



# Sheltering

The Hard-to-shelter Dog

# Outline

- Definitions
- Quality of Life
- What makes some dogs harder to shelter?
- Signs of distress
- Help in shelter
- Other alternatives



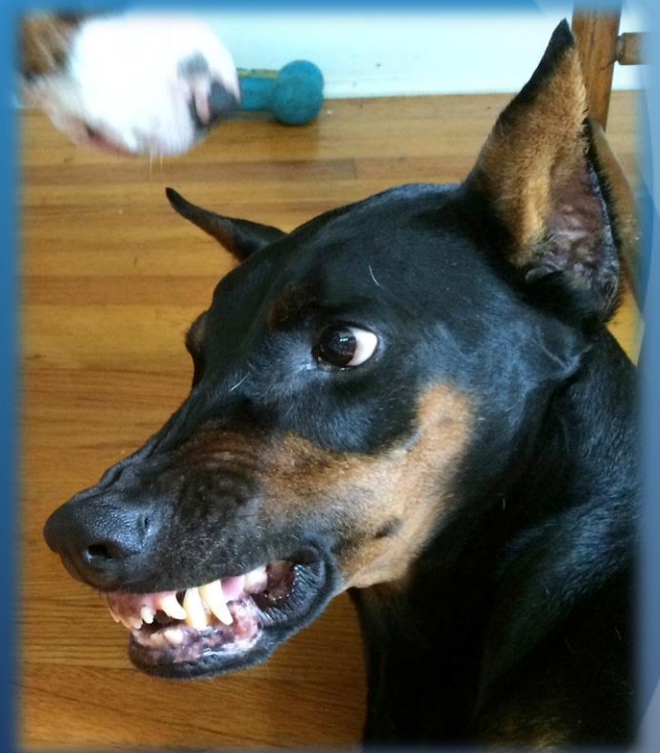
# Quality of Life

- Five freedoms -
  - from hunger and thirst
  - from discomfort
  - from pain, injury, and disease
  - to express normal behavior
  - from fear and distress



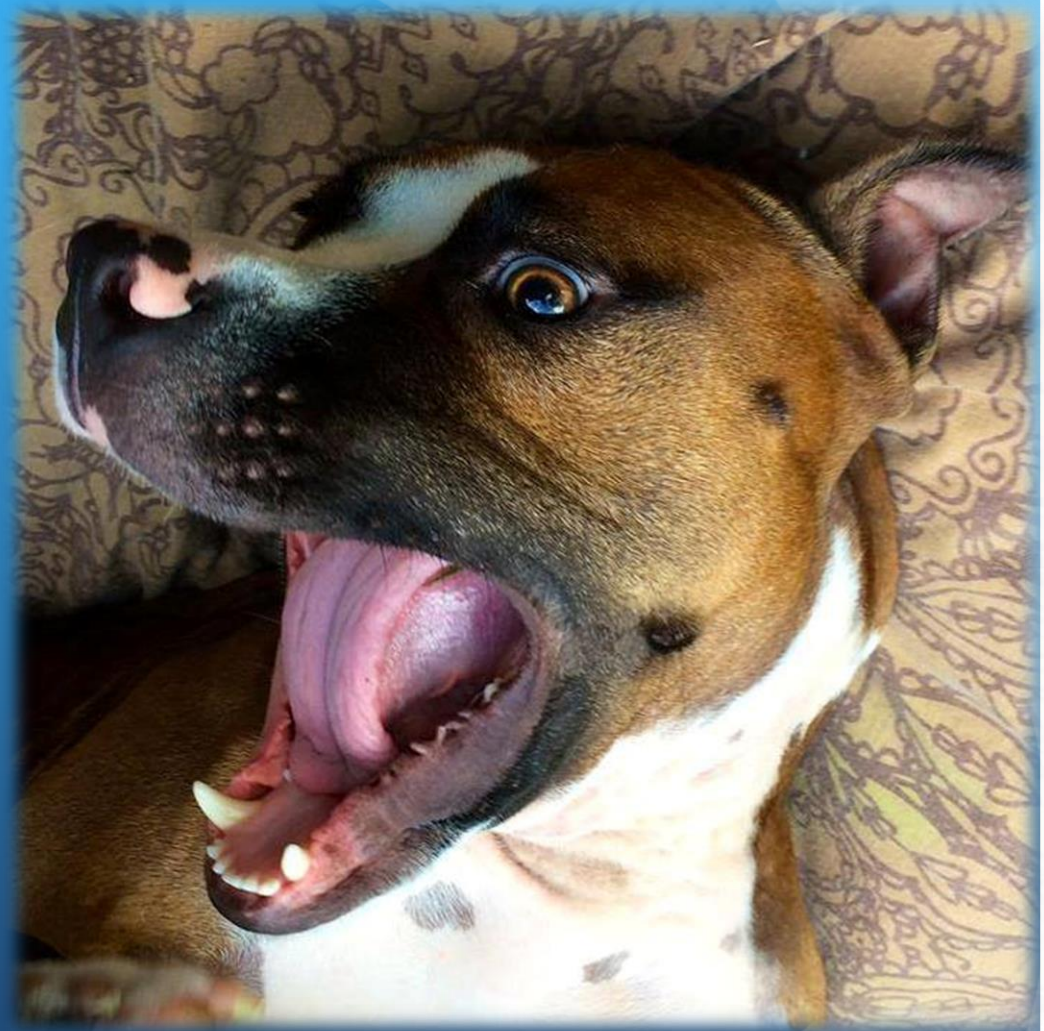
# What makes dogs hard to shelter?

