

FORT WAYNE ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

DOG & PUPPY FOSTER MANUAL



Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control
HELPING PEOPLE . HELPING ANIMALS



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For basic foster questions please email us at Foster.help@cityoffortwayne.org

We have a closed group Facebook page specifically for our foster families to see what animals are in need of loving foster homes. You are welcome to post questions to this page but please realize that it is not checked regularly after hours or on the weekends. If you have an emergency please follow the emergency protocol below.

Emergency Protocol

- Contact the volunteer/foster department during regular business hours: Mondays 10am-6pm and Tuesday-Friday 8am-6pm.
- If after hours call **260-449-3000**. An animal control officer will be available to assist you.

Table of Contents

<u>Section 1: Introduction</u>	6
<u>Section 2: Frequently asked questions</u>	6-8
<u>Section 3: Preparing for your foster dog</u>	8-9
Supplies you'll need	8
Dog-proofing your home	8-9
<u>Section 4: Bringing home your foster dog</u>	9-10
Choosing a foster dog	9
Dog introductions	9
Cat introductions	9-10
Children and dogs	10
<u>Section 5: Daily care</u>	10-12
Feeding.....	10
Daily routine	10-11
House-training	11
Crate training	11
Grooming	11
Chewing	11
Mental stimulation and exercise	12
Safety requirements	12
<u>Section 6: What if something goes wrong?</u>	12-13
What if the dog gets loose?	12
If a bite occurs.....	12-13
Euthanasia.....	13
<u>Section 7: Medical and emergency protocols</u>	13-15
Signs of illness and what to do next.....	13
Eye discharge	13
Coughing and nasal discharge	13-14
Loss of appetite	14
Lethargy.....	14
Dehydration.....	14
Vomiting.....	14
Pain or strain while urinating.....	14
Diarrhea	14
Frequent ear scratching.....	14
Swollen, irritated eyes	14
Hair loss.....	14
Common ailments in animals from shelters.....	15

Criteria for emergencies	15
Emergency protocol	15
<u>Section 8: Behavior support</u>	15-16
<u>Section 9: Moms and puppies</u>	16-18
Bringing everyone home.....	16
Mom's care of her puppies	16-17
Problem behaviors in momma dogs.....	17
Maternal neglect.....	17
Maternal aggression toward other animals.....	17
Maternal aggression toward people	17
Separating puppies and moms	17-18
<u>Section 10: Orphaned puppies</u>	18-21
Basic medical care for newborn puppies.....	18
Temperature	18
Weight.....	18
Vision.....	18
Hearing	18
Warmth	18
Stimulation for elimination.....	18
Diarrhea	19
Dehydration.....	19
Hypoglycemia.....	19
Internal parasites.....	19
Puppy living space, feeding, disease prevention	19
Living space	19
Bedding	19
Feeding.....	19-20
Disease prevention.....	20
Nail trimming	20
Visitors.....	20
Veterinary checkup and weaning	20
Visits to the shelter	20
Weaning puppies to gruel.....	20
Socializing puppies.....	21
<u>Section 11: Cleaning</u>	21-22
Cleaning up between dogs	21
Daily cleaning protocols.....	21
Deep cleaning protocols	21

Bleach rules	22
<u>Section 12: Scheduling appointments for your foster dog</u>	22-23
Picking up and returning your foster dog	22
Scheduling vaccines for your foster dog	22
Scheduling vet appointments for your foster dog	22
Picking up supplies	22
Scheduling your foster dog's spay/neuter surgery	23
<u>Section 13: Helping your foster dog get adopted</u>	23
Frequently asked questions	23
<u>Section 14: Breaks</u>	23
<u>Additional resources</u>	24
<u>Doggie language</u>	25
<u>Puppy bottle feeding and stomach capacity chart</u>	26
<u>Fecal score chart</u>	27
<u>Dog & Puppy Wellness Log</u>	28

Section 1: Introduction

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering for Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control! By opening your home to foster, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these animals desperately need.

Once you have completed your foster profile, our volunteer/foster coordinator will get in touch with you to schedule a training, answer questions you may have and add you to our Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control foster Facebook page where you can see all animals who are awaiting loving foster homes.

We also have a great group of volunteer mentors that are admins on our foster Facebook page as well that are equipped to answer many basic questions about fostering. They can triage the questions and contact the volunteer/foster coordinator accordingly.

