

# Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter

## R&R PROGRAM FAQ

### R&R = Rest & Relaxation

Lets face it; animal shelters are loud, stressful places and not an ideal environment for dogs. Time out of the shelter is vital for the mental and physical health of the dogs in our care. R&R dogs are happier, more relaxed, and get exposure to potential adopters! Approved patrons may 'rent' a JPAS dog for a lunch break, an afternoon, or a sleepover! (Up to 72 hours; pick up/drop off during business hours).

**R&R dogs are medium to large in size, and are pretty excited to see you! They may pull on their leash/harness, or jump. Please keep this in mind.**

This program is perfect for :

- Those who love dogs but are unable to have one
- Visitors to New Orleans who are missing their pup back home
- 'First Date' chaperone- nothing fills those awkward silences like a shelter dog!
- College Students who need stress relief during exams
- Need an excuse to exercise? Our dogs will keep you motivated and on your toes!

### Ideas for Adventures

- Lafreniere Park, a walk in the shade
- Dog Friendly Bar or Restaurant
- Walk on the levee at Bonnabel Park
- Trip to Home Depot, then a Starbucks Pupsicle
- An afternoon in, hanging at your place! (If no other animals present)
- Are you a shutterbug? A photo is worth a thousand words! Please send any pictures to: [ryeaton@jeffparish.net](mailto:ryeaton@jeffparish.net) Your pictures help them get adopted faster!

We do *NOT* allow R&R dogs to visit dog parks. Dog Parks are stressful, high energy places; exactly the type of place your R&R dog needs a break from. You can read more about the dangers of dog parks here: <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/Dog-Parks-Are-Dangerous-21816-1.html> While dog parks are OK for some, with an unfamiliar dog, it's best to err on the side of caution.

### How do I get started?

If you're over 18, go to the shelter and tell them you'd like to R&R a dog. The front desk will have you initial an R&R contract, make a copy of your valid driver's license, give you an R&R kit (Dog Questionnaire to complete during your adventure, bowl for water, treats and a towel) and you're on your way! You do not need to be an active volunteer but we can't guarantee you won't want to become one!

## Small print

**Medical:** In the case of an **emergency**, contact the shelter immediately at **504 736-6111 (EB) or 504 349-5111 (WB)**

In the event of an emergency *after hours*, we work with MSAH (Metairie Small Hospital 101 Metairie Rd. 504 835-4266).

If you take your R&R to another hospital, or seek alternative or unnecessary treatment other than what is approved by the shelter, you will be responsible for those costs.

Before being eligible for R&R or adoption, dogs must be past their 5 business day stray hold, and vetted. (Vaccinated, spayed or neutered).

The shelter does not knowingly release animals with contagious diseases to foster/R&R, however, sometimes symptoms do not present right away. Kennel cough and ringworm are very common- should symptoms present, let us know and we'll try to address any issues right away.

**Other Pets:** We don't know all aspects of our shelter animal's personality. Dogs are completely different in a home than in a shelter setting and there is no real way to know how a dog will react to other animals. ***In order to set our dogs up for success, we ask that you do not introduce your R&R dog to other animals unless otherwise approved.*** The shelter does not assume any responsibility for dog bites to humans or injuries to other pets. If it isn't working out, let us know immediately!

**Children:** Please notify the shelter if you have children of any age who will be around your R&R dog. Sometimes our shelter animals are traumatized and although they are not aggressive, they may get overwhelmed by loud noises and sudden movements. Generally most of our dogs are friendly with children.

**House trained?** It's hard to know whether a dog is house trained in a shelter environment. With environmental changes, even house trained dogs may have accidents while establishing routine. We have information about easy techniques for potty training upon request.