- Overarousal
- Reactivity/poor kennel presentation
- Fear issues



# Definitions

- Kennel reactivity
- Kennel aggression
- Stereotypies
- Overarousal
  - Impulse control



# Signs of distress

- Wall bouncing
- Fingerpainting
- Hiding/trembling
- Barking - normal vs distressed
- Growling/lunging
- Stereotypies



# Wall bouncing



# Distress?



# Overarousal



# Reactivity



# Kennel aggression



# Fear



# Enrichment

- Imperative for longer stays
- Feeding enrichment
- Kennel enrichment
- Chewing enrichment
- Social enrichment (human and dog)
- [www.aspcapro.org](http://www.aspcapro.org) has some great ideas!



# Feeding enrichment



Buncombe County  
Animal Control  
Asheville NC

# Food buckets



Brother Wolf Animal Rescue  
Asheville, NC

Asheville Humane Society



# Location

- Should dog see more?
- Should dog see less?
- Staff only areas
- Photo in lobby





# Be creative!



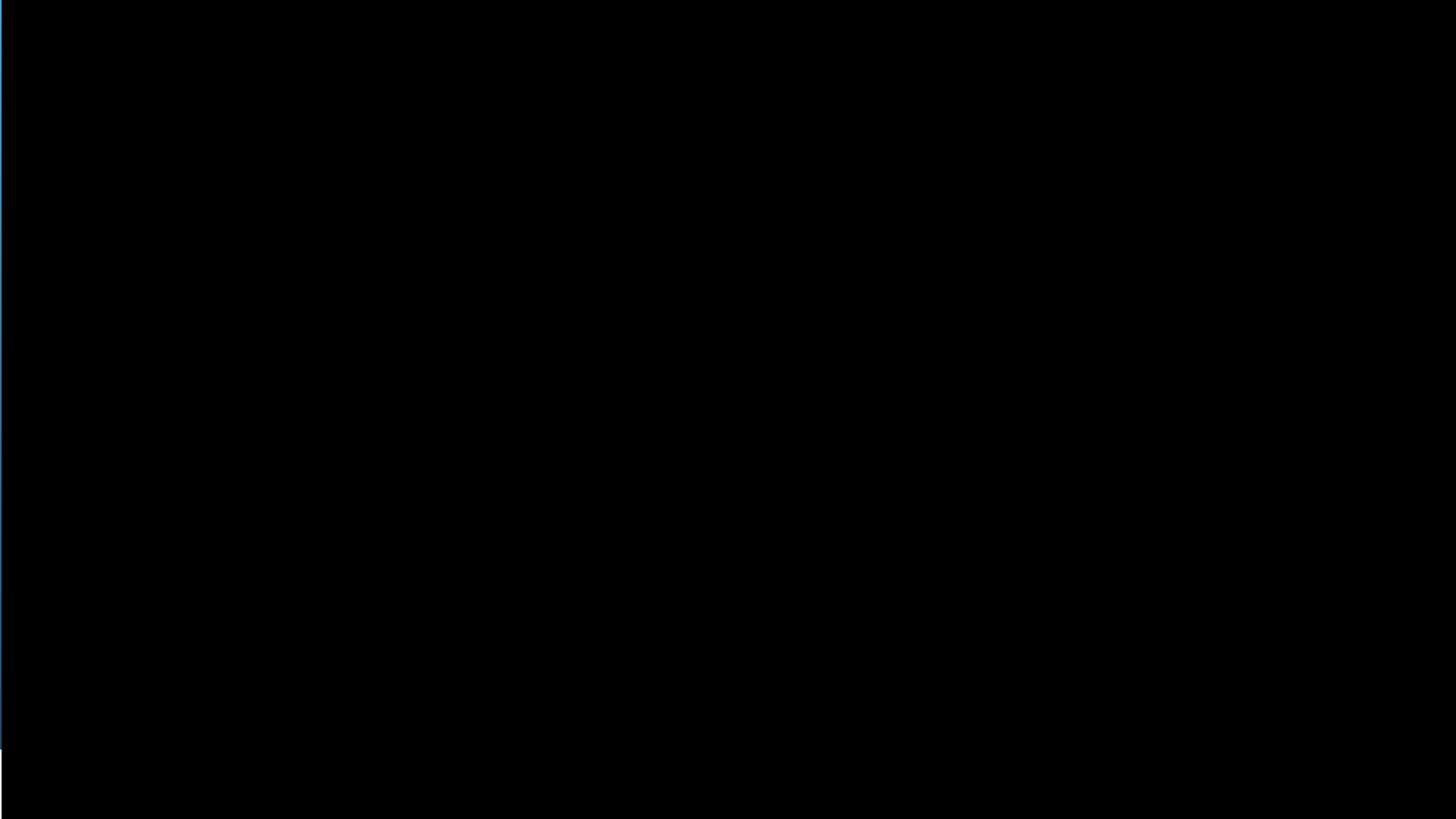
Photo by InBetween the Blinks Photography

**Single, brown-eyed female** looking for a fun-loving forever home. My name is Dulce and just like it means, I'm sweet. I'm comfortable in almost any environment. I can start a friendly competition as we jog around the lake or be dressed to impressed as we head out for a nice dinner. Present with me a few treats and I'll be eating out of your hands in no time. Interested? Contact the SPCA at 919-772-2326 or visit [www.spcawake.org](http://www.spcawake.org) for more details.

SPCA of Wake County



