



## **For the Love of Poodles Dog Foster Care Manual**

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**Section 1: Introduction**

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering dogs for [For the Love of Poodles-RVA](#). By opening up your home to foster, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these dogs so desperately need. You are giving them a greater chance at finding a home- a chance they may not have received at a shelter. Many of the dogs who need foster homes require extra care and attention, which shelters are often unable to provide due to minimal staff and resources. In a loving foster home (yours), every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family.

Foster homes are asked to provide care for the dogs, as well as transportation to and from veterinary appointments as needed, and to adoption events as scheduled. Adoption events will normally only be one Saturday per month so that foster dogs can meet potential adopters. If applications are received to meet your specific foster, we will contact you to arrange a time and place to meet, convenient for all parties. Care for foster dogs includes feeding according to size and needs, exercise according to energy levels, and lots of play time and positive socialization.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. By participating in the fostering program, you are saving lives and helping many different types of dogs find the families they have been longing for. Through fostering we can work together to Save Them All.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Where do the foster dogs come from?**

The dogs who are in need of foster care come to us from several different situations:

\*Returned adoptions. For the Love of Poodles-RVA makes a lifetime commitment to every animal we rescue. This means that if, for any reason, an adopter can no longer keep a dog he or she adopted from us, we require that the pet comes back to For the Love of Poodles RVA. If the pet ends up at a shelter, we will pick the animal up and take the animal back.

\*Shelter Rescue. For the Love of Poodles -RVA takes in animals from local shelters in the state of Virginia. Our rescue is very small and the foster program allows us to maximize our resources.

Owner Surrender. For the Love of Poodles- RVA also takes in animals, in certain situations, directly from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

## **What do foster families need to provide?**

Foster families need to provide:

- \*A healthy and safe environment for their foster dogs
- \*Transportation to and from adoption events and vet appointments as needed
- \*Socialization and cuddle time to help teach dogs positive family and pet relationships
- \*Lots of exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop in to great dogs.

## **How much time do I need to spend with a foster dog?**

The short answer is as much time as you can. That being said, the amount of time will vary based on the dog's energy level and needs. It is ideal to spend at least two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

## **Can I foster dogs even if I have a full-time job?**

Yes. The foster application is designed as a survey to help the foster coordinator match you with the best animal for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a dog that may be okay alone during the workday. You would then need to make sure to provide ample exercise before and after work.

## **How long will the dog need to be in foster care?**

Ideally your foster dog will remain with you until he/she is adopted. We do not have a boarding facility to house animals overnight, so these dogs rely on their foster homes as their home between homes.

## **How often does my foster need to attend an adoption event?**

Once a dog has been cleared medically and behaviorally for adoption, we ask that foster families bring their dogs to any scheduled adoption events which are normally only once per month.

### **Will I need to give medications to my foster dog?**

Most all of the dogs in our rescue have come from local shelters which means they have been exposed to shelter illnesses. While we make every effort to address these conditions, some have a longer incubation period, meaning symptoms do not appear before you bring your dog home. So, while some dogs do not require any medications at all, others may. If your foster needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take the animal home.

### **Can I let my foster dog play with my personal pets?**

There are a few guidelines we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets.

-because rescue animals are exposed to shelter illnesses, we ask that foster families consult with their veterinarians to make sure their personal pets are healthy and all vaccines are up to date. Dogs in shelters are very susceptible to illness and can carry or contract diseases. If your pet, for any reason, becomes ill while fostering a For the Love of Poodles pet, we cannot provide medical care for your pet.

-when introducing the new family member try to pick a neutral location so that your personal pet does not feel like he/she must protect his/her space

-make sure supervision is always present when animals are loose.

-crating is recommended when leaving animals alone

### **What if I want to adopt my foster dog?**

If you want to adopt your foster dog, you will need to fill out an adoption application and follow the full adoption process. If you do decide to adopt your foster, please let the foster coordinator know right away as once the dog is put up for adoption, it cannot be held for anyone, including the foster parent.

### **Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?**

If you have travel plans while you are fostering for For the Love of Poodles-RVA, you will need to contact the foster coordinator to find a suitable place for your foster to stay while you are gone. Please provide as much notice as possible as this is a foster based rescue and we have no boarding facility.

You cannot leave your foster dog with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. Please contact the foster coordinator with additional questions.

