

# DOG & PUPPY FOSTER MANUAL



Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control  
HELPING PEOPLE . HELPING ANIMALS



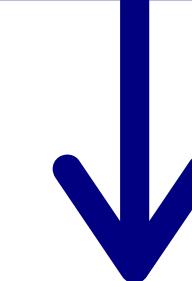
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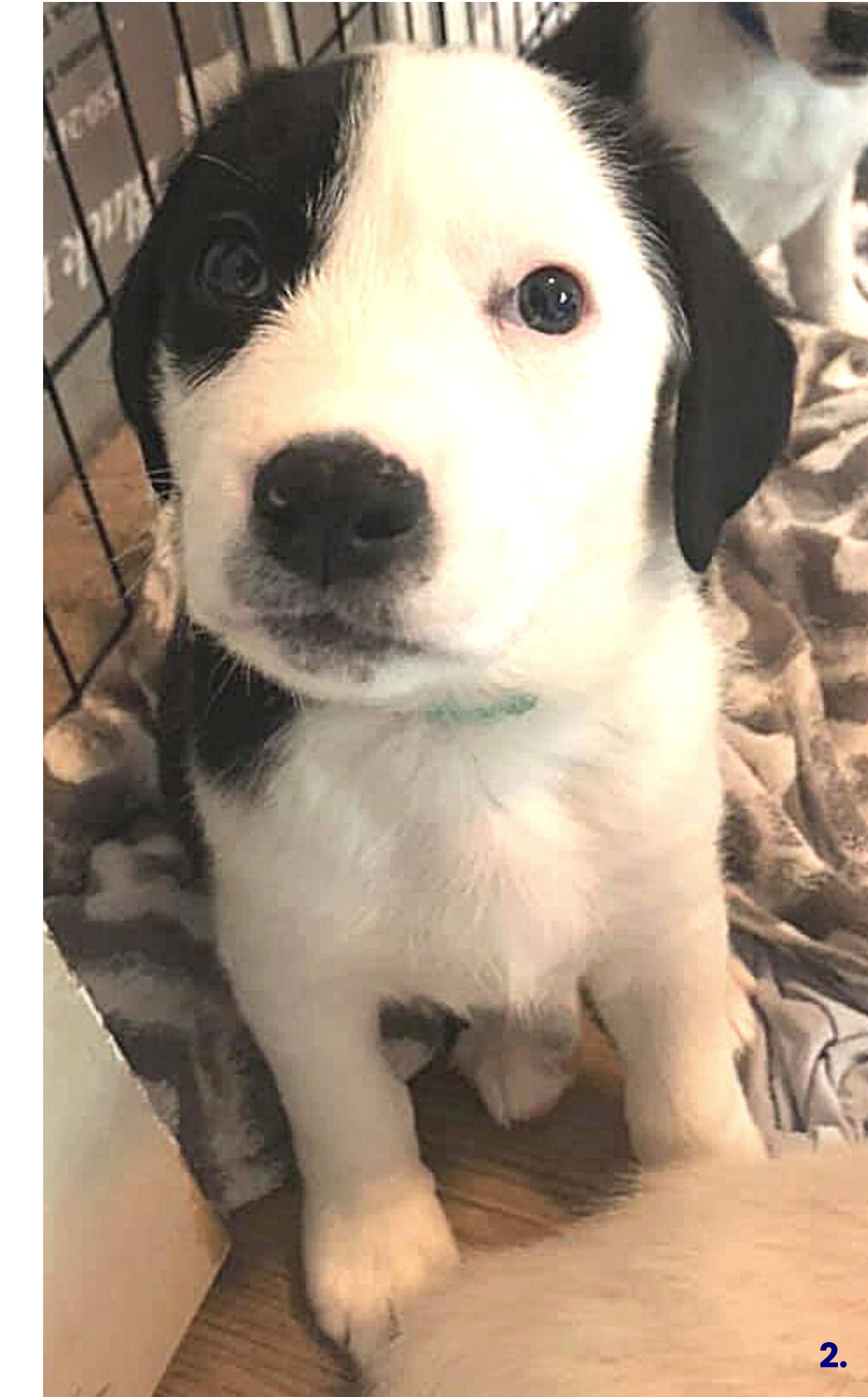
## Emergency Protocol

If you have a medical emergency  
during business hours please call  
**260-427-5549 or 260-427-1244**  
or our main shelter line  
**260-427-1244**

If you have a medical emergency  
outside of the business hours  
please call  
**260-449-3000**



When calling the emergency number  
please let dispatch know you are a current  
foster and need to speak with an animal  
control officer. If you live outside of city  
limits, we may request you meet an animal  
control officer at the shelter.





# WELCOME!

**Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a dog or puppy in need. Whether you foster tiny puppies who need some time to grow, or an adult dog who needs a little extra TLC, you make it possible for us to provide the very best care possible for dogs and puppies that find their way to our shelter.**

**Fostering is messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly could not provide the level of care we do without valuable foster homes like yours.**



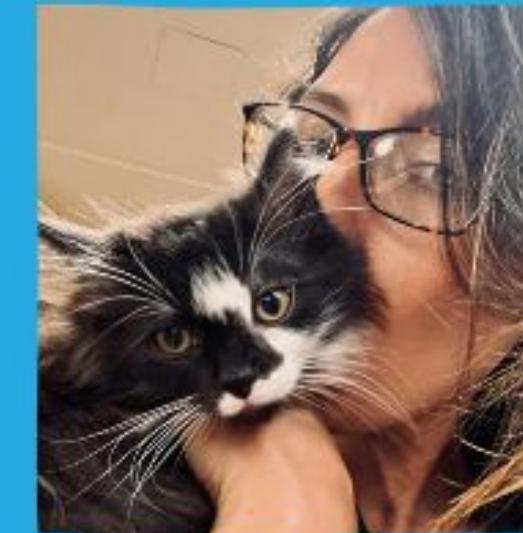
# FWACC FOSTER TEAM

The quickest, easiest way to get ahold of someone in  
the foster department is to email:

**FOSTER.HELP@CITYOFFORTWAYNE.ORG**



**Emilee Smith**  
Foster Coordinator  
[Emilee.Smith@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Emilee.Smith@cityoffortwayne.org)  
260-427-5551  
Typically in office Tues-Fri 8am-6pm



**Gina Thomas**  
Foster Assistant  
[Gina.Thomas@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Gina.Thomas@cityoffortwayne.org)  
260-427-5549  
Typically in office Sun 10a-2p  
Mon, Tues & Fri 10a-6p



**Michelle**  
Contract  
Foster Assistant



**Brittany**  
Contract  
Foster Assistant



**Hannah**  
Contract  
Foster Assistant



**Sandy**  
Contract  
Foster Assistant



**Patricia**  
Rescue/Transfer/  
Com Cat Coordinator

# FOSTER FAQ'S

## What do foster parents need to provide?

- A healthy and safe place
- Transportation to and from shelter appointments (typically every 2 weeks)
- Willingness to follow specific protocols and instructions to teach dogs and puppies about positive relationships

## Can I foster if I work full time?

- Yes! We will match you with foster animals who are a good fit for your schedule.

## How many dogs/puppies will I foster?

- We like to have at least two puppies together whenever possible so they can socialize with and learn from each other. There are times larger litters come in or moms with babies. We will typically only have our fosters take one adult dog at a time.

## How long will I have the foster dog/puppy?

- Puppies need to be fostered until they are at least 10 weeks old and are healthy before they return for their spay/neuter surgeries and are ready for adoption.
- Time varies with adult dogs. We will have a rough idea of a timeframe upon pick up.

## Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog/puppy?

- We do our best to ensure that we are sending healthy dogs and puppies out to foster. However, most illnesses have incubation periods, meaning that symptoms may not start until you have them in your home. There may be times when you are asked to medicate your foster dog/puppy. This will be explained and demonstrated by staff if needed.

## Can my foster dog/puppies meet my personal pets?

- We strongly recommend that you SLOWLY introduce your foster to your owned pets. We also highly suggest you consult with your veterinarian before fostering to ensure your personal pets are up to date on vaccines. Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is not responsible for and cannot provide medical care for your personal pets.

## Where do all of the dogs/puppies come from?

- Most arrive as strays that citizens find and bring to the shelter. Some are surrendered by their families who can no longer care for them.

## What if something comes up where I have to go out of town?

- If there is a change in plans please reach out to us right away. We will work with you on making arrangements for your fosters. You cannot leave your fosters with anyone that is not an approved foster with our organization.

## What if a behavior problem arises or a foster bites me?

- If you have any worries contact us right away so we can assist. If you are bitten and the skin breaks contact us within 24 hours of the bite. The law requires we must report all bites. The tooth of the animal, not the nails, must have broken the skin for it to be a bite.

## Will any of my foster dogs/puppies die?

- Sadly, a small percentage of puppies do not survive even with the loving care they receive in a foster home. This may be the hardest thing about fostering. Please keep in mind that without foster homes, most of these puppies would not stand a chance of survival. You're helping to save lives!

## What if I want to adopt one of my dog/puppies or know someone who does?

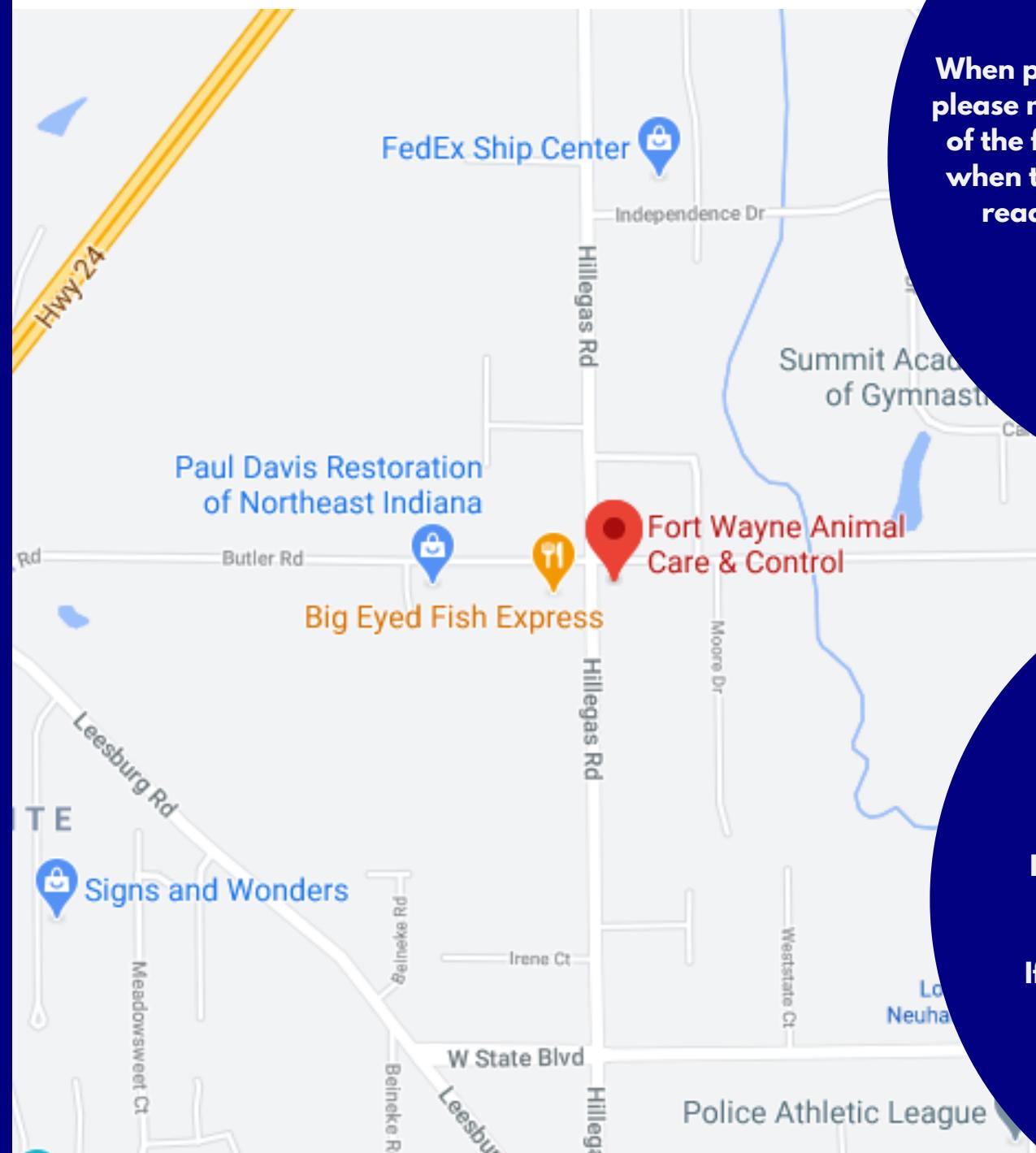
- That's great! We encourage our fosters to find adopters for their foster animals! We just need a completed adoption profile from the potential adopter (with foster's name and animal number by the end of business on the day of their surgery) and the full adoption process will be followed. Please contact us right away with this information because once the animal is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.



