



Kickin It With K9s FAQs

Q: Do I have to go through KHS Volunteer Orientation to join this program?

A: No. Since you will not be volunteering in the shelter, you do not need to go through the regular volunteer onboarding and training process. There is a separate short orientation just for the Kickin' It With K9s program, and we do require that you attend that prior to taking a dog out.

Q: How old do you have to be to take a dog on a field trip or a sleepover?

A: You must be 18 years or older in order to check a dog out of the shelter. However, children under the age of 18 can join their parent or guardian in taking dogs on field trips, and families with children can also take dogs home for sleepovers.

Q: Why do you charge a fee to join this program?

A: The \$5 one-time fee that we ask you to pay when you attend orientation goes toward covering the cost of program supplies, such as leashes, bandanas, bowls, crates, and dog waste bag dispensers.

Q: Can I still take shelter dogs to my house for sleepovers if I have other pets at home?

A: Yes! If you have a dog at home, we'll just need you to bring your dog in to meet the shelter dog first, so that we can ensure the dogs seem like they will get along in your home. If you have cats or small pets (rabbits, parakeets, guinea pigs, lizards, etc...) at home, you will need to keep them in another room and separate from the shelter dog while it is at your home.

Q: I can't have dogs where I live so I can't do sleepovers- can I still join the program?

A: Absolutely! Program participants are strongly encouraged to take their shelter dog home for a 2-night sleepover so that the dog can have a longer break from the shelter (think of it like a human's weekend), but if you aren't able to do sleepovers you can still help shelter dogs by taking them on field trips!

Q: Can I bring my own dog along when I take a shelter dog on a field trip?

A: At this time we are not able to have owned dogs come along on field trips, but please check back soon!

Q: Do I get to pick the dog that I take?

A: Shelter staff will match you with a dog that is a good fit for your lifestyle and activity level, based on the information that we gather from you when you attend orientation.

Q: I saw a cute dog on your website that I might want to adopt- can I take it on a sleepover to “test drive” how the dog does in my home?

A: Not all dogs will be available to take on field trips or sleepovers, because dogs must be available for adoption for 5 days before they are eligible for this program. You are also required to attend Kickin’ It With K9s orientation prior to being able to take a dog out. So, if you are interested in meeting a specific dog, we strongly recommend that you come to the shelter during adoption hours and go through our regular adoption process. Information about our adoption process can be found here: <https://www.kitsap-humane.org/adopt/how-to-adopt/>.

Q: What if I decide that I want to adopt the dog after I bring it back to the shelter?

A: You would need to go through our regular adoption process, which would include filling out an adoption application and meeting with one of our Adoption Counselors. More detailed information about our adoption process can be found here: <https://www.kitsap-humane.org/adopt/how-to-adopt/>.

Q: Do you have any suggestions about where I can take dogs on field trips?

A: Program participants will be provided with a list of dog-friendly places to take their shelter dogs.

Q: Do I need to provide food and other supplies for the dog while it is at my house?

A: Nope! When you take a dog on a sleepover, you will be sent home with supplies such as food, toys, and a crate.