

OFFICE FOSTER FOR SHY DOGS

GOAL: Office fostering shy dogs is a great way to give shy dogs a chance to come out of their shell. The kennel environment is stressful for any dog but so much more overwhelming for those dogs that are shy or fearful due to all of the new people, sounds and smells. The goal of office fostering shy dogs is to give these dogs a chance to relax, away from the stress of the kennel.

GENERAL RULES:

- Initially, avoid direct eye contact, moving toward and leaning over the dog. This can be scary for the dog- avoid these things when possible, and allow the dog to approach you at the dog's own pace.
- A fearful dog is usually more comfortable approaching your back than your front/face.
- Never force the dog to interact with you. It may take 3-4 sessions for a fearful dog to approach you.
- Slow, steady progress and teaching the dog to choose to interact with us are our ultimate goals- because we offer the dog calm friendly behavior and other good things (autonomy & treats).

THINGS YOU MAY NEED:

- A bed/crate (a crate is helpful with shy dogs so they have a safe place to hide)
- A bowl of water
- A variety of toys
- Delicious treats
- An enzymatic cleaner and paper towels, in case there is an accident
- A sign for the door, with all pertinent information about the dog so that visitors know to approach carefully and know what to expect from the dog
- Patience (it may take time for the fearful dog to feel comfortable enough to approach you and interact)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Sit at your desk quietly working while you allow the dog to settle wherever they feel most comfortable. Do not interact with or look directly at the dog. Stay relaxed and move slowly. Sudden movements may scare shy dogs.
2. Allow the shy dog to have autonomy – if the dog comes closer to you or initiates interaction with you, ignore the dog while staying still & relaxed, and allow the dog to sniff you.

3. Every once in a while, toss a treat onto the floor close to the dog while you continue to work. Make very slow/subtle movements as you toss the treat.
4. Take a peek to see if the dog ate the treat. If the dog eats the treat, continue tossing treats periodically while monitoring their reaction.
5. Throughout the time the dog is with you monitor their overall appearance and body language. Are they beginning to approach, demonstrating friendly body language soliciting attention from you?
6. As the dog becomes more comfortable, begin interacting with it more

Office fostering shy dogs can truly do wonders for these dogs as they really won't have a chance to fully relax in this type of situation. They make huge strides sometimes even after just one day in office foster.

