

## Frequently Asked Questions about Fostering:

**How do I qualify to be a foster parent?** Simply complete the application form which includes information regarding your current pets and their veterinarian. Your vet will be contacted to make sure that your pets are current on shots and vaccinations.

**How long will I have a foster dog?** You could possibly have your foster dog from 2 days to roughly 2-3 weeks depending on the transport date. Unfortunately, transports can be unpredictable due to travel routes and weather conditions, therefore we never have a definite day or time that a transport will occur until later in the process. If you cannot keep the foster dog the entire time, we will try to find an alternative placement for you until the transport takes place.

**My home is small and I don't have a yard, can I foster?** Absolutely. There is no perfect situation for a foster dog. It's simply life or death. Being crated for a couple weeks with walks and love everyday is better than the alternative.

**Is it safe to let my dog play with the foster dog?** All dogs are vaccinated and temperament tested before entering a home, although we never know exactly how much stress a dog is under or if they have been exposed to illness. Therefore, we recommend keeping the foster dog separate from your own pets, at least for the first few days. However, a majority of our regular foster homes do allow play time and consider the foster dog as a temporary friend.

**Are the foster dogs housebroken?** There is no way of knowing, unless they are coming from a different rescue or were previously fostered. You will more than likely find out before we do! (We encourage using newspapers and/or puppy training pads, along w/ trying to crate train the dog, which ultimately helps with potty training)

**What should I wash the dogs with?** Any dog shampoo is fine, or we recommend using Blue DAWN dish soap that can be found at any grocery store. The blue Dawn soap kills almost anything & everything.

**What happens if I become too attached to the foster? Can I adopt?** It depends. Some rescues allow local adoptions, some do not. Every dog and situation is different. It's best to ask if the dog is up for adoption up front before you start fostering, especially if you are already considering adoption. We strive in maintaining great relationships with our rescues and when we pull a dog from the shelter, the rescue is already counting on having that dog in their program within a couple weeks.

**Where and how are the dogs transported?** Dogs are transported by mobile vans and even by planes depending on the transport date. They are almost always in route with several other rescued dogs across the South Eastern states and stop every 4 hours for breaks until they reach their destination.

**What happens once they reach the rescue?** They are then on a journey to find their fur-ever home. **They are never sent back into a shelter environment** but are usually placed in another foster home while the rescue works their magic on pet finder and information service sites to find interested families. The Rescues we foster for have been approved by our Chester - and York County Shelter.

**How do you pick the dogs you pull from the shelter?** We primarily base our efforts on dogs who have been identified and requested by our rescue partners. They take into consideration what types and breeds they can take into their program or who they think can be adopted out quickly. **The number of dogs we rescue depends on how many fosters are volunteering.**

**Why do you ask for pictures?** We ask our fosters to take pictures and small videos so that the designated rescue can go ahead and start the process of finding them a fur-ever home by placing their picture on their website or other pet finder services.

**How do you pay for the fostering expenses?** We are always asking the rescue group to pay the vet directly for vetting and the health certificate. Sometimes a rescue group or PSP helps with gas money and bedding, but the expenses for food, toys, cat litter etc are covered by the foster parent.

### **Frequently asked health related questions:**

**My foster dog isn't eating, is it sick?** A lot of dogs coming out of a high stress shelter environment will not eat right away. It may take a day for their nerves to settle and gain an appetite. If this is the case, be on the lookout for other symptoms that may indicate a different problem and advise us if they are not eating by the following night.

**What happens if my foster dog gets sick?** Most animals coming from a shelter develop allergies or a stuffy nose due to the stale air atmosphere and disgusting environment. Please advise us of their condition.

**What symptoms and signs should I be looking for?** Runny noses and loose stool are common and we have medication to help them feel better. If you see blood in their vomit or stool, please notify us immediately. Not eating or drinking and being lethargic should also be reported.

**Should I take my foster dog to my current local vet?** No. We have relationships with certain vets that give us discounted prices. Please contact us first before visiting a vet unless it's an emergency.

**I think my dog has worms** A lot of foster dogs will have worms. It's not a fun fact, but it's normal. There are basically 5 types of dog worms: roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, whipworms and heartworms. All dogs receive a dewormer before entering a foster home; therefore you may see them in the stool during the shedding process. If this is the case, be sure to dispose of the stool in the trash.

**Are worms contagious?** Yes, some worms can be transmitted a number of different ways. If your dog has worms, please make sure to dispose of the feces, disinfect the area and wash your hands. Please contact us to see if another de-wormer is needed. For more information, visit <http://www.vetinfo.com/canine-worms.html>.

**Are heart worms contagious?** No, mosquitoes spread this disease when they become infected from biting other dogs that have it. Testing positive for heartworms is a serious condition that can turn fatal if left untreated.

**Will my foster dog be spayed/ neutered while I have them in my care?** It depends on many factors including age, transport date and health. If the dog has the minor surgery while in your care, we can help make arrangements to and from the clinic if you do not have the availability.