

# Dog Foster (DF) IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Thank you for helping us save a life! **Please read this document and all future correspondence thoroughly as they include important information regarding the care of your foster dog.** Most of our correspondence with you is via email; therefore, we ask that you check your email daily. Please make sure that we have the best email address for you.

Please refer to the Dog Foster Team Contact List, which lists the most important FOS contacts for you as a foster parent. We want your foster experience to be rewarding and enjoyable, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

If you can no longer keep your foster dog, we will try to find a new foster home for him/her as soon as possible. Please give us as much advance notice as possible as it can take several days for us to make alternate arrangements. **Please tell us immediately if you are experiencing any issue with your foster dog so that we can provide help before it becomes a serious problem!**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- Please make sure your resident animals are fully vaccinated before taking any foster dog.
- Even though your resident animals should be fully vaccinated before taking any foster dog, please **keep your foster dog separated** from any resident animal for at least the first week. This can be done by crating your foster dog, keeping them in a separate room, or both. This is important to ensure the safety and health of your foster dog and any resident animal. Even if you have done a meet and greet between your foster dog and your resident dog(s), we can't guarantee how they will interact in your home. We can provide more information on the "best practice" for introducing dogs upon request.
- Even after you have successfully integrated your foster dog with your resident dog(s), do not give them food, treats, or toys together.
- Never leave your foster dog unattended with any other dog, even after you have successfully integrated your foster dog with your resident dog(s). Again, we can't guarantee how they will interact together.
- Your safety and the safety of any resident animal and your foster dog is paramount. We especially want to avoid any chance that your foster dog would injure you or any resident animal. If you observe any "dominant" or "aggressive" behavior, please contact the Behavior Team and the Dog Foster Manager immediately. If there is a bite, please follow this Dog Foster Bite Protocol.
- We encourage you to provide exercise for your foster dog; however, **never allow him/her to be off leash in public.** This means **no dog parks or any areas where dogs will be off leash, even if your foster will be on leash.**

- **Do not leave a foster dog unattended in a fenced yard.** If you have a doggy door, please keep it closed unless you are present to monitor the dog(s) at all times in the fenced yard.
- We strongly encourage you to crate your foster dog (unless he/she has crating issues), especially when you are not home. We can provide more information on the “best practice” for crating upon request.
- We feed the dogs in our program Hills Science Diet. However, any good quality food is okay. Puppies and nursing or pregnant moms should get puppy food or gruel (depending on their age). Please consult the Dog Foster Care Team if you are unsure about what to feed your foster dog.
- If you are fostering a shy or “scaredy” dog, follow our “Flight Risk Protocol” and make sure the dog is secure at all times. These dogs have an uncanny ability to dart out a door, escape a yard, or chew through a leash.
- If you are fostering a puppy that is: (a) younger than 16 weeks of age OR (b) 16 weeks of age or older but has not had at least one DAPP vaccine that was given at 16 weeks of age or older:
  - **Do not allow your puppy(ies) to touch the ground in any public area; this includes at FOS!** For Clinic visits, bring your puppy in a crate or carry them.
  - **Do not take your puppy(ies) to a public place,** even if it’s just to go to the bathroom! This includes parks, pet stores, veterinary clinics or hospitals, boarding kennels, play yards, running trails, etc.
  - Puppies should always be kept in a confined area unless you are providing direct supervision.
  - Our puppies will have typically moved on to their forever home before they are fully vaccinated. Until that time they are at risk for serious illnesses like Parvo and Distemper. For this reason, please have sanitizer readily available. If anyone wants to pet your puppy(ies), please ask them to “sanitize first”.
- **IF YOUR FOSTER DOG GETS LOOSE OR IS LOST, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE DOG FOSTER MANAGER.**