

Birthday Parties Risks and Safety

Birthday parties at Tri-County Humane Society are great fun, but they are not without risk. Because animals can be unpredictable, especially in unfamiliar settings like animal shelters where they may still be getting used to the sights, sounds, and smells around them, we want to prepare you and/or your child with some general safety rules and guidelines. These rules and guidelines are designed to minimize the risks to you, our guest, and to the animals in our care. Your attention to these rules and policies is important.

General Safety Rules

- No running is allowed in the shelter.
- Please use indoor voices.
- Stay with the group, do not wander off.
- Please listen to the volunteer or staff member leading the party.
- Food and drinks **MUST** stay within the private party room at all times.
- Food and drinks are **NOT** permitted in areas with animals.

Hand Sanitizing and Washing

- Diseases and parasites can be spread from animal to animal or animal to people by coming in direct contact with an infected animal or with the animal's urine, feces, hair, or respiratory fluids. The most common way to spread diseases or parasites is through our hands, so using hand sanitizer or washing hands in between handling animals is required – both for your health and for the animals' health.
- It is crucial that you wash your hands well with soap and water before eating or drinking anything after visiting with shelter animals.

Viewing and Handling Animals

- Please do not put fingers into kennels.
- Please do not open kennel doors without the help of a volunteer or staff member.
- Please ask permission from a volunteer or staff member before picking up or holding an animal.
- Please wash or sanitize your hands after interacting with each animal.
- Please remain calm and use quiet voices when interacting with animals.

Bite Reporting

- ALL bites need to be reported immediately to a staff person, even if the skin wasn't broken.
- If the bite breaks the skin in any way, even if it is just a scratch, you must fill out a bite report with the assistance of a staff member.
- ALL bites need to be thoroughly cleaned by washing the wound with soap and water. A staff person can help you with a bandage or further medical attention if needed.

Signs on Kennels

- For your safety, read all signs on cage or kennel doors before interacting with shelter animals.
- Animals with red, "I just arrived..." signs, "Staff Only" signs, or "Staff/Mentor Volunteer Only" signs on their cages should not be interacted with.
- Watch for signs that may indicate a special diet or food allergy. Do not give treats to animals on special diets as this may cause medical problems for them.