

## Advice for Furries new to BDSM Events

- These notes are for Furries and others who aren't used to BDSM events, such as a "Dog and Pony Show".
- Etiquette is slightly different between the social areas and the play spaces. Avoid talking so that BDSM scenes can hear you.
- Dungeon Monitors (DMs) perform a lifeguard function, assisting safety. They are usually marked by an orange bandanna while on duty. Take any questions or issues to them. Obey them.
- Nudity and provocative clothing is perfectly acceptable. It is not an invitation to touch, gawk, or make comments. What do you say to a naked person? The same as you'd say to them if they were dressed.
- The play areas are special ritual spaces. Avoid distracting or intruding on any scene:
  - Keep beyond reaching distance of any scene, including the people, furniture, toys, and other belongings.
  - Don't join in a scene without a very explicit invitation, even if you think you see people joining in freely.
  - After a scene, allow at least twenty minutes before requesting to talk with any participants. It takes at least that long for afterglow.
- Be tolerant of all genders, orientations, roles, and play styles. We're a diverse group.
- People have greatly differing reasons for play, and styles of relationship. Don't assume that anyone is poly, a swinger, or kinky.
- Animal play (pony play, dog play, etc.) is mainly about becoming the animal, in spirit. It is also about the power exchange with the trainer(s) and other animals.
- Experienced bottoms get deep into animal headspace, which is non-verbal. Don't try to engage them in human conversation. Limit your words to things like "nice doggy" and "pony want an apple slice?"
- Humans interacting with animal play are called owner, trainer, handler, wrangler, etc. as appropriate.
- Animal play generally moves around. Some animals may be on leash, reins, or voice control. Others wander about "at pasture" – that's normal. Part of animal play is interacting with other animals and the environment.
- Small animals (dogs, puppies, kittens) like a place to romp, such as a mattress, wresting mats, or thick carpet. Often it is vigorous brat play.
- Animals give consent by moving/staying close. They withdraw consent by moving away, growling, barking, stamping, biting or kicking. Words are not required.
- Avoid inadvertently pestering an animal, either by proximity, or by insisting on human conversation. That can ruin the scene.