

The Effects of Brief Outings & Temporary Fostering on the Welfare of Shelter Dogs

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What We Discovered

BRIEF OUTINGS (FIELD TRIPS)

4+ times

more likely
to be adopted

- Dogs in brief outings group had longer lengths of stay (LOS).
- Heavier & older dogs were at a slightly greater risk for euthanasia & had longer LOS.

TEMP FOSTERING (SLEEPOVERS)

14+ times

more likely
to be adopted

- Dogs in temporary fosters group had longer lengths of stay (LOS).
- Dogs temporarily fostered in homes with more resident dogs were more likely to be adopted.

Key Takeaways



- Brief outings are an effective tool to improve outcomes for shelter dogs but not as a means of stress reduction.
- Temporary fostering is an impactful enrichment and adoption intervention.
- Shelters should include a public option for field trips & sleepovers to improve program performance.

