

## Pathways Playgroup Training

Shelter playgroups should be fun, not stressful.

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But, they should also be *intentional*.

**Pathways Playgroups** are a purposeful part of each dog's journey through the shelter and into a successful adoption. I take a welfare-forward approach to shelter dog socialization. My framework supports emotional well-being, while also creating a system that allows us to learn about each individual dog so we can put them on a pathway to success and make well-informed decisions about their in-shelter care.

- **Reduce Dog Fights** through low-stress, behaviorally sound introductions
  - **Identify key body language** signals to prevent and de-escalate conflict
  - **Increase Staff & Volunteer Confidence** with real-time coaching and skill-building
  - **Improve Welfare** by creating meaningful social outlets and reducing kennel stress
  - **Better Understand the Dogs** in Your Care through structured, goal-driven play
  - **Move Dogs Toward Adoption Faster** with clearer behavioral insight and pathway planning
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### Your Staff Will Learn How To:

- **Safely facilitate** low-stress dog introductions in a shelter setting
  - **Evaluate dogs** more accurately through observed social behavior in playgroups
  - **Implement structured playgroup** routines that enhance emotional wellness
  - **Use observation and documentation** tools to support behavior plans and pathways
  - **Apply strategies** for consistent, team-wide decision-making around dog behavior
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### Your Shelter Will Get:

- **Customized Playgroup Program Design** tailored to your team, animals, and shelter structure

- **Improved staff skills** in dog-dog introductions, playgroup management, and conflict prevention and mitigation
  - **Reduction in-kennel stress and behavioral deterioration** through purposeful socialization
  - **Build internal capacity for sustainable behavior programming** through hybrid support
  - **Clear pathways to adoption** by integrating playgroups into behavior evaluations
  - **Maintained program momentum** through remote tools and ongoing support
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**Cost:** Starting at \$8,795 + travel

**Timeline:** 9 Weeks of Total Work (add-on monthly retainer available)

- 2 Weeks of Preparation
- 4 Days on site
- 6 Weeks of Ongoing Remote Support



**Ready to bring real change to your shelter?**

👉 Book your free Discovery Call today:

<https://laurielawless.com/discoverycall>

✉ [laurie@lawlessdogs.com](mailto:laurie@lawlessdogs.com)

🌐 [www.ShelterBehaviorIntegrations.com](http://www.ShelterBehaviorIntegrations.com)

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## Why Choose Me?

Shelter playgroups should be fun and functional, not stressful. I offer more than staff training, and suggestions on how to improve. When your shelter or organization works with me, I stay committed to your goals and I promise to improve the quality of care, staff knowledge, and outcomes for your dogs. I will support you on the ground and remotely to finalize your vision by the end of our journey.

The mission of Shelter Behavior Integrations is to bring sustainable, customized solutions to shelters through integrated frameworks that identify behavior challenges, create clear pathways, reduce length of stay, minimize behavioral euthanasia, and increase team confidence and

fulfillment. I envision a future in which the animal sheltering community sees animal behavior as an integrated and necessary part of core operations. We're all on the same team—and it's only through collaboration, clarity, and compassion that we can build a system where both animals and people thrive.

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### **Shelter Testimonials:**



**Alison Reder, CAWA**  
*Vice President of  
Animal Welfare &  
Operations, Wayside  
Waifs*

"Having Laurie come to Wayside Waifs was absolutely worth the investment for the growth of our Playgroup Program and our team! Laurie observed our team in action, made recommendations for how we could best formalize playgroups utilizing the physical and human resources available to us, and provided hands-on learning for the staff and volunteers...Being able to run almost daily playgroups has resulted in a decrease in noise in the kennel areas and generally more relaxed dogs."