

Life for Dogs Living in Shelters



Dogs are often housed singly to prevent injury & disease¹

Shelter housing likely restricts dogs' ability to engage in speciesspecific behaviors²

Shelter noise levels can range from 65-125 $dB^{3,4,5}$ & have been found damaging to dogs' hearing⁵

Wells, 2004) ²(Taylor & Mills, 2007) ³(Sales, Hubrecht, Peyvandi, Milligan, & Shield, 1997) ⁴(Coppola, Enns, & Grandin, 2006) ⁵(Scheifele, Martin, Clark, Kemper, & Wells, 2012)

This lack of control & predictability likely has significant psychological impacts²

In all, the novel shelter environment with its sights & sounds, spatial restrictions, limited social contact with dogs & people, & separation from attachment figure(s) may all contribute to decreased welfare⁶

Why does this matter? 3.9 million dogs enter shelters each year⁷

As dogs are kenneled longer awaiting homes,^{8,9} animal shelters are becoming more like orphanages¹⁰

(Protopopova, 2016) ⁷(ASPCA, 2017) ⁸(Wenstrup & Dowidchuk, 1999) ⁹(Gu



Improving Shelter Dog Welfare

Petting has been shown to reduce cortisol is shelter dogs after blood draw²⁰ – with interventions of petting resulting in less anxie

Less than ¹/₂ an hour of walking & human interaction can result in decreased salivary cortisol & improved behavioral scores²²

Just hanging out, petting or play reduces cortisol & vocalizing & panting) as compared to remaining in kennel or being removed without a person²³ with repeated interactions possibly having greater impact²⁴ ²⁴(Hennessy, Williams, Miller, Douglas, & Voith, 1998) ²¹ (Hennessy et al., 2002) ²²(Mer Carbonell, & López-Rodriguez, 2011) ²³(Shiverdecker, Schiml, & Henness ²⁴(Coppola, Grandin, & Enns, 2006)

Fostering is a Human-Animal Interaction Intervention

Presently, little is known about how fostering improves shelter dog welfare - but it's possible that prolonged exposure to humans & reductions in disruptive sounds could reduce stress



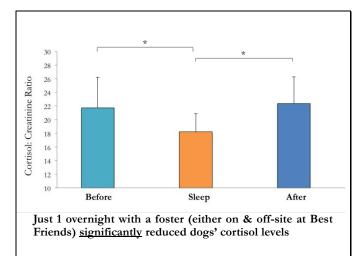
When dogs are adopted from temporary & trial $adoptions^{25}$ – as well as novel programs, like Adoption Ambassadors

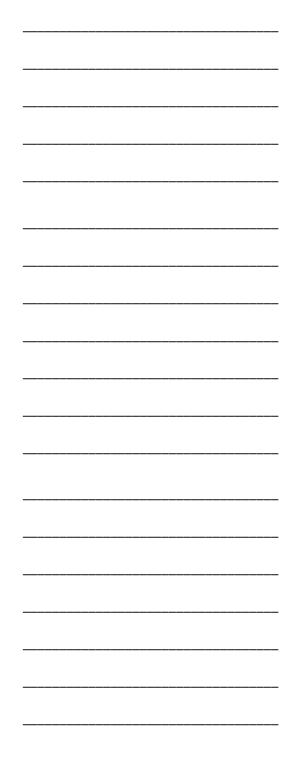
they're returned <u>less</u> frequently than traditionally adopted dogs

AA adopters more often report information from dog's foster was helpful in their decision-making²⁶







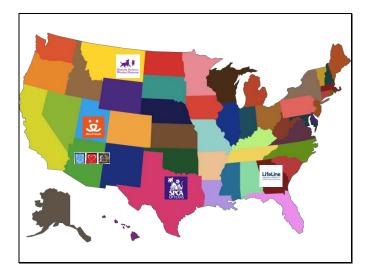


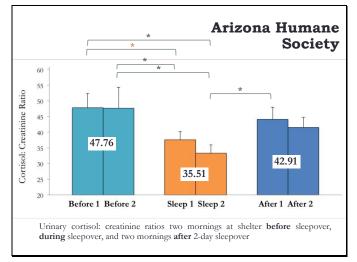
In an effort to learn more about how temporary fostering benefits shelter dogs, we embarked on 4-shelter study across the US

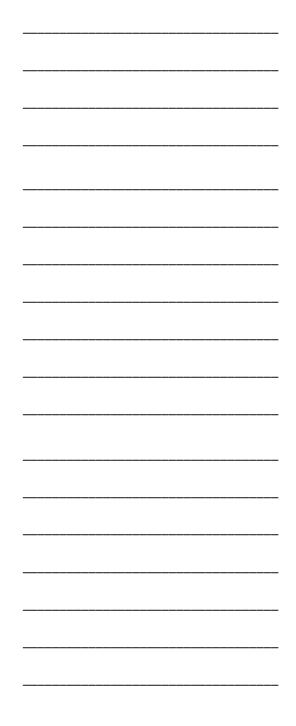
With these shelters, we collected:

