

Name:

## AKC Canine Clubs-Community Dogs– Week 1

### Service Dogs

- What is the difference between a service, therapy, and pet dog?
  - Service Dog: Dog is trained to perform tasks that help an individual with a disability. Dog has access to all public places. Training often 1-2 years.
  - Therapy Dog: Dog provides comfort to people. Dog has some access to schools, hospitals, nursing homes with permission. People train their pet dogs to pass a test showing their dog is well-behaved before bringing the dog into these places.
  - Pet Dog: Dog stays at home, is loved and likes to play, but is not necessarily trained for a specific purpose
- Respect the vest! Do not pet or distract a working service dog.

### Dog Body Language

- Dogs are an open book. If you know how to read their body language, they'll tell you everything you need to know.
- Dog body language is like puzzle pieces. Make sure you put all the pieces together!
- Body posture: Tense, rigid body=beware; relaxed and curved body=friendly.
- Fur: hackles raised can mean dominant or aggressive. Sometimes it can also mean the dog is excited and nervous.
- Stress: Dog's get stressed, too. Some common signs that a dog is stressed include: excessive panting when it's not hot out, drooling, tongue flicks, yawning, scratching, body shakes, pacing, whining.
- Tail: up = dominant or aggressive; between the legs = fear and nervousness; neither up nor down, relaxed = good. When a dog's tail wags:
  - more to the right: happy
  - more to the left: nervous
- Ears: pushed forward = aggressive; back and flat to the head = submissive and nervous; back and relaxed = happy and submissive; up and alert = paying attention to something but neither aggressive or fearful.
- Vocalizations: not all barks are bad. Beware of snarling. Listen to the tone of the bark. A higher pitched bark is not as threatening as a lower pitched bark. Whining can mean the dog is scared, excited or nervous.
- Fear: A fearful dog can be more dangerous than an aggressive dog, because a fearful dog is unpredictable. Important to use caution with fearful dogs.

### Dog Greetings

- ALWAYS ASK before greeting.
- Non-threatening body language: crouch down or squat, do not make direct eye contact, turn your body to the side.
- Let the dog approach you. Don't stick your fist in the dog's face for him to smell you.
- Calm energy. No quick or excited movements
- Petting: let the dog sniff you first. Then first pet under the chin or on the side. Petting a dog over the top of the head can be seen as threatening. Use slow, even strokes.