

**In-House Behavior Modification Protocol**  
**Fearful Cage Behavior**

*Protocol to be used for shelter dogs who exhibit fearful behavior while housed in their cage. These dogs might be shy and fearful in general or just overwhelmed with the kennel environment.*

**Signage:** A blue card will be hung on the fearful dog's cage. Each step will have the appropriate number (1-3) written on the blue card. It is important that the blue card is large enough for everyone to see from a distance, so they are prepared to follow the protocol as they walk by the cage. All staff and volunteers should understand the program and be aware that the blue card on the cage front means the dog is on the program for fearful cage behavior.

**Supplies:** All staff and volunteers should carry high value treats anytime they enter the kennel.

**Procedure:** - Everyone who enter the kennel room should look down the row of cages to identify the kennels that have a blue card hanging on the cage front. They are to then follow the steps below.

**STEP 1 - Two Days**

Signage - Hang a blue colored card with the #1 written on it on the cage front to indicate the dog is on step one of the fearful dog program.

Procedure: Everyone who walks by the cage of the fearful dog should toss a handful of treats into the kennel WITHOUT stopping, looking at, or speaking to the dog.

**STEP 2 - Two Days**

Signage: Hang a blue card with the #2 written on it on the cage front indicating the dog is on step two.

Procedure: Everyone who walks by the cage of the fearful dog should stop in front of the cage and while facing the dog but WITHOUT looking at or speaking to the dog, toss the handful of treats.

**STEP 3 - The remainder of the dog's stay or until the dog stops showing fearful behavior**

Signage: Hang a blue card with the #3 written on it on the cage front indicating the dog is on step three.

Procedure: Everyone who walks by the cage of the fearful dog should stop in front of the cage and while facing the dog, bend at the waist, give the dog soft eye contact, speak to the dog in a calm friendly manner and toss the treats.