# APPOINTMENTS

During the time you foster dogs/puppies, you'll need to make a few appointments — to pick up and drop off your fosters, bring them in for vaccines and spay/neuter, and pick up supplies. Please note that all appointments, including your pickup and drop-off appointments, should be scheduled in advance. If you cannot make an appointment, please change your appointment slot and/or notify the foster department immediately to reschedule as appointment times fill up quickly. FWACC provides all medical care for foster animals through our shelter veterinarian. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster animal's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster animals. FWACC is not responsible for payment of any medical care if foster parents take their foster to a veterinarian without authorization. FWACC is not responsible for any sickness/illness of owned pets in the foster's home.

All appointments take place at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control located at 3020 Hillegas Road Fort Wayne, IN 46808



## Scheduling Vet Appointments

If your foster animal is showing signs of illness please notify the foster department ASAP. If it is determined your foster needs to see our vet we will schedule an appointment for you.

## Picking Up, Dropping Off

When picking up or returning foster animals please make an appointment with a member of the foster team. It is important we know when to expect you so we have everything ready to go for the animal(s) you are fostering.

## Additional Supplies

If you need additional supplies for your foster animals please help yourself to our foster supply pantry any time during hours that staff are here. If you do not see what you are looking for please let us know.

## Scheduling Vaccine Appointments

You will receive a medical sheet with dates of when your foster will need to return for vaccines and another round of de-wormer. To schedule this appointment visit

<https://fortwayneanimalcareandcontrol.setmore.com>

and follow the prompts. This is for VACCINES ONLY. Video instructions are posted on the foster Facebook page

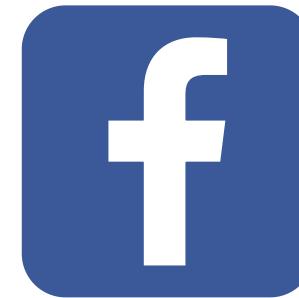


## Scheduling Spay/Neuter Surgery

If not already set up please email the foster.help email to schedule surgery. Fosters can be dropped off at the shelter the afternoon before the surgery date between 4:30-5:30pm or between 7:30-8am the day of surgery.

Please withhold food and water after 10pm the evening before surgery. The day after surgery dogs/puppies will come into the adoption program.

# FACEBOOK FOSTER GROUP



**Facebook will be the only place that we post animals needing a foster home. These will be posted under the GUIDE called: Animals Looking for Foster Homes! Typically, the first person to comment gets to foster that particular animal. However, there are times when we have to make sure we select the best environment for the animal to succeed. Always read the full post to see if there are any special requirements or restrictions for that particular animal.**

**Once an animal has foster commitment the post is updated with FOSTERED! at the top of the post and it will be removed from the GUIDE section.**

**Please keep in mind the following things when it comes to our Facebook Group:**

**Be kind! We are all here for the same reason, to help animals- please be respectful.**

**Please do not post immediate concerns- the group is not monitored by staff 24/7- if you have an issue that requires immediate attention please give us a call, send an email to [foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org) or (if during non-business hours) follow our emergency protocol**

**Please do not send staff members messages through Facebook messenger- messages are not checked regularly and will not be answered**

**Please do not reach out to individuals privately who take foster animals, this can make some uncomfortable. If you have a question about an animal in our foster program please email the foster department.**

**Please do not post advertisements for animals outside of Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's foster program. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance with an animal please send an email to us.**

**Check out the GUIDE section of the Foster Facebook page for more information!**



# FOSTER SUPPLIES

Each foster will receive a foster kit containing each of the items listed here.



When supplies are running low fosters may refill at our foster pantry.



What's in my foster dog/puppy kit and what is it used for?

- Dog/Puppy manual- There is A TON of information in this manual. Please make sure to read it carefully and always reach out to our foster help email for questions/concerns as soon as you notice them.
- Dry dog/puppy food- Make sure you are offering food based off the size and age of your foster dog/puppy. The foster team will go over this with you.
- Wet dog/puppy food- If needed to help entice your fosters to eat you can add in some canned food.
- Crate/Ex-Pen- Crates and exercise pens can be sent with all dogs/puppies. It is best to keep them confined when you are unable to watch them closely for safety.
- Poop Bags- Please be sure to clean up after your foster dogs/puppies.
- Towels- Extra towels can be used to put down in the crates or on floors.
- Blankets- Can be used to place on the floor of your crate and/or draped over for additional comfort.
- Two bowls- One is used for dry food and one is used for fresh water.
  - Feeder bowls- These offer enrichment and slow down fast eaters.
- Variety of toys- Puppies love to play. Offering a wide variety of toys can keep your puppies engaged and teaches them to play with appropriate toys instead of human hands/fingers.
  - Size appropriate Kong- You can stuff these with treats/food/peanut butter/etc. For a more challenging experience you can freeze them before offering to the dog/puppy.
  - Size appropriate Nylabone- These make great chewing options!
- Peanut Butter- Can be used in Kong's.

puppy only supplies

- Puppy Pads- Can be used to put down to help with messes.
- Scale- Please weigh your puppies twice a day each day to ensure they are gaining weight. If they are not gaining, please reach out through the foster help email.
- Snuggle Safe disc- Place this disc in the microwave for roughly 5 minutes and it will stay warm for roughly 5-8 hours. Please make sure it is covered with fabric so it doesn't get too hot for your foster puppies We love these discs because if the puppies are too warm, they can easily move off them.

\*Should you need more of any of these supplies please visit our foster pantry\*

Thank you so much for fostering!



-FWACC Foster Team 😊

# PREPARING YOUR FOSTER SPACE

When you take your foster dog/puppy home, they may be frightened or unsure about what's happening, so it's important not to overwhelm them.

Follow these easy tips to help set everyone up for success!

We request that all foster dogs be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster dog.



During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster dog, so that they are only meeting immediate family and your personal pets (if old enough). If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster dog a quiet space of their own where they can stay while getting used to all the new sounds and smells.



Foster dogs **ALWAYS** need to be on leash or inside a secure fence or exercise pen. **NEVER** let your foster off leash or leave outside unattended.

Prepare a special area for the foster dog to help ease their adjustment into a new home environment. Sometimes it is better to confine the foster dog to a small room or area at first, to let them adjust before giving them free rein in your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate for the dog and should allow the dog access to their food and water dishes and toys. Using exercise pens and baby gates may help make this possible in your home.

Never leave your foster dog unattended in your home with children or personal pets.



## Tips for Dog Proofing Your Home

- Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
- Keep the toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move house plants or secure them. Some dogs like to play with them and may knock them over.
- Make sure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, are securely out of reach of your foster dog.
- Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from any accessible surfaces.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster dog if consumed.
- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster dog could knock down.

# BASIC NEEDS & HANDLING

## Feeding

- All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified. We use Hill's Science Diet dog food and ask that you use the same. Feed your foster dog once or twice daily; the amount will be based on the age and weight of your foster dog. Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water.
- You can give your foster dog treats of any kind (unless he/she has known allergies, of course); giving treats helps you and your foster dog to bond with each other. Most dogs like to chew on things, so try Greenies, antlers, Nylabones or Dentabones. Be sure to monitor chewing closely and remove the item if it gets small enough for the dog to swallow. Keep in mind that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.



## Transporting

When you're transporting foster dogs, please keep them secured inside a vehicle. Your foster dog cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup truck.

## Handle Puppies With Care

- It is important to handle puppies daily so they become accustomed to it.
- Picking up and holding puppies several times a day while gently petting them can encourage affectionate behavior.
- -Touch puppies all over their bodies (ears, tails, feet, etc.) to help them learn that handling is a good experience.
- Pay close attention to the puppy's body language and if you are seeing signs of discomfort stop and try again at a different time.
- NEVER scruff a puppy!

## Health Monitoring

- Look over your foster dog daily for any changes or potential medical problems
- Fill out your wellness log daily
- A thriving dog will be bright and playful with a good appetite and normal stool.
- If you notice diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite, lethargy or any other concerns regarding your dog's health email us as soon as you can for assistance!

## Weighing Your Foster Puppies

- You will be provided a scale to weigh your young puppies twice a day
- Keep track of the weights as they will be the easiest way to ensure you that your puppies are growing
- If a puppy is losing weight please email as soon as you can for assistance!

## Out In Public

- Your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks, other off-leash dog areas, pet stores, or visit with unknown dogs unless approved by the foster department staff.
- We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to ensure that all animals are safe at all times.
- We don't know if the other dogs they encounter are vaccinated appropriately or carry diseases, so it is best if your foster dog does not meet any unknown dogs. Having recently come from a shelter setting, foster dogs can be vulnerable health-wise.

# INTRODUCTIONS

## Dog Introductions

- If you have personal dogs, you'll want to introduce them to your foster dog one at a time and supervise their interactions. It's a good idea to introduce them outside in a large yard or on a walk, keeping all the dogs on leash and allowing them enough space to get adjusted to one another.
- If you can, it works best to schedule a time for your personal dogs to meet the foster dog before you take the foster dog home. We are happy to help accommodate that at the shelter.
- In addition, make sure that high-value items (food, chew toys, plush toys, Kongs, rawhides or anything else that your dogs hold in high regard) are put away whenever the dogs are interacting. You don't want to allow the possibility of a fight. Those high-value items are best placed in the dogs' personal areas.
- Finally, never feed your dogs in the same room as the foster dog; always separate them at feeding time.

## Cat Introductions

- We can't ensure that a foster dog has been "cat-tested," so if you have personal cats, you'll need to make the introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely.
- Start by keeping them separated at first. You can either keep your cats in a separate room (equipped with food, water, litter boxes and beds) or confine your foster dog to a room.
- Over a one- to two-week period, let the dog and cats smell each other through the door, but don't allow them contact with one another. Exchanging blankets or towels between the dog's area and the cats' area will help them get used to each other's scent.
- After a couple weeks, do a slow introduction. Keeping your foster dog on leash, allow your cat out in the same area. (If you have more than one cat, introduce one cat at a time.)
- Allow the cat to enter the room, never carry the cat up to the dog.
- Allow the cat to choose whether they want to meet the dog. If not that is okay.
- Do not allow the foster dog to charge or run directly up to the cat. Try to distract the dog as best you can so that the cat has the chance to approach without fear.
- Watch the body language of each animal closely and don't continue the interaction if either pet becomes over-stimulated, fearful or aggressive.
- The idea is to keep the interactions positive, safe and controlled.
- Finally, never leave your foster dog unsupervised with any cats in your home.

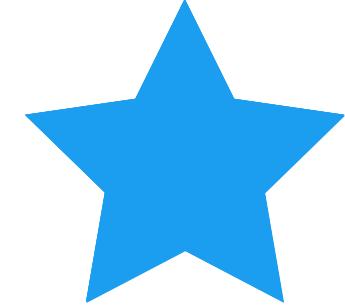
## Children Introductions

Since we don't always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog.

Key things to remind your children:

- Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing or sleeping.
- Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
- Do not take anything away from the foster dog.
- Do not tease the foster dog.
- Don't chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog; it may scare him.
- Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the kids.
- Do not hug, climb on or lay on the dog.
- Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats who cross their path.

A great resource for dog/children safety is [familypaws.com](http://familypaws.com)



Check out some great graphics on the next couple of pages on appropriate human and dog interactions!

# BABY & TODDLER SAFETY

Promoting safety for families with dogs  
**FAMILY PAWS**  
PARENT EDUCATION

## Dog and Baby Safety

**DO** invite dog over for a sniff

**Don't** force interaction

**DO** include dog in a comfortable and safe way

**DON'T** isolate dog from family

**DO** close the door to the nursery

**DON'T** allow unsupervised access to nursery

**DO** remind your dog what you want them to do

**DON'T** scold your dog when being curious

**DO** secure dog and use awake adult supervision

**DON'T** ever leave baby unsupervised

Promoting safety for families with dogs  
**FAMILY PAWS**  
PARENT EDUCATION

## Dog and Toddler Safety

**DO** use a gate to create a "success station" for your dog

**Don't** allow access to dog's food, toys or treats

**DO** plan parent guided games

**DON'T** allow toddler and dog to play alone at anytime

**DO** be proactive and set up a "success station"

**DON'T** passively supervise your dog and toddler

**DO** invite dog over to you and your toddler

**DON'T** allow toddler to approach your dog

**DO** put dog in bedroom or crate while parent is away

**DON'T** expect babysitter to watch both toddler and dog

[familypaws.com](http://familypaws.com) : 1-877-247-3407

[familypaws.com](http://familypaws.com) : 1-877-247-3407

12.