Our dog foster program is designed for puppies not old enough for spay/neuter surgeries or adult dogs recovering from injuries or illnesses or working on behavioral needs. Many of the dogs who need foster homes require extra care and attention, which shelters often don't have the staff or resources to provide. In loving foster homes, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs.

Foster homes are asked to provide care for the dogs, as well as transportation to and from shelter appointments. Care for foster dogs includes feeding according to size and needs, exercise according to energy levels, and lots of play time and positive socialization.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience!

Section 2: Frequently asked questions

Where do the foster dogs come from?

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is an open admission shelter meaning we take in every dog that comes in. Many of our dogs are strays or owner surrenders.

What do foster families need to provide?

Foster families need to provide:

- A healthy and safe environment for their foster dog
- Transportation to and from the shelter for all appointments
- Socialization and cuddle time to teach dogs positive relationships
- Exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop into great dogs

How much time do I need to spend with a foster dog?

As much time as you can. With that said, the amount of time will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the dog you are fostering. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

Can I foster dogs even if I have a full-time job?

Yes. The volunteer/foster coordinator will match you with the best dog for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a dog who may be OK alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample exercise before or after you go to work.

Can I foster a dog if I don't have a fenced yard?

Yes. Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with your foster dog. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you're on walks.

How long will the dog need to be in foster care?

Foster puppies stay in foster care until they are 8 weeks old which is when they can return to the shelter for their spay/neuter surgery and then come into the adoption program. Time varies with adult dogs depending on their needs. We will have a rough idea for how long each dog will need to be in foster upon pick up.

How often does my foster dog need to go to the shelter?

Typically, puppies need to come to the shelter every 2 weeks for a check up to update any vaccines, dewormers, weigh in, etc. Adult dogs may have different needs depending on the reason they are in foster care.

Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?

Almost all of the dogs that we have in our foster program were in the shelter at some point and have been exposed to shelter illnesses. While we do our best to ensure that we are aware of all the conditions that a foster dog may have prior to going home, many illnesses have incubation periods, meaning symptoms can arise after you take a dog home. So while some dogs do not require any medicine, others may. If your foster dog needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take him or her home.

Can I let my foster dog play with my personal pets?

There are a few guidelines that we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets. While foster dogs playing with other pets is often fine, we advise that you consult with your veterinarian before fostering to ensure that all of your personal pets are healthy and up-to-date on all vaccines. Dogs in shelters are very susceptible to illness and can carry or catch different diseases. If, for any reason, your personal pet becomes ill while you are fostering, we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet.

What if I want to adopt my foster dog or found someone who does?

If you would like to adopt your foster, or find someone who wants to adopt your foster, we will need a completed adoption profile from the potential adopter (with foster's name and animal number) and the full adoption process will be followed. Please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator right away with this information because once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.

Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?

If you have travel plans while you are fostering a dog, you will need to contact the volunteer/foster coordinator to make arrangements to return your dog to the shelter. Please provide at least one week's notice to ensure that we can try to find alternate foster arrangements. If your trip is over a holiday, please provide a minimum of two weeks' notice.

You cannot leave your foster dog with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. We have specific training for foster parents, and pet sitters have not undergone that training or signed the release waivers for the foster program.

What if my foster dog bites someone?

If anyone (person/animal) is bitten and the skin breaks, causing it to bleed, you need to report the bite to the volunteer/foster coordinator within 24 hours of when the bite occurred. The law requires that we

must report all bites. The tooth of the dog, not the nails, must have broken the skin. If your foster dog growls or snaps at you please contact us right away.

What if my foster dog is not working out?

You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it's not working out. We will work on moving your foster dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience. Please call the volunteer/foster coordinator during business hours if this situation arises.

Will it be hard to say goodbye to my foster dog?

Saying goodbye can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that you made a huge difference in that dog's life and there are always more dogs to foster!

Section 3: Preparing for your foster dog

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

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 you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster dog a space of their own where they can stay while getting used to all the new sounds and smells. Don't leave your foster dog unattended in your home with your personal pets.

