

des moines county
HUMANE SOCIETY



🐾 Pawsitive Adventures 🐾

WELCOME!

Thank you so much for spending time with our shelter dogs! Just a few hours out of the shelter each day makes a world of difference. These outings help our dogs burn off excess energy, experience new environments, and interact with different people—all of which are vital for their mental and emotional well-being. As a result, they're calmer and more confident when meeting potential adopters, and they pick up valuable life skills that they wouldn't gain by staying in the shelter alone. Plus, Pawsitive Adventures introduces our adoptable pets to people who might not otherwise visit a shelter, giving them even more chances to find loving homes.

Important Phone Numbers and Contacts

Des Moines County Humane Society 319.753.8389

For general question/ info /non-emergencies:

dmchumane@yahoo.com

Tiffanie Rourke: 319.753.8389

KC Shoemaker: 319.753.8389

Other contact: 319.457.3720

Other contact: 319.750.0548

Email: dmchumane@yahoo.com

Email: kcschoemaker90@gmail.com

Avail: Monday-Fri 8-4:30

Avail: Tuesday-Friday 8-4:30 / Sat 8-5

In case of an emergency

Please call [319.753.8389](tel:319.753.8389) and return dog immediately

*****All visits to the emergency clinic must be approved in advance*****

Allgood Animal Hospital

3106 Johannsen Dr. Burlington IA, 52601

319.752.5983

Emergencies that require immediate attention:

- Sudden or blowout diarrhea where dog has no control at all
- Temperatures over 104 degrees
- Extreme dehydration – If you pinch the skin and the skin remains tented for 5 seconds. (The eyes may appear to be sunken in. The gums will feel dry or tacky.)
- 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 - 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 dog 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 Dog

1. Be prepared for anything. Remember, we don't know what many of these dogs have been through. We don't know their past, we don't know how they have been treated, we don't know how their living situation once was, and most importantly, we don't know their true personality. All we do know is what we see here at our facility and what little (if any) information her previous caretaker provided. We try our very best to match you with a dog that we think will do well with you, but your dog may have a very different personality once they are comfortable.

2. Remember that the dog must always be in control of an adult over the age of 18. While we welcome family outings, the leash must always be held by an adult and dogs and children should never be left unsupervised.

3. 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 avoid the dog from getting to the driver and passengers seat.

4. **Please plan to leave your own dog at home!** The goal of our day trips is to give the dog a break from the shelter and some one on one time with humans. Although most of our shelter dogs 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. Maintain a twenty foot distance from other dogs while out in public. *Des Moines County Humane Society 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 your 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 that your property is secure. We don't know the history of most of the dogs we place and the majority of them were strays.

Des Moines County Humane Society will provide you with a leash, collar, ID tag, doggy seat belt, poop bags, water bottle, water bowl, crate if needed, and some doggy business cards!

IF YOUR DOG GETS LOOSE:

Sometimes despite our best intentions, a dog 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 calling them to get their attention and then walking the opposite direction, kneeling down and digging in the dirt like 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 an area that is secured but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so that we can help! If the dog is already in a flat out run and is panicked, they may not respond to you at all. Please try following them from a distance so that you can see the direction they are going and hopefully catch up to them once they have slowed down. If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to make sure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you. We understand that every circumstance is different and that luring 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) we need to know right away. If the dog bites a stranger, please take all of their information so that we can contact them to fill out the appropriate paperwork. We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound. We are required by law to report any bites that break 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 reporting it. If you are seeing any signs of aggression, even if it is very minor, please contact your coordinator immediately.

IF SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN ADOPTING

If you encounter someone who is interested in adopting your dog, please give them our business card with the dog's name on it so that they may follow up with them. You can also direct them to your coordinator. In general, the adoption fee for adult dogs is **\$195** and includes *the first 2 sets of basic vaccines, Rabies, Spay or neuter, and microchip*. The majority of our adoptions occur as a result of the dogs being seen on our website. It is very important that we have adorable photos, and if possible a great video of your dog. Please share these at dmchumane@yahoo.com. We need your help to make sure your dog is seen as much as possible!

AS A PARTICIPANT, YOU MUST AGREE TO

- Have the dog under YOUR supervisor at all times
- Never leave children unattended with any dog
- Never allow a child under eighteen to hold the leash or be in physical control of the dog.
- Inform us if the dog bites anyone (you included) right away
- Maintain a twenty foot distance from other dogs while walking or in public – no dog to dog intros.
- Keep the dog on leash unless confined in your home/back yard.
- Do not take the dog to off-leash dog areas, dog parks, or do dog introductions while on your trip
- Pick up and return the dog at the agreed upon times
- Transport the dog in a safe manner by either being in a crate or safely restrained in a back seat
- Keep the dog offsite (aka do not walk it around **DMCHS** property or take into our dog parks)
- Report any behavior or medical concerns to your coordinator
- Keep the dog safe by providing adequate rest, shade, shelter and water
- Utilize only positive reinforcement training (do not verbally or physically punish the dog)
- Have a cell phone with you at all times that can be used to contact you
- Present the dog in a positive way to potential adopters and members of the public

Woo-Hoo! Pawsitive Adventures!

We love to see and hear about your adventures today and pictures of your day can help them find an awesome forever home.