# PROPER GREETINGS & INTERACTIONS

## How to Greet a Dog (and What to Avoid)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Human to Human INCORRECT	Human to Dog INCORRECT	Human to Dog CORRECT
		
Avoid reaching into their safety zone.	Avoid reaching in towards the dog's car.	Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.
		
Avoid rushing up.	Avoid rushing up.	Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).
		
Avoid interactions without asking.	Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.	Ask if you can interact first.
		
Avoid staring at people. This is scary.	Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.	Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.
		
Avoid looming over.	Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.	Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.
		
Avoid reaching into personal space.	Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.	Let the dog approach at his own rate.
		
Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.	Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.	It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by nuzzling against you.
		
Avoid touching inappropriately.	Avoid hugging, kissing, and petting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.	Pet gently.

For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website.



A VETERINARY CORPORATION

Questions@cattledogpublishing.com

(530) 757-2383

P.O. Box 4516, Davis, CA 95617

Support@lowstresshandling.com

## How Kids SHOULD NOT Interact with Dogs

It's common sense. Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

Avoid taking people's food		Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating	
Avoid stealing other people's toys		Avoid taking a dog's bones or toys	
Avoid putting your face right up to someone else's face		Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face	
Avoid bothering when asleep		Avoid bothering animals when they are resting. Let sleeping dogs lie.	
Avoid pestering		Avoid grabbing tail/ears	
Avoid climbing on or trampling		Avoid climbing on or trampling	
Avoid pinching		Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it.	
Avoid screaming around		Avoid hollering and shouting. Use your "inside" voice instead.	

For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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## Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

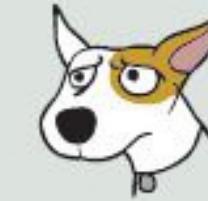
### More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips  
when no food nearby



Panting  
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion  
walking slow on floor



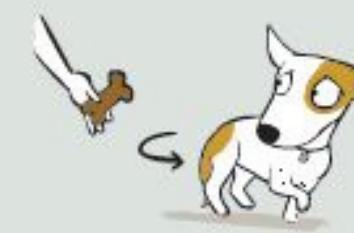
Acting Sleepy or Yawning  
when they shouldn't be tired



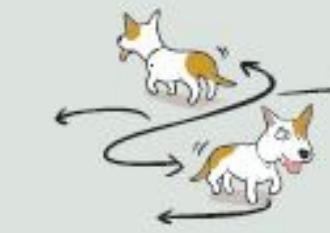
Hypervigilant  
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat  
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

**New people:** When introducing your foster dog to new people monitor all interactions to ensure that they are positive, not scary, experiences for the dog. Have new people toss treats towards the dog at first. Allow the dog to approach the person giving the dog to back away if he/she is not comfortable. Only if the dog seems comfortable should the new person try petting the dog.

**New environments:** It will help the dog adjustment into adopters' homes if you can allow the dog to experience different parts of your home that can be easily disinfected and away from your owned pets. Whenever you introduce the dog to a new space, provide lots of treats and play with interactive toys so that the dog associate the new space with their favorite things. Keep the exploratory sessions brief so you don't overwhelm the dog and return them to their living space if they do seem overwhelmed or scared.

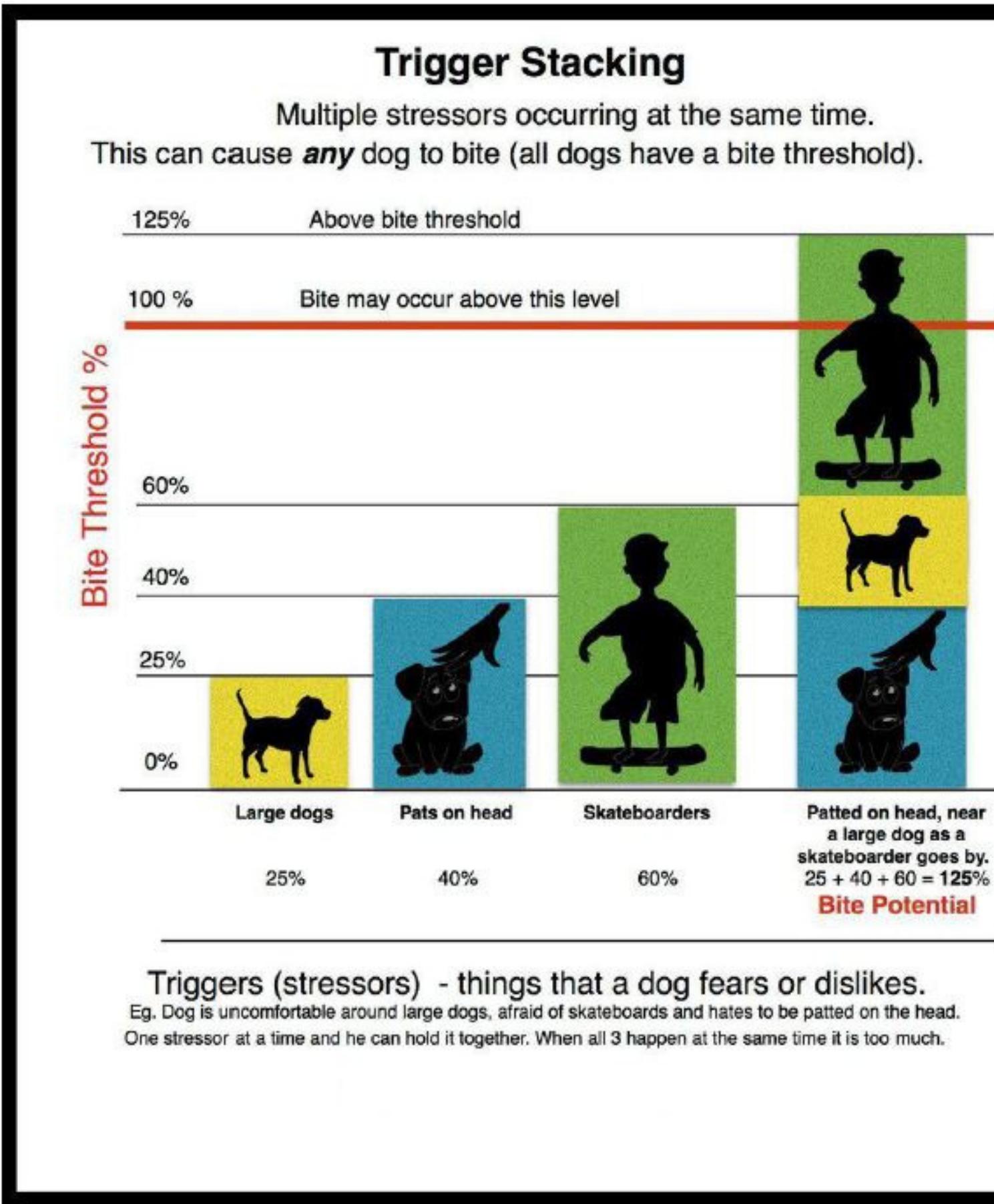
**New noises:** It is beneficial to expose dogs to a variety of normal household noises but, again, try to do it in a positive way. The key is to introduce different noises gradually. For example, start by keeping a radio on low volume and gradually increase the volume over a few days. Another example: Run the vacuum in another room at first, with the dog at a safe distance. Then, over the course of a few days, move the vacuum noise closer to their room. If another person plays with the dog while you make the noise, it may help alleviate any stress or fear that they may feel. Go even slower if you notice they are uncomfortable.

Check out these signs of Fear and Anxiety. If you notice these signs stop what you are doing and give the dog a break in their own quiet area.  
Contact the foster department for further assistance!

For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>

# TAKE THINGS SLOW!

**ALWAYS** reach out to the foster department if you notice a dog is extremely fearful of something or someone.  
Ignoring a behavior can be dangerous- we are here to help!

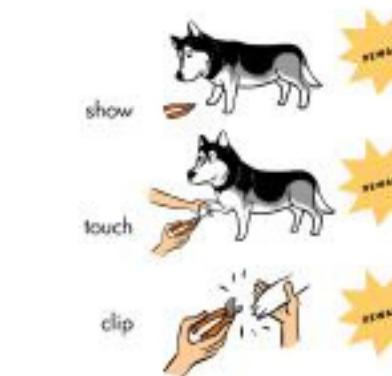


## 6 TOP TIPS for DESENSITISATION

*Turn scary things into fun, positive experiences!*



- 1** Show the scary object just before feeding for at least a week, so the dog learns it becomes a precursor to good things.



- 3** Break down the scary thing into a process of small steps (IE putting the clippers near the dogs claws, then touching the claws, then holding the claw in the clippers then cutting), praising and rewarding heavily for each step.



- 5** If your dog seems unhappy or sensitive to the scary object at any time, go back a step and spend more time on that step.



- 2** Start with short moments of exposure followed by good things only (IE don't clip their claws, give 3 liver treats instead)



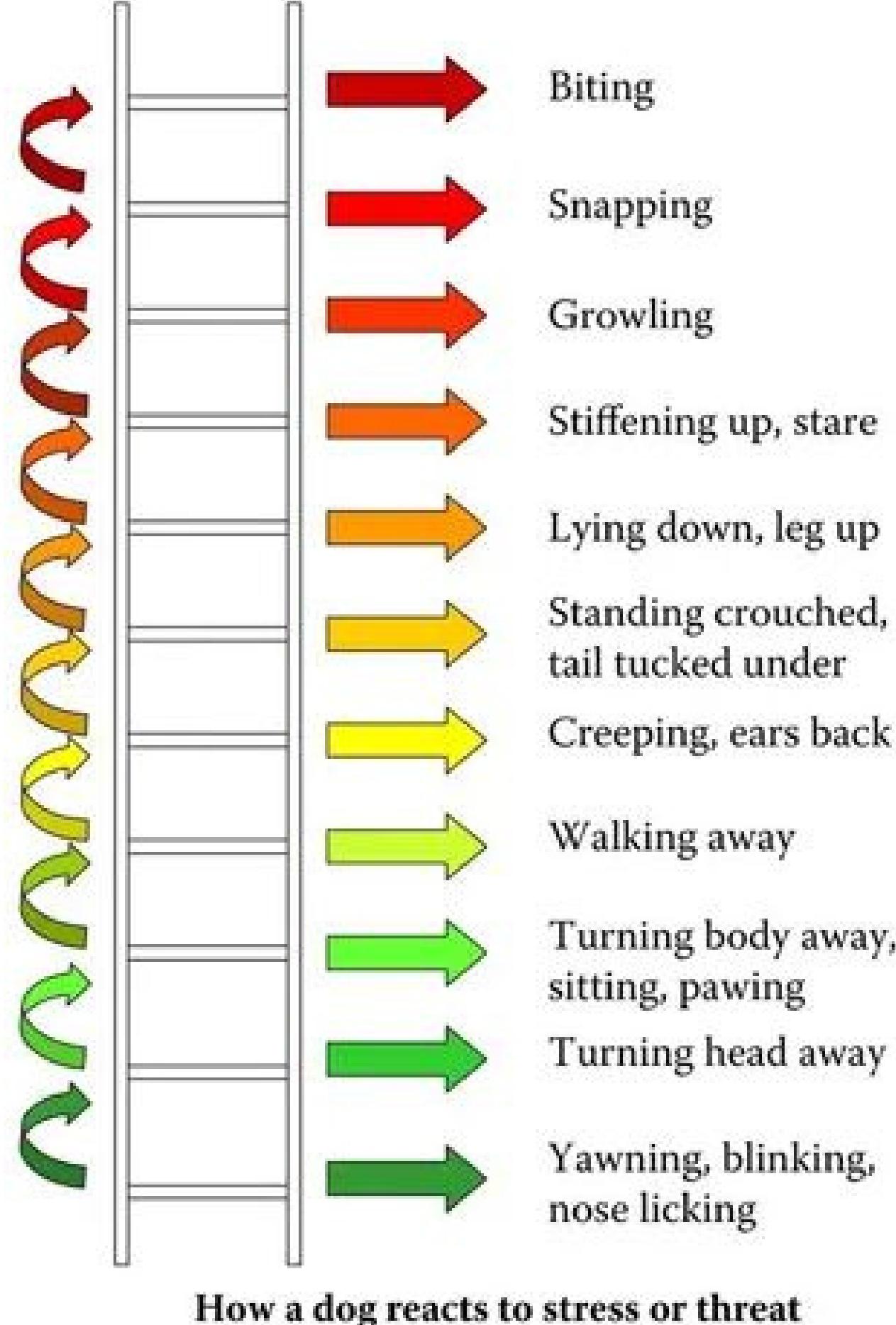
- 4** Be patient, proceeding to the next small step only when your dog is 100% comfortable



- 6** If your dog is scared of several things, work on one at a time maintaining a happy voice, rewarding with lots of treats and remaining patient.

