



Bringing Your PET to an Event

Here at SPCA, we love our pets just as much as you do. We all want our furry loved one's with us at events, but we ask that you consider your pet's personality, age and health before bringing them with you to one of our events. If you are unsure if your pet is suitable, or you have any questions about collecting with your pet please contact the events team on community@spca.nz.

DO bring your pet with you if they:

- ✓ Are healthy
- ✓ Are fully vaccinated
- ✓ Are well socialised
- ✓ Enjoy meeting new people
- ✓ Are tolerant of children
- ✓ Love being touched
- ✓ Are calm and under control

DON'T bring your pet with you if they:

- ✗ Are unwell
- ✗ Are not fully vaccinated
- ✗ Are nervous in large crowds, noisy environments, around children or when meeting new people
- ✗ Do not like being touched
- ✗ Nip, bite or kick when provoked
- ✗ Are very excitable (e.g. barking)

When taking your pet to an event with you please remember to:

- Bring fresh water
- Provide your pet with a comfortable area to rest
- Bring a favourite toy or treats to prevent boredom
- Take regular breaks
- Ensure you have shade for your pet
- Keep pets under control at all times
- Monitor your pet for signs of stress
- Limit your event time to 2 hours

As you are representing SPCA, please do not use the following training aids:

- Physical or harsh verbal reprimands
- Any device which uses pain or discomfort
- Costumes (novelty collars or bandanas are fine)

Be aware of signs of stress

Many pets love getting out and meeting people but, to make sure your pet is enjoying the event as much as you are, be aware of subtle signs of stress. Even the friendliest pets can become overwhelmed. If your pet shows any signs of stress, immediately remove them from the situation.

Many dogs love getting out and meeting people but, to make sure your dog is enjoying the event as much as you are, be aware of these subtle signs of stress:



- Leaning away
- Turning face and/or body away
- Avoiding eye contact
- Eyebrows furrowed
- Closed, tight lipped mouth
- Ears pulled sideways and back
- Stiff, tense body
- Showing whites of eyes
- Dilated pupils
- Low, tucked-in body posture
- Lip licking or air licking
- Paw lifted

Additional signs of stress include:

- Hyper vigilance
- Yawning
- Growling
- Excessive panting and drooling
- Refusing treats they would normally eat
- Shaking off (as if they are shaking off water)

Even the friendliest dogs can become overwhelmed. If your dog is showing signs of stress, remove them from the situation.

Top tips for dog safety

Do not let someone hug your dog

While some dogs may tolerate and even enjoy hugs, many dogs do not like being hugged, especially by strangers. Instead, encourage children (and adults) to let your dog approach them and show them how to give the kind of cuddles most dogs enjoy, such as stroking their chest and giving a good butt scratch.

Never punish a dog for growling

Most dog bites occur because subtle signs of stress and discomfort are ignored or punished. Because it can be upsetting when your dog growls, people may scold or punish their dog in response. Punishing a dog for growling is effective at suppressing the growling but unfortunately this means you are removing one of your dog's best tools for warning you that they are uncomfortable or scared. Punishment is also unlikely to make them feel more positively towards their trigger. Instead of punishing your dog, remove them from the situation and work on training a positive association with their trigger in a less stressful environment.