



### **Dog fosterers**

Dear friends, first we would like to thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our pound orphaned dogs. Your generosity will provide young and old, injured and sick, abused and under-socialized dogs a chance to grow or heal before finding their forever homes.

### **Reasons to foster**

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family - you can feel good knowing you have helped save a dog's life. At the same time you have created space in the pound to accommodate other homeless dogs. Foster dogs provide companionship and purpose - your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

### **Dogs needing foster homes**

1. Puppies too young and/or immature to be adopted.
2. Puppies and young dogs that require more socialization than what can be accomplished at the pound.
3. Older or senior dogs that need to be more comfortable in a home environment.
4. Injured dogs and/or those recovering from surgery.
5. Neglected or abused dogs that need tender loving care in order to trust humans again.
6. Dogs suffering from "pound stress" in need of a calming home environment.
7. Dogs with colds or with special medical needs.
8. Abandoned mothers with litters of puppies.
9. Any dog when the pound becomes overcrowded.

### **Guidelines for dog fosterers**

*(These are only guidelines and some are mandatory; we only ask that you take them into consideration)*

Since a foster home is preparing a dog to move to his or her forever home (and sometimes to another foster home), it is of great importance to make this transition as smooth as possible for both the dog as for his new owner as well. Most potential adopters are looking for dogs with basic manners. You might feel it's appropriate to let your own dog jump on people, sleep on the bed, or beg for food, but please don't let your foster dog have these same indulgences. Set boundaries for your foster dog, and be consistent.

You will find below a few guidelines which can help you in your journey. If you need any more information, you can always contact one of our volunteers and we will gladly do our best to provide you with guidance.



Do not spoil your foster dog:

- Do not allow the dog to sit on the couch or sleep in the bed with you.
- Do not give the dog food directly from your plate.
- Teach the dog good walking manners (no leash pulling etc.)
- Train the dog to feel comfortable in a crate.
- Teach the dog basic obedience commands (sit, stay, do the dishes etc.)

Not leave the dog on its own for long period of time

Never leave the dog unsupervised around young children and babies. Never allow a child under 16 years of age to be in sole charge of the dog without adult supervision.

Ensure the dog wears an ID disc showing your Post Code and Contact number, if you do not have one, please ask and we will supply you with one or you can purchase one locally and we will fully refund the cost. Please retain this for future use.

Never allow your foster dog off lead in any public place, your home boundary or a secured private field are the only places.

Never leave the dog unsupervised in the garden.

Never rush the progress of the dog, consider their past life and take your time. They need time to settle and trust, long walks may not be important at the beginning, this will be built up over time.

Be aware that most dogs might never have been walked on a leash before, consider their approach to other dogs and people alike whilst out.

Feed the dog separately until you are sure of its temperament around your dogs.

Never leave the Dog unsupervised with cats, rabbits, chickens etc.

Ensure you have monitored and watched your foster dog and how they behave in your garden, from fear some might try and jump fences and walls, or dig under a fence to escape.

Always have a double lead, Leash on well fitted collar and slip lead or Leash on well fitted collar and Harness and Leash.

Never allow your foster dog, clear visibility of the front door, especially when you are opening it, must be locked behind a closed door.



### **Additional tips for optional training:**

We realize that most of us do not have the necessary time to train a foster dog so this is entirely optional. If, on the other, you can spare some free time in order to train your foster dog, here are some tips to help you accomplish the most out of your training sessions:

- **Training sessions should be kept short** (about 5 minutes duration) and repeated 4-6 times per day. This is more effective than a single and longer sessions because it will not allow your dog to lose interest and it will be a pleasant experience he will look forward to.
- Dogs need and respond to **positive rewards** when learning new behaviors. Remember, most behaviors that we want are boring to a dog, so it's important to make it more interesting to them. A positive reward is a tasty treat, or a game of fetch, or anything that your foster dog enjoys. After you spend some time with your dog, you will find out what kind of "currency" drives him and use that to make training even more efficient and pleasant for him.
- You provide the guidance and information he needs to succeed and build his confidence. **Always praise your foster dog when he is doing something good.**
- Both you and members of your family need to be **consistent** with your terminology and routine. Your foster dog will become confused if you let them steal your socks sometimes, but not others.
- **Start small and easy and slowly build** from there. Most people jump too quickly into advanced environments (outside on a walk, etc.), so make sure you start inside in a safe and quiet location.
- **Use "Aak-Aak" or "Ah-Ah" instead of the word "no."** The canine mother would use this type of sound to correct her pup. Only use "no" for very serious matters; if it is overused the canine will no longer respond.
- **Be patient and calm.** Dogs respond to your tone of voice and facial expressions as well as your emotions. Dogs were once predators, and can read your body language quickly.
- Don't try to fake your emotions as your foster dog will know.
- As with your own dogs, **never lose your temper** with a foster dog or strike him- EVER. We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WOULD LIKE THE DOG OR PUPPY TO BE FOSTERED BY YOU FOR AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE WE START PROMOTING THEM FOR THEIR FOREVER HOME.**

**THIS WILL ALLOW TIME FOR THEM TO SETTLE A LITTLE AND FOR YOU TO OBTAIN A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR CHARACTER.**

**THE PROMOTION WILL INVOLVE NEW PHOTOS AND A WRITE UP FROM YOURSELF AND AN INVOLVEMENT IN ANY NEW HOME ENQUIRIES. (WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR INPUT AND SUGGESTIONS.)**