# REACH OUT FOR HELP!

## The Canine 'Ladder of Aggression'



**Dog's signal in so many ways. If you are seeing signs shown here, please reach out to the foster department so we can help guide you on what the next steps with your foster will be.**

**It is extremely important to reach out as soon as you notice these signals rather than waiting on the dog's behavior to 'climb up the ladder'!**

# CRATE TRAINING



**Always make the crate a positive place and never use the crate as punishment!**

**Giving dogs interactive toys such as food dispensing toys can help occupy their time while in the crate.**

**Crates are not intended for your dog to spend very long extended periods of time in them. We will work with you to match you with a foster dog that will best fit your lifestyle.**

**Acclimate slowly. Use lots of yummy treats to have the dog look forward to going in the crate.**



**Sometimes covering half the crate helps the dog feel more relaxed.**

**If the dog panics in the crate reach out to the foster department immediately:**

- barking does not subside
- digging to get out
- chewing bars
- panting/drooling

!

**When crate training remember the following:**

**We highly recommend crate training to help foster dogs feel safe and secure. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have “down time” and can also limit their access to the entire house. Crates can also be an effective component of potty-training.**

# POTTY TRAINING

**It's unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take him or her home. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets used to your schedule.**

**Take the dog outside to potty several times a day to the same "potty area" and keep them on leash (even if you have a fenced yard) to help keep them focused.**

**Prime times for potty breaks are:**

- right after waking up**
- after eating or drinking**
- after playing**
- right before sleeping**

**Most dogs will give cues such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles to indicate that they need to go out.**

**Immediately after they potty verbally praise the dog and offer a yummy treat.**

**Block off areas of your home and keep the dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise them indoors.**

**If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, DON'T discipline or punish them. This will only teach them to fear and mistrust you.**

**Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.**



# CHEWING



## Keeping your foster dog mentally and physically happy is important!

**Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he or she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day.**

**You can also offer your foster dog a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get the treats out. Try a TreatStik, Busy Dog Ball or Kong product, available online and at pet supply stores.**

**Once the foster dog seems more comfortable with you and their surroundings you are welcome to work on teaching them some fun manners and cues. Check out our training page for more info!**

**Try a variety of toys (balls, squeaky toys, rope toys, etc.) to see which ones your foster dog prefers. Remember to discourage the dog from playing with your hands, since mouthing won't be a desirable behavior to adopters.**



Toss the food bowl to the side! Feed meals out of a feeder ball or toss kibble in the yard for them to find.



A flirt pole allows dogs with prey-drive to have an outlet to chase.



Bubbles are a fun way to get involved in the fun with your dog. (They even have peanut butter flavored bubbles!)



Some dogs LOVE to dig! Try giving them a place to do this, by building a digging pit or filling a kiddie pool with sand.



Playing fetch is a great way for dogs to release energy.



Provide a variety of toys. Tug toys, chew and squeaky toys. (Don't let your pup get bored of them- be sure to rotate them often!)

## Enrichment Ideas

Do you ever wish you could shove an iPad in front of your dog's face to keep them busy? Here are dog safe ideas to keep them occupied.

# GROOMING



## Bathing

Bathing is very stressful for dogs and is only necessary if they have fleas and are too young for preventative or if they are extremely dirty from feces, mud, or any other filth. In most cases baby wipes are enough to clean up small messes. If you do need to bathe keep soap/water away from nose, eyes and ears and be sure to keep them warm afterwards- especially young puppies as they cannot regulate their body temperature and are at great risk of becoming dangerously cold when wet.



If dog is uncomfortable!



## Nail Trims

You may gently hold their paws to help prepare them for having their nails clipped.

Pairing this session with a treat is always a good idea to create a positive experience!

Pay close attention to the dog's body language and if you are seeing signs of discomfort stop and reach out to the foster department for further direction.



## Brushing

Dogs, especially those with longer hair, can benefit from being brushed.

Having yummy treats can be very beneficial to help the dog associate that grooming is a positive experience.

Pay close attention to the dog's body language and if you are seeing signs of discomfort stop and reach out to the foster department for further direction.



## Hair Cuts

Please do not attempt to cut your foster dog's hair or take them to a groomer without approval from foster department staff.

# TRAINING

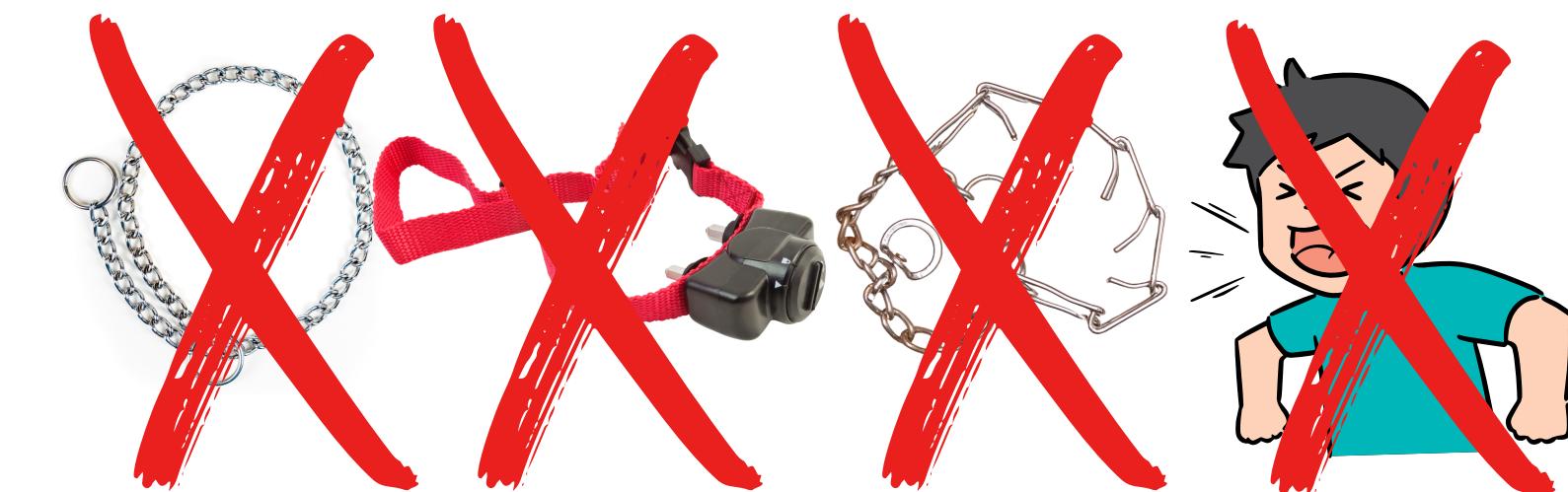
## Positive Reinforcement Training

- Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control requires our foster families only use positive training methods when working with your fosters (highly desired treats, praise, or toys). These help you bond with your foster while creating a fun and Fear Free experience!
- Keep training sessions short and positive!



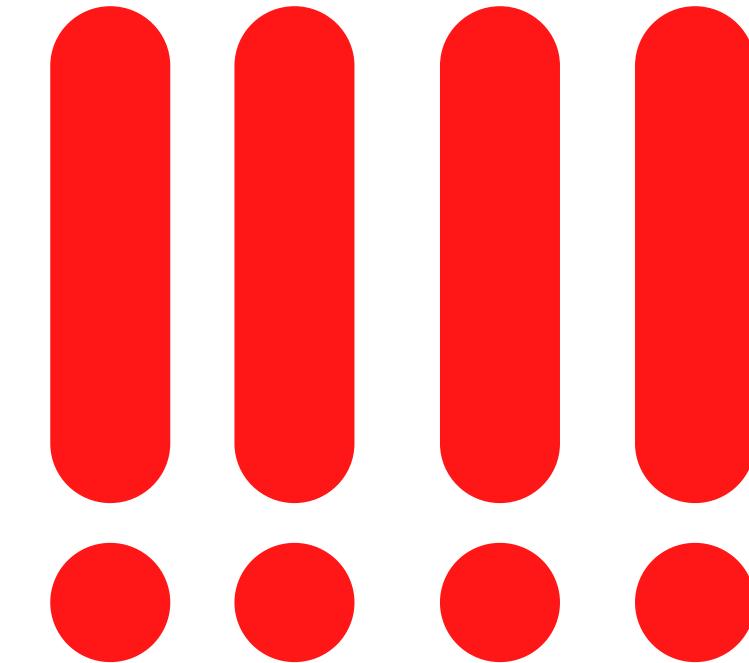
## Negative/Aversive Training

- NEVER use any aversive training methods (choke collar, prong collar, electric shock collar, squirt bottles, or physical punishment).
- These will only cause physical and emotional pain and fear with your fosters.
- If you are struggling with unwanted behaviors please reach out to the foster department for assistance!



**One of your goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. So, we ask that you help your foster dog to develop good habits and skills through the use of positive reinforcement training, which builds a bond of trust between you and your foster pet. The basic idea is to reward desirable behaviors and ignore unwanted behaviors.**

- DON'T punish a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because punishment is ineffective at eliminating the behavior. If the dog is doing something undesirable, distract him or her before the behavior occurs. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dog, which will help them to learn faster.
- When interacting with your foster dog, refrain from wrestling or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and "play bite" on your body. Also, try to refrain from inviting dogs up on the couch or bed. Not all adopters find this habit acceptable.
- Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we are aware of. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her particular issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog.
- If you have behavior issues that arise (leash pulling, barking, jumping, aggression, etc.) with your foster dog please contact the foster department right away!
- If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the foster department right away to discuss the issue. We will guide you and help in every way that we can.
- If the behavior is one that you are not comfortable with or do not want to work through the dog can always return to the shelter.



## **Behavior Challenges**

**If the dog is displaying any of the following behaviors please let us know right away!**

- Darting away from/Avoiding Humans
- Excessive Hiding
- Growling
- Snarling
- Biting

**Sometimes despite our best intentions, a dog will get loose. Please try not to panic. Try these tips:**

- If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of our more social guests may come right to you, but very often even social dogs get frightened once they get loose.
- You may be more successful calling them to get their attention and then walking the opposite direction and/or kneeling down.
- Reaching for a scared dog will often cause them to bolt and can also result in a bite, so please use caution and only reach for the dog if you feel you can safely do so.
- If the dog is in an area that is secured but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so that we can help!
- If the dog is already in a flat out run and is panicked, they may not respond to you at all.
- Please try following them from a distance so that you can see the direction they are going and hopefully catch up to them once they have slowed down.
- If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to make sure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you.
- We understand that every circumstance is different and that luring the dog to you may not be possible, please call us if this is the case!