Supplies you'll need

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control will provide you with any supplies that you may need. However, we greatly appreciate any help that you can provide in supplying items for your foster dog. Here's what you'll need to help your foster dog make a smooth transition to living in your home:

- At least one bowl for dry food and one for water: Stainless steel or ceramic work best.
- A supply of dry dog food: we will provide Hill's Science Diet dry food and some wet food to help entice the dog to eat.
- A collar with an ID tag and a leash.
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well.
- A crate: The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that.
- Dog treats: Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster dog.
- Dog toys: Make sure the toys are durable and appropriate for the size of your foster dog.

Dog-proofing your home

Foster dogs come from a shelter environment, and even if they have previously lived in a home, we don't always know how they will react in a new home. So, before bringing home a new foster dog, you'll want to survey the area where you are going to keep your foster dog. Remove anything that would be unsafe or undesirable for the dog to chew on, and securely latch any cupboards and doors

that the foster dog could get into. People food and chemicals can be very harmful if consumed by dogs, so please store them in a place that the foster dog cannot access.

Never underestimate your foster dog's abilities. Here are some additional 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.

Section 4: Bringing home your foster dog

Taking care of a foster dog requires a commitment from you to make sure the dog is happy and healthy. Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to these dogs who desperately need your help.

Choosing a foster dog

All of the animals needing fostered through Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control are posted on the foster Facebook page for all fosters to view. The volunteer/foster coordinator will work with you to select a foster dog who meets your specific requirements. We will always do our best to match you with a dog who fits with your lifestyle and schedule.

When you and the volunteer/foster coordinator have decided on a foster dog, an appointment will be scheduled so you can pick up the dog and any supplies that you will need. The volunteer/foster coordinator will meet you at the shelter and introduce you to the dog. Together, you and the volunteer/foster coordinator will decide if the dog is the right fit for you. Be honest: If you aren't comfortable with anything about the animal you may be fostering, please tell the volunteer/foster coordinator before you take the animal home.

Dog introductions

If you have personal pets who are dogs, you'll want to introduce them to your foster dog one at a time and supervise their interactions at first. 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 pets who are 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 week or two, 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 and dogs

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 away a toy or prized possession 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.

Section 5: Daily care

Feeding

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified by the volunteer/foster coordinator. We use Hill's Science Diet dog food and ask that you use the same or a food of similar or better quality. 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 rawhide chews, Greenies, antlers, Nylabones or Dentabones. Keep in mind, though, that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.

Daily routine

When you first take your foster dog home, take care not to overwhelm them with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes, too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly

toward a person or animal. It's a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of weeks after you bring your foster dog home. It's also important to establish a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on.

Also, on a daily basis, be aware of your foster dog's appetite and energy level. If she's not eating well or seems listless, something may be wrong medically. Please record your observations to make it easier to notice any health issues.

House-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.

Because a dog has a better chance of being adopted if she is house-trained, please help your foster dog to learn this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times per day and keep them on leash so they are less distracted. Immediately after they potty verbally praise the dog and offer a yummy treat. Initially, you may need to take them out more frequently to remind them where the door to the outside is and to reassure them that you will take them out for potty breaks. 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. Keep the dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise her indoors.

If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, don't discipline or punish them. It 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.

Crate training

Crate training, done in a positive way, can be an effective component of house-training. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have "down time" and can also limit his access to the entire house until he knows the rules. A crate should never be used as a form of punishment and a dog should never be left in a crate for an extended period of time.

You can prevent problems with crate training by setting your foster dog up for success. They should only associate good things with the crate, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging them to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If they are afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far as they are willing to go. After they take the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until they are eating treats at the very back, then feed them their next meal in the crate with the door open, so that they can walk in and out at will.

Crate training a fearful dog can take days, so be patient and encouraging. If a crate is properly introduced and used, your foster dog will happily enter and settle down.

Grooming

A clean and well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted, so brush them regularly if they have longer hair or require more frequent grooming. Contact the volunteer/foster coordinator if you feel that your foster dog needs to see a professional groomer.

Chewing

Destructive chewing is a phase that most puppies go through. It usually starts around three months and can last until the dog is one year old. During this time, the dog's adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps relieve the pain. Adult dogs usually chew on inappropriate things because they are anxious or bored, or because they have never been taught what is appropriate to chew on. The best solution for destructive chewing is providing your foster dog with something that is acceptable to chew on. Alternate chew toys daily and do not leave all toys out all the time. If you catch your dog chewing

on something inappropriate, interrupt them with a neutral (non-praise, but also non-punishment) noise that gets their attention. Offer them an appropriate toy or chew instead as a means of redirecting the chewing behavior.