### **What if my foster dog bites me?**

Seek medical attention if necessary. Crate the dog if needed and immediately call the foster coordinator. You will be asked details about the event so that we can try to determine cause and the best way to address it.

### **What if my foster dog is not working out?**

You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it is not working out. However; we may not have an immediate alternate placement for the dog. As mentioned above, we do not have our own boarding facility so we rely on boarding partners. We will work on moving your dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience. Please call the foster coordinator during business hours if this situation arises. Have detailed information on why you feel this is not working out so that we can attempt to find an appropriate placement. Turning in a dog that you feel is not working out does not exclude you from fostering another dog. It just means that we need to make adjustments to which animal would be best suited for you and your situation.

### **Can I foster a dog to fulfill a community service obligation?**

Unfortunately, For the Love of Poodles-RVA cannot sign off on court-ordered community service hours for fostering. Community service is supposed to be supervised work, and fostering is unsupervised, since it takes place in your home.

## **Section 2: Preparing for your foster dog**

When you take your foster dog home, he may be frightened and unsure about what is happening, so it is important not to overwhelm him. Prepare a special area for your foster to help ease his adjustment into a new home environment. Sometimes it is better to confine a new foster to a small area at first to let him adjust before giving him free rein in your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate for the dog and should allow the dog access to his food and water dishes and toys.

We request that all foster dogs are housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster dog.

During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster dog, so that she is only meeting immediate family and your personal pets. If you have other pets at home, it is important to give your foster dog a space of her own where she can get use to all of the new sounds, sights and smells. Do not leave your foster dog unattended with the other pets in the home until you are comfortable that all of the animals can interact safely.

### **Supplies you'll need**

For the Love of Poodles will provide you with any supplies that you may need. However; we greatly appreciate any help that you can provide in supplying items for your foster dog. Here's what you will need to help your foster dog make a smooth transition to living in your home:

\* At least one bowl for dry food and one for water. Stainless steel or ceramic work best.

\*A supply of good quality dry dog food. (Natural Balance, Taste of the Wild, Nutro, or a similar quality food) All dogs are fed dry food unless a special diet is required.

\*A collar with an ID tag and a leash will be provided. Retractable leashes are not recommended. Even though all dogs are micro-chipped, they still need to wear the ID tag.

\*A soft place to sleep. Old towels or blankets work well.

\*A baby gate. This comes in handy to keep certain areas of your home off-limits.

\*A crate. The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that.

\*Dog treats. Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster dog.

### **Dog-proofing your home**

Foster dogs come from a shelter environment, and even if they have previously been in a home, we don't always know how they will react in a new home. So, before bringing home a foster dog, survey the areas where you will be keeping your foster dog. Remove anything that will be unsafe or undesirable for the dog to chew on, and latch securely any cupboards and doors that your foster dog could get in to. People food and chemicals can be very harmful if consumed by dogs, so please keep these items in a place where your foster dog will not have access.

Never underestimate your foster dog's abilities. Here are some additional tips for dog-proofing your home:

\*Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins)

\*Keep the toilet lids closed.

\*Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.

\*Move houseplants or secure them. Some dogs like to play with them and may knock them over.

\*Make sure that aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters, are securely out of reach of your foster dog.

\*Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from accessible surfaces.

\*Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.

\*Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster dog if consumed.

\*Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster dog could knock down.

### **Section 3: Bringing home your foster dog**

Taking care of a foster dog requires a commitment from you to make sure the dog is healthy and happy. Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to these dogs who desperately need your help. Without you, we could not save as many as we do.

#### **Choosing a foster dog**

The foster coordinator will work with you to select a foster dog who meets your specific requirements. We will always do our best to match you with a dog who fits with your lifestyle and schedule.

When you and the foster coordinator have decided on a foster dog, an appointment will be scheduled so you can pick up the dog and any supplies you may need. The location of meeting will depend on where the dog is currently housed.

Someone from the rescue will meet with you and introduce you to the dog. Together you will decide if the dog is a good fit for you. Please be honest: If you

are not comfortable with anything about the animal you may be fostering, please convey this before taking the animal home.

Please note: Once the animal is placed in a foster home from a shelter, the dog cannot be returned to the shelter if the person fostering the dog decides it's not working out. For the Love of Poodles will make arrangements, as soon as possible, to find appropriate placement for the dog.

