheltering: Co-habiting | Congregate



CRITICAL

- Screening
- Supplies
- Animal handling expectations
- Appropriate animal interactions for clients AND staff

Animal Handling Expectations

EXAMPLES:

- Animal must be under control of the participant at all times.
- When in common areas, animal must be on a leash at all times.
- Cats must be carried, on leash or kept in an appropriately sized carrier/crate/covered cat stroller when outside of the participant's assigned room/pod/unit.
- Animals must be secured in an appropriately sized carrier/crate or pet housing (if available) if the participant is not in their assigned room/pod/unit.
- Animal is not permitted to enter dining areas (excludes service animals).
- Animal guardians must provide the name and contact information for an emergency care person for their animal, in the event that the animal guardian is missing or off premises for more than 24 hours.
- If the owner allows another participant to watch the animal, this decision is solely the responsibility of the owner and the animal's behavior remains the responsibility of the owner.
- At no time is staff or organization responsible for the care of the animal.
- Animal control will be contacted in the absence of the animal guardian for more than 24 hours and if the emergency care person or participant/owner is unable to be contacted or is unwilling to care for the animal.
- Humane law enforcement may be contacted if staff believe animal cruelty or neglect is taking place.

Creating a “Fear Free” Environment



Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



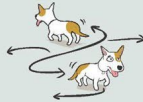
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

© 2015 Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS

For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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Body Language of Feline Anxiety



Slight crouching



Major crouching

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Dilated Eyes



Ears Turned Back,
Furrowed Brow



Staring,
Focused on Object



Hiding,
Looks Half Asleep



Laying on Side,
Tail Flicking



Hair Raised, Staring,
Ears Turned Back



Walking with Flat Back,
Tail Down, Head Down



Ready to Jump Off Perch



Suddenly Grooming,
Excessive Grooming

For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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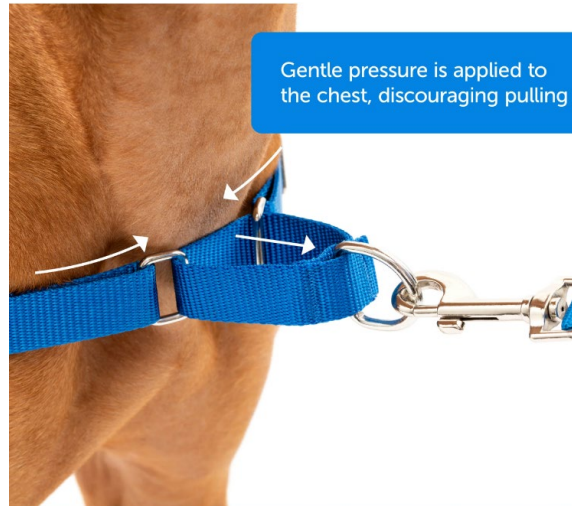
Support@lowstresshandling.com

Recommended Supplies: Crate



Are you an emergency shelter that needs free crates? Email gf@petsofthehomeless.org

Recommended Supplies: Easy Walk Harness + Flat Leash



Gentle pressure is applied to the chest, discouraging pulling

Patented Front Loop Stops Pulling

The harness should form a sideways T when your dog is standing



Find the Perfect Fit

Recommended Supplies: KONG



Choose the Right KONG

KONG Puppy	KONG Senior	KONG Classic	KONG EXTREME		
Softest Durable			Hardest Durable		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed for Light Chewers Designed for Puppies Teeth and gums Softest texture Black & Pink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Chewers Designed for Aging Teeth and gums Soft Rubber Purple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeans Chewers Designed for most Adult Dogs Soft Rubber Durable Rubber Red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steel Chewers Designed for Extreme Chewers Most Durable Thicker Black 		
XS 1 1/2" dia. 1 1/2" H	S 2 1/4" dia. 2 1/4" H	M 3 1/4" dia. 3 1/4" H	L 4 1/4" dia. 4 1/4" H	XL 5 1/4" dia. 5 1/4" H	XXL 6 1/4" dia. 6 1/4" H

Dogs Need to Play.



KONG Helps Solve...

- Chewing
- Teething
- Separation Anxiety
- Boredom
- Weight Management
- Crate Training
- Digging & Barking

Recommended Supplies: “Pets Live Here” Signage



Recommended Supplies: Basket Muzzle



Quiz

Animal Handling

Which of these is a recommended animal handling policy?

- A. When in common areas, animal must be on a leash at all times.
- B. Animal guardians must provide the name and contact information for an emergency care person for their animal, in the event that the animal guardian is missing or off premises for more than 24 hours.
- C. Dogs must wear a muzzle.
- D. Cats must be declawed.
- E. A and B.
- F. All of the above.

Quiz

Culture of Appropriate Animal Interactions

What is a “fear free” environment?

- A. An environment that helps clients with a fear of animals receive therapy to overcome their animal phobias.
- B. An environment that recognizes and takes steps to reduce fear, anxiety, and stress for animals in that space.
- C. An environment that requires large dogs to be muzzled in common areas, thereby reducing the fear of dog bites.
- D. None of the above.

Which of these is a sign that a dog is experiencing stress?

- A. Slight cowering
- B. Panting
- C. Pacing
- D. All of the above

Quiz

Recommended Supplies

What kind of leash is recommended?

- A. A retractable leash to allow the dog maximum movement and exploration.
- B. A chain leash for maximum durability.
- C. A 6' flat leash for maximum control.

Why are animal enrichment items, like food puzzles and chew toys, recommended?

- A. To reduce animal boredom and stress.
- B. To reduce separation anxiety and affiliated nuisance behaviors.
- C. To reduce the chances of property destruction.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Where to Find Resources & Partners

Veterinary care resources

- Local animal shelter, SPCA, and/or humane society.
- [PetHelpFinder.org](https://www.pethelpfinder.org)
- [Pets of the Homeless](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org)

Funding

- [OVC FY24 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program](#)
- [RedRover Safe Housing](#)

Animal welfare concerns

- What agency/organization is your local humane law enforcement agency?
 - A. SPCA?
 - B. Animal control?
 - C. Police department?

Supplies

- Local animal shelter, SPCA, and/or humane society.
- [PetHelpFinder.org](https://www.pethelpfinder.org)
- [Pets of the Homeless sleeping crate program](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org)
- [Pets of the Homeless pet food bank](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org)
- Need Kongs? Email Christine@mydogismyhome.org.



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Contact Us

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Join the [Co-Sheltering Collaborative](#).

Upcoming Event: Open House San Diego - Fall 2024
Stay updated by [joining our email list](#).



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**Question & Answer
Time!**