

Benefits of Play Group:

Resources maximized

- Less people are required to conduct Play Group (PG) than individual leash walks
- We average 60-100 dogs in 3.5 hours every morning (with the dogs getting an average of 15-20 minutes of play time each! This generally requires ~4 people total)
- Average of 50 dogs in 2 hours every evening

Physical outlet, exercise & mental stimulation

- A 15-20 minute session in PG is far more beneficial than a short walk
- Mental energy is burned through intensive social interaction

Determining sociability

- Most accurate assessment of dog tolerance levels
- More accurate than on-leash or stuffed dog assessments

Reduction of common behavior issues

- Dogs who are offered PG as an outlet show much higher receptivity to training
- Barrier reactivity and/or On-Leash reactivity: Healthy contact can reduce perception of threat
- Arousal/Excitability issues: With the physical and mental outlets of PG, many arousal issues greatly reduce, if not disappear entirely
- Fear issues: Can often show rapid improvement through the enrichment they receive by attending regular PG

Better room-mate matches

- After time to play together dogs generally cohabitate in kennels more smoothly

Better adoption matches

- From all of their social experience while sheltered, most of our dog meets go more smoothly and we have comprehensive information about our shelter dogs' interactions with numerous other dogs

Dogs Playing for Life info:

<http://dogsplayingforlife.com/dpfl-manual/>

dogsplayingforlife.com