



Homeward Pet Adoption Center (HPAC) Field Trip Guide

Why field trips?

Field trips are a great way to find new foster caregivers, engage with the community, reduce kennel stress and get better information on a dog's behavior. Field trips are helpful in marketing dogs for adoption, as potential adopters want to know what a dog looks and acts like outside of their kennel and the opportunity for creative photography, videography and stories is increased.

National studies of field trip programs have found that dogs on field trips are happier, more relaxed, more playful, and calmer than dogs in the shelter. Dogs on field trips show fewer anxiety- and stress-related behaviors, and in one study, 20% of field trips led directly to adoption!

Emergencies

If there is an emergency or a dog must be urgently returned to the shelter, field trip fosters should call 425-488-4444. During shelter open hours, this will route fosters to the front desk receptionist. After hours, this will route fosters to our after-hours answering service, who will contact appropriate staff.

In case of severe injury or other immediate medical emergency, **fosters must contact HPAC staff to approve emergency vet visits.**

If a dog bites or attempts to bite a human or other animal, field trip fosters should remove the dog from the situation, up to and including confining the dog in a separate space and contact 425-488-4444 immediately. Staff will assess whether it is appropriate for the field trip to continue and will advise the field trip foster on next steps.

Expectations and Requirements

Field trip fosters must be at least 18 years of age. Family members under the age of 18 are welcome and encouraged to participate where appropriate.

In addition to helping reduce stress in dogs, field trips are a great way to get photos and videos showcasing how our dogs behave outside the shelter. Field trip fosters are strongly encouraged to fill out a Field Trip Report Card for each field trip, and to take photos and videos to share with HPAC's marketing team. [Click here to access the Field Trip Report Card form](#). Photos and videos can be uploaded to the report card or emailed to foster@homewardpet.org. It may be helpful for Field trip fosters to bring a second person to help take photos and videos.

Rules

- Dogs must wear a Wonder Walker harness, martingale collar, HPAC ID tag, and HPAC-supplied leash, and/or other harness/safety equipment as directed by staff.
 - Unless otherwise specified, leash should be connected to the collar D-ring and the front attachment of the harness
 - Long leashes are provided for use at Sniffspots or in private homes—dogs may not be on long leashes in public areas such as trails.
- During travel, dogs must be secured inside the car. All Field Trip backpacks come with seatbelt tethers, and plastic or wire crates may be available.
- Dogs must ride in an enclosed vehicle—no convertibles, truck beds, or open Jeeps.
- Dogs are not allowed off-leash in public places. Dogs are allowed off-leash in private homes, provided the dog is indoors or in a secure fenced area without other dogs around.
 - Dogs are not allowed off-leash in Sniffspots, even when fully fenced.
- Field trip foster must be supervising the dog at all times. Dogs should not be left alone with other animals, children, or adults who have not signed the HPAC Foster Care Agreement.
- **Dogs may not be introduced to other animals** during the outing unless given explicit permission by the Foster Coordinator or Director of Programs.

Getting Started

Members of the public interested in taking dogs on field trips should email foster@homewardpet.org. Prior to scheduling their first field trip, members of the public will need to complete the HPAC Volunteer Application, the online Field Trip Training, and sign the HPAC Foster Care Agreement. Once those steps have been completed, you become a field trip foster and can schedule your first field trip!

Scheduling

Field trip fosters are given access to a self-scheduling system to schedule field trip pickups. The scheduler includes a form with a few short questions to allow staff to pair you with an appropriate dog. Once the form has been completed and submitted, foster staff will be notified.

Foster staff will then reach out to you over email to confirm the details of the field trip and provide additional information about the dogs eligible for field trips that day. Once the details have been confirmed, foster staff will schedule a drop-off time, and you will receive a confirmation email with pick-up and drop-off instructions.

Field trips must be requested through the online scheduler at least three days in advance, to allow time for foster staff to reach out to confirm details. **Field trips must be finalized and confirmed at least 24 hours in advance.**

If a dog becomes ineligible for a scheduled field trip, foster staff will cancel the pick-up and drop-off, and will reach out to you by email.