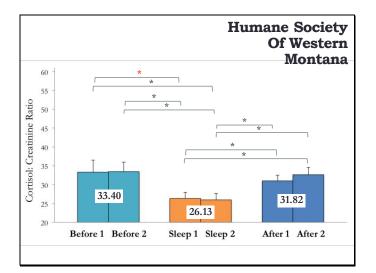
More urine: 2 days Before, 2 days During, and 2 Days After to learn more about the physiological effects of sleepovers

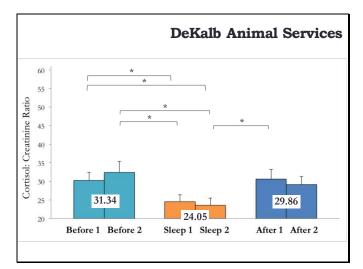


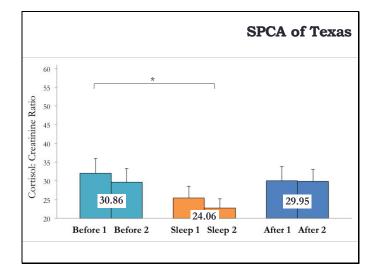


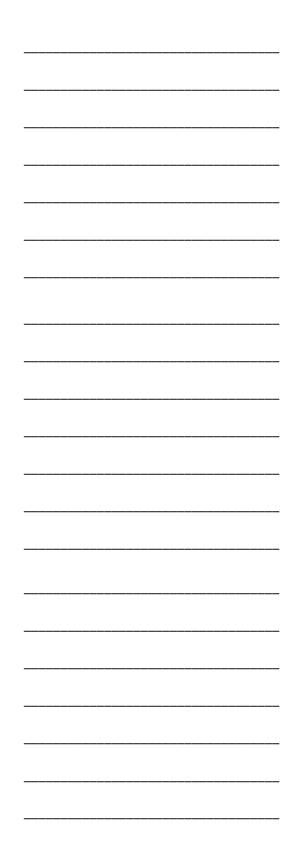












The Evidence is In!

Our 5 shelters have demonstrated that temporary sleepovers of 1 & 2 nights result in CORT reductions without significant increases upon return compared to baseline shelter levels



Are There Other **Benefits to Sleepovers?**

Our observations over the course of a year working with five very different shelters, spending one month carrying out data collection with each



What We Observed Behaviorally

- After sleepovers, dogs were: Less frantic in-kennel More relaxed Less apathetic & more engaged with people

It's possible that there's longer-term behavioral benefits than just cortisol reduction (& maybe they're related!)

Can brief sleepovers preserve behavioral health? Programs like these could be useful for behaviorally health dogs, not just problematic dogs





Some even continued to foster their dogs after study was completed because of dog's need &

good fit in home

And adopted dogs! And so did their friends

Turning Up Foster Recruitment

"I can do anything for a day and a half" – Arizona foster volunteer

Open-ended fostering can be daunting – but **short-term** fostering can:

Allow low barrier to entry to "hook" fosters into longer-term fostering

Capture new group of volunteers & work around their schedule

Assess fosters' likes & dislikes, & abilities



Overnight/ Weekend Foster Planning

- Who can foster?
- Fosters only, fosters & volunteers, the public?
- Who is available to go?
 - All dogs, dogs with long shelter stays, etc.?
- How can you run the program most efficiently?
- Who can you recruit to help?



Tailor Your Program to Your Shelter's Needs

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

- About 4,500 pets per year
- LOS <14 days
- Less than 2 dozen dogs on the adoption floor at any given time
- Adopts out more pets than it takes in; regularly transfers in pets from other shelters
- Dogs get walked 3-5 times per day

Austin Animal Center

day

- About 18,000 pets per yearSeveral hundred dogs on the
- adoption floor at any given timeDogs get walked 1-3 times per

Overnight/ Weekend Foster Logistics: Austin

- Current volunteers and fosters can participate
- Process is managed by customer service personnel, just like an adoption
- Very little added work for foster coordinators
- Dogs can be overnight/weekend fostered anytime





Weekend Foster Logistics: Fairfax

- Shelter closes on Saturday at 5pm; reopens Tuesday at 12 pm
- Program is open to volunteers & fosters
- Candidates for weekend foster are chosen several days in advance and an email is sent out. If those dogs aren't adopted by Saturday at 5pm, they will be available for weekend foster.

