



# Frequently Asked Questions: Mutt's Morning Out!

## A Program of the Vanderburgh Humane Society

### 1. What is it?

Mutt's Morning Out is a canine enrichment program. It's set up for the public to take VHS shelter dogs "out on the town" from 10-12 on Tuesday-Friday mornings. We recommend that **2 people** participate together – one to handle the dog, & one to take pictures!

### 2. What kind of places can we go?

Human buddies can take a dog buddy to the park, to get a Puppucino at Starbucks, to buy a new toy at PetSmart, or even hiking! The sky's the limit as long as you are back on time! The VHS has a list of recommended destinations that will be provided to you.

### 3. Why that time slot?

Dogs can be picked up anytime from 10-12 and can go on a full 3-hour adventure, or just a few minutes down the street. Timing is flexible within that range. We ask that all dogs be back in their kennels by 12:00 because that is when VHS Adoption hours begin. This allows dogs to be seen by potential adopters. (Occasional exceptions for longer outings may be made on a case-by-case basis for very stressed dogs or long-term resident dogs.)

### 4. How do the dogs benefit?

A shelter environment can be stressful. VHS dogs are in their kennels almost 23 hours a day. Dogs who go on an Outing will get a break from kennel life so they can decompress, receive extra human attention, and see new places & people. It socializes them to new things. And ultimately, VHS Adoptions staff will learn more about their behavior out in public and in the car to help make a better match for potential families!

### 5. What kinds of dogs can go out for Mutt's Morning Out?

Any kind of dog *can* go out, but the program is specifically designed for **medium to large breeds** because that is who needs extra enrichment the most. Participating dogs will likely be strong and energetic, and weighing approximately 40-80+ lbs. All breeds are eligible.

## **6. What will you send with us?**

The human will receive a postcard with the dog's info on it. This can be given to anyone who meets the dog while you're out & about and expresses genuine interest in adopting it. You will also receive a small bag containing treats, a collapsible water bowl, poop bags, and a copy of MMO procedures. Dogs will get to wear an "Adopt Me" vest.

## **7. What safety precautions are taken?**

All dogs receive temperament evaluations by management prior to participating. Dogs with significant known human or dog aggression will not be sent out. All dogs will be spayed or neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and fitted with leashes & harnesses prior to leaving the premises. Dogs are **not** permitted off-leash on outings.

Dogs are to be transported in **enclosed** vehicles for safety – no convertibles or truck beds. Participants will be provided with the VHS phone number in case of emergencies.

## **8. Can I introduce my dog buddy to other dogs?**

No. We prefer that dog intros take place at the shelter under VHS supervision. Obviously you may encounter other dogs while out walking, but please just allow them to sniff and keep them on-leash. Dogs should not be allowed to chase other animals or interact with your personal pets simply for safety reasons.

## **9. Can I take pictures while we're out?**

PLEASE take as many pictures of your Outing as you want! Tag us on Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat @vhs lifesaver. Tag our "Vanderburgh Humane Society" Facebook page. And you can email our team at [photos@vhs lifesaver.org](mailto:photos@vhs lifesaver.org). Sending clear, bright photos and 30-second videos (landscape mode) can really help us promote the dogs in the media!

## **10. Is this the same thing as the Cardio for Canines Program?**

It is not the same, but they are similar and one complements the other! [VHS' Cardio for Canines](#) starts at 8:00 every Saturday morning and all dogs are taken to Garvin Park at once. Mutt's Morning Out is on weekday mornings Tuesday-Friday, is flexible anytime from 10-12, and dogs can go anywhere. But both programs have the same purpose: allowing VHS shelter dogs to get extra attention, exercise, and time out of their kennel!

## **11. How do I get started?**

Just show up! First-time participants will fill out an initial registration form and provide a photo ID. After that, you can come again and again without having to re-register! **Dog handlers must be at least 18 years of age**, but children may accompany.