

Housing People and Animals Together

Developed for Vermont Shelter Share by My Dog Is My Home

Storytelling | Community Building | Technical Assistance

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MY DOG IS MY HOME

About My Dog Is My Home

My Dog Is My Home is a national nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness and their companion animals.

We work to assist service providers like homeless shelters expand their programming to allow humans and their companion animals to remain together.



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About the Training: What We Will Cover Today

- The Human-Animal Bond
- Models of Co-Sheltering Facilities
- Policy Considerations
- Recommended Supplies
- Identifying Animal Welfare Partners
- Other Resources



Spirit, Kyya, and Miniaga



“I realized that my love for my animals was the primary source of my joy.”

“I'm always with my animals and I feel like something is wrong if they aren't with me. They are just like children. They are our babies.”

“Now trying to access services for myself was the hardest part because I had to find a place to leave my animals. Once we were able to get into the emergency shelter then I was able to leave them there in a room that is comfortable...I'm feeling secured that they'll be ok and I can go and do what I need to do to necessitate getting to the next level.”

“You need love in your life and I have unconditional love with Miniaga and Kyya. And through that it invigorates me. It forces me to get up the next day, to see through clearly what I need to do and focus not for myself but for them.”

“They are loving it because I am happy. Once I am happy they're happy and they can just relax.”



Models of Co-Sheltering: Co-Located | Kennels



PATH Hollywood PetCo Place kennel (2012)



Found House IHN day shelter (2023)



Models of Co-Sheltering: Cohabitating | Private Spaces



Urban Resource Institute (n.d.)



New Horizons (2024)



PATH (2018)



Models of Co-Sheltering: Cohabitating | Congregate



CRITICAL

- Screening
- Supplies
- Animal handling expectations
- Appropriate animal interactions for clients AND staff



Policy Considerations

- Animal health
- Cleanliness
- Animal abuse, neglect, or abandonment
- Managing animal behaviors
- Managing fears and allergies
- Spaces where animals can be within the shelter



Policy Examples

- Animal must be under control of the participant at all times.
- When in common areas, animal must be on a leash at all times.
- Cats must be carried, on leash or kept in an appropriately sized carrier/crate/covered cat stroller when outside of the participant's assigned room/pod/unit.
- Animals must be secured in an appropriately sized carrier/crate or pet housing (if available) if the participant is not in their assigned room/pod/unit.
- Animal is not permitted to enter dining areas (excludes service animals).
- Animal guardians must provide the name and contact information for an emergency care person for their animal, in the event that the animal guardian is missing or off premises for more than 24 hours.
- If the owner allows another participant to watch the animal, this decision is solely the responsibility of the owner and the animal's behavior remains the responsibility of the owner.
- At no time is staff or organization responsible for the care of the animal.
- Animal control will be contacted in the absence of the animal guardian for more than 24 hours and if the emergency care person or participant/owner is unable to be contacted or is unwilling to care for the animal.
- Humane law enforcement may be contacted if staff believe animal cruelty or neglect is taking place.



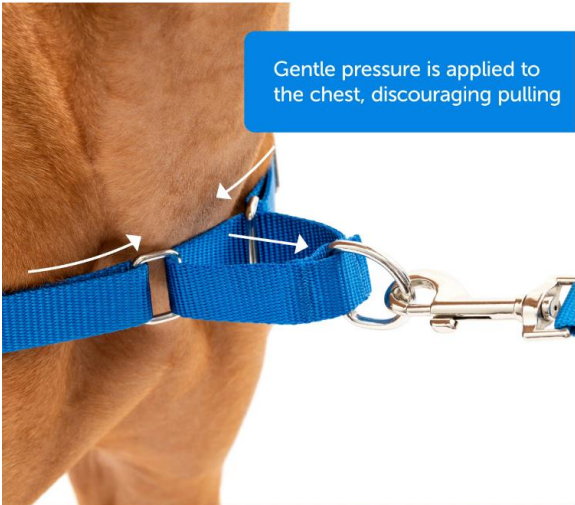
Recommended Supplies: Crates



Are you an emergency shelter that needs free crates? Email gf@petsofthehomeless.org



