

ADULT DOG FOSTERING: TIP SHEET



THANK YOU FOR OPENING YOUR HEART AND HOME TO A HEART OF THE VALLEY DOG.
IN ADDITION TO THE BREAK FROM THE SHELTER, YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES WITH
YOUR FOSTER DOG IN A HOME PROVIDES US WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR ADOPTERS
AND HELPS STAFF MAKE BETTER ADOPTION MATCHES.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE SAFETY GUIDELINES WHILE FOSTERING:

- **Keep your foster dog on a leash at all times** when outside of an enclosed area.
- We know that not all dogs are best friends—
 - **Please do not take your foster dog to the dog park*****
- Always **supervise your foster dog in outdoor spaces**, including a fenced yard.
 - Many dogs can jump, climb or dig under fences if left unattended.
- Only use **reward based training** techniques with your foster dog.
 - Focus on rewarding good behaviors, redirecting unwanted behaviors and managing the environment to help your foster dog be successful. Please never grab, push, pin or yell at a foster dog.
- If you have multiple dogs, **put away all resources** that could cause an argument.
 - Ex: toys, food bowls, bones, and other high value items a dog may guard.
- Feed all dogs **in crates or in separate rooms** with doors closed.
- Please leave your foster dog in a crate (if crate trained) or a separate room when you leave.
 - **Do not leave your foster dog and a resident pet together unattended.**
- If your foster dog gets into a fight, **please do not reach in to break it up.**
 - Use loud noise, water, wedge a large object between the dogs, or loop a leash over the head to pull a dog away. Separate the dogs and call the shelter right away.
- **Please make sure your dog is wearing an ID tag when you pick them up.**
 - If they are not, please mention it to staff and they will get one for you.

PREVENTING UNWANTED BEHAVIORS IS THE FIRST STEP TO A WELL BEHAVED DOG:

- Take your foster dog on a short walk before bringing them into your house.
- Close doors to rooms you do not want your foster dog to enter.
- Supervise your dog and limit them to a smaller space if needed.
 - Ask to borrow an exercise pen, crate or baby gate if needed.
- Dog proof your home by picking up trash cans, food, shoes, pillows, etc....
- Take your foster dog on frequent breaks to prevent accidents and provide praise and treats for eliminating outside.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANY STAFF MEMBER BELOW:

KORI SPRUILL (TUES-SAT)

Animal Services Coordinator

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Behavior & Enrichment Manager

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BLAINE LORKIEWICZ (WED-SAT)

Animal Care Lead

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DOCUMENT!

TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR FOSTER DOG DOING THINGS WITH YOU, THESE ARE PERFECT PICTURES TO USE ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON THEIR ADOPTION PAGE
EMAIL PHOTOS OR SHORT VIDEOS TO KORI OR THE FRONT DESK!

AFTER HOURS FOSTER

EMERGENCY PHONE:

406-404-3063

Leave voicemail if no answer

(SAVE THIS NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE)

DECOMPRESSION CHECKLIST FOR DOG FOSTERS

When a dog suffers from kennel stress, it can take up to 48 hours or more for that pet's anxiety to return to near normal levels. It takes time to build trust, and trust is the basis for obedience. The more a dog trusts it's foster, the more likely it will follow the rules.

In some cases, the buildup of shelter stress can make a dog difficult to tire out. This will improve with time, but there are things a foster should do to make this process go smoothly.

- Prepare needed supplies in order to engage your foster dog mentally.
- You may want to use food-filled frozen Kongs, puzzle toys, etc.
- If this is your first time outside of the shelter with your foster dog, take a walk around the shelter grounds for 10-15 minutes before leaving to get comfortable with the dog
- Continue walking, either at the shelter, a park or in your neighborhood until your foster dog appears to relax.
- When you arrive home, ensure that any family members who are meeting the dog for the first time are seated. They should let the dog come to them for attention, as opposed to forceful or invasive attention to the dog.
- Keep your foster dog separated from your own dogs until your foster is visibly relaxed.
- If your foster is unable to settle down (panting, whining, constantly in motion, etc.), channel their energy into a task such as fetch, puzzle toys or any game that engages their brain until they are able to relax.
- Do only essential meet-and-greets for the first week, depending on the dog's comfort level.