
DOG FOSTER GUIDE

Please read through this informational handout when taking home dogs to foster, as it will equip you to have all the necessary knowledge required to care for a dog.

The foster department is your help center. We are here to answer any questions and concerns you may have. If there is something you need help with, simply ask. We are here to support you.

ROLE

- Temporarily house a dog/puppy for either behavioral reasons, space, or medical reasons
- Provide basic care for the foster animal(s) by feeding, socializing, cleaning, and playing with them
- Administer routine flea/heartworm prevention and any prescribed medication
- Attend scheduled follow up appointments and routine checks
- Be the animal's advocate by marketing them on social media
- Write a bio about the foster and upload a photo to our website

SUPPLIES

We will provide (if you need something not listed below simply talk to a foster coordinator and we can see if it is available):

- Rescue
- Leash & Collar (Harness if needed)
- Science Diet dry & wet food
- Blue Dawn dish soap (for flea baths)
- Toys
- Intestoguard (Stomach troubles)
- Bed
- Crate/ Playpen

REQUIREMENTS

We ask all our fosters to follow certain guidelines when fostering, this is in the best interest of the animal. If you have concerns about any of these points, please contact the foster department for help.

- Only feed your fosters the food we provide (Science Diet).
- Keep all fosters quarantined for a mandatory two weeks to prevent the possible spread of illness and to decrease stress on the animal.
- Commit to bringing animals in for medical appointments and follow ups/ communicate health concerns with foster techs.
- Veterinary care/ medical attention is to be dealt with at Peggy Adams (*you can NOT use a private vet*).

- Contact foster techs if you notice: nasal discharge, sneezing, coughing, lethargy, loss of appetite, worms, diarrhea, or any other health concerns.
- Give us a minimum two-week notice if you can no longer foster.
- Puppies must be weighed daily and monitored until they are of weight (over 3 lbs for a small breed and 2 lbs for a large breed) to be spayed/ neutered.
- Don't take your dog/puppies to a dog park.
- Always keep your foster dog on a leash, unless in a secure fenced-in yard.
- Do not use alternate training methods (i.e. prong and shock collars). If you need behavioral help to train them, contact our behavior department for advice.
- Contact a Foster Coordinator immediately if someone is scratched or bitten.

Types of Dog Foster

There are multiple different reasons we would send a dog out to foster. Below we illustrate some circumstances.

Adoption Ambassador: An adoption ambassador takes a dog out to foster with the intention of finding it a home. They will provide the animal with a temporary home for a longer period than a regular foster, because they are given the task of adopting out this dog. They try to find friends/ family/ coworkers/ acquaintances who would provide the animal with a suitable forever-home. Responsibilities include promoting the dog on social media. Adoption ambassadors typically help either long-timers or dogs with behavior modification plans.

Nursing Mom and Puppies: A foster would take home a mom with a litter of puppies. You must foster the mom with the litter until the babies are at least 8 weeks old. At that point, they will have surgery to be spayed or neutered. The mom must then be separated from the litter after those 8 weeks, in order to have her "dry up". Foster parents are responsible for socializing these puppies and helping the mom feel comfortable during this period.

Pregnant Mom: A foster parent will take home a pregnant mom, so that she doesn't need to give birth in a stressful, shelter environment. They will aid the mom during labor, if needed (all instructions, advice and supplies will be provided). After giving birth to the puppies, the foster will care for the nursing mom and puppies until they are all able to have their sterilization surgery.

Bottle Fed Puppies: The foster parent in this situation will take home orphaned puppies- puppies without a mom to care for them. This is a bit more responsibility for the foster parent, as they will be bottle feeding the puppies every couple of hours. You are required to be trained on bottle feeding procedures before taking home a litter.

Medical Problems: We have some dogs who have suffered (or suffer) from injuries and need a home for rehabilitation purposes. Medical troubles may include: Ringworm, mange, skin troubles, pinpointing an allergy, eye issues, recovering from a surgery, sever kennel cough, or some type of trauma/ injury. Instructions for administering medication and treatment will be given, in addition to proper training.