# Honesty: the best policy?



# Visual input

- Block whole kennel?
- Block lower part (if dog-reactive)
- Covered crate in kennel
- Staff only area?



Brother Wolf  
Asheville NC

# Leash climbers

- Use chain leash
- Dip leash in Bitter Apple
- Use two leashes
- Keep leash behind head
- Have dog carry a toy
- Back tie
- Put door between you



# Get Dog Out of Shelter

- Weekend/overnight foster
- Excursions
- Adoption Ambassadors
- Foster to adopt



Photo credit: Bobbie Bhambree  
New Rochelle Humane Society, NY



# Dogs on Vacation!



The A.R.K. added 6 new photos.

Like Page

August 6 at 4:39pm · 🌐

(Please remember to SHARE to help Buddy find a home 😊 )

HI EVERYBODY...YOUR FRIEND BUDDY HERE...with an update on my day...I went boating!!!

Yep, boating. And boy was THAT fun 😊 We rented something called a "paw-n-toon" and cruised around all day on the lakes. We even went to an ISLAND and ate lunch and went SWIMMING! I loved all of it and made sure that the hoomans had a good time too 😊 They even gave me my own rank: Admiral Buddy 😊

Here are some pics of me on the boat. Don't I look happy!!! And I was pretty tired at the end of the day, so I took a nap on the boat 'cause I heard we're having company for a pizza party later! I ❤️ pizza!

