



18 September 2017

HOUND HAVEN PH

Policies and Procedures

HHPH K9 Interaction Guidelines

Note: Effective 23 September 2017, children and minors below the age of **twelve (12)** shall not be allowed entry into the HHPH kennels. Elsewhere within the HHPH Center, interaction with K9s should be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.

Direct human to K9 contact is allowed in open areas and when the handler has the K9 in a calm state e.g., sitting

1. Do not extend your hand to a new K9 as you approach it. With their powerful sense of smell, you can be sure he has sensed you way before your approach. It's illogical and even dangerous to go towards a strange K9 with an open hand as you can get bitten.
2. Approach and make contact with the handler first while ignoring the K9.
3. Try to approach the dog with your side exposed to him; avoid presenting your front.
4. Use a calm, low tone voice – avoid loud ‘baby-talk’ as dogs regard this as weak and are more likely to jump up on a human that uses it.
5. If the K9 starts to paw at you or licks you, that means he wants to interact. If the dog is too excited, he may try to jump up on you. Jumping on humans is undesirable so should be discouraged. If a K9 tries this, ignore him so he can learn not to repeat it.
6. If he backs away in shyness or fear, it's time for you to move on. Don't take it personally.
7. If the dog is shy but still approaches you, allow your hand to gently brush up against him. If he backs away, withdraw; if he comes closer, continue to increase the intensity of the touch until you can pet him.
8. End the contact in the same, calm manner you started. A dog can lunge for you if there is too much excitement at the end of the meeting.

Dog to K9 contact is only allowed in open areas with BOTH dogs leashed, and with the K9 in a relaxed state. Keep interactions short.

1. If they stiffen their bodies and stare into each other's eyes with their hair up and their teeth bared, disengage. You can try at a later time when both dogs are calm.
2. If they lunge at each other and try to fight, separate them and don't try further introductions without help. Some dogs are perfectly fine with humans but cannot safely interact with other animals.

3. When dogs first look into each other's eyes, the appropriate behavior is to give a glance and then look away. A hard stare into another dog's eyes is a challenge and is not a friendly way to greet.
4. If the dogs rush up to each other and engage in loud, raucous play, stay alert. This type of play can escalate to fighting if the dogs do not know how to calm themselves down.
5. If one dog pursues the other and ignores the other dog's corrections (e.g., lip curls, growls or air snaps), it can turn from play into bullying. These are frequently mistaken for aggression, but they are actually part of healthy, normal dog communication. Dogs should be able to correct each other when one is being inappropriate.
6. If the dogs try to play by pawing or play-bowing with their legs stretched out in front of them, they may want to be best buddies. Allow them to get to know each other, and give praise for each nice interaction.