



# Dog Packet

# Fostering a Dog

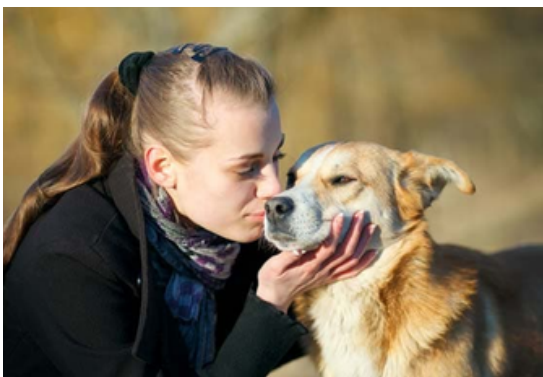
The main function of a dog foster is to provide a safe, loving home environment for a rescue pup. For the most part, this entails caring for your foster as you would your own dog: offering food, affection, socialization, and exercise to keep the dog happy and healthy. Some fosters may not be housetrained so you may need to teach them as well as tricks

If your foster dog comes with medical conditions, you'll need to oversee their care and get them to and from veterinary appointments.

Establish a routine that includes regular bathroom breaks and positive reinforcement when they succeed. Remember to be gentle and understanding.

Socialization is another important aspect of fostering. Expose your foster dog to different environments, people, and other animals in a controlled and positive manner. This will help them become well-adjusted and increase their chances of finding a permanent home.

Additionally, take note of the dog's behavior, preferences, and any special quirks. This information is invaluable when communicating with potential adopters, as it helps in matching the dog with the right family. Your observations can make all the difference in ensuring a successful adoption, where both the dog and their new family thrive together.



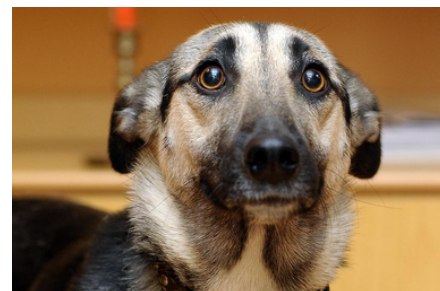
Always remain open to learning from your fostering experience. Each dog will teach you something new, enrich your life, and prepare you for future foster opportunities. Embrace the journey, knowing that you are making a meaningful difference in the life of a dog in need.

# Shy and Fearful dogs

It is quite challenging to find homes for shy and fearful dogs, as the shelter environment can be extremely stressful, causing them to shut down. These dogs often retreat to corners, avoiding any interaction. Additionally, the overwhelming noise in shelters can lead fearful dogs to exhibit signs of aggression as a response to their stress.

## What are the signs of fear in dogs?

- Appearing frozen or holding very still
- Raising hackles (hair that runs along their spine)
- Looking away or lowering of the head while still sitting up
- Raising the head way up while looking away
- Staring at you (If a defensive dog stares into your eyes, look away for your own safety around the dog.)
- Growling
- Wrinkling of the lips without teeth showing
- Snarling with teeth showing



Allow your dog time to get used to people. Instruct others to ignore your dog, and let your dog decide whether they want to approach someone. Dogs that adjust on their own are more likely to approach people safely.



- Avoid direct eye contact, at first. Direct eye contact can be intimidating or threatening to a dog. Look at the floor or to the side.
- Approach dogs at their level. Crouch down or sit on the floor. Don't stand over a dog.
- Throw out treats, decreasing the distance for a safe interaction. From a crouched position, toss out a treat, one at a time. This allows your dog to approach at their pace and get a reward at the same time. Don't interact with them until they've taken a treat from your hand.
- Pet under their chin or on their chest. Avoid patting their head — most dogs don't like it!
- Build up trust with your dog before bringing them to public settings like the dog park, a friend's house, or a dog-friendly restaurant or brewery.

Bringing Home Your Shy or Fearful Foster Dog



# Long Term Residents

Our long-term residents are dogs that have been at the shelter longer than 60 days. They are the ones that tend to be our older dogs, who often get overlooked. However, they can also be dogs that typically exhibit poor kennel presence because they dislike the kennel as a barrier to their freedom.

Larger breed dogs might be less attractive to some adopters because of their space needs and assumed energy levels. Additionally, dogs that also have serious health issues may need extensive medical care, which can deter potential adopters.



Fostering a long-term resident dog from a shelter can significantly enhance their chances of finding a forever home. By providing a nurturing home environment, you can reveal their true personality, which often gets overshadowed by the stressful kennel atmosphere.

Importance of fostering dogs





# Medical fosters

Animals with special needs often require fostering before they can be adopted, as they need additional time and care to address emotional or medical challenges, such as adjusting to vision loss or a missing leg. No matter the issue, we will equip you with a treatment plan specifically designed to meet their unique needs.

Medical fosters do well and heal faster in a home setting rather than shelter, this is because a home environment offers a quieter, more comfortable space where animals can relax and feel safe. The personalized attention they receive from foster caregivers allows for closer monitoring of their health and quicker intervention if needed. Additionally, the one-on-one interaction often helps build trust and aids in the emotional healing process, setting them up for successful adoption into forever homes. Certain foster dogs may require medication several times a day; we will provide you with guidance on how to administer it effectively.

It's important to establish a routine to ensure that the medication is given consistently and without stress to the animal. For instance, incorporating medication into feeding times can make it feel like a normal part of the day for the dog. We will also provide demonstrations and tips on how to gently and safely administer pills or liquid medicine, taking into account the individual dog's temperament and preferences.

For those dogs with dietary restrictions or special nutritional needs, we will supply the appropriate food and supplements, along with detailed instructions on their use. Our goal is to make this experience as straightforward and rewarding as possible for both you and the dog.



We are here to support you every step of the way, ensuring that you have all the resources needed to provide the best care possible.

# Mom and Babies

Mom requires frequent protein-rich meals (at least 4 times/day) and access to a full water bowl at all times. While she usually takes care of cleaning her babies, you will need to keep moms area clean.

Ensure that the mother and her puppies stay in the whelping box/nesting box. This keeps the puppies close to her, reducing the risk of them getting too cold. It also allows them to nurse whenever they need to.

The whelping box can be as simple as a small kiddie pool



Scan QR code with phone camera

Tutorial- Whelping Box for Large Breeds



The first milk, called colostrum, is only produced for a few days. It is rich in protein and minerals and contains antibodies that protect the puppies from disease. For this reason it is very important that infant puppies nurse from their mother. The puppies will put on weight steadily, gaining as much as a half-ounce per day during the initial period of rapid growth.

Occasionally, a puppy will be pushed out by another puppy when it is attempting to nurse. This is normal, but if the same puppy is repeatedly kept from the nipple it will fall behind in growth and development, it will then need to be bottle fed.

At birth, a puppy is totally helpless, unable to even regulate its own body temperature. Within four days it is able to find its mother and crawl to her from 2 feet away. By two weeks old coordination is sufficiently developed for it to use its front legs, and by three weeks of age the puppies can stand tentatively. By seven weeks of age the puppies leap, run, and seem to have developed a near perfect sense of balance. Watching puppies grow is fun and fascinating!



# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"