Mental stimulation and exercise

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. 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.

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.

Safety requirements

Foster dogs must live indoors, not outside. Please do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised, even if you have a fenced yard. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when they are outside at all times to ensure that they don't escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals. Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in an enclosed backyard that is completely fenced in.

When walking or hiking with your foster dog, please keep them on leash at all times. This means that your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash dog areas. 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. In addition, 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.

If your foster dog gets loose from you or lost contact the volunteer/foster department immediately. Also, your foster dog cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup truck. When you're transporting foster dogs, please keep them inside the vehicle.

Section 6: What if something goes wrong?

Should you encounter any issues please contact Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control immediately.

If the dog gets loose: Sometimes despite our best intentions, a dog will get loose. Please try not to panic. 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!

If a bite occurs: 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.

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.

Section 7: Medical and emergency protocols

During the time that you foster, you'll need to make a few appointments — to pick up and drop off your foster dog, take 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 notify the volunteer/foster department immediately to reschedule as appointment times fill out quickly.

If you are fostering a dog who is on medications, please make sure that he/she gets all prescribed doses. Do not end medication early for any reason. If your foster dog has not responded to prescribed medications after five days (or in the time instructed by a veterinarian), please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator.

If you notice anything out of the ordinary or have any questions medically about your foster dog please contact the volunteer/foster department.

Signs of illness and what to do next

Dogs generally do a good job of masking when they don't feel well, so determining if your foster dog is not feeling well will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. Please keep track of these levels on your log. It is also important to wash your hands frequently and you may also want to change your clothes after handling ill dogs to help prevent the spread of illness.

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 volunteer/foster coordinator as medication may be needed.

Coughing 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 volunteer/foster coordinator 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 volunteer/foster coordinator. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12 to 24 hours, call the volunteer/foster coordinator to set up an appointment. Please do not change the dog's diet without contacting the volunteer/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.

Dehydration. Dehydration is usually associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, gently pinch the dog's skin around the scruff area. If the skin stays taut, the dog is dehydrated. Please call the volunteer/foster coordinator the next business day to schedule an appointment.

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 volunteer/foster department. It could be indicative of infection.

Pain or strain while urinating. 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 coordinator. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little or no results, or crying out when urinating, please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator immediately because it may be indicative of an infection or an obstruction.

Diarrhea. It is important to monitor your foster dog's pooping habits daily. Soft stool is normal for the first two or three days after taking a dog home, most likely caused by stress and a change in food. If your foster dog has liquid stool, however, please contact the volunteer/foster department so that an appointment can be scheduled to ensure that the dog doesn't need medications. Keep in mind that diarrhea will dehydrate the dog, so be proactive about contacting the volunteer/foster department. If your foster dog has bloody or mucus diarrhea, please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator.

Frequent ear scratching. Your foster dog may have a bacterial or yeast infection (or, in rare cases, ear mites) if she scratches her ears often and/or shakes her head frequently. These conditions can be treated, so please call the volunteer/foster coordinator to schedule an appointment.

Swollen, irritated ears. 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.

Hair loss. Please contact the volunteer/foster department if you notice any hair loss on your foster dog. 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, dermatitis or the early stages of mange. It is important to check your foster dog's coat every day.

Common ailments in animals from shelters

Shelter dogs may suffer from kennel cough, giardia or intestinal parasites. Symptoms of kennel cough include a dry hacking cough, often with phlegm discharge, discharge from the nose and/or eyes, decrease in appetite, dehydration and slight lethargy. Symptoms of giardia or intestinal parasites include vomiting, diarrhea (often with a pungent odor) and/or dehydration.

If your foster dog is displaying one or more of these signs, please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator. These ailments can worsen if left untreated.

Criteria for emergencies

Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing
- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever (above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma
- A large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours

If your foster dog displays any of these symptoms, please follow the emergency phone protocol. If the animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help. However, if the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, start the emergency phone protocol.

Emergency Protocol

- Contact the volunteer/foster department during regular business hours.
- If after hours call **260-449-3000**. An animal control officer will be available to assist you.

Section 8: Behavior support

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.

You must not 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. that arises with your foster dog please contact the volunteer/foster department.

If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator during business hours to discuss the issue. We will guide you and help in every way that we can. If the behavior is extreme enough to warrant use of a trainer, we will provide one for you.