Field trips are available Sunday through Thursday. Dogs may be picked up between 10:30am and 2:00pm and must be returned by 5:30pm. Field trips must last at least 1 hour, except in case of emergency. Public outings are limited to three hours, to prevent dogs from becoming overstimulated. There is no limit on time in a private home or yard.

Day-Of

The field trip confirmation email contains instructions on what to do when you arrive for your scheduled field trip. There are things you can do ahead of time to make your field trip go more smoothly:

- Read the confirmation email closely in advance of your field trip.
- Review any information foster staff provided about your field trip dog.
- Save HPAC's phone number (425-488-4444) in your phone, in case of emergency.
- Have your unique volunteer number on hand (this is provided after you complete the required training and paperwork).
- Have your field trip confirmation email easily accessible.

Foster staff will escort you through the building to collect your field trip backpack and your field trip dog. The field trip backpack contains:

- "Adopt Me" leash
- Long lead
- Seatbelt tether
- Potty bag dispenser and refill
- Treat pouch
- First aid kit
- Water bottle
- Collapsible bowl
- Binder ring of suggested field trip locations

Staff will assist in adding:

- 1-2 bags of treats
- 2-3 appropriate toys

See Appendix A for a photograph of supplies included in a field trip backpack.

Staff will assist you in harnessing and leashing your field trip dog, and escort you out through the dog-walking exit.

When you return from your scheduled field trip, you'll use the check-in link provided in your confirmation email to notify staff that you've returned. Foster staff will come outside to escort you and your dog into the shelter and assist in returning the dog to their kennel.

If you find that you'll be returning your field trip dog to the shelter more than 15 minutes before or after your scheduled return time, please call 425-488-4444 to let staff know when to expect you.

Field Trip Report Cards are available online [here](#), or physically in the shelter at the reception desk. Report cards are not mandatory, but are strongly encouraged, as they allow our adoptions team to better market dogs for adoption and counsel potential adopters. Any personal information on Field Trip Report Cards will be visible to HPAC staff but will not be shared with volunteers or the public. Photos and videos are used for social media, so please ensure that photos do not contain personal information, and that anyone in the photo is comfortable being on social media.

If there was a bite incident or other emergency, staff will collect written details of the incident and fill out incident and bite-reports as necessary.

Things to Keep in Mind

Shelter dogs are living in a high-stress environment, where they often don't get as much exercise as they're used to, and may therefore be more prone to overstimulation. Avoid crowded public areas, such as schools, events and festivals, and busy shopping areas.

Pay close attention to your field trip buddy's breathing, overall appearance, and energy level. Regularly offer water and breaks and get distance from other people or animals if your field trip buddy seems overwhelmed or stressed. Do not use headphones or chat on the phone while out with your field trip buddy.

Be a polite member of the community! Stay aware of other dogs, bicyclists, and pedestrians, give them distance, and follow appropriate right-of-way rules. Consider wearing bright colors while on your field trip, so you're easily visible. Look both ways when crossing streets and keep your field trip buddy close to you.

Reward and praise your field trip buddy for calm behavior, walking or running by your side, and sitting for greetings!

