A PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKER’S Observations and Tips

PREVENT
Avoid interactions! Understand what potential triggers each individual dog in your care may have and how to safely handle any situation, physically and mentally using POSITIVE, FEAR-FREE METHODS. Example: If a dog is sound sensitive, avoid high traffic areas and stick to quiet streets or trails.

MANAGE
Control situations in a calm manner. Understand how to utilize MANAGEMENT TOOLS, such as creating distance and using barriers. Understand when a dog needs to go home. Example: If a dog lunges and/or barks at a trigger, create distance and use a barrier, such as a vehicle, tree, and/or your body.

SUBSTITUTE
Substitute a behavior that conflicts with the behavior you want to eliminate. This also means the dog must understand what you are asking for and reliably perform said behavior. Example: If the dog is jumping, ask them to sit. Remember BEHAVIORS ARE OBSERVABLE not adjectives or descriptors.

Carefully CURATE YOUR ROUTES and always be prepared with an exit strategy.