



FOSTERING ADULT DOGS

Fostering an adult dog can be an extremely rewarding experience. Some dogs don't do well in our rescue environment because they are frightened, nervous/anxious, need socialization, or just need a break from the shelter. We may also have adult dogs that need time to recover from an injury or illness before adoption. The following information will help you familiarize yourself with some of the common needs, behavioral issues and health concerns that are associated with fostering young or adult dogs.

Supplies Needed

- Food and water dishes (metal preferred, easy to disinfect)
- Leash and collar/harness for small dogs (we will provide leash/collar)
- Chew toys
- Dry dog food, only canned food if requested by shelter team (we may be able to provide food)
- Crate or kennel (to use for keeping dogs safe and out of trouble while you are away and to help with house training)
- Dog bed or blankets to use for a comfortable place to sleep

Behavioral Issues

It is common for a dog to experience some behavioral problems and need a period of adjustment when placed in a new environment. Foster homes are in a unique position to help increase the "adoptability" of their foster dog by providing some basic training. Following is a list of common behavioral problems and suggestions for modification.

Lack of House Training

Many rescued dogs have spent most of their lives outside or may have once been house trained but need a refresher course when transitioning into a new home. A crate/kennel will be important to your training. A dog will usually not soil where he sleeps but he should not be crated for punishment or that rule will change. When a dog is allowed out of the crate, he should immediately be taken outside. If dog eliminates outside, give lots of praise.

However, if he does not go outside, watch him carefully when letting him back inside. If you can catch the dog having an accident in the house, give a firm "no" and take dog straight outside and allow the chance to finish. Give lots of praise again if he finishes outside. Pay attention to the signs of wanting to go outside; circling, sniffing the floor, crying or moving towards the door. Always let the dog outside after naps, meals and nighttime sleep. You can only make changes when it happens. After the fact, even a few minutes, the dog will not understand or know why you are upset.

Chewing

Destructive chewing is a phase that puppies and some adult dogs go through. For puppies, adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps to relieve the pain and discomfort. Adult dogs may chew because they are anxious, bored or have never been taught what is appropriate to chew. The best solution for destructive chewing is providing your foster dog with something that is acceptable to chew. Kong toys, dental chews or Nyla bones are preferred. Rawhide bones may interfere with a sensitive stomach or build up in intestines and lead to medical issues. If you notice the dog chewing on something inappropriate, tell the dog "no" in a firm voice and replace with something more appropriate.

Consider crating your foster pet while you are away to avoid destructive chewing. To prevent your foster dog from being bored, be sure he/she gets plenty of exercise. A brisk walk, jog or play date for thirty minutes twice a day is recommended. A tired dog will not chew.

Separation Anxiety

It isn't uncommon for foster dogs to experience some separation anxiety when left alone. The severity of the anxiety can range from pacing and whining to more destructive behavior. A dog may experience separation anxiety simply because the dog has a dependent personality, or the anxiety may be caused by a history of abuse or abandonment. This can be difficult to work through and we ask that you speak with a staff member for guidance.

Health Issues

Most of our foster dogs are rescued from shelter environments and it can be difficult to ensure that the dog will always be healthy. They may appear healthy at time of rescue but show signs of illness a few days later. For this reason, it is very important that foster families keep their own dogs up-to-date on vaccinations.

Routine Veterinary Care

Foothills Animal Rescue provides foster dogs with basic medical care such as vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, de-worming and heartworm testing. Our rescued animals are microchipped and all records of medical care will be in their file.

If you observe any changes in your foster dog's behavior (medically or physically), please notify the shelter team as quickly as possible. They will evaluate the dog to determine whether medication should be started or if further veterinary care is needed.

While fostering, you will need to make sure you are available to bring your foster dog into the shelter for a complete schedule of vaccinations or evaluations.

If experiencing any of these concerns, notify the shelter team for further evaluation.

Dogs older than nine months:

- **Diarrhea that lasts for more than one or two days**
- **Diarrhea and occasional vomiting for more than one day**
- **Vomiting more than two to three times in an hour**
- **Not eating for more than 48 hours**
- **Lethargy without fever for more than one day**
- **Lethargy with fever**

Foothills Animal Rescue does have veterinary partners that we use to help with the care of our animals. In the event of an emergency, please contact our Shelter Manager at (480) 381-2437.

Common Illness for Puppies and Dogs

If your foster puppy or dog displays any of the symptoms listed below, please contact the shelter team. Our team will determine the best course of action based on your observations.

Canine Distemper is a viral disease that is often fatal. Distemper is most commonly seen in puppies under six months of age, however, it may affect adults. Early signs resemble a severe cold.

- **Symptoms: Eye discharge, loss of appetite, vomiting, nasal discharge (green), diarrhea, fever, confusion/disoriented and loss of balance.**
- **Treatment: Veterinary care. Distemper can have lasting effects including loss of enamel from teeth, seizures or encephalitis (brain swelling). Most dogs will not completely recover from distemper and will most likely have ongoing issues.**
- **Transmission: Very contagious. Airborne.**

Parvovirus (Parvo) is a disease most common in puppies and young dogs. It causes the sloughing of the lining of the intestinal tract. Parvovirus can survive in the environment for six months or longer.

Common Illness for Puppies and Dogs, cont.

Unvaccinated dogs may become infected with Parvo by simply coming into contact with places that were infected. A bleach solution is the best way to disinfect contaminated areas. The vaccine for Parvo is considered very effective.

- Symptoms: Lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever and diarrhea (usually bloody).**
- Treatment: Veterinary care.**
- Transmission: Contagious to other dogs; especially dogs who are not vaccinated. Contact with feces and vomit.**

Kennel Cough is a respiratory tract infection that has been linked to several viral and bacterial causes. Coughing is usually stimulated by physical exertion or by touching the throat area. May last one to three weeks and is treated with antibiotics. Kennel cough is very common in shelters. The Bordetella vaccine may help reduce bacterial and viral cases.

- Symptoms: Cough, runny eyes and nose.**
- Treatment: Shelter/foster care with antibiotics or cough suppressants.**
- Transmission: Very contagious to other dogs. Dogs with current Bordetella vaccine will probably not get it.**

Ringworm is a common fungal infection of the skin. It is not actually a worm.

- Symptoms: Irregularly shaped areas of fur loss, skin appears rough and scaly, a Wood's lamp may help to identify whether or not the fur loss is ringworm.**
- Treatment: Shelter/foster care with antibiotics and weekly baths of topical treatments. Treatment program can take 12-16 weeks depending on severity of case.**

Round worms, tape worms and hook worms affect a dog's digestive system. They are most commonly seen in puppies and young dogs.

- Symptoms: Large/distended belly, diarrhea, inability to gain weight.**
- Treatment: Shelter/foster care with de-worming medications.**
- Transmission: Contagious to dogs and cats through contact with feces.**