# BITES

**If the dog bites anyone person or animal (you included) we need to know right away!**

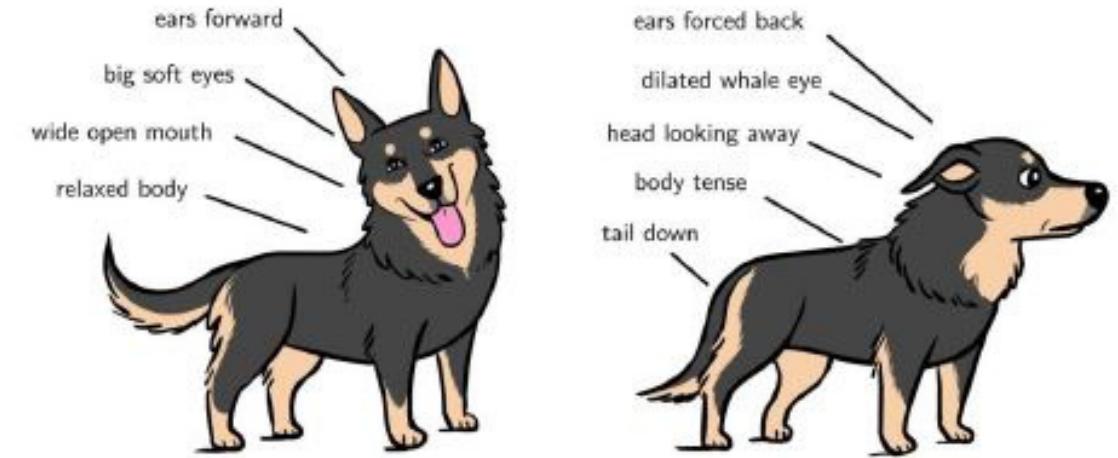
- **If the dog bites a stranger, please have them stick around while you call us so that we can fill out the appropriate paperwork.**
- **We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound.**
- **We are required by law to report any bites that break skin.**
- **We will also need to quarantine the dog for ten days in accordance with state law.**
- **A bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate reporting it.**
- **If you are seeing any signs of extreme fear and/or aggression, even if it is very minor, please contact Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control immediately.**



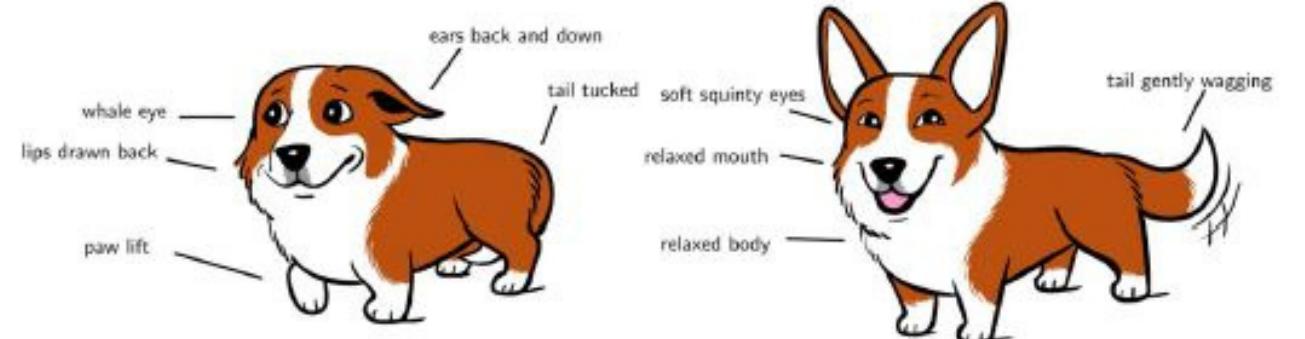
# BODY LANGUAGE

## What is your dog telling you?

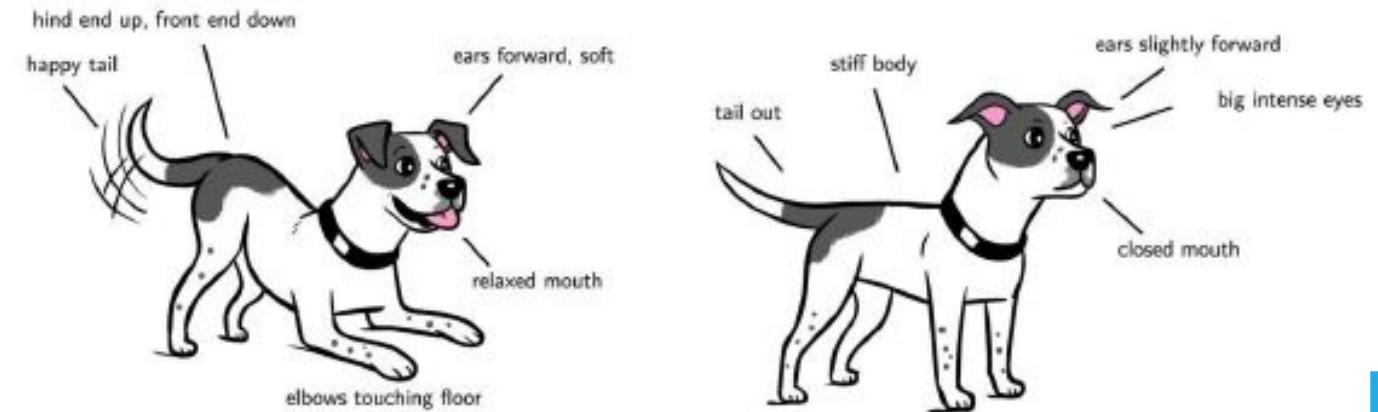
### Smiling vs Warning



### Fear vs Relaxed



### Play Bow vs Alert



Get in the habit of observing  
the dog's behavior/body  
and the location of the dog  
before approaching.

Approach quietly and slowly  
with a relaxed body posture  
and quiet, low, calm voice.

Don't stare directly at the  
dog.

Notice any signs of the dog  
being uncomfortable and  
back off as necessary.

Reward interactions with  
food/treats.

Keep visits short and  
positive.

Allow the dog to make  
choices.

Be patient- setbacks happen!

# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

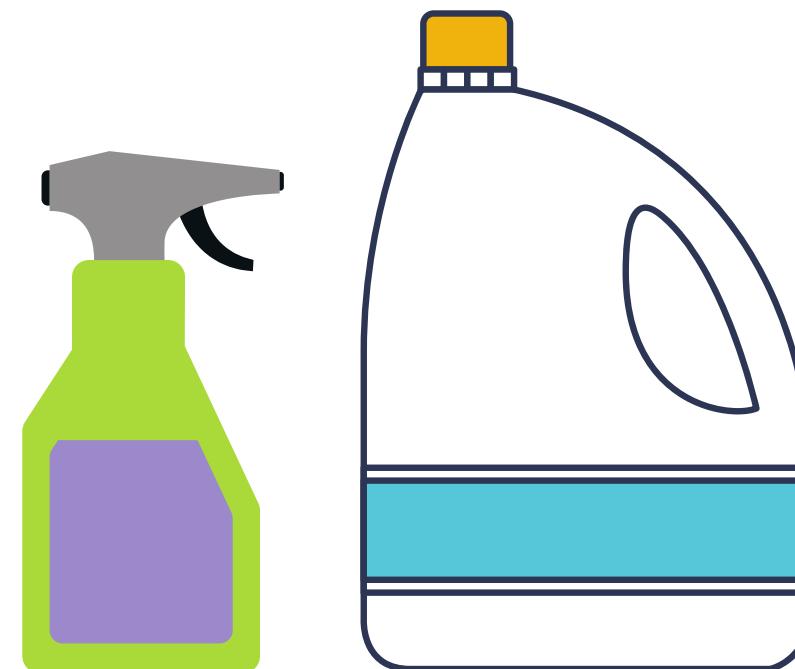
starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



# CLEANING & DISINFECTING

## Daily Cleaning

- Shake out and remove unsoiled blankets and toys
- Sweep up scattered debris/food and throw away
- Dirty bedding and toys should be laundered
- Wipe out bowls or scrub with soap and water if needed (especially wet food bowls)
- If there are any other messes in the area lightly spray a towel with a diluted bleach solution and scrub the area until clean- never spray the kennel area- only a towel
- Make sure the area is completely dry before setting the space back up for the puppies to return



## Bleach Rules

- Bleach solution is 1:10 ratio; 32oz Spray Bottle= 3oz of bleach + 30oz of water
- Make a new bleach solution for each use as bleach rapidly degrades in the presence of light and when mixed with water
- Let bleach sit on surfaces for 10 minutes before wiping off
- Discard any remaining solution



## Deep Cleaning

Should only be utilized as needed or when cleaning between fosters

- Remove everything from the space
- Throw away all disposable items
- Bedding and soft toys need to be laundered
- Throw away unused food from the bowls
- Sweep up scattered debris/food
- Thoroughly spray all surfaces with a bleach solution
- Let bleach sit for 10 minutes
- Scrub any surfaces where debris still remains if necessary
- Use a clean towel to wipe the area down after the dwell time
- Make sure the area is completely dry before setting up with all clean/fresh items for your new foster friends!

# FEAR FREE FOSTERING



# FEAR FREE FOSTERING!

CHECK OUT THESE TIPS ON REDUCING FEAR, ANXIETY AND STRESS FOR YOUR  
FOSTER DOGS AND PUPPIES



## TAKE THINGS SLOWLY!



Your foster dog will take some time to adjust to all of the new things happening in their life. Remember to give them their own quiet space and not rush introductions or take them new places in the beginning while they are still getting used to you and their surroundings.

## BACKGROUND NOISE

You can leave on a television, radio or noise machine for your foster dog/puppy to have something other than silence when they are alone.



## GENTLE CARE & HANDLING

Make sure you always handle your foster dog/puppy in the least stressful way possible. Never scruff, grab or force your foster into any position. Never pill your foster dog/puppy always crush medications & offer in food.



## TREATS

Food can be one of the easiest rewards we can use for dogs. You can try offering the following options: dog treats, hot dogs, cheese, peanut butter and canned dog food.



Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control's foster team is always here to help!

When you have questions or concerns please email [foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org)

# INTROS & QUARANTINE

We love for puppies to go out in pairs but sometimes we get single puppies that come into the shelter. We make sure the puppies are around the same size and energy levels when attempting to match pairs.

Please quarantine the puppy for 2 weeks to look for signs of illness before doing the introduction. If you notice any issues with your new foster please reach out to the foster department.

Please follow the steps below for introductions:

- Gradually introduce the puppies
- Signs of a good interaction include both puppies initiate play and that neither of the puppies seemed stressed
- It can be normal for puppies to initially either be cautious or play rough with some vocalization. Monitor these signs closely and do small, positive interactions for a while
- Monitor feeding time and water bowls to make sure they are shared nicely

When there is a problem:

- Persistent bullying by a puppy
- Bullying is not easily distracted\interrupted
- One puppy keeps other from resources

When in doubt separate them and always reach out to the foster department as soon as possible if you are having issues.



**Quarantine for 2 weeks before introductions!**

We are sure you have read/heard by now that you should keep your fosters away from your owned pets at home. This is important for the following reasons:

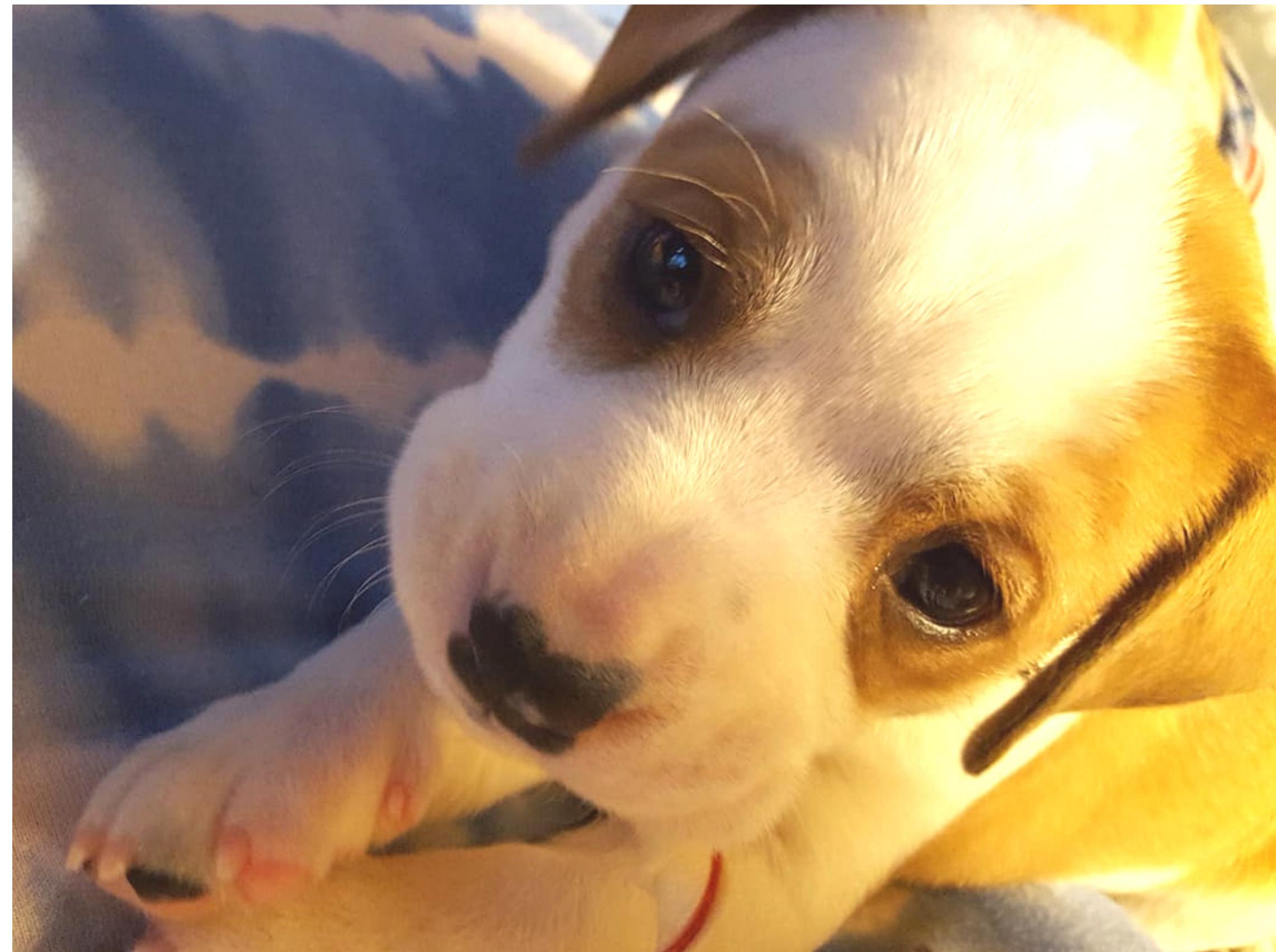
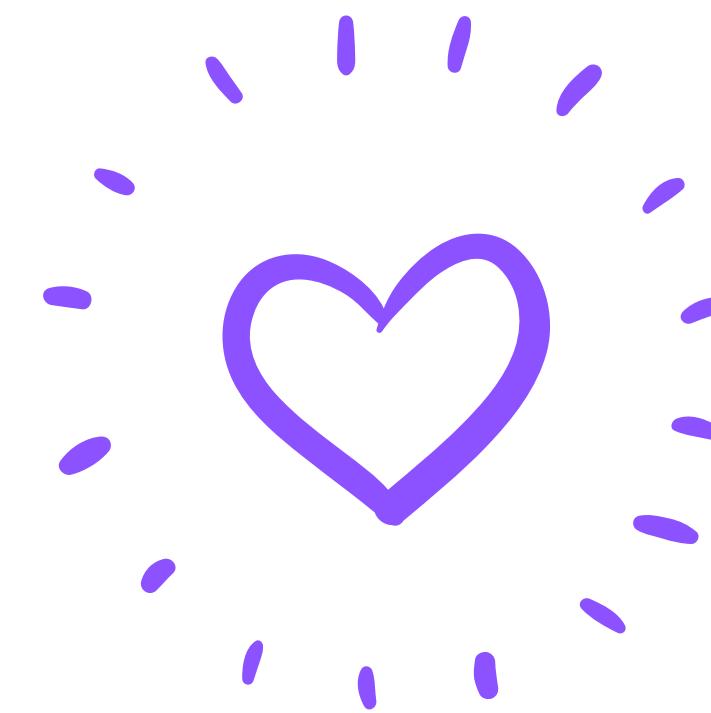
- Puppies may be harboring something that could make your owned animals sick.
- We aren't sure how everyone will get along and we don't want anyone getting hurt.

- Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is not responsible for any illness/injury to your owned pets.

# BABIES

**Caring for puppies this young is an around the clock job but so worth it!**

**If you are curious about what it takes to foster these little ones please let us know and we can discuss the next steps!**



## **EMERGENCY - NOTIFY IMMEDIATELY BY PHONE 260-427-5551**

- Unresponsive/unable to stand or walk
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Severe trauma
  - Profusely bleeding
- Ingested a dangerous item (medication/chemical/etc.)
  - Seizure/disoriented
- Any bite from a foster that breaks the skin
  - Lost foster animal

## **AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CALL 260-449-3000**

**Weekdays after 6pm  
All day Saturday  
Sunday before 10am and after 2pm**

**When calling the emergency number please let dispatch know you are a current foster and need to speak with an animal control officer. If you live outside of city limits, we may request you meet an animal control officer at the shelter.**

# DOG & PUPPY MEDICAL

**You will receive one of these medical sheets for each dog you foster. Please pay close attention to:**

**The dog's animal number. This is what you need when referring to your foster.**



**These dates are when the dog is due for vaccines/dewormers. Please be sure to schedule your appointment here:**

<https://fortwayneanimalcareandcontrol.setmore.com/>

## FWACC FOSTER PUPPY HEALTH CHART

Animal #:	Name/Description:	Sex:
Initial Exam Date/Staff Initials:	Initial Body Weight:	DOB (Estimate):
Puppy Age	Checklist	
<2 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical examination 	
2 weeks to 3 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical examination <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>pyrantel pamoate</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>ponazuril</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate for the presence of <b>FLEAS</b> —if present, quickly <i>bathe</i> puppy with warm soapy water (prevent hypothermia)	
3 weeks to 4 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical examination <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>CIRD (Bordetella)</i> vaccine (intranasal) <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>pyrantel pamoate</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>ponazuril</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate for the presence of <b>FLEAS</b> —if present, quickly <i>bathe</i> puppy with warm soapy water (prevent hypothermia)	
≥4 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical examination <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>CIRD (Bordetella)</i> vaccine (intranasal) <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>DAPPv</i> vaccine (subcutaneous) <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>pyrantel pamoate</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Administer <i>ponazuril</i> PO <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate for the presence of <b>FLEAS</b> —if present, <i>bathe</i> and administer <i>Capstar</i> PO	

Please review the dates below and visit <https://fortwayneanimalcareandcontrol.setmore.com> to schedule your vaccine appointment. Please email [foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org) with any questions or concerns.

- DAPPv vaccination is repeated every 2 weeks until the puppy is 20 weeks of age.
  - Pyrantel pamoate administration is repeated every 2 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks of age, then monthly until 6 months of age.
  - Ponazuril administration is repeated 2 weeks after the initial dose.

**At 8 weeks of age, apply topical | Provecta Advanced (flea/tick control) and administer heartworm prevention; repeat monthly.**

<b>Provecta Advanced &amp; Heartworm Prevention</b>	Date:	Date:	Date:
	HW Product:	HW Product:	HW Product:

**The easiest way to keep track of what is happening with your puppies is to make sure you are filling out your wellness log daily for each puppy**



<b>Attitude</b>	BAR: bright, alert, and responsive (normal energy level and responsiveness) QAR: quiet, alert, and responsive (below normal energy level with normal responsiveness) Dull: awake but less alert/interested in surroundings or normal stimuli Depressed: awake but not alert/interested in surroundings or normal stimuli
<b>Fecal Score</b>	Use Fecal Scoring Chart  It is normal for puppies to have a fecal score of 2-5 (score 1 may indicate constipation and score 6-7 is diarrhea)
<b>Other Observations</b>	<b>Body Temperature:</b> <u>0-2 weeks of age</u> : normal 96-99 F; <u>2-4 weeks of age</u> : normal 97-100 F; <u>&gt;4 weeks of age</u> : normal 99.5-102.5 F (<97= hypothermia, >103= fever)  <b>Hydration:</b> <u>0-4 weeks of age</u> : evaluate moistness of the gums (normal: wet/slippery; abnormal: sticky) and urine color (normal: clear; abnormal: darker yellow); <u>&gt; 4 weeks of age</u> : evaluate skin tent test (normal: snaps back within 1-2 seconds; abnormal >2 seconds) and moistness of the gums (normal: wet/slippery; abnormal: sticky) [assume dehydrated if poor appetite or other signs of illness]

# MEDICAL CONCERNS

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control provides all medical care for our foster animals through our shelter veterinarian. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for fosters. Do not give your fosters any medications, foods, supplements, etc.

that have not been prescribed/approved by our staff.

If your foster needs to see the shelter veterinarian staff will schedule the appointment and notify you of the date/time.

Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster animal to a veterinarian without authorization from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.

Dogs do a good job of masking when they don't feel well, so determining if a foster dog is ill will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. Be aware that dogs act differently at different ages. For example, a healthy two-week-old puppy will sleep often and get up only to nurse, whereas a healthy six-week-old puppy should have a lot of energy. If you have any questions about the health of your fosters, please contact us right away!

## Eye Discharge

It is normal for dogs to have some discharge from their eyes when they wake up and some may have more than others, depending on the breed. But if your foster dog has yellow or green discharge, or swelling around the eyes (making it hard for him to open his eyes), or the third eyelid is showing, you need to contact the foster department as medication may be needed.

## Coughing, Sneezing and Nasal Discharge

Coughing can be common if your foster dog is pulling on leash. If the coughing becomes more frequent, however, watch for discharge coming from the nose. If the discharge is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed, but check with the foster department to find out if a checkup appointment is necessary.

If the discharge becomes colored, an appointment is necessary because the dog may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the dog's breathing. If the dog seems to struggle to breathe or starts wheezing, follow the emergency contact protocol. Also, once you notice nasal discharge, monitor the dog's eating habits more closely to ensure that he or she is still eating.



## Loss of Appetite

Your foster dog may be stressed after arriving in your home, and stress can cause lack of appetite. But if the dog hasn't eaten after 24 hours, please notify the foster department. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12 to 24 hours, notify the foster department to set up an appointment. Please do not change the dog's diet without contacting the foster department. An abrupt change in diet can cause diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration.

## Lethargy

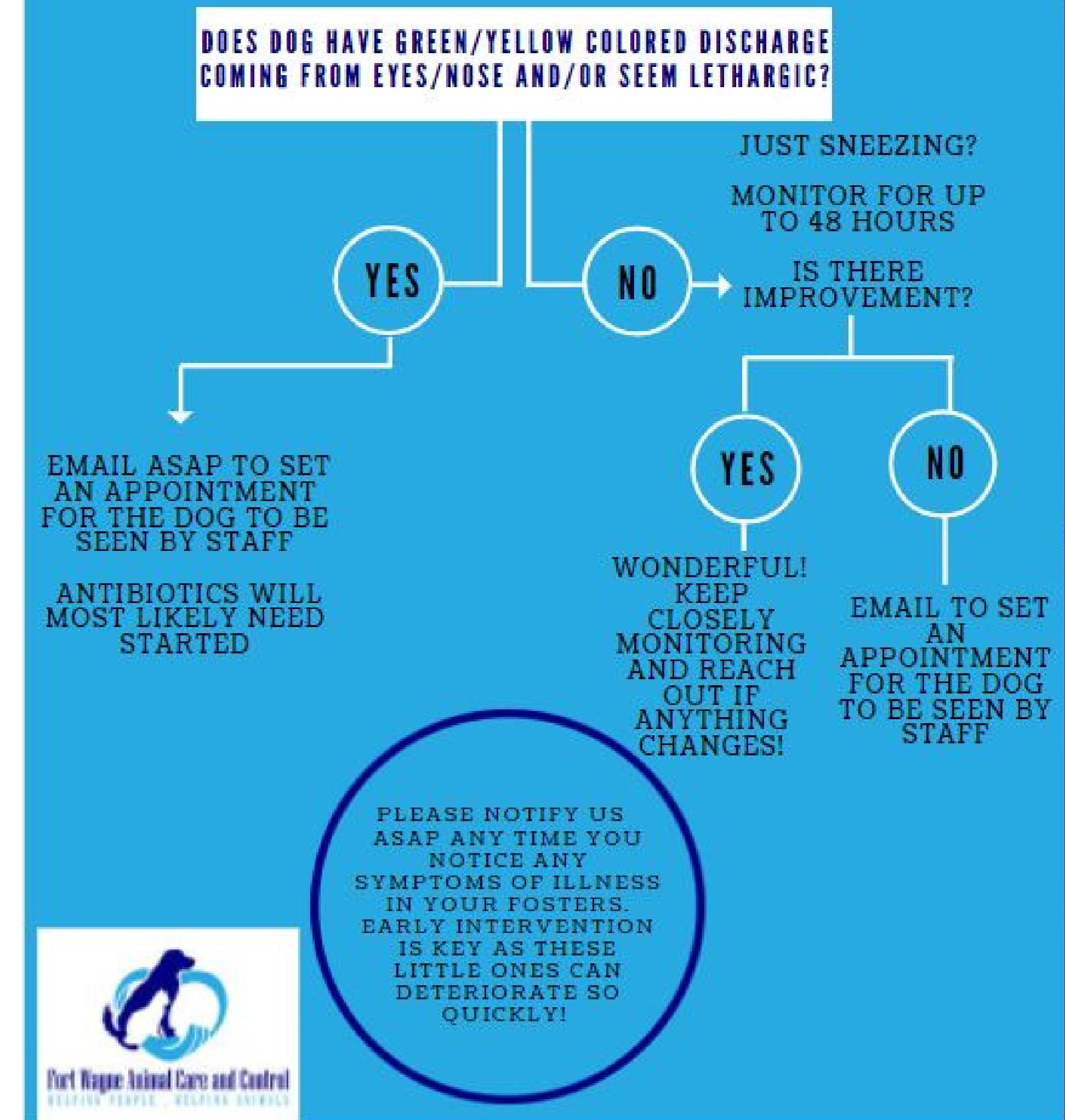
The activity level of your foster dog will vary depending on age and personality. If the dog cannot be roused or seems weak and unable to stand, it's an emergency, so start the emergency contact protocol.



