



Foster Home Policies and Guidelines

Safety First!

- Always exercise caution with each new foster dog. Proper dog/dog and dog/cat introductions should be applied.
- Constant supervision is recommended for the first several days. When not supervised, crating or other confinement is recommended.
- Pick up all toys and chews prior to your foster dog coming home. Introduce slowly and with constant supervision.
- Never give high value treats to your dog and the foster dog at the same time/together.
- Feed each dog in a separate area
- For your own safety, don't take items out of your foster dog's mouth. Ask him to "drop it" or trade/ distract the dog to retrieve the item. If you can't get the dog to drop it and he eats it, let the dog rep know immediately.

Other Safety Guidelines

- Your foster dog must be secured when riding in the car – you must use a crate, seatbelt or tether so the dog cannot get in the front seat or bolt when the doors are opened.
- Your foster dog must be on a leash whenever he is away from your house/yard. No dog parks, dog beaches, or other off-leash areas are permitted for foster dogs.
- Use caution coming in and out of your house to prevent bolting. If your foster dog gets loose, do not chase him. Use treats and try to call him back. Call the Dog Rep immediately for other directions/help.
- Familiarize yourself with common household and garden poisons per FDA [click here](#)
- When walking your foster dog, a martingale collar, Easy Walk Harness or Gentle leader is preferred. Do not let your foster dog approach unknown dogs and let other dog walkers know you are just learning about your foster and would prefer to keep your distance from their dog.

Medical Issues

- Your foster dog should be up to date with all vaccines, spayed or neutered, dewormed and microchipped before going to your home.
- If the dog has other medical issues, you may be given medications – ear drops, thyroid meds, arthritis meds, etc. Make sure you understand the instructions for each medication.
- Sometimes issues pop up while a dog is under your care. If you notice anything unusual (lameness, strange lumps or bumps, missing hair, very dry coat, eye/nose discharge, bad odors, etc.) contact the Dog Rep. All medical issues need to be discussed with the dog rep and any treatment/vet visits need to be pre-approved. Do not seek vet treatment until you have discussed and received approval from the Dog Rep.

Temperament Issues

We certainly anticipate that many foster dogs will come with behavioral challenges of varying levels. If you have questions or are frustrated, please contact the Dog Rep for help.



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REPORT ANY INSTANCES OF GROWLING, SNAPPING, BITING OR ATTEMPTS TO BITE A HUMAN TO THE DOG REP IMMEDIATELY.

It is also important that you introduce the foster dog properly to the other pets in your home. We hope you will work through any minor adjustment issues, but if you feel your pets are in danger or that the foster dog just can't seem to be able to co-exist with your other pets, call the Dog Rep.

Supplies

FRR Rescue will supply flea control, collars, leashes and crates. We sometimes have other supplies as well. Contact your Dog Rep or Foster Home coordinator for supplies.

Common New Foster Dog Behaviors

- Over the first few days your foster dog may exhibit some, all or none of the following (which can all be caused by stress):
 - He may not eat
 - He may drink a lot of water (which will make him pee a lot!)
 - He may be anxious and pace or not be able to settle down, especially at night
 - He may pant or drool
 - He may itch or scratch a lot
 - He may have diarrhea or loose stools

He may be on his best behavior for the first couple of weeks and as he becomes more comfortable, he may begin showing a behavioral issue, such as mischievousness or even excessive assertiveness. If your foster dog exhibits anything more than understandable mischievousness, please report to the Dog Rep.

Please refresh your basic dog training skills by completing the following certificates at Maddie's Fund University

- [Bringing a new dog home](#)
 - [Canine Body Language in the Shelter](#)
- It is a good idea to set up a separate space for your new foster in your home: either a gated area or a large comfortable crate where he can see you. Please do not use a bedroom or any closed room. This separate space near you allows him to decompress safely.

Foster Home Responsibilities

Our foster homes are vital to the placement of our dogs in appropriate forever homes. We rely on you to learn about the dogs and let the Dog Rep know what you observe and experience. Regular communication and updated pictures and videos are important so the Dog Rep can keep the website bio up to date.



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In addition to providing a safe and loving home, your foster dog will benefit from basic training or refreshers: Sit, stay; potty training, walking on a leash etc. It's very important to only use positive reinforcement techniques with a new foster. It may be a good idea to crate train your new foster. Please ask your Dog Rep for more guidance.

Regular, safe exercise and playtime are also an important element of your foster's daily life and will help him relax and be ready for his permanent home.

Your foster will need to be bathed and brushed regularly so that he gets used to those situations and services, as well as keeping him healthy and adoption ready.

If you will be leaving town while you have a foster in your home, you will need to contact the Dog Rep. The Dog Rep will arrange to transfer your foster dog to another foster temporarily. You cannot take your foster dog out of town or have non-approved people dog-sit for your foster dog.

It is not your responsibility to find a home for your foster dog. We often run into people who want to talk about our dogs as they are often so beautiful and friendly. Be discreet in discussing your foster dog. If you meet someone who is interested in adopting, refer them to the website. Please don't get into discussions with people about adopting your foster dog unless that person has been referred to you by the Dog Rep.

Occasionally we may need you to drive your dog to a vet appointment or a potential adoption meeting. If you have trouble doing this, please let your Dog Rep know.

A Potential Match Has Been Found

When a potential family is identified, the Dog Rep will ask you to contact them to discuss the foster dog. If both you and the family feel the dog may be a good fit you will schedule a meeting, which can be at the location of your choosing (your home, the prospective adopter's home, or a neutral location.) If all goes well at the meeting, then plan to adopt your foster dog out at that time. If you don't feel comfortable about the placement at any time during the process, please let the Dog Rep know immediately.

Questions??? Do not hesitate to call or email your Foster Coordinator or your Dog Rep.

Thank you for helping a dog in need!

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President

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