



# Borrowed Buddies Program

## The Purpose and Mission of this Program:

- Granting adoptable pets currently residing in the shelter the opportunity for a "day out" or weekend (Saturday at 3:30 p.m. – Tuesday at 11 a.m.) and holiday stays with families offers them a well-deserved break from the shelter environment. This provides the pets the chance to experience the warmth of a home setting.
- Enabling adoptable pets to venture into public spaces and mingle with different people not only enhances their socialization skills but also provides invaluable insights for shelter staff. Observing the pet's behavior outside the shelter setting allows staff to gather crucial information about their adaptability and temperament, enabling them to better match the pet with an ideal adoptive family. This thoughtful approach not only improves the chances of successful adoptions but also contributes to the overall well-being of the animals in the care of the shelter.

## Welcome to Borrowed Buddies!

First and foremost, THANK YOU for gifting your time to our shelter dogs. By taking them out for just a few hours a day, weekend, or holiday, our shelter residents can exert pent-up energy and be mentally stimulated by new experiences and people. As a result of the Borrowed Buddy Program, our pets maybe less anxious or exuberant when they meet potential adopters and gain useful life skills that they wouldn't get from sitting and waiting in the shelter. Another bonus is that people who are not likely to come into shelters can still see our available animals.

## Important Phone Numbers and Contacts

**Burleson Animal Shelter: 817-426-9283**

For general questions/ info /non-emergencies:  
animalshelter@burlesontx.com

## In case of an emergency

Please call 817-426-9283, and if needed, be prepared to return the pet immediately.

## Emergencies that require immediate attention

- Temperatures over 104 degrees
- Excessive vomiting or vomiting blood or green or yellow bile

- Vomiting combined with diarrhea and lethargy
- Difficulty breathing or very shallow or labored breathing
- Extreme lethargy - the dog is barely moving or not moving at all
- Swelling of the face or eyes
- Prolapsed rectum
- Ingestion of something toxic
- Swollen or broken limbs
- Seizures
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Sudden disorientation or incoordination
- Anything else that makes you think that your buddy is in pain or in danger of passing away

**Non-emergency concerns can be noted at the time of drop-off.**

## Before You Pick Up Your Buddy

1. Be prepared for anything. Remember, we don't know what many of these pets have been through. We don't know their past, how they have been treated, how their living situation once was, and most importantly, we don't know their true personality. We only know what we see here at our facility and what little (if any) information their previous caretaker provided. We try our best to match you with a dog that will do well with you, but your buddy may have a very different personality once they are comfortable.
2. **FOR DOGS:** Ready your car with the appropriate amount of space for the dog. Depending on the dog, you may need enough space for a size-appropriate crate, a friend to help contain the dog to the back seat, or a barrier to prevent the dog from getting to the driver's and passenger's seats.
3. **FOR CATS:** The shelter will provide a carrier for you to transport your cat in. Please utilize it whenever transporting the cat.
4. **FOR DAY OUTINGS:** Please plan to leave your own dog at home. Our day trips aim to give the dog a break from the shelter and some one-on-one time with humans. Although some of our shelter dogs might do well with other dogs and enjoy doggie playtime, we prefer these field trips be geared towards interacting with humans and not with other dogs. **Burleson Animal Shelter is not liable for the treatment or cost of vet bills incurred for your own pets at your private veterinarian.**
5. If you plan to take our dog home, please check your fence line and property for holes, loose planks, poisonous plants, foxtails, and dangerous household items. Even if you

have/had a dog that has never gotten loose, please don't assume your property is secure. We don't know the history of most of the dogs we place, most of which were strays.

## If Your Buddy Gets Loose

Sometimes, despite our best intentions, a pet will get loose. Please try not to panic. If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of our more social guests may come right to you, but very often, even social dogs get frightened once they get loose. You may be more successful in calling them to get their attention, walking in the opposite direction, kneeling down, and digging in the dirt as you've just found something extremely interesting.

Reaching for a scared dog will often cause them to bolt and can also result in a bite, so please use caution and only reach for the dog if you feel you can safely do so. If the dog is in a secured area but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so we can help! If the dog is already on a flat-out run and panicked, they may not respond to you.

Please follow them from a distance so that you can see their direction and catch up to them once they have slowed down. If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to ensure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you. We understand that every circumstance is different and that attracting your dog to you may not be possible. Please call us if this is the case.

## If A Bite Occurs

If the dog bites anyone (you included), **IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU NOTIFY SHELTER STAFF IMMEDIATELY.** If the dog bites a stranger, please take all their information so we can contact them to complete the appropriate paperwork. We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound. Staff are **required by law** to report any bites that break the skin to the appropriate animal control agency. ***We will also need to follow state laws for quarantine.*** A bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate to report it. If you see any signs of aggression, even if it is very minor, please contact us immediately.

**Questions that are necessary for our bite reports are:**

1. Who was bitten? How old are they? Where do they live?
2. Where on the body is the bite? Were there multiple bites or just one?
3. How did the bite occur? (Was the victim (person bitten) reaching out to touch the dog or was it unprovoked, etc.)

## If Someone Is Interested In Adopting

If you encounter someone interested in adopting your Borrowed Buddy, please give them the shelter business card so that they may follow up with us. Most of our adoptions occur due to pets being seen on our website/Facebook. It is important that we have adorable photos and, if possible, a great video of your Borrowed Buddy. Please send these to [animalshelter@burleson.com](mailto:animalshelter@burleson.com). We need your help to ensure your buddy is seen as much as possible!

### AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU MUST AGREE TO

- Always have the pet under YOUR supervision.
- Never leave children unattended with any pet.
- Inform us if the pet bites anyone (you included) right away.
- Keep the dog on a leash unless confined in your home/backyard.
- Keep the cat confined to your home.
- Do not take the dog to off-leash dog areas or dog parks or make dog introductions while on your day trip.
- Pick up and return the buddy at the agreed-upon times.
- Safely transport the buddy by either being in a crate or safely restrained in a back seat.
- Keep the dog offsite (i.e., do not walk it around **Burleson Animal Shelter** property or take it into our dog parks).
- Report any behavior or medical concerns to the shelter.
- Keep the pet safe by providing adequate rest, shade, shelter and water.
- Utilize only positive reinforcement training (do not verbally or physically punish the pet).
- Have a cell phone with you at all times that can be used to contact you.

### Pre Ground Rules

To ensure the safety of you and the public, these rules MUST be followed, or the consequence is immediate suspension from the program:

- EVERY dog must be on a 6-foot or less leash and handled by an adult (18+) at ALL times. **NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES.**
- All parties participating are expected to follow all ordinances set forth by the City of Burleson. We encourage you to read over the laws established by the City of Burleson.
- FOR DOGS: As the dog's guardian, it is your sole responsibility to walk your dog, engage in safe procedures, address any warning signs your dog gives, and heed fellow walkers' warnings.

- Pay attention to your dog's needs and maintain a safe distance between dogs and others. Be aware of your surroundings, and please respect the needs of other dogs and individuals in the city.
- Present your buddy positively to potential adopters and members of the public.

## Woo-Hoo! Borrowed Buddies!

**We would love to see and hear about your adventures today, and pictures of your time with your Buddy can help them find an awesome forever home.**

**If you post pics on social, please tag us:**

Facebook: *BurlesonAnimalShelter*

Instagram: *@burlesonanimalshelter*

Use the hashtag #BorrowedBuddies #adoptdontshop

You can also send photos to [animalshelter@burlesontx.com](mailto:animalshelter@burlesontx.com)