



# BECAUSE ANIMALS MATTER

## Hurricane Valley Humane

### CONDUCT AT ADOPTION EVENTS

At any public event we must keep the safety of our animals and the safety of the general public foremost in our thoughts.

It is our responsibility to present ourselves to the public and the partners we work with as professionals in the area of pet welfare and rescue. All BAM volunteers shall wear their BAM shirts to events and slacks/shorts should be clean and appropriate. When adoption events are held at venues such as Petco and PetSmart books are available in store to help answer questions that someone may have about a particular breed. Similar reference material is available for potential adopters visiting That BAM Place.

1. All foster parents and volunteers helping with the event should arrive one-half (1/2) hour before the scheduled event time to help set up the display tables and any exercise pens being used on the day.
2. All animals should be left in their transport vehicles (as appropriate seasonally) or a crate until the area is set up and prepared for the event.
3. All dogs should be on appropriate leads no longer than four (4) feet unless the animal is moved away from the adoption area and is being shown to a potential adoptive family or being exercised at which point the leash may be extended to six (6) feet. At no point should a BAM dog be controlled using an extendable leash.
4. Dogs may not be present in choke chains or pinch collars. Martingale collars featuring cinch chains are permitted. The use of harnesses is advised against as most designs encourage pulling while on leash. The use of head halters is permitted. No dog should have a leash wrapped around its body in an effort to control its behavior.
5. Foster dogs should not be allowed to roughhouse with each other or dogs under the control of another rescue group or event attendee unless both dogs are moved away from the adoption area and have permission of the other dog's handler. This interaction should most often be reserved for use in determining a potential adoptive placement.

6. Under no circumstance shall a child be allowed to approach a dog to hug or kiss it. Any BAM handler is expected to notify a child that they may not run toward a dog or grab at a dog, should a parent or guardian not be taking the same step. If need be, a dog can be removed from the situation in an effort to prevent any unwanted contact. The preferred response is to use such incidents as an opportunity to educate safe contact and speak with the parent or guardian about the risks involved in children approaching dogs without permission.

7. Treats will be provided for BAM foster dogs when appropriate. Under no circumstance should a treat be given to a dog from another group or that of an event attendee without the permission of that dog's handler/owner.

8. No toys (including balls) or chew bones shall be available to the dogs at the adoption area (except in the case of puppies that are in an exercise pen).

9. Pets will be handled by their foster parent. Only in the instance that a fostered dog has been temporarily left under the control and careful watch of another BAM representative should the foster parent not be with their adoptable dog. In that instance the temporary caregiver will make every effort to have the foster parent be made available to speak with any potential adopters prior to any trial or final placement. This effort ensures that the person who knows best the dog's behaviors and perhaps even training can discuss those details with the potential adopter(s). This effort results in better interviewing of potential adopters and thereby improved placement results.

10. Any discussions involving BAM representatives (volunteers, foster parents, Board Members, etc.) regarding the appropriate placement of that dog will be made privately (either in a separate area or at another time) and involve the Foster Care Coordinator or an available BAM Board Member as appropriate. In the instance where two or more foster parents have cared for an adoptable pet over its time in the Foster Program decisions about the pet's adoptive placement (trial or final) will only be made by the current foster parent unless it is requested that the Foster Care Coordinator make the decision. The Foster Care Coordinator and foster parent reserve the right to request a Board decision be made for any adoptive placement should there be concern raised by an agent of BAM or the information gathered from a completed adoption application or contract.