Foster Welcome Sheet

Fostering is an amazingly rewarding experience. You will be able to see firsthand a dog becoming a family member. And it’s all because of you! Fostering has many benefits for the dogs: they can learn how to live in a pack, potty training, basic commands, manners, and, most importantly, how to love and be loved. Without

fosters, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do. Which is why, as a foster parent, you will never be alone. We have a network of volunteers and professionals on hand to help you with anything that may come up. Here are the answers to common questions that potential and active fosters might have.

Why is fostering better for a dog than a shelter?

Simple. Dogs do better in a pack. That “pack” would be your family. You can transform a reserved shelter dog into a dog that any family would be lucky to adopt. When it is time for your foster to be adopted, we can rely on you to know what is best for the dog. This helps us place dogs in more appropriate homes, thus allowing for more success stories.

My foster dog isn’t working out. Now what?

We strive to make the best fit possible from the beginning, but sometimes it isn’t always perfect. Don’t worry, we can place the dog with another family that it is more suited for and find a foster that fits better with you. Don’t give up! There are hundreds of dogs needing a home, and there will be one that works perfectly with you.

I think my foster needs more training than I can handle, what do I do?

We will never leave you alone to deal with a dog that requires professional training. We offer training classes to help if there is a dog that is being more difficult than most. Leash puller? We can handle it. Potty training issues? We are there. We will work as hard as possible to make sure you have the tools necessary for fostering a dog.

My dog appears to be sick, what should I do?

First step is to contact us. Either call/text your main contact or call our main number and we will let you know what to do. If needed, we will set you up an appointment to take them into the vet. There will be no cost to you. We will pay for all vet care and medications the dog might need; you just give them the TLC to feel better.

What about food, kennels, and toys? Do you provide that?

Yes! Fostering isn’t about asking families to spend thousands on a dog. We will provide any food they will need throughout their time with you. We also have kennels, toys, and other required items for you to use. That doesn’t mean fosters can’t spoil their dogs with extra special treats.

Problem, I seem to have fallen in love with my foster.

This has happened many times and we have the perfect solution. All fosters get first choice at adopting their dog. If they chose to do so, we like to call that a “foster fail”. You just go through the process of adopting and they are yours forever!

Welcome to Your New Foster!

Remember, your foster may not have had an easy life before you.

We bring dogs from many situations. Sometimes your dog came from a loving home that just ran into a bad situation and while the pup may be confused, the transition will be easy. Other times, the dogs spent years, or their whole life, on the street and have never known a loving touch or a safe home. Give them time. Some pups will warm up quickly and become the perfect house guest. Others may need more patience. Give them the time, space, and guidance they need!

Not every dog will come in with impeccable manners

Even if a dog was surrendered, that doesn’t mean their previous home was the best at training. Any dogs from the shelter or off the streets haven’t had the chance to learn how to be a dog. We are here to help with any training you need. We can walk you through any issues that arise, from jumping to potty training. If it’s something over our skill level, we will be happy to help with professional training.

So, what do we call this new dog?

One of the joys of fostering is getting to name your new foster! While we love letting our fosters have the freedom and creativity to pick a name for their dogs, we do have a few requirements. On average, we have over 100 dogs in the rescue. That doesn’t include the 1000’s that have been with us over the years. Our paperwork can get very confusing if we have 5 or 6 dogs with the same name. And even having the same name used multiple times over the years. A good rule of thumb is, if you can find it on the top ten names list avoid it. You want your dog to stand out! Give them a name that truly represents them. So, while we have nothing against these names, please try to avoid using them, and many others that are common. Please see the attached list of what not to name your pup. Please give us a list of 3-5 names. Our board will approve the name.

Now it’s time to teach your pup to be a member of a family!

This is where the fun starts! You hopefully have everything you need to start teaching your new foster how to be a dog.

\*Teach your new foster how sleep in a bed, how to relax on the couch.

\*Teach them manners, like no jumping, or how-to potty outside.

\*Teach them how to play with kids, and what a kind touch actually means.

\*Teach them that food will always be there and that they are now safe and loved.

\*You are now the stars in their lives and their everything. You have saved their life!

Fostering Timeline

Depending on the dog you are fostering, the timeline can vary. If you have an adult dog, we will vaccinate them on arrival, if they were not previously. Adult dogs only need one dose of vaccines to be fully covered. Puppies on the other hand, require three doses to fully protect their fragile immune system. These will happen two weeks apart. One will happen when you pick up the dog, if it hasn’t had one previously, and then again in two weeks, and then once more two weeks after that. They will also receive dewormer during these times. Our volunteers have been trained to administrator the vaccines. This both allows us to save on the cost of a vet visit and allows us the flexibility to meet at more convenient times and locations. We will contact you the week your shots are due and arrange a time to meet.