Weekend Foster Logistics: Fairfax

- At 4:30pm on Saturdays, weekend fosters arrive to pick up pets
- Foster assistant answers questions and helps to gather needed supplies
- Paperwork is signed
 Dogs can be returned Sunday evening through Tuesday morning, depending on foster's availability

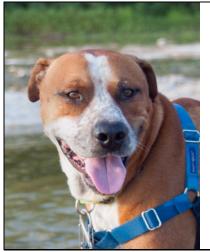
	•				Page 1 of 3	
Foster Care Agreement - Jun 29 2016			29 2016	Tel	L: 703-830-1100,0	
And the second s				Factor Soundy Advented Braketor eductives On Basis Parties, respect 2018 Basis PCOPERATION Conference of the one of the factor and granteen address of the factor and granteen address Ter 2019 address for Basis/Basis and Basis/Basis and		
Animal	information					
ID: ARM	A26673046	Name:	Camp M182013	Types: Dog Breeds Sorter Calle Retrievel, Fill	Gendarzitormés	
				Coanad		
	98200040544	Age: Age	2 10 10 11 11	Colore: Six:h7/hite	Size: Misdum	
Тура	247-05565	Group:	Adult (7 mos - 5 (*3)	Patiers:	Weight: 25.00 pound	
Foster Reason		Foster Pickup Cate Time		Expected Return Date	Roleano Dy	
		01.00PM		07.00PM	scrap	
Angelas (h	I tave tever ber pert or abandore	animal(s)) can a canvided of an ed in the future	energian a france com antig impounded as in imal crushly, neglect, react threase from 1	and the second	Rer, FCAIP).	
Applied (n 1	I tave tever ber pert or abandore	e convolution of an encounter of an end of the forum with the provide provide. This po is property char provide and analy	read in a finite or a second of a second o	Party Completion and Completion	Par (FCR21) Ti an convented of arrend red that this code auction means from (1) adhesis	
applies to applies to	mentalitier, "wy kaaa i haw mewer bee perit on akkenisere i ageen to comptig ender also sheller the open frample and the	events (e) our e convertent of an e convertent of an event in the factors with the proving arrender. This are provide the provide provide and any provide a sub- provide a sub- sub-transmission and the provide and and the provide and t	rend formation of the second o	Windo Cauto, L. Martin, E. Kanada et al. 2010. A second	Proc. NOVATION	
doprad (h rushig, ne apples to early (No howday) (No howday) addressy	mentalitie: "vey keak 	events (despective) e asservations (of an event of a servations) with the property is properly class provider. This pro- provider and any long is provider a discussion with the provider is provider a discussion of the provider and the		and the course of the cours	Prov. NOVATION	
doprad (h rushig, ne apples to early (No howday) (No howday) addressy	Introduction for the second se	a service of a ser	and a record of the second of	We have converted to the source of the so	The (SCAD) ¹⁰ B an operated of around the the operated and () a subset of that the code and/or implicit least () a subset manufacture, and () adden of the one's wedge manufacture, and () adden of the one's wedge manufacture, and () adden of the one's wedge and a probability of the subset of the one's wedge and a subset of the subset of the one's wedge and a subset of the subset of the one of the one of the subset of the one of the subset of the one of the one of the subset of the one of	
doprad (n 1 anardy, ne 2 angeles to a angeles to a angeles to a angeles to a angeles to a provide to a and a angeles to a and a angeles to a and a angeles to a and a angeles to a a	A second se	and an end of the second secon	and a local of a local	We have a second	The "FSCH". ¹¹ IS an operated of energy and the scheme of the two schemes and the schemes of the two schemes the schemes of the schemes the schemes of the schemes and the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes and the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the schemes of the sch	
dograd (n - arterly, ne 2 arterly, ne 2 arterly, ne arterly, ne	Labor in the second sec	and the second s	and a limit of the second seco	The second secon	The "FSCHL" ⁴ IF an incomment of memory and the scheme sector and the scheme sector income sector and a scheme and scheme sector income sector and and and scheme sector income sector and scheme sector income sector and scheme sector income sector and scheme sector income sector and scheme sector income	
Acground (n acground (n acgro	La la conserva de la	and a constant of the second o	the second secon	We have a second	An 15200." ¹⁰ T3 an constant of anyong on the second second second anyong the second second anyong the second second second second anyong the second second second second anyong the second second second second second anyong the second second second second second second second anyong the second secon	
Acquired (n - - - - - - - - - - - - -	La la construir de la construi	and depaying a considered of an example of the second of the second of the second of the second of the second of the	the set of	We have a second	The Scale of the S	

IRL (In Real Life) at Humane Rescue Alliance



- Purpose of program:To gather out-of-shelter
 - To gather out-of-shelter information on their medium and large dogs
 - To recruit and build the confidence of fosters for big dogs
- Targets dogs with long shelter stays, seniors and those exhibiting signs of shelter stress
- Emphasis on data collection

Foster Sleepovers: How Temporary Fostering Can Improve the Lives of Shelter Dogs



Supplies

- Martingale collars
- Foster tags
- 1-2 types of harnesses
- Carabiners
- Sturdy leashes
- Ziploc bags of the food the dogs have been eating
- "Weekend foster"
 laminated kennel signs
- "Adopt me" vests, bandanas, or leashes
- CratesBowls, treats, toys, etc.