See you later...have a great day! Your friend, Buddy ❤️



Michelle Keil  
The ARC, Peoria IL



# Exercise - walks

- Individual walks
- Group walks?
- Sniffy walks
- Reactive dogs



Photo credit: Bobbie Bhambree  
New Rochelle Humane Society, NY



# Exercise - playgroups

- Dogs Playing For Life program
- <http://dogsplayingforlife.com/>

- *“Many dogs in shelters are misdiagnosed as dog-aggressive. My number-one goal is to train dogs effectively, and then get them out of the shelter as quickly as possible. Dogs behaviorally deteriorate when they have been in a shelter too long.”*

-Aimee Sadler, Founder DPFL





# Indianapolis Animal Care and Control



Source: [www.dogsplayingforlife.org](http://www.dogsplayingforlife.org)



# What do I need for play groups?

- Staff
- Place to play
- Time
- Training



Alison Waszmer  
Director of training  
Southampton Animal Shelter, NC

# Supplies for playgroups

- Flat collars
- Leashes
- Small spray bottles
- Shake can
- Air horn
- Compressed air
- Break sticks



# Play groups

- Start with easy dogs



# Intro through gate



# Let dogs do the teaching



# Adoption Ambassadors: steps

[www.aspcapro.org/ambassadors](http://www.aspcapro.org/ambassadors)

Choose a Coordinator

Select Animals for the Program

Create Shelter-to-Home Placement Plan

Decide What to Provide & Gather Supplies

Recruit Your Ambassadors

Train Your Ambassadors



# Rescue groups: “Flip that Pit!”

- Aditi Terpstra
- Patrick the pit bull
- MN Pit Stop Rescue
- Overaroused in shelter
- Mouthy, jumpy, body slam, high energy
- Structure, manners, obedience
- Adopted in 3 weeks!





# Working with trainers

- In the shelter - training dogs, training staff
- Fostering
- Board and train
- Field trips
- Talent show



# Talent show



# Other interventions

- Training
- Chilling
- Office fostering



Photo: Bobbie Bhambree  
New Rochelle Humane Society, NY

# Chill out!

- Real life room
- Relax on a mat



Photo: Bobbie Bhambree  
New Rochelle Humane Society, NY

# Office foster



Photo: Bobbie Bhambree  
New Rochelle Humane Society, NY

# Impulse control exercises

- Wait at door
- Tug and drop
- Go wild and freeze
- Sit for everything
- Stay
- Leave it
- Default down



# Wait at door

- Only going out doors
- Kennel door
- Doors to outside
- Doors to play areas



Photo: Amy Cook, Ph.D  
Full Circle Dog Training  
Oakland, CA

# Sit/Down-Stay



Photo: Aryn Havel  
Leaps and Hounds Dog Training  
Novato, CA



# Leave it

- Leave it in closed hand
- Leave it in open hand
- Leave it on floor
- Walk-by on floor
- Real world trials



Photos: Aryn Herval  
Leaps and Hounds Dog Training  
Novato, CA

# Tug with Rules

1. Wait for permission to tug
2. Drop it when asked
3. Obedience restarts game
4. No teeth on skin



# Tug with Rules in action!

Video: Amy Cook, Ph.D  
Full Circle Dog Training  
Oakland, CA



# Are we “over-behaviouring?”

- Many problems go away in a home
- Behavior foster
- Foster to adopt
- Returns aren't the devil



# Example

- Young pit bull
- Unknown history
- Food guarder
- 2 week hold
- Never guarded in home



# Summary

- Watch for distress
- Look for alternatives
- Enrichment!
- Playgroups!
- Train impulse control
- **Get dogs out of shelter!**



# Thank you!



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# Other resources

- [www.aspcapro.org/ambassadors](http://www.aspcapro.org/ambassadors)
- [www.dogsplayingforlife.org](http://www.dogsplayingforlife.org)
- <http://thebark.com/content/shelter-play-groups>
- <http://www.dogstardaily.com/videos/tug-war-0>





# Sniffy walk



Tristan Rehmer, MS, CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, CBATI  
Brother Wolf, Asheville NC