The concerns above are associated with Upper Respiratory Infections. To learn more about what to do next if you notice these symptoms see the following page.

# UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

If you suspect  
your foster dog is  
coming down  
with an upper  
respiratory  
infection please  
follow these steps:



# FOSTER DOG URI CHART



# DIARRHEA

In dogs, it can be tricky to determine if diarrhea is a problem. Soft stool diarrhea, most likely caused by stress, is normal for the first two days after you take the dog home. Puppies who are nursing tend to have loose stool, but if it is watery or very large in volume, that's a concern. Remember that diarrhea will dehydrate, so be proactive about contacting the foster department if you notice any diarrhea. If a dog has bloody or mucus diarrhea, please contact the foster department right away!

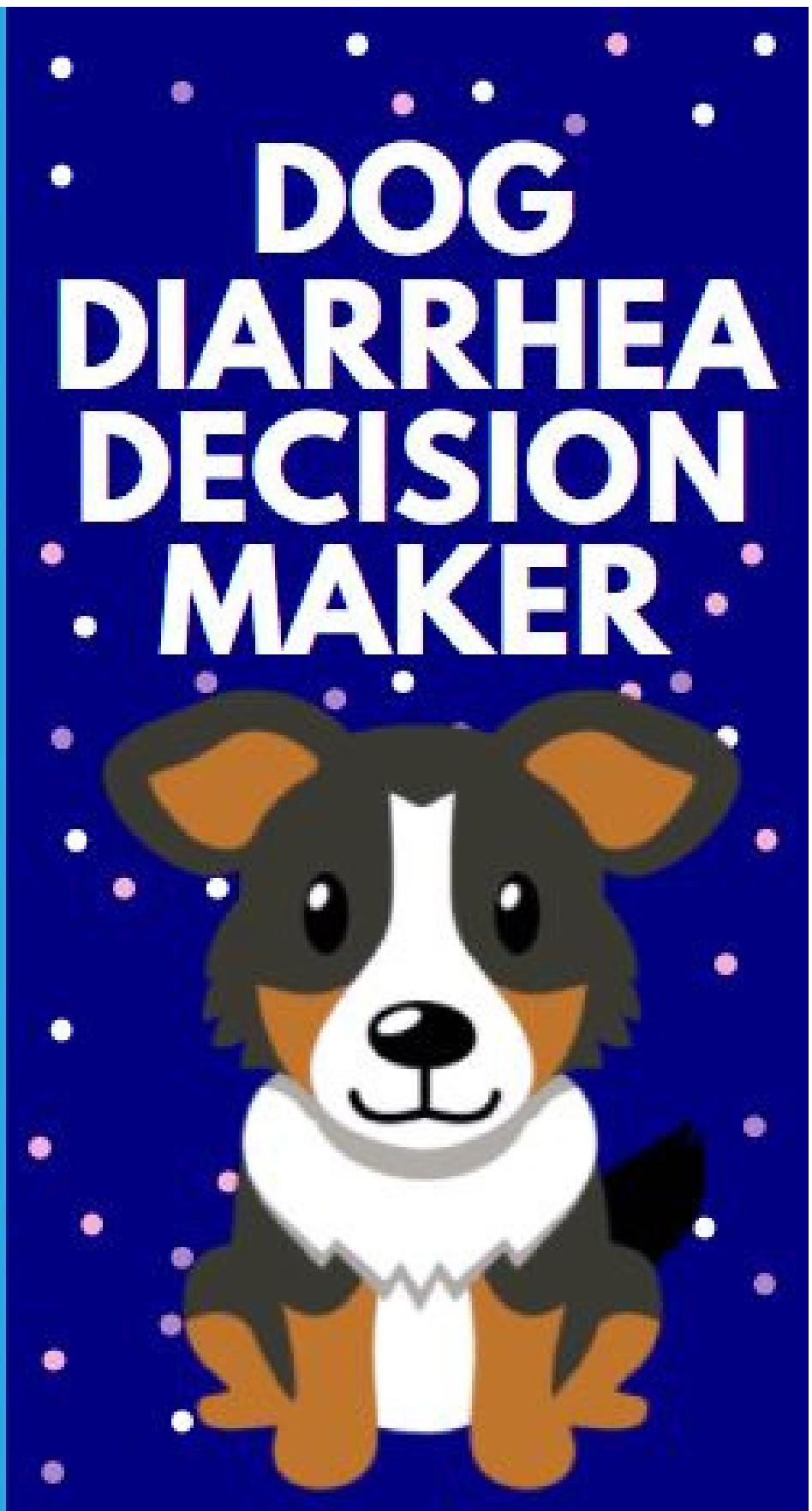
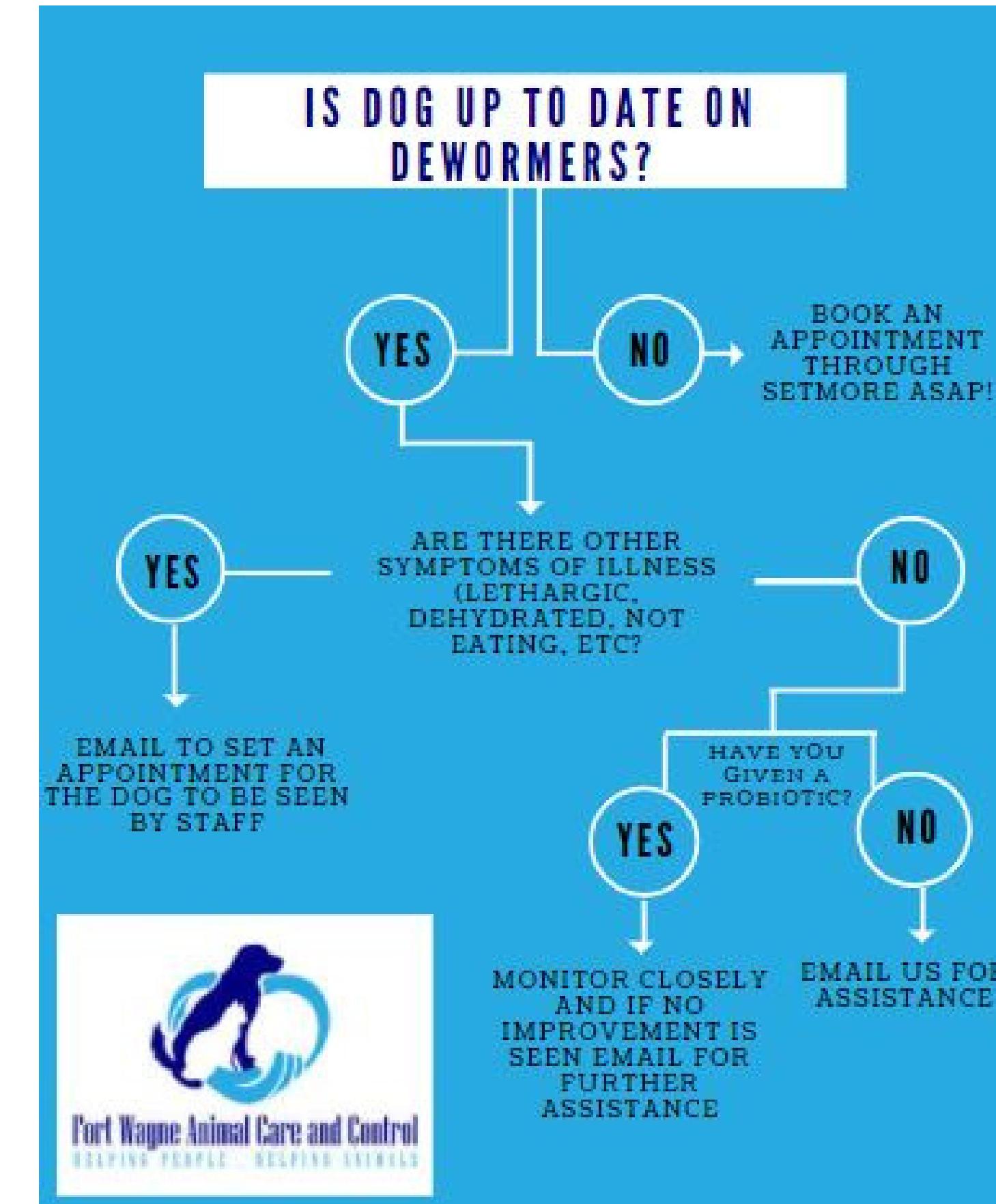
If you notice  
diarrhea  
please follow  
these steps:



## Dehydration

Dehydration is usually associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, check the dog's gums. If they are sticky, dry or a pale color the dog is dehydrated. If the gums are smooth, slick and a nice pink color there should be no immediate concern with dehydration.

If the dog is dehydrated please call the foster department immediately.



# FECAL SCORE CHART

Please refer to the following examples when reaching out with questions/concerns regarding stools from dogs/puppies



## Fecal Score Chart

SCORE	SPECIMEN EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very hard and dry</li><li>- Often expelled as individual pellets</li><li>- Requires much effort to expel from body</li><li>- Leaves no residue on ground when picked up</li></ul>
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Firm, but not hard, pliable</li><li>- Segmented in appearance</li><li>- Little or no residue on ground when picked up</li></ul>
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Log shaped, moist surface</li><li>- Little or no visible segmentation</li><li>- Leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up</li></ul>
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very moist and soggy</li><li>- Log shaped</li><li>- Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up</li></ul>
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very moist but has a distinct shape</li><li>- Present in piles rather than logs</li><li>- Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up</li></ul>
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Has texture, but no defined shape</li><li>- Present as piles or spots</li><li>- Leaves residue on ground when picked up</li></ul>
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Watery</li><li>- No texture</li><li>- Present in flat puddles</li></ul>

# ADDITIONAL MEDICAL CONCERN



## Vomiting

Sometimes dogs will eat too quickly and will immediately throw up their food. Occasional vomiting isn't cause for alarm, but if your foster dog has thrown up two or more times in one day, please notify the foster department!

## Pain or strain while urinating or defecating

When a dog first goes into a foster home, he or she may not urinate due to stress. If the dog hasn't urinated in more than 24 hours, however, please contact the foster department. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little or no results, or crying out when urinating, please contact us immediately because it may be indicative of an infection or an obstruction.

## Worms

All dogs are given a round of dewormer before they leave for foster care. Round worms will look like spaghetti. Tape worms will look like grains of rice and are found around the anus. If you notice worms in the dog's poop or vomit please contact the foster department.



## Hair loss

Please contact the foster department if you notice any hair loss or crusty/scabby lesions on your foster dogs. It is normal for dogs to have thin fur around the lips, eyelids and in front of the ears, but clumpy patches of hair loss or thinning hair can indicate ringworm or dermatitis. It is important to check your foster's coats every day.

## Fleas

All dogs are checked for fleas before going to their foster homes. If old enough dogs are given flea preventative. If you notice fleas on your foster dog please contact the foster department.

## Frequent ear scratching

If your foster dog has irritated, swollen or red or pink ears that smell like yeast, he may have an ear infection. This type of infection is more common in dogs who have very floppy ears, like basset hounds or Labradors. These dogs may need to have their ears cleaned more often to ensure that the infection does not re-occur.

## Amputations, Enucleations, Wounds, Etc.

There are times when dogs come in with advanced medical needs. Our staff will go over specific instructions for these dogs. When fostering one of these cases always reach out if you have questions/concerns.

# MEDICATIONS

Please keep in mind the following when asked to give your foster medications.



**follow all directions closely and only give as directed**



**always offer the medication in food if possible**



**make sure you give the correct dose of medication based on the animal's weight**



**do not stop medications before they are completed unless advised to do so**



**do not give your foster any medication/supplements not approved by FWACC**





## Infant Puppies

While very rare, not all puppies survive even with early intervention and advanced medical care. We work hard as a team with our foster families staying in close communication to identify puppies who may be struggling.

Unfortunately, there are still a small percentage of puppies who crash suddenly through no fault of anyone.

Although this is the most devastating part of fostering, please know that without individuals willing to take these puppies into their homes they would not stand a chance of survival.

We are here to support you!



## Euthanasia

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control never sends an animal out to foster care intending the end result to be euthanasia. Through the use of foster homes we find out information that we would otherwise never know. Although most of the information we gain is very positive there are times when serious issues occur once the animal is in foster care.

The decision to euthanize an animal is not taken lightly and is used only when we have exhausted all reasonable alternatives. Some animals may display behavior patterns or have physical conditions that make it difficult, with limited resources, to care for them at the shelter or in a home environment. There are also times that an animal may show behaviors that could make them potentially dangerous to people or other animals. Euthanasia by injection, performed by certified euthanasia technicians, is currently recommended as the most humane method for all companion animals and is the only method used by Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control.

