Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062
580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076
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Melanie Sobel
General Manager

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. Feedback can be given to the Animal Care staff – Tricia or Sarah, or Erin Conway, Volunteer Program Coordinator.

While SPOTT outings can be fun and rewarding for both the volunteer and the animal, please be responsible. 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 twice, and logged at least 10 hours of volunteer time at the shelter.
3) Completed the Foster/SPOTT training.

Eligible SPOTT dogs are:
1) **Adoptable dogs.** Dogs that are stray/non-adoptable <u>must stay on shelter property</u>. 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) **Must have rabies vaccination.** Animal Care staff will confirm.
4) **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 Animal Care 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) 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. When dogs are returned, write the time on the sign out sheet.

4) Volunteers can take an 'Adopt Me' vest or bandana for the dog to wear to let the public know they are available.
5) 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.

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) **Dogs may not be taken to a dog park – ever.**
3) **Dogs must be returned by shelter opening time – 10:00 am everyday.**
4) To ensure that dogs are placed in responsible, committed and loving homes, potential adopters must go through the regular SCCAS adoption process.
5) 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 general manager, at 831-566-4717.

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