Recommended Supplies: Easy Walk Harness and Flat Leash



Gentle pressure is applied to the chest, discouraging pulling

Patented Front Loop Stops Pulling

The harness should form a sideways T when your dog is standing



Find the Perfect Fit

Recommended Supplies: Kongs



Choose the Right KONG

KONG Puppy	KONG Senior	KONG Classic	KONG Extreme
Softest Durability			Hardest Durability
KONG Puppy Requires no light chewing. Designed for puppy teeth and gums. Softest texture. Black & Pink.	KONG Senior Light Chewing. Designed for aging teeth and gums. Soft rubber. Purple.	KONG Classic Average Chewing. Designed for most adult dogs. Durable rubber. Red.	KONG Extreme Heavy Chewing. Designed for aggressive chewers. Most durable. Black.
XS 1 1/2" dia. 1 1/2" tall	S 2 1/4" dia. 2 1/4" tall	M 3 1/4" dia. 3 1/4" tall	L 4 1/4" dia. 4 1/4" tall
XS 1 1/2" dia. 1 1/2" tall	S 2 1/4" dia. 2 1/4" tall	M 3 1/4" dia. 3 1/4" tall	XL 4 1/4" dia. 4 1/4" tall
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Dogs Need to Play.



KONG Helps Solve...

- Chewing
- Teething
- Separation Anxiety
- Boredom
- Weight Management
- Crate Training
- Digging & Barking

Recommended Supplies: “Pets Live Here” Signage



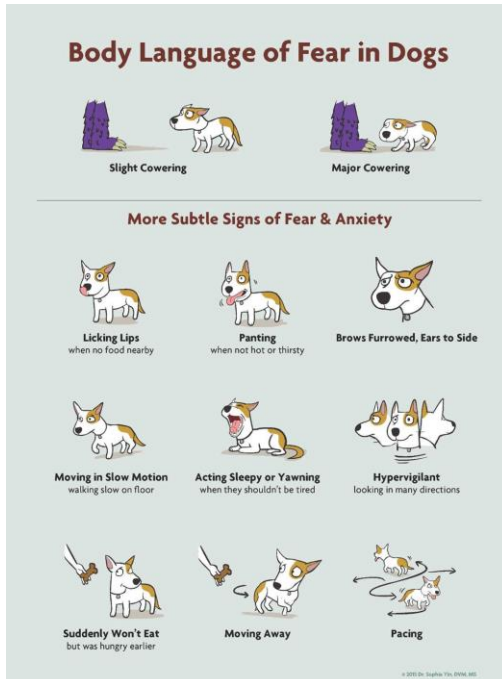
Recommended Supplies: Basket Muzzle



Tap to zoom



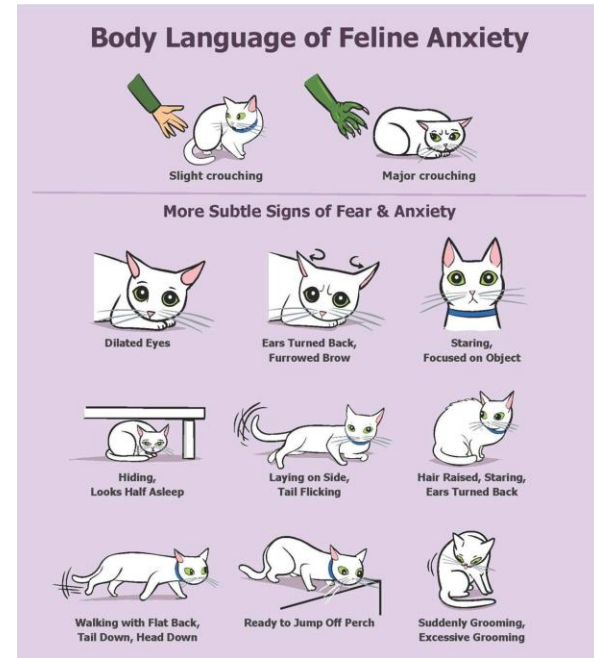
Recommended Supplies: Dog and Cat Body Language Posters



For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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Resources and Partners

Veterinary care resources

- Local animal shelter, SPCA, and/or humane society.
- [PetHelpFinder.org](https://www.pethelpfinder.org)
- [Pets of the Homeless](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org)

Funding

- [RedRover Safe Housing](https://www.redrover.org/safe-housing)

Supplies

- Local animal shelter, SPCA, and/or humane society.
- [PetHelpFinder.org](https://www.pethelpfinder.org)
- [Pets of the Homeless sleeping crate program](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org/sleeping-crate-program)
- [Pets of the Homeless pet food bank](https://www.petsofthehomeless.org/pet-food-bank)
- Need Kongs? Email Christine@mydogismyhome.org.



Contact Us

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Join the [Co-Sheltering Collaborative](#)
For More information email
collaborative@mydogismyhome.org

Upcoming Event:

[My Dog Is My Home Conference](#)

March 25-27

[Scholarships Available](#)

[Sponsorships Available](#)

New Opportunity: New England
Region Co-sheltering working
group. For more information, email
shoshana@mydogismyhome.org



Questions?



Thank you!

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