Euthanasia is an emotional issue for everyone involved. Please know that we will be open and honest when talking about this sensitive topic should it arise with one of the animals you are fostering.

## **Dogs/Puppies can return to the shelter when:**



**Puppies are at least 10 weeks old  
The foster team will inform you  
when adults can return**



**They are healthy**



**They are up to date on all  
vaccines and dewormers**

**Please email us to  
schedule your fosters spay/neuter surgeries.**

**Foster animals stay at the shelter at this time and the day after  
surgery they are made available for adoption!**



# ADOPTION

## We highly encourage our foster families to find homes for their foster animals.

If you have someone wanting to adopt your foster animals direct them to the main webpage ([fwacc.org](http://fwacc.org)), select the adoption tab, click on Fees and Processes then scroll down and have them click the PURPLE Adoption Application Pets Currently in Foster Homes. Please be sure they are including your name, the animals name and most importantly the ANIMAL NUMBER. If you are unsure of the animal number, please reach out to us and we can provide it for you. Please let them know that this does not guarantee that they will be approved for the animal as all adoption policies and procedures must be met and that applications are timestamped as they are submitted. We rely heavily on our foster parents helping keep track of who they have lined up to adopt their foster animals and communicate with them regularly what is scheduled to happen with the foster animals. Please overcommunicate this with us and as soon as you have someone fill out an application send us an email to let us know.

### If you have multiple foster animals, please follow the protocol below:

- Please follow the above recommendations for each of your foster animals.
- If you decide to post your animals on social media, please do not provide the link for the adoption application. This gets very confusing for us. There have been multiple times when we received over 20 applications for the same animal in foster and the foster parent did not even know these people due to the post being shared a few hundred times. Here is a suggestion on what you could say when posting:  
--->“If you are interested in adopting please reach out to me directly for more information on the process.” You can then share the link with the adopter and ask them to inform you once they have completed the application. Once you have that confirmation please email [foster.help](mailto:foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org) to let us know.
- We would like to have all potential adopter applications filled out BEFORE the animal returns to the shelter for surgery.

If you have any questions, please reach out!



Don't feel bad if you don't have a home lined up! Animals don't stick around long at the shelter before getting adopted!



Port Wayne Animal Care and Control  
HELPING PEOPLE . HELPING ANIMALS



**READY TO ADOPT?**

Scan the QR Code  
**OR**

Visit [fwacc.org](http://fwacc.org) select the adoption tab, click on Fees and Processes then scroll down and click the PURPLE Adoption Application Pets Currently in Foster Homes

You will need the following information to complete your application:

Foster's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Animal Number: \_\_\_\_\_

This does not guarantee you are approved to adopt this animal. All adoption policies and procedures apply.

After completing the adoption application please notify the foster parent.

PLEASE EMAIL [FOSTER.HELP@CITYOFFORTWAYNE.ORG](mailto:FOSTER.HELP@CITYOFFORTWAYNE.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION

# ADVERTISING FOR ADOPTION

## Ways to advertise your animals

Don't forget to complete the bios for your foster animals BEFORE they come back to the shelter for spay/neuter and adoption. No one knows your foster better than you, so we created these awesome forms for you to complete in order to help our staff write Adoption Bios for them once they come back for adoption.

<https://form.jotform.com/201766709218157>

\*Be sure to include the animal number so we can make sure we have the correct bio linked to the correct animals.

Good photos go a long way in helping to get your fosters adopted! For tips on how to get a great photo check out this graphic

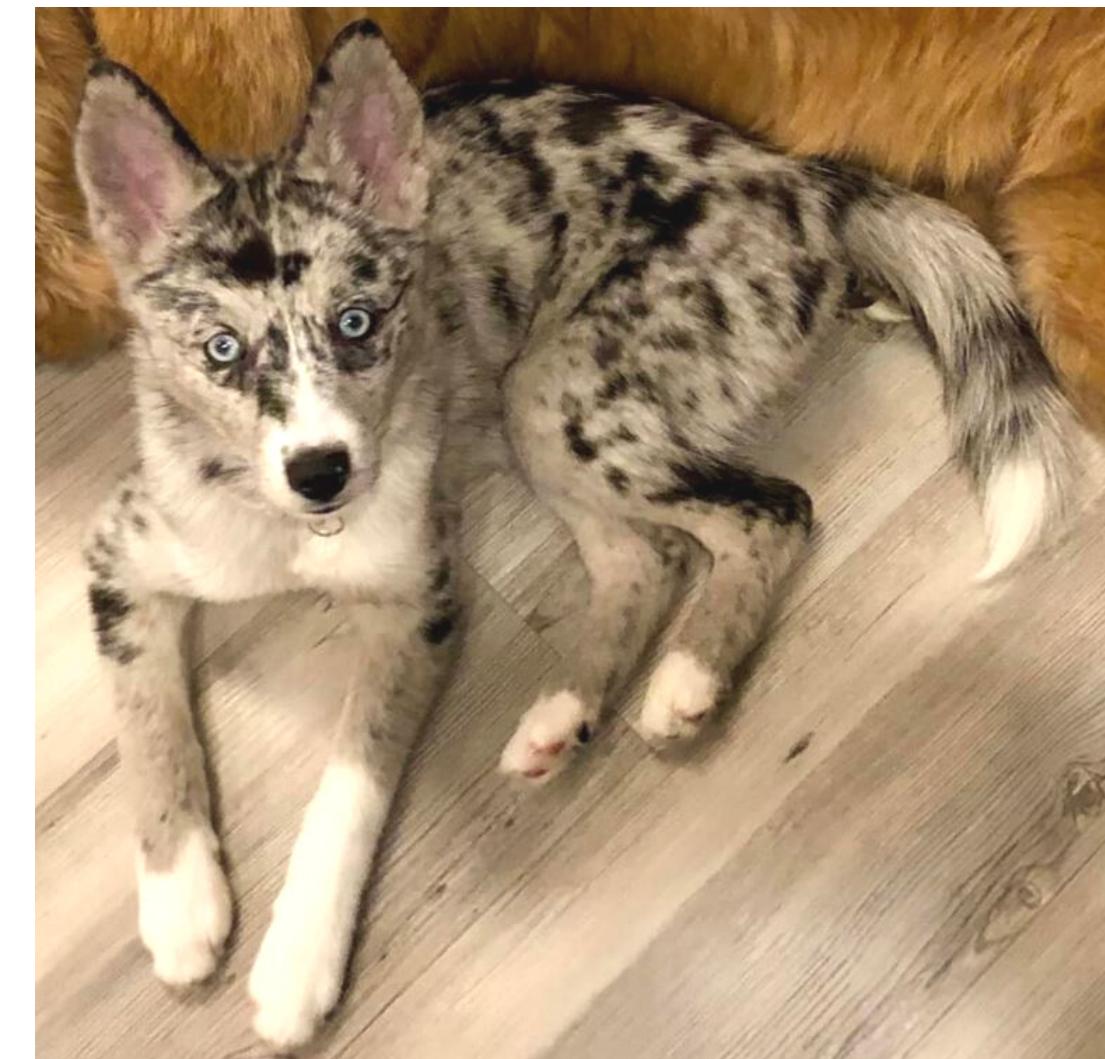
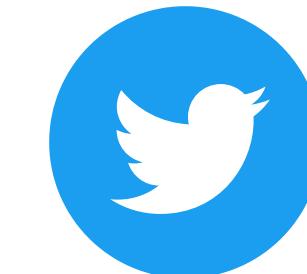


You can send photos to [educationhelp@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:educationhelp@cityoffortwayne.org) please be sure to include the animal number and foster's name in the subject line.

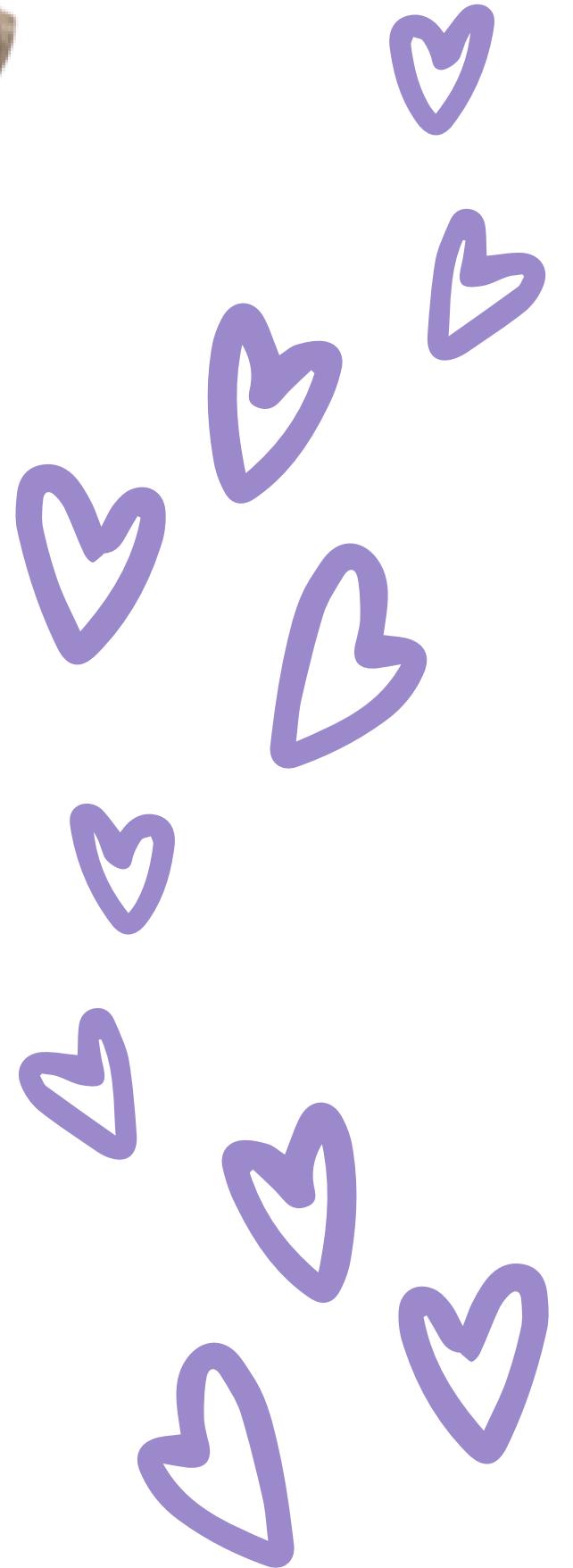
## 5 TIPS FOR AWESOME FOSTER PET PHOTOS

- 1 GET ON THEIR LEVEL**  
Getting down to your foster pet's level will create more personal portraits and highlights their unique traits.
- 2 USE BURST MODE**  
Most cellphones have an action mode or burst mode. Use these to your advantage when your foster pet is being active. These modes work best when there is plenty of light so consider using this tip while you are close to a window or outside.
- 3 MAKE NOISE**  
Making noises is a great way to get your foster pet to look your way. You can use your mouth or even a squeaker. Make sure you are ready to snap the photo when you make a noise to catch them looking directly at you. Who knows? Maybe you will even catch an adorable head tilt!
- 4 NOTICE YOUR ENVIRONMENT**  
Some of the best photos come from an environment that is well lit and uncluttered (ex. a blank wall). If there are too many objects in the background it can take away from the subject...aka your foster pet. If there isn't enough light, the photo can turn out grainy and take away from their unique features.
- 5 USE TIMING**  
Choose key moments throughout your day to capture their true personality. Nap time is a great way to get a peaceful photo (bonus tip: place their bed in a well lit area so you can get clear, sharp photos) Playtime is a great time to use the burst/active mode to catch how goofy they really are.

Once you have a great description and an eye catching photo feel free to share on your personal social media platforms.



# SAYING GOODBYE



We understand bringing your foster animals back may be an emotional time for many fosters.

There are always more animals that need fostered. If you need to fill that void sooner rather than later keep a close eye on the Foster Facebook page for more fostering opportunities.

Volunteering in the animal welfare field often times put you at a greater risk of developing compassion fatigue. When your emotions build up you may feel exhausted, angry, sad, etc.

A combination of these symptoms can lead to burnout and is often responsible for the loss of many talented foster volunteers. In order to maintain your emotional and physical health, take frequent breaks and reach out if you are struggling with anything, we are here to help!

# THANK YOU!

**Words can't express how grateful  
we are for our fantastic team of  
foster families!**

**Without your help we would not  
be able to help as many dogs and  
puppies as we do in our  
community!**

**Please know that we are here for  
you, reach out with any and all  
questions and concerns.**

**Thank you!!!**

