CENTER FOR
Shelter Dogs
A PROGRAM OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

RESISTANCE TO HANDLING

Your new dog has shown some uneasiness when certain parts of the body are handled. Common places that dogs do not like to be touched include feet, hind end, tail and mouth. Your dogs "handling" issues may show up when you are brushing your dog or wiping off his or her feet. Dogs that do not like to be handled may show their teeth, growl or even snap and bite.

If you follow these guidelines you will be able to teach your dog to be more tolerant of handling and have a safe and long-lasting relationship with your new dog.

- Make a list of all the necessary things that you must do to your dog for health, which might be uncomfortable. Your list may include brushing, wiping feet, cleaning ears, trimming toenails.

- Starting with the **LEAST** uncomfortable activity, gradually begin to associate bits of the activity with your dog's **FAVORITE** treat.

  - So if it's wiping feet, just touch a foot with a towel and then give the treat. Touch each foot with the towel give a treat. Now touch each foot three times and give a treat after each touch. Now pick up a foot and give a treat. Pick up another foot and give a treat. Go through all four feet three times. Next, pick up a foot and wipe, give a treat. Do the same with all four feet and do each foot three times. If at any time, your dog shows teeth or growls **SLOW DOWN**. If your dog growls when picking a foot up, then go back to touching. Keep your sessions short and always end when your dog is less bothered.

  - Now head off to grooming. Show your dog the brush and give a treat. Touch your dog with the brush and give a treat. Run the brush down the back of your dog upside down (bristles up) and give a treat. Turn the brush over and give a treat. Finally, run the brush down the back of your dog with the bristles down. If at any time, your dog shows teeth or growls **SLOW DOWN**. If your dog growls when brushing, then go back to touching. Keep your sessions short and always end when your dog is "happy".

- ***SAY PLEASE***: Ask your dog to "Sit" before you do anything for your dog: Before petting, before greeting, before leashing, before opening the door, before playing, before putting food bowl down, before giving a treat.