

Safe Humane Handling of Shelter Dogs

- Do not give the dog direct eye contact
- Stand or squat sideways (no frontal body posture)
- Move slowly and smoothly (not fast and jerky)
- Talk in a calm voice (not a harsh voice)
- Offer back of hand to sniff (don't jam in face)
- Let dog approach you
- Pet under chin or behind ears (not over the head)
- Use minimal restraint needed to accomplish goal
- DO NOT put your face in dog's face
- DO NOT hug dog
- If a dog starts to attack you - stand perfectly still (do not run, scream, hit or kick the dog). Cover your face, neck and belly with your hands and arms.
- If an attacking dog knocks you down - curl up in fetal position.
- If you have the dog on leash when the attack occurs - hold your arms out as far as you can and pull up - putting maximum pressure on the dog's trachea. This will cut off the dog's airway and the attack should end