

## **Dog Walkers – Safety Considerations and Rules**

### ***Safety***

- If you do not feel comfortable handling a certain dog, don't do it. Politely decline and ask for another dog to work with.
- Give your total attention to the dog you are working with. The dog needs your undivided attention. If you are paying attention you will be able to both head off problems and praise the dog for doing something you like.
- When practicing outside, NEVER drop the leash. If an exercise requires you to move away from the dog, hold on to the leash.
- Be aware of where other dogs and people are. Don't walk dogs too close to each other. Avoid walking straight toward another dog and handler. That body language can be perceived as confrontation to some dogs and altercations can occur.
- Try not to walk close to the outside kennels so you avoid causing them to start barking or fence fighting.
- Do not allow a dog to lunge at other dogs or people. Keep a safe distance from other dogs and people.
- Do not walk dogs up to strangers.
- Do not let strangers come up to dogs and try to pet them.
- Do not let children run up to the dogs. Hold your hand out and firmly tell them to "Stop!"
- Never correct a dog by jerking the leash, hitting, shoving, yelling or holding his mouth shut. Such aggressive behavior is unacceptable and often provokes a dog to defend itself.

### ***Rules***

- Never harshly correct a dog by yanking the leash, alpha rolling it, hitting, slapping, holding the mouth shut! We use positive methods to train our dogs!
- Never let the dog pull on the leash when walking.
- Have the dog sit whenever you stop, even for just a brief moment.
- Never allow the dog to pick up something off the ground. Use the "Leave it" command.
- Do not allow a dog to continuously bark when you are outside with the dog. Use "Watch Me" to refocus the dog on you. If that doesn't work, move the dog out of the situation.
- Never allow the dog to jump on you or anyone else.
- Always make the dog sit for food, petting, going through doorways, and entering and exiting kennels.
- Never reward barking by petting or paying attention to a barking dog.