

In-House Behavior Modification Protocol
Fearful Cage Behavior

Protocol to be used on 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 colored 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 colored card on the cage front means the dog is on the program for fearful cage behavior.

Supplies: Place a container of dry cat kibble just inside the door of the building so that everyone can grab a handful when they walk in.

Procedure: - Everyone (staff and volunteers) who enter the building should take a handful of cat kibble and look down the row of cages to identify the cages that house a fearful dog. Following the below outline of procedures, they are to toss the food into the cage of the fearful dogs.

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 tosses a handful of treats into the kennel WITHOUT stopping or looking at 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 stops in front of the cage facing the dog but WITHOUT looking at the dog or speaking to the dog tosses the handful of treats.

STEP 3 - The remainder of the dog's stay

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 facing the dog, bend at the waist giving the dog soft eye contact and speak to the dog in a calm friendly manner WHILE tossing the treats.