### **Dog Introductions**

If you have personal pets who are dogs, you will want to introduce them one at a time to your foster dog and supervise their interactions at first. It's a good idea to introduce them outside in a large yard or on a walk, keeping all of the dogs on a leash and allowing them enough space to get adjusted to one another. If you can, it works best to schedule a time for your personal dogs to meet your foster dog before bringing him home.

In addition, make sure that high-value items (food, chew toys, plush toys, Kongs, rawhides or anything else that your dog holds in high regard) are put away whenever the dogs are interacting. You don't want to allow the possibility of a fight. Those high value items are best placed in the dogs' personal areas. Finally, never feed your dogs in the same room as the foster dog; always separate them at feeding time.

### **Cat Introductions**

We can't ensure that a foster dog has been "cat-tested," so if you have personal pets who are cats, you'll need to make the introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely. Start by keeping them separated at first. You can either keep your cats in a separate room (equipped with food, water, litter boxes and beds) or confine your foster dog to a room. Over a one-to-two-week period, let the dog and cats smell each other through the door, but don't allow them contact with one another. Exchanging blankets or towels between the cat's area and the dog's area will help them get used to each other's smells. After a week or two, do the face-to-face introduction. Keeping your foster dog on leash, allow your cat in the same area. (If you have more than one cat, introduce one at a time.) Do not allow the

foster dog to charge or run directly up to the cat. Try to distract the dog as best you can to allow the cat to approach without fear. Watch the body language of each animal closely and don't continue the interaction if either pet becomes over-stimulated or aggressive. The idea is to keep the interactions positive, safe and controlled. Finally, never leave your foster dog unsupervised with any cats in your home.

### **Children and dogs**

Since we don't always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog. Key things to remind your children:

\*Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing, or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.

\*Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.

\*Do not tease the foster dog.

\*Don't chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog: it may scare him.

\*Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the kids.

Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats who cross their path

## **Section 4: Daily care**

### **Feeding**

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified. A good quality food is desired. Feed your foster dog once or twice daily; the amount will be based on the age and weight of your foster dog. Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water.

You can give your foster dog treats of any kind (unless he/she has known allergies, of course); giving treats helps you and your foster dog to bond with each other. Most dogs like to chew on things, so try rawhide chews, Greenies, antlers, Nylabones or Dentabones. Keep in mind that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your dog is confined in his/her own area. Make sure to monitor your foster dog when giving these chews. Also be mindful of older fosters that may not have strong teeth.

### **Daily routine**

When you first take your foster dog home, take care not to overwhelm her with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly toward a person or animal, which is why it is a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of weeks after you bring your foster dog home. It's also important to establish a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on.

Also, on a daily basis, be aware of your foster dog's appetite and energy level. If she is not eating well or seems listless, something may be wrong medically. You might want to record your observations to make it easier to notice any health issues.

### **House-training**

It's unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take him or her home. Most of the dogs in the foster program may have lived in a shelter for a while, often with minimal walks or chances to relieve themselves outside. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your dog gets used to your schedule.

Because a dog has a better chance of being adopted if she is house-trained, please help your foster dog to perfect this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times each day (3-6 times daily; depending on age of dog). Initially you may need to take her out more frequently to remind her where the door to the outside is and to reassure her that you will take her out for potty breaks. Most dogs will give cues-such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in circles-to indicate that they need to go out. Keep your dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise her indoors.

If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, don't discipline or punish her. It will only teach her to mistrust and fear you. Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

### **Crate training**

You can prevent problems with crate training by setting your foster dog up for success. He should only associate the crate with good things, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging him to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If he is afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far in as he is willing to go. After he takes the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until he is eating treats at the very back, then feed him his next meal in the crate with the door open, so that he can walk in and out at will.

Crate training a fearful dog can take days, so be patient and encouraging. If a crate is properly introduced and used, your foster dog will happily enter and settle down.

## **Grooming**

A clean and well-groomed dog has a better chance of being adopted, so bathe your foster dog and brush him regularly if he has longer hair or requires more frequent grooming. Contact your foster coordinator if you feel your foster dog needs a professional groomer. If you are comfortable with it, you can trim his nails. But please be careful because you can cause pain and bleeding if you trim the nails too short.

