

Kennel Stress: Look Beyond the First Impression



THE SHORT ANSWER

Shelter dogs act differently in a kennel because noise, confinement and little exercise keep stress high for most of the day. Kennel noise in a 2006 shelter study regularly topped 118.9 decibels, louder than a jackhammer. Shelter dog behavior usually softens once a dog leaves the kennel and gets real rest.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1 Evaluate dogs outside the kennel when possible. Noise, confinement and limited exercise can amplify behavior that changes with rest.
- 2 Ask for time after exercise to observe settling. Recovery from excitement provides more context than the first frantic minutes.
- 3 Address jumping, mouthing and leash biting with rest, calm redirection, appropriate toys and reward-based training rather than dominance explanations.
- 4 Stillness is not always comfort. A dog freezing or facing the wall may be stressed; consult regular caregivers.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Request a quieter meeting and ask staff or volunteers how the dog behaves away from the kennel.

Read the full article and sources:

<https://letthembedog.com/blog/shelter-dog-behavior-kennel-stress>