

# Dog Behaviour Policy

## Evaluation and Screening:

Prior to accepting a dog into our care, we will conduct an initial evaluation to assess the dog's temperament, behaviour, and compatibility with our group walking environment. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behaviour towards humans or other dogs may be deemed unsuitable for group walks and may require individualised services or training.

## Training and Socialisation:

We encourage positive reinforcement-based training methods to promote desirable behaviour and reinforce obedience commands.

Socialisation with other dogs and people is encouraged to help dogs develop appropriate social skills and reduce anxiety or fear-based behaviours.

## Leash Walking Etiquette:

Dogs without adequate recall will be kept on a leash at all times during walks to ensure their safety and the safety of others. All dogs will be on leash to and from the car and are expected to be able to walk safely on leash, a harness which promotes loose leash walking may be used for larger dogs as precautionary measure.

Handlers will use appropriate leash management techniques to prevent pulling, lunging, or other undesirable behaviours.

## Interactions with Other Dogs:

Dogs will be closely monitored and supervised during interactions with other dogs to prevent conflicts or aggression.

Interventions will be made promptly if signs of tension or aggression arise, including redirecting attention, separating dogs if necessary, and providing appropriate corrections.

Our senior team members have a high frequency fight interruption device in case of emergencies and have been trained on how to use them appropriately.

## Human-Dog Interactions:

Handlers will maintain a calm and friendly demeanour when interacting with dogs to establish trust. Assertiveness may be necessary to gain control from over-excited or frustrated dogs.

Physical contact, such as petting or affection, will be provided in a positive and respectful manner, avoiding actions that may provoke fear or aggression.

## Environmental Management:

Dogs will be exposed to a variety of environments and stimuli during walks to promote confidence and adaptability.

Handlers will be mindful of potential triggers or stressors and will take appropriate measures to minimise anxiety or reactivity.

### **Communication with Owners:**

Owners will be informed of any significant behavioural issues observed during walks, along with recommendations for addressing these issues.

Open and transparent communication will be maintained to ensure owners are aware of their dog's progress and any concerns that may arise.

### **Emergency Procedures:**

Handlers will be trained in recognising and responding to emergency situations, including dog fights, injuries, or medical emergencies.

Emergency contact information for the dog's owner and veterinary provider will be readily available and accessible in case of emergencies.

### **Documentation and Reporting:**

Incidents involving aggressive behaviour, injuries, or other noteworthy occurrences will be documented and reported to management and the dog's owner.

Reports will include details of the incident, actions taken, and recommendations for preventing similar incidents in the future.

### **Continual Improvement:**

We are committed to ongoing education and training to enhance our understanding of dog behaviour and improve our handling skills.

Feedback from owners and observations of dog behaviour will be used to continually refine and improve our practices and protocols.

By adhering to this behaviour policy, we aim to create a safe, enjoyable, and enriching experience for all dogs under our care while promoting responsible ownership and positive relationships between dogs and their handlers.