



## **Return to Kennel**

If you're having trouble returning a dog to his kennel, you are not alone! Shelter dogs love to perform this particularly frustrating behavior, and honestly, we don't blame them. But at the end of the day, we need them to cooperate to keep the kennels safe, so here are some ideas to make the process easier.

- 1) Carry treats, his favorite toy, or some kind of high-value reward with you. Canned food, hot dogs, and cheese have all been known to work! While you're walking back, engage with the dog with a rope toy or treats to keep him distracted.
- 2) Toss a few high-value treats into his kennel as you take him out – a surprise for him to return to when you bring him back.
- 3) If the dog has already been out, spend some time in the kennel with him! That way not every human interaction he has is outside the confines of his kennel, making his kennel a happier place for him to be.
- 4) To build trust, hand treats to the dog as you walk through the kennels regardless of intent to take him out.
- 5) If possible, switch up the route you take back to the kennel.
- 6) Ask a staff member or another volunteer for assistance if you're really struggling. Sometimes just the presence of a new person next to you or taking the leash from you is enough to keep the dog moving.

**Thank you!**