Section 9: Moms and puppies

Mother dogs need to be in a calm environment so that they can be stress-free and feel like they are keeping their puppies safe. Sometimes, stress can cause a mother dog to not care for her babies properly. With that in mind, choose a private and quiet room of your home, away from the daily activities of your family, in which to situate the mother dog and her puppies.

It's also important that they be kept away from other pets in the home. Other pets can be perceived as a threat by the mother dog and cause her to act aggressively to protect her young. If you have children and an active home, it may be best to foster when the puppies are a bit older. Sometimes mother dogs will behave less defensively if their puppies are older.

Bringing everyone home

Set up your fostering room before you bring the mother dog and her puppies home.

A whelping box (A small kiddie pool works as well) is a box that is large enough for the mother dog to lie on her side slightly away from her puppies with all of the puppies in the box with her. The box should have sides high enough to prevent the puppies from wandering away, but low enough so it's easy for the mother dog to come and go as she needs to. Lining the bottom of the box with puppy pads topped with newspapers will help absorb moisture. You can place an easy-to-clean blanket on top of the absorbent materials to give the mother dog and puppies a soft place to lie on. Please keep all these materials dry so that the puppies are not chilled by dampness. Do not place straw, hay or shavings in the area where the mother and puppies are kept.

When you bring your foster puppies and their mom home, put them all in the fostering room and close the door, allowing the mom to explore on her own. Give her a couple of hours before you enter her room.

Mom's care of her puppies

The momma dog should take care of her puppies by herself for at least three to four weeks before she starts the weaning process for her babies. Each momma dog that you foster will be slightly different in her level of attentiveness, but there are three basic stages of nursing (see below). If for any reason your momma dog is not performing one of the listed functions, please notify the volunteer/foster coordinator right away to evaluate whether the mom has a medical concern that we need to address.

Puppies are born blind, but they can feel their mother's heat and seek her out to begin nursing within two hours of being born. Mother dogs should be lying on their sides to ensure that their puppies can find the nipples for nursing. Here are three stages of nursing:

- One to two weeks old: The mother dog initiates nursing by licking her puppies to wake them up and curling her body around them. After she wakes all of her babies, the puppies search for a short time period and then quickly latch on.
- Two to three weeks old: The puppies' eyes and ears begin to function and they start to explore beyond the nesting area. This is when the puppies start interacting and playing with their mother. At this age, the puppies start to initiate some of the nursing and momma should comply by lying in the nursing position.

- Four to five weeks old: The puppies begin weaning and, in turn, the mother dog no longer initiates any nursing. If the mother dog still allows the puppies to nurse, it will be initiated by the puppies and can be lateral or upright nursing.

Occasionally, mom dogs develop mastitis when their puppies stop nursing and begin to eat on their own. Mastitis occurs when the mammary glands inflame and harden, creating a very painful infection for the mother cat and causing symptoms such as a fever and listlessness. If you think your mother dog may have mastitis, call the volunteer/foster coordinator on the next business day.

The mother dog will groom and lick her babies frequently for the first two to four weeks. She will stimulate her puppies to pee and poop, and will generally consume the fecal matter and urine.

To ensure that the mother dog has enough to eat, give her access dry food at all times and offer wet food 2-3 times daily. Food intake for a nursing mother can be two to four times the amount eaten by a dog who's not nursing.

When fostering a momma dog, it is very important to observe her behavior daily and watch her interactions with her puppies to spot any problems.

Problem behaviors in momma dogs

Here are some details about problem behaviors in momma dogs and what you can do about them.

Maternal neglect. Sometimes a mother dog stops providing care to one or all of her puppies. The neglect may be because of a birth defect or weakness in the puppy; she may just be trying to follow nature's course, focusing her attention on the stronger puppies. Neglect may also happen because she is inexperienced or she's in a stressful environment. Either way, that's why it's so important to make daily observations to ensure that she is caring for her babies. You should weigh each puppy once a day to ensure that they are gaining weight. If you notice that she is spending all of her time away from the puppies, is not grooming or nursing them frequently, or doesn't respond to their cries, please call the volunteer/foster coordinator right away.

Maternal aggression toward other animals. Aggressive behavior directed at other animals is common and expected from mother dogs because they have a maternal instinct to protect their young at all times. With that in mind, please do not try to