

The Evidence is In!

Our 5 shelters have demonstrated that temporary sleepovers of 1 & 2 nights result in CORT reductions without significant increases upon return compared to baseline shelter levels



Are There Other Benefits to Sleepovers?

Our observations over the course of a year working with five very different shelters, spending one month carrying out data collection with each



What We Observed Behaviorally

After sleepovers, dogs were:
Less frantic in-kennel
More relaxed
Less apathetic & more engaged with people

It's possible that there's longer-term behavioral benefits than just cortisol reduction (& maybe they're related!)

Can brief sleepovers preserve behavioral health?

Programs like these could be useful for behaviorally healthy dogs, not just problematic dogs



Overnight/ Weekend Foster Planning

- Who can foster?
 - Fosters only, fosters & volunteers, the public?
- Who is available to go?
 - All dogs, dogs with long shelter stays, etc.?
- How can you run the program most efficiently?
- Who can you recruit to help?



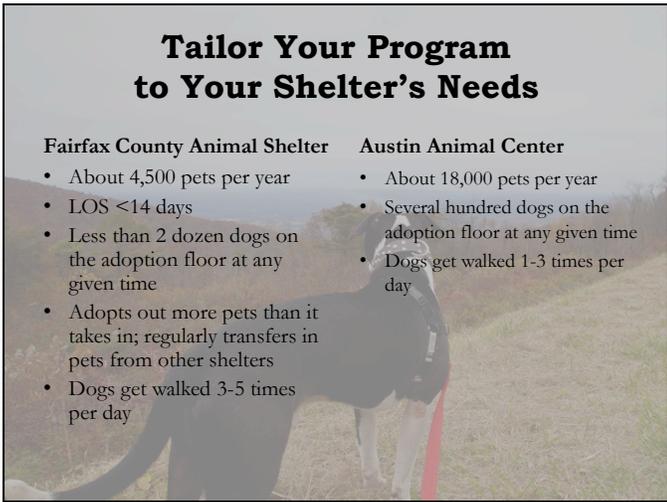
Tailor Your Program to Your Shelter's Needs

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

- About 4,500 pets per year
- LOS <14 days
- Less than 2 dozen dogs on the adoption floor at any given time
- Adopts out more pets than it takes in; regularly transfers in pets from other shelters
- Dogs get walked 3-5 times per day

Austin Animal Center

- About 18,000 pets per year
- Several hundred dogs on the adoption floor at any given time
- Dogs get walked 1-3 times per day



Overnight/ Weekend Foster Logistics: Austin

- Current volunteers and fosters can participate
- Process is managed by customer service personnel, just like an adoption
- Very little added work for foster coordinators
- Dogs can be overnight/weekend fostered anytime