
Bite Protocol Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of the Bite Protocol Policy is to provide a plan of care for potentially dangerous dogs within the Colorado Canine Rescue (CCR) program, and to protect Foster Homes, volunteers and potential adopters.

Scope:

Foster Homes, Intake, Foster Home, Adoption Coordinators; Behavioral Specialists, all CCR activities

POLICY

I. Policy Statement

Any potentially dangerous dog will be evaluated according to the Bite Protocol Policy to analyze the cause of the behavior and develop a plan for care.

II. Procedure

- A. All bite occurrences that happen in a CCR Foster Home will be reported directly to the Foster Home Coordinator by the Foster Home or the Foster Mentor.
1. The bite must be reported to CCR immediately, but no later than 24 hours after the occurrence.
 2. It may be reported either via the Foster Dog Observation Update Form or by direct contact with the Foster Home Coordinator.
 3. The Foster Home Coordinator will notify a behavioral specialist immediately.
- B. A behavioral specialist will assess the situation and evaluate the dog with every bite occurrence. The evaluation will be communicated with the Foster Home Coordinator.
1. A Bite Incident Form will be completed, provided to the Board, and kept permanently in the dog's records.
- C. If the bite does not break skin, refer to the Behavioral Protocol Policy for a training plan to address the issue.
- D. If the bite breaks the skin, the dog will be placed under quarantine in the Foster Home until a behavior specialist is able to do an assessment and/or at least 10

days, per state law. During this quarantine, the dog will not have contact with anyone outside of the Foster Home.

- E. Based on the assessment, a behavioral specialist will work with the Foster Home to determine a plan of care for the foster dog.
 - 1. It will be determined if the Foster Home has the capability and is willing to fulfill the needs of the dog or whether the dog needs to be placed in a different environment.
 - 2. It will be determined if the dog needs to be enrolled in a training program.
- G. Any dog that is deemed either dangerous to humans or other animals or unpredictable and unable to be rehabilitated by a behavioral specialist will be humanely euthanized by a veterinarian with whom CCR has a working relationship.

III. Regulations

- A. Every bite occurrence must be reported and assessed by a behavioral specialist and a Bite Incident Report Form must be completed.
- B. Any bite that breaks skin will require a quarantine period until the dog is able to be evaluated.
- C. All Bite incidents, along with behavioral modifications, plan of care, and special needs of the dog, will be communicated to the Adoption Coordinator, Foster Mentor and Foster Home Coordinator.
- D. Full disclosure of all behaviors and characteristics of the foster dog, including any bite incidents towards other dogs or humans, will be provided to potential adopters.
- E. No dogs that are deemed unsafe for humans or other animals by a behavioral specialist will be adopted out.