## **Mental stimulation and exercise**

Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he or she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day. Try a variety of toys (balls, squeaky toys, rope toys, etc.) to see which ones your foster dog prefers. Note that not all dogs know what playing is, depending on their background, so you may not get much response to toys. Remember to discourage the dog from playing with your hands, since mouthing won't be a desirable behavior to adopters. You can also offer your foster dog a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get the treats out. Try a TreatStik or Kong product, available online and at pet supply stores.

## **Safety requirements**

Foster dogs must live indoors, not outside. Please do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised, even if you have a fenced yard. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when he is outside at all times to ensure that he doesn't escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals. Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in a completely fenced-in back yard.

When walking or hiking with your foster dog, please keep her on-leash at all times. This means that your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash dog areas. We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to ensure that all animals are safe at all times. In addition, we don't know if the other dogs they may encounter are fully vaccinated or if they carry diseases, so it is best if your foster

dog does not meet any unknown dogs. Having recently come from a shelter setting, foster dogs can be vulnerable health-wise.

Your foster dog cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup truck. When you are transporting your foster dog, he should be inside the vehicle, preferably in a crate, or seat belted.

### **Section 5: Helping your foster dog get adopted**

All medical appointments/procedures will be completed before your foster dog can be adopted. This may include vaccines, treatment for kennel cough, dental issues, infections, or a spay/neuter.

#### **How often will I need to bring my dog to an adoption event?**

We do not expect this to be more than once per month, on a Saturday, for just a couple of hours. This may change if there is a special event the rescue is participating in. We will do our best to make this as convenient as possible for you as the foster parent. We would like for you to stay throughout an adoption event but will work with you if you need to leave for something.

#### **What if my foster dog gets adopted at an adoption event?**

Once your foster dog leaves your home for his/her forever home, you can contact the foster coordinator when you are ready to foster again.

#### **How can I help my foster dog find a great home?**

As you get to know your foster dog, we ask that you make observation notes and communicate regularly with the foster coordinator so that the animal's online biography can be kept up to date. Please note potty training progress, crate training, leash behavior, as well as quirks or preferences you have noticed. Some people write their own biographies for their foster dogs, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also welcome any quality photos of your foster dog in your home. You may send biographies and photos to the foster coordinator. Remember if you are walking your dog place the "Adopt Me" sign

bandana on his/her collar to help get the word out. We also have adoption leashes.

If someone you know is interested in adopting the dog, have them fill out the online adoption application and call the foster coordinator and give her the details. Once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, but we do want to accommodate referrals from foster parents, if we can.

### **Will it be hard to say goodbye to my foster dog?**

Saying goodbye can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that many more dogs in Virginia shelters need wonderful foster homes like yours. Remember you are playing a crucial role in helping to Save Them All.

### **Section 6: Medical and Emergency protocols**

When you pick up your foster dog you will be notified of any scheduled vet appointments or any known medical conditions to treat. You are responsible for administering these medications as prescribed by the veterinarian. If the condition requires refills of medications, you are responsible for contacting the foster coordinator at least a week ahead of time so that you do not run out of a medication.

#### **Veterinary care**

For the Love of Poodles-RVA provides all medical care for our foster animals at our approved veterinary clinics. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster dog's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster dogs at our approved veterinary partners.

If your foster dog needs to go to the veterinarian, please notify the foster coordinator by email or phone indicating if there are days/times you will be unavailable to transport your dog. The foster coordinator will schedule the appointment and contact you with the details.

For non-emergency situations, please understand that our veterinary partners book quickly and may not be available for same-day appointments. We ask that you schedule basic non-emergency appointments at least 24 hours in advance.

Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster dog to a veterinarian without authorization from a staff member of For the Love of Poodles-RVA.

Please note: If you wish to take your foster animal to a veterinarian who is not on the approved list of veterinary partners, it will be at your own expense.

### **Signs of illness and what to do next**

Dogs generally do a good job of masking when they don't feel well, so determining if your foster dog is under the weather will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. It's a good idea to keep track of these observations in a journal, particularly if there is more than one animal in the home. You'll also want to record any of the following symptoms, which could be a sign of illness.

**Eye discharge.** It is normal for dogs to have some discharge from their eyes when they wake up and some may have more than others, depending on the breed. But if your foster dog has yellow or green discharge, or swelling around the eyes (making it hard for him to open his eyes), or the third eyelid is showing, you need to contact the foster coordinator to schedule a vet appointment.

