

## Jet Protocol

This protocol was created in memory of Jet, a very shy and fearful BMDCNV rescue dog. The protocol's purpose is to insure a safe transition of rescue dogs to their new foster homes.

- Before foster placement, a home visit will be conducted to assess security and provide guidance on potential entryway issues.
- Foster homes for flight risk dogs must have fencing that fully encloses house. Ideally the fence should be 6' high.
- Potential foster home must review BMDCNV Rescue Intake or Foster Dog Report forms at least 24 in advance of taking in the rescue dog.
- Dog must wear a slip proof collar (such as Martingale type).
- If walked on leash initially, have the dog also wear an Easy Walk harness and double leash him. For some dogs you may also consider a hands free leash to keep dog attached to you while walking.
- Dog must wear a BMDCNV Rescue tag on his collar at all times.
- Check and update dog's microchip info.
- Car transport- Dog should ride in a crate or be secured in a dog seat belt harness. If this is not possible, shut the leash handle in the car door or attach dog's heavy duty leash to rock climber's carabineer clipped to interior safety handle. This will allow you to keep the dog secured to the car before opening the door for the dog to exit the vehicle.
- Set up an area in your home that will offer safety and security for the dog such as a kitchen or bathroom with a baby gate or an x-pen. Put in an open crate covered with a blanket. Keep a long line on the dog even in the house. Eventually progress toward allowing dog access to one or two rooms.
- Limit dog's entering and exiting house to one door. Always take dog outside on lead even with a fenced property. Eventually the dog may progress to walking about the fenced yard wearing a long line/tracking lead (16+ feet) with supervision. Ensure dog is not trying to dig under fence.
- Put a sign on fence gate(s) for utility people letting them know they must contact you before opening the gate (put your phone number on the sign) and that if they are allowed to enter that they ensure the gate is closed when they leave (you need to follow up with this to ensure it is done before letting the dog out again).
- Dog must be secured (dog is crated or door is closed to room the dog is in) when anyone enters or exits the house or if the dog is not under your direct supervision. Family members who are coming home should let their presence be known to you before entering the house or call ahead on a cell phone.
- Wait a few days before introducing dog to anyone other than immediate family who live in the home. If you do have visitors, advise them to avoid eye contact or physically approach dog. Having visitors sit in a chair or on the floor is more likely to put a shy dog at ease. Do not encourage them to offer treats to the dog with an outstretched hand – it may be perceived as a threat.
- In warmer weather, make sure screen doors/windows are very secure. The slider type screen doors are easy for scared dogs to burst through. Leave glass siding door closed or only open a few inches to let air in.

- If possible have dog sleep crated in your bedroom at night.
- Establish a predictable routine for potty breaks, exercise and feeding. Fearful dogs may have difficulty with simple transitions such as going into another room or going in or out doors. Provide positive reinforcement (treats, praise, or something dog really likes) during transitions and routine activities.
- Feeding – many fearful dogs will try to eat their food too fast. Some methods to consider for feeding: feed by hand; if kibble fed: use bowl with knobs in it or balls so that dog has to work around them or put kibble in buster cube; if raw –fed: smear ground food on a large surface such as a large cutting board or pan/cookie sheet that doesn't scare them.
- Do not let your guard down. The subtlest noise or movement may be a catalyst for your shy/fearful dog to try to bolt. Be alert to the types of noises and other situations that give the dog cause for concern.
- Ensure dog is getting adequate water. Some fearful dogs are too scared to stay stationary to drink or put themselves in a vulnerable position to take a sustained drink out of a bowl. Some fearful dogs do well drinking out of a squirt bottle initially.
- Shy and fearful dogs require extensive time and training to overcome fears and gain confidence in their environment. Foster dog families are advised to utilize the list of resources below that provide pertinent training information and support for the shy and fearful dog.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help. People with experience dealing with shy or fearful dogs are available to support you and work with you on problem solving.
- **If dog escapes notify the BMDCNV Rescue Chairperson, Anya Wittenborg at 617-320-5495 (cell), 781-316-2364 or 1-877-426-3268 immediately, day or night.**

#### **Email Lists:**

BMDCNV Yahoo Group Rescue List: [http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BERNER\\_adopters/](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/BERNER_adopters/)

Shy and Aggressive Bernese list: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/shyaggressivebernese/>

Shy-K9s list: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/shy-k9s/>

Clicker Training for Reactive and Shy Dogs list:

[http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Click\\_To\\_Calm\\_List/](http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Click_To_Calm_List/)

#### **Books:**

[The Cautious Canine](#) by Patricia B. McConnell

[Help for Your Fearful Dog: A Step-by-Step Guide to Helping Your Dog Conquer His Fears](#) by Nicole Wilde

[On Talking Terms With Dogs: Calming Signals](#) by Turid Rugaas

[Scaredy Dog! Understanding and Rehabilitating Your Reactive Dog](#) by Ali Brown