If you post pics on social, please tag us:

Facebook: [#DesMoinesCountyHumaneSociety](#)

[#dmchspawsitiveadventures](#)

Instagram: [@dmchs2022](#)

TikTok: [#dmchspawsitiveadventures](#)

Use the hashtag [#dmchspawsitiveadventures](#)

You can also send photos to dmchumane@yahoo.com or you can send them directly to our facebook messenger.

Liability Waiver

Pawsitive Adventures Volunteer Information

Date: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Key Questions:

1. **What is your level of experience?**

- a. Never owned a dog
- b. Owned a dog but have not completed obedience training
- c. Have completed basic obedience training with a dog
- d. Have completed intermediate training with a dog

2. **What type of outings do you plan on having?**

- a. Trips to your home: Apartment _____ House _____ Fenced Yard _____
- b. Hikes/Local Parks
- c. Coffee/shopping
- d. Other _____

3. **Home Environment**

- a. Dogs _____
- b. Cats _____
- c. Children/ ages _____

4. **Preference details (check all that apply):**

- a. Days of Week Available _____
- b. Size/Weight: Small _____ Med _____ Large _____
- c. Energy Level: Low _____ Med _____ High _____
- d. Behavior: Easy _____ Mod _____ Challenging _____

5. **Needs (check all that apply):**

- a. Doggy seat belt _____
- b. Crate _____
- c. Other _____

6. **Any Additional information we should know?**

DES MOINES COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY'S PAWSITIVE ADVENTURES PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Thank you for your interest in DMCHS's Pawsitive Adventures program. Pawsitive Adventures is a unique program that allows volunteers to take shelter dogs for a day-long outing. By participating in the Pawsitive Adventures program, I agree to the following:

I understand that volunteering with DMCHS may require me to come in contact with animals, and that there are risks associated with my volunteer activities, including but not limited to dog bites and/or scratches. I assume the risks and accept personal liability for any damages that might occur as a result of my volunteer activities. I HEREBY IRREVOCABLY RELEASE DMCHS, AND (2) ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND VOLUNTEERS (collectively referred to as "Released Parties") FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS I MAY HAVE, OR WHICH MAY HEREAFTER ACCRUE TO ME, AGAINST RELEASED PARTIES FOR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, AND ALL PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS, ARISING OUT OF MY VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY WITH DMCHS.

I hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold the Released Parties harmless from any and all liability, losses, damages, judgments, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, that the Released Parties may sustain in connection with any third party claims that arise out of my volunteer activities, whether such volunteer activities occur on DMCHS's premises, at my home, or elsewhere.

I UNDERSTAND THAT DES MOINES COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY DOES NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR OTHER ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MEDICAL, HEALTH, OR DISABILITY INSURANCE OF ANY NATURE IN THE EVENT OF MY INJURY, ILLNESS, OR DEATH, OR DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF MY PROPERTY. I UNDERSTAND THAT DMCHS DOES NOT PROVIDE WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS. AND HEREBY EXPRESSLY WAIVER ANY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION OR LIABILITY ON THE PART OF DMCHS IN THE EVENT OF ANY INJURY OR MEDICAL EXPENSE.

I agree that if I volunteer to transport any DMCHS animal(s) in my personal vehicle for any purpose, I will 1) maintain at least the state-required minimum amounts of automobile insurance on the vehicle, and 2) release, indemnify and hold the Released Parties harmless from any claims arising from and/or related in any way to such animal's presence in my vehicle.

I acknowledge and understand that I am a volunteer of DMCHS. I am not eligible for DMCHS's Workers' Compensation or any other type of compensation or employee benefit in connection with my volunteer activities.

By using the DMCHS tags or #dmchspawsitiveadventures in the images and other content I post on my social media accounts related to my volunteer activities, I hereby grant DMCHS and Humane Society perpetual license to use, modify, publicly perform, publicly display, and reproduce my photographs, name, and likeness solely for marketing and promotional purposes.

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older. I have received and read [DMCHS](#)'s current version of the Pawsitive Adventures Manual and agree to abide by its requirements and guidelines. Further, I specifically agree to the following:

1. To care for and treat humanely any dog given to me.
2. To keep the dog on leash unless confined in my home or securely fenced yard.
3. To use reasonable care to ensure the safety and well-being of the dog in my care, the safety of other dogs, and the people the dog comes into contact with.
4. To contact [DMCHS](#) if the dog exhibits symptoms that indicate a serious condition. Please see [DMCHS's Doggy Day Out Manual](#) for examples of potential emergencies.
5. To keep the dog under my direct supervision at all times during the volunteer activity.
6. To immediately notify [DMCHS](#) in the event of a missing or injured dog, if the dog bites any person or animal, or any other injury or accident that I witness or experience resulting from my volunteer activities.
7. That all dogs are the property of [DMCHS](#) and shall not be sold, given away, or adopted out without prior approval of [DMCHS's](#) authorized personnel.
8. To provide any change of my personal information, such as name, address, or phone number.

I understand that this Pawsitive Adventures Volunteer Agreement and Release is binding on my heirs, assigns and legal representatives. This Pawsitive Adventures Volunteer Agreement and Release form is executed by me voluntarily and without reliance upon any representation by any person.

By signing below, I acknowledge and represent that I have read and understood the foregoing release, sign it voluntarily, and agree to the indemnity and waiver of liability above.

Volunteer's Printed Name

Volunteer's Signature

Manager, of [DMCHS](#)

Date