**Coughing and nasal discharge.** Coughing can be common if your foster dog is pulling on leash. If the coughing becomes more frequent, however, watch for discharge coming from the nose. If the discharge is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed. Check with the foster coordinator if it continues for several days or becomes worse.

If the discharge becomes colored, a vet appointment will be warranted because the dog may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the dog's breathing. If the dog seems to struggle to breathe or starts wheezing, call the foster coordinator immediately and follow the emergency contact protocol. Also, if the dog has been

eating well, but then stops eating for 12-24 hours, call the foster coordinator to set up a vet appointment. Please do not change the dog's diet without contacting the foster coordinator. An abrupt change in diet can cause diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration.

**Lethargy.** The activity level of your foster dog will vary depending on age and personality. Keeping an activity log in your journal will help you notice whether your foster dog is less active than he normally is. If the dog cannot be roused or seems weak and unable to stand, it's an emergency, so start the emergency contact protocol.

**Dehydration.** Dehydration is usually associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, gently pinch the dog's skin around the scruff area. If the skin stays taut, the dog is dehydrated. Please call the foster coordinator to schedule a vet appointment.

**Vomiting.** Sometimes dogs will eat too quickly and will immediately throw up their food. Occasional vomiting is not cause for alarm, but if your foster dog has thrown up two or more times in one day, please notify the foster coordinator immediately as it could be indicative of an infection.

**Pain or strain while urinating.** When a dog first arrives in a new foster home, he/she may not urinate due to stress. If the dog hasn't urinated in 24 hours, however, please contact the foster coordinator. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little to no results, or crying out while urinating, please contact the foster coordinator immediately because it may be indicative of an infection or an obstruction.

**Diarrhea.** It is important to monitor your foster dog's pooping habits daily. Soft stool is normal for the first two or three days after bringing a dog home, most likely caused by stress and a change in food. If your foster dog has liquid stool, however, please contact the foster coordinator so that an appointment can be scheduled to ensure that the dog doesn't need medications. Keep in mind that diarrhea will dehydrate the dog, so be proactive about contacting the foster

coordinator. If your foster dog has bloody or mucoid diarrhea, please contact the foster coordinator immediately and start the emergency contact protocol.

**Frequent ear scratching.** Your foster dog may have a bacterial or yeast infection (or, in rare cases, ear mites) if she scratches her ears often and/or shakes her head frequently. These conditions can be treated by a veterinarian, so please call the foster coordinator to schedule a medical appointment.

**Swollen, irritated ears.** If your foster dog has irritated, swollen or red, or pink ears that smell like yeast, he may have an ear infection called otitis. This type of infection is more common in dogs who have floppy ears, like basset hounds or Labradors. These dogs may need to have their ears cleaned more often to ensure the infection does not re-occur.

**Hair loss.** Please contact the foster coordinator if you notice any hair loss on your foster dog. It is normal for dogs to have thin fur around the lips, eyelids and in front of the ears, but clumpy patches of hair loss or thinning hair can indicate ringworm, dermatitis, or the early stages of mange. It is important to check your foster dog's coat every day.

### **Common ailments in animals from shelters**

- Fleas/ticks
- Intestinal parasites
- Diarrhea
- Kennel cough
- Anxiety
- Aggression towards other animals
- Eliminating in the house

## **Criteria for emergencies**

What constitutes a medical emergency in a dog? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing
- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever (above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- A large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours.

If your foster dog displays any of these symptoms, please follow the emergency phone protocol. If the animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help.

## **Section 7: Behavior support**

One of your goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. So, we ask that you help your foster dog to develop good habits and skills through the use of positive reinforcement training, which builds a

bond of trust between you and your foster pet. The basic idea is to reward desirable behaviors and ignore unwanted behaviors.

You must not punish a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because research has shown that punishment is ineffective at eliminating the behavior. If the dog is doing something undesirable, distract him or her before the behavior occurs. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dogs, which will help them learn faster.

When interacting with your foster dog, refrain from wrestling, or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and “play bite” on your body. Also try to refrain from inviting dogs up on the couch or bed. Not all adopters find this behavior acceptable.

Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we are aware of at the time of their rescue. Some of these behavior challenges are separation anxiety, destruction of property, fear issues, or aggression towards other animals. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her particular issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog.

**Thank you so much for opening up your heart and your home to foster pets. Together we can make life better one dog at a time!**