



## **HOLIDAY SLEEPOVER HANDBOOK**

## Welcome to the Wayne County Dog Shelter

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the Wayne County Dog Shelter and joining us to provide the dogs in our care a happy holiday season! We are very pleased that you have chosen to volunteer your time to help out one of the 750 dogs that come through our doors each year.

The Wayne County Dog Shelter greatly appreciates all of our fosters and volunteers who are an essential part of providing the dogs here with their everyday enrichment, exercise, and emotional well-being. The time our fosters and volunteers spend is invaluable to the dogs and helps to make them more adoptable.

This handbook is designed to briefly acquaint you with the Wayne County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center and provide you with an overview of the **Holiday Sleepover Program**. The information provided in this handbook will enable both fosters, volunteers, and shelter employees to recognize their roles and responsibilities as we work collaboratively to make a positive difference in the lives of the dogs in our care this holiday season.

The first step to participate in our Holiday Sleepover Program is to complete a Foster Application. We will then send you a confirmation email with details regarding when you can come to the shelter to find your Holiday Sleepover guest. If you have any questions about this program, please email [dogs@wayneohio.org](mailto:dogs@wayneohio.org).

We acknowledge that we cannot anticipate every circumstance of questions that may arise and that the information found within this handbook may need to be amended. Therefore, the Wayne County Dog Shelter reserves the right to revise, supplement, or rescind any of the information found in this handbook at any time.

## About the Shelter

The mission of the Wayne County Dog Shelter is to provide temporary shelter, care, and comfort to all stray, abandoned, neglected and injured dogs in Wayne County; to reunite lost dogs with their owners; and to promote a humane and responsible community in Wayne County through education and outreach.

A few of the services we offer include:

- 🐾 Dog Adoptions
- 🐾 Animal Awareness Education
- 🐾 Animal Enrichment Program
- 🐾 Volunteer Program
- 🐾 Dogs Day Out Program
- 🐾 Foster Program
- 🐾 Pet Pantry
- 🐾 Dog Licensing
- 🐾 Stray/Lost Dog Pick Up
- 🐾 Dog Bite Investigations

Please check out our website at [www.waynedogshelter.org](http://www.waynedogshelter.org) for more information regarding these services and programs.

## Holiday Sleepover Guidelines

Fosters participating in our Holiday Sleepover Program for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and/or New Year's will arrive at the shelter the day before the holiday to find a dog to host. They will then be responsible for that dog until the dog is returned to the shelter on the return date listed below. Please note that the dogs will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Please refer to the table below regarding dates and times for pick-ups and returns.

Holiday	Pick-Up Date & Hours	Return Date & Hours
Thanksgiving	11/22/23, 12:00pm – 5:00pm	11/25/23, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Christmas	12/23/23, 9:00am – 2:00pm	12/27/23, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
New Years	12/30/23, 9:00am – 2:00pm	1/03/24, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Christmas and New Years	12/23/23, 9:00am – 2:00pm	1/03/24, 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Please note that dogs must be returned on the dates listed above. If you decide to adopt your Holiday Sleepover guest, then you will need to return to the shelter to complete the adoption process.

We are confident that hosting one of our dogs for their Holiday Sleepover will be a very rewarding experience for both you and the dogs. However, we want to make sure that you are aware of what to expect from our dogs, and what our dogs expect of you!

After you have found your guest dog at the shelter, a shelter employee will share with you all of the information we have available about the dog you are interested in. This will include any behavior and medical history that we may have. However, it is important to keep in mind that we have not had an opportunity to assess these dogs' behavior outside of the shelter environment and that their behavior may be different in a home setting. This is where you can be a real asset in helping us find these dogs' forever homes!

While the dog is in your care, we ask that you complete a "Holiday Report Card" that will be returned to the shelter after the Holiday Sleepover. This report card will be where you record the dog's behavior, likes/dislikes, and any other information that you think would be useful for a potential adopter to know. The information you provide on this report card will be incorporated into the dog's biography on our website and will help potential adopters make a more informed decision when looking to adopt. We also ask that you take a lot of pictures of your guest enjoying their Holiday Sleepover and encourage you to post those pictures on social media. When posting pictures, be sure to use the hashtag **#WCDSHolidaySleepover**.

When you come in to pick up your guest dog, you will be provided with a collar, leash, and any necessary medicine for the dog, all of which must be returned, along with your "Holiday Report Card." The shelter will also provide you with an appropriate amount of food.

When making the decision to participate in the Holiday Sleepover program, it is essential that your home is "dog proof" and that you understand what should be expected. Including, but not limited to, the following:

- 🐾 Fresh/clean water should always be available for the dog
- 🐾 Dogs should be fed twice daily
- 🐾 Medicine should be given to the dog as directed by the shelter
- 🐾 A comfortable space should be available for the dog to lounge and sleep
- 🐾 A kennel or crate is recommended if you need to leave the dog unattended
- 🐾 The dog should be kept on a leash at all times while outside
- 🐾 Hard dog toys, such as Kongs or Nylabones are recommended
- 🐾 Rawhides are **not** recommended
- 🐾 Cleaning supplies, medications, and any smaller chewable objects (including shoes, socks, etc.) should be kept out of reach of the dog
- 🐾 Trash cans should be kept covered
- 🐾 Even if a dog is housebroken, an accident upon arriving at your home is not uncommon

It is important to remember that we do not know how the dog in your care will respond to large groups of people, small children, and/or other household animals. If you own a household pet, be sure to take the time to introduce the dog in a slow and appropriate setting. If any of the following occurs, please contact the On Call Shelter Technician at 330-988-3546

- 🐾 Excessive sneezing and/or coughing
- 🐾 Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- 🐾 Bleeding from any part of the body
- 🐾 The dog is injured
- 🐾 You observe a sudden change in behavior or temperament
- 🐾 You observe growling, snarling, snapping, or biting attempts
- 🐾 Any other concerning behaviors

**Thank you!**

We hope that you are as excited as we are to host one of the dogs at the shelter for a Holiday Sleepover. It takes a very special heart to selflessly assist in helping these precious dogs. Together, we can ensure that the homeless dogs of Wayne County will have all of their physical and emotional needs met with the quality that they deserve while they await their forever homes. Thank you for participating in this exciting program!

## **Holiday Sleepover Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: Are the dogs participating in the Holiday Sleepover program housebroken?**

While some are learning, we cannot guarantee that our dogs are housebroken. We recommend you take your Holiday Sleepover guest out once every two hours to avoid accidents. However, you should be aware that accidents inside may happen.

### **Q: What supplies will the shelter provide?**

The shelter will provide you with a collar, leash, dog food, any medicines the dog is taking and a crate if one is available.

### **Q: What supplies will I need to have on my own?**

You will need to provide a water bowl, fresh water, food bowl, and a comfortable place for your guest to lounge and sleep.

### **Q: Will the dog I bring home get along with other dogs?**

We try our best to determine whether or not the dogs here at the shelter get along with other dogs and we will certainly share this information with you when you come to pick up your Holiday Sleepover guest. Regardless, you should use discretion when introducing your Holiday Sleepover guest with any dogs you have at home.

### **Q: Will the dog I bring home get along with cats?**

We oftentimes do not know whether or not the dogs at the shelter get along with cats. Therefore, we recommend you use caution when introducing your Holiday Sleepover guest to any cats you have at home. Please ask us for tips regarding dog and cat introductions when you arrive to the shelter.

### **Q: Who do I call if I have a question after business hours?**

A staff member from the Wayne County Dog Shelter is always on call and can be reached at 330-988-3546.