If your foster is not currently spayed/neutered, we will arrange an appointment for that to happen. The most common locations for this are Oak Grove and VCA in Broken Arrow. If you are fostering a puppy that was part of a litter, they will be spayed at 12 weeks old. Older dogs will happen as soon as we can get them in.

Basic Health Questions

I’ve noticed red bumps on my dog’s tummy, what causes that?

The most common cause of those little red pumps, even if they look like a rash, would be allergies. Pits especially are sensitive to grass, and when they go out to potty, their bellies will rub up against the grass and cause the reaction. Benadryl is the most common fix.

These little white strings have come out of my pup, and now they’re moving!

While it can be disgusting, and put you off eating pasta for a while, worms are quite a common occurrence in dogs. All dogs have them, even your dog gets dewormer at every vet visit! We deworm our puppies every two weeks, and our adults receive a dose as well. If your puppy is producing live worms, contact us so we can help. If they have recently received a dose of dewormer, and are producing dead worms, then that means it’s working! It might not be fun, but your pup is getting healthy.

My pup recently received a vaccine, and now he has a bump between their shoulders?

While it might be concerning, a bump where the vaccine was administered is quite common. It’s a simple buildup of fluids, and with some gentle massaging, should go away. If it’s tender, or your pup appears in pain, call us and we can have them checked out.

My puppy doesn’t want to eat, drink or play and has been throwing up.

This one of the big things you should call us about ASAP! Young, unvaccinated puppies are susceptible to something called Parvo. It’s a serious virus, and the sooner we begin treatment, the better. If you notice any of these signs, contact us so we can get the pup to the vet. While there are lots of over the counter treatments discussed online, the best course of action is veterinary intervention.

I’ve noticed my puppy has runny poo but acts fine otherwise.

There are quite a few things that can cause runny stools. It could be there were just given dewormer, or the need dewormer. Maybe they changed foods recently and it upsets their tummy. Or they were too busy playing and haven’t eaten enough solids. There are plenty of cause for loose stools, so if it’s a more than once occurrence, let us know and we can tackle the problem!

Where do I take my foster pup for vet visit?

The first step when a dog needs to see the vet is to contact us. We will find a vet that is either as close to you as possible, or, for special cases, the one that is most suited for the job. We will always provide veterinary care to our dogs. And as a foster, you will not be expected to cover any of the costs. Before sending the dog to the vet, we have several steps to take. Because we are a rescue, and because we have over 100 dogs on average in our care, we must be financially responsible to be able to help as many dogs as possible. After years of hard work, we have built up relationships with vets in our area, and with this relationship, comes discounted services and special care. While we understand you have a relationship built up with your vet, we must use the vets in our system.

Below are some of the vets we most commonly use, and their address, should the need ever arise. Again, you must contact us first before setting up a visit. If not, we cannot guarantee that payment will be covered.

**VCA Woodland BA Banfield Broken Arrow Banfield 41st**

2106 W Detroit St, 1410 E Hillside Dr 5418 E 41st St

Broken Arrow, OK 74012 Broken Arrow, Ok 74012 Tulsa, Ok 74135

 **Banfield Owasso Oak Grove Animal Emergency Center**

9002 N 121st E Ave Suite 200 12949 South, Ok-51 24055 S 102nd E Ave

Owasso, OK 74055 Coweta, Ok 74429 Tulsa, Ok 74146

Now It’s Time for Adoption!

We encourage our fosters to share their pups on social media! The more exposure to the public eye, the higher their chance of adoption. If you have any family or friends that are interested in adopting your pup, just direct them to us and we can help them with the process! Even though they have an “in” with getting to know the pup, they will still need to fill out an app and pay the adoption fee before they can take the pup home.

So, what do you do, now that we’ve come to this point, if you decide that you absolutely cannot let you foster go? We understand, sometimes you just know, this dog was meant to be with you. Our fosters will always get first choice when it comes to adopting their dog. And the process is simple!

Once your pup is spayed/neutered and fully vaccinated, they will be ready for adoption. At that time, you can decide to adopt yourself, or bring your pup to events. Trust us, no one will judge you for being a “foster fail”!

Everyone one of us with the rescue has “failed” at one point. Before their first event, just let us know that you would like to adopt. All we have to do it meet one last time for payment (while we would love to be able to offer a discounted rate for fosters, it’s something we are not able to accommodate at this time), microchipping your pup, and, if you were loaned one, to return the crate. Unless you would like to continue fostering more pups in need, then please keep a hold of that kennel and we will fill that spot quickly!

No matter which way it turns out, with you adopting your foster and having your life filled up with enough puppies for the time being, or if you’re planning on being a repeat foster, we can’t thank you enough for choosing us and helping us in our mission: saving lives, one dog at a time.

Thank You!