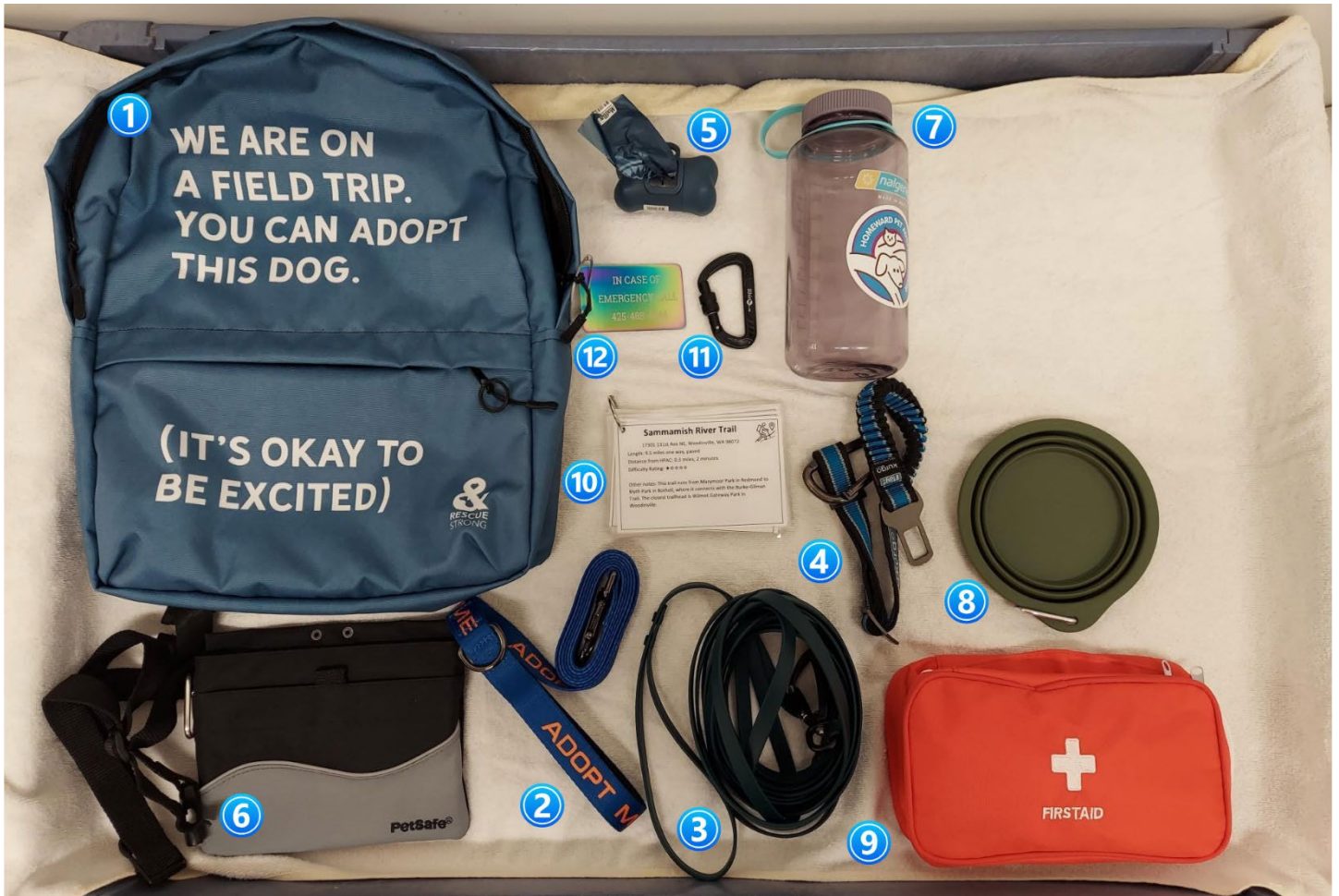
Contact foster@homewardpet.org for questions regarding the HPAC Field Trip Program.

Appendix

Appendix A: Contents of field trip backpack

Appendix B: List of suggested field trip locations

Appendix A: Contents of Field Trip backpack



- ① Field Trip backpack
- ② “Adopt Me” leash
- ③ Long lead
- ④ Seatbelt tether
- ⑤ Potty bag dispenser and bags
- ⑥ Treat pouch
- ⑦ Water bottle
- ⑧ Collapsible bowl
- ⑨ First aid kit
- ⑩ Binder ring of local dog-friendly trails, parks, and shops
- ⑪ Carabiner
- ⑫ Emergency contact tag

Appendix B: List of suggested field trip locations

Trails

[Sammamish River Trail](#) (17301 131st Ave NE, Woodinville, WA 98072)

9.5 miles one-way, paved

0.3 miles (about 2 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This trail runs from Marymoor Park in Redmond to Blyth Park in Bothell, where it connects with the Burke-Gilman Trail. The closest trailhead is Wilmot Gateway Park in Woodinville.

[North Creek Trail](#) (11831 N Creek Pkwy, Bothell, WA 98011)

8+ miles one-way, paved

2.3 miles (about 7 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: The closest trailhead is at the Bothell Google building.

[Burke-Gilman Trail](#) (16950 W Riverside Dr, Bothell, WA 98011)

20.0 miles one-way, paved

2.9 miles (about 8 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This trail runs from Golden Gardens Park in Ballard to Blyth Park in Bothell, where it meets the Sammamish River Trail. Along the way, it connects with several parks and other trails. The closest trailhead is Blyth Park.

[Paradise Valley Conservation Area Trails](#) (23210 Paradise Lake Rd, Woodinville, WA 98077)

13+ miles, dirt

6.6 miles (about 10 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: The perimeter trails make a 5.0 mile round trip loop.

[Tolt Pipeline Trail](#) (15001 Avondale Rd NE, Woodinville, WA 98077)

12.0 miles one-way, gravel

5.5 miles (about 14 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: The closest trailhead with parking is the Avondale Road trailhead, though there are other closer trailheads with minimal parking.

[Mercer Slough Nature Park](#) (2101 118th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98005)

6.0 miles round-trip, dirt and boardwalk

13.1 miles (about 20 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: In the summer, the Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm (located on the trail) is open for u-pick and is dog-friendly.

[Meadowdale Beach Park Trail](#) (6026 156th St SW, Edmonds, WA 98026)

2.5 miles round-trip, dirt

13.7 miles (about 22 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: At low tide, the beach is walkable for an additional 1 mile. However, if tide comes in it will trap you between the water and the rail embankment, so err on the side of caution if you aren't sure when tide will come back in.

[Lord Hill Regional Park](#) (15011 127th Ave SE, Snohomish, WA 98290)

6.5 miles round-trip, dirt

16.8 miles (about 24 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Per the Washington Trails Association, these trails are not signed, so bring an updated 2023 map. There are several miles of additional trails.

[Cherry Creek Falls](#) (16538 Kelly Rd NE, Duvall, WA 98019)

5.0 miles round-trip, dirt

14.5 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Per the Washington Trails Association, the first half-mile of this trail is on private property, so please remain on the path and keep noise to a minimum. Parking is on the west shoulder of Mountain View Road.

[Big Gulch Trail](#) (9232 49th Ave W, Mukilteo, WA 98275)

2.6 miles round-trip, dirt

14 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: There are lots of curves, so be attentive to the distance between your dog and other hikers. Per the Washington Trails Association, the trail can get muddy.

[Coal Creek Trail](#) (7531 Newcastle Golf Club Rd, Bellevue, WA 98006)

6.0 miles round-trip, dirt

18.6 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This trail is part of an extensive trail network, so be sure to bring a map. There's a slightly closer trailhead on Coal Creek Pkwy SE.

[Weowna Park Loop Trail](#) (W Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE, Bellevue, WA 98008)

3.5 miles round-trip, bark

17 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Older maps may call this "Weowna Beach Park", despite the lack of any beach or lake front. The best parking is on the western shoulder of Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE, and parking is limited to 3 hours. At the northwestern edge, the trail meets up with the Lake to Lake trail.

[Lake to Lake Trail](#) (10201 NE 4th St, Bellevue, WA 98004)

10.0 miles one-way, paved

12.4 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This trail runs from Lake Sammamish to Lake Washington, connecting with nine parks along the way. The closest trailhead is at Bellevue Downtown Park.

[Kelsey Creek Farm](#) (410 130th Pl SE, Bellevue, WA 98005)

1.7 miles round-trip, dirt and gravel

13.4 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Dogs are not allowed in the barnyard, or in the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek.

[Centennial Trail](#) (5801 S Machias Rd, Snohomish, WA 98290)

30.5 miles one-way, paved

15 miles (about 27 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This trail follows a historic rail line through Snohomish. The Pilchuck trailhead is the closest access point with parking.

Parks

[Juanita Beach Park](#) (9703 NE Juanita Dr, Kirkland, Wa 98034)

6.2 miles (about 15 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Avoid the pop-up off-leash dog park, when present. Per Kirkland Municipal code, dogs are not permitted in designated swimming areas.

[St. Edward State Park](#) (14445 Juanita Dr NE, Kenmore, WA 98028)

6.5 miles (about 20 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: There are both large lawns and trails, with the longest trail loop at just over 3 miles. Dogs are not permitted on designated swim beaches. Check the Washington State Parks page for possible closures during the winter. Parking is \$10 for the day (free with an annual Discover Pass).

[Marymoor Park](#) (6046 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE, Redmond, WA 98052)

9 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Make sure to avoid the 40-acre off-leash dog area. The Marymoor Connector Trail links to both the Sammamish River Trail and the East Lake Sammamish Trail. Parking is \$1.

[Bellevue Downtown Park](#) (10201 NE 4th St, Bellevue, WA 98004)

12.5 miles (about 25 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: This park connects with the Bellevue Lake-to-Lake trail. Be aware of children, especially during the summer months.

[Magnuson Park](#) (7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115)

12.7 miles (about 30 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Avoid both off-leash dog areas. Per Seattle Municipal code, dogs are not allowed at beaches.

[Howarth Park](#) (1127 Olympic Blvd, Everett, WA 98203)

20 miles (about 30 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Avoid the off-leash area on the north end of the beach. There are three separate parking areas; the southern two are closest to the on-leash beach area.

Shops

[All the Best – Kirkland](#) (11900 NE Village Plaza, Kirkland, WA 98034)

Hours: 9:30am-7:30pm Monday-Saturday; 10am-7pm Sunday

4.7 miles (about 9 minutes) from HPAC

[All the Best – Kenmore](#) (6820 NE Bothell Way, Kenmore, WA 98028)

Hours 9:30am-7:30pm Monday-Saturday; 10am-7pm Sunday

5.1 miles (about 12 minutes)

[Flower World](#) (9322 196th St SE, Snohomish, WA 98296)

Hours: 10am-5pm, Monday-Sunday

6.3 miles (about 11 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Per Pet Policy, do not allow dogs to drink from hoses, as the water may carry fertilizer. Expect free-roaming birds and other animals.

[Mud Bay – Canyon Park](#) (1410 228th St SE, Bothell, WA 98021)

Hours: 10am-7:30pm Monday-Friday; 9am-7pm Saturday-Sunday

4.9 miles (about 15 minutes) from HPAC

[Mud Bay – Redmond](#) (8867 161st Avenue Northeast, Redmond, WA 98052)

Hours: 10am-7:30pm Monday-Friday; 9am-7pm Saturday-Sunday

6.5 miles (about 20 minutes) from HPAC

[Mud Bay – Lake Forest Park](#) (17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155)

Hours: 10am-7:30pm Monday-Friday; 9am-7pm Saturday-Sunday

6.8 miles (about 20 minutes) from HPAC

[Mud Bay – Kirkland](#) (425 Urban Plz, Kirkland, WA 98033)

Hours: 10am-7:30pm Monday-Friday; 9am-7pm Saturday-Sunday

7.6 miles (about 15 minutes) from HPAC

[Paddywack](#) (15407 Main St #101, Mill Creek, WA 98012)

Hours: 10am-8pm Monday-Friday; 10am-7pm Saturday; 10am-5pm Sunday

8.8 miles (about 18 minutes) from HPAC

[Muddy Boots Pumpkin Patch](#) (15505 W Snoqualmie River Rd NE, Duvall, WA 98019)

Hours: 10am-8pm Sunday-Thursday, 10am-10pm Friday-Saturday, August through October only!

10.1 miles (about 18 minutes) from HPAC

Other notes: Free entry! Sunflower fields are open August to September, and the pumpkin patch is open late September through October. Dogs are not permitted in the corn maze.

[Bridges Pets](#) (2929 Bickford Ave, Snohomish, WA 98290)

Hours: 9am-8pm Monday-Sunday

14.6 miles (about 21 minutes) from HPAC

Sniffspots

Rentable private dog parks and trails. Check out <https://www.sniffspot.com/listings/woodinville-wa> for Sniffspots in the area!

Sniffspots must be rented beforehand. Dogs are not permitted off-leash even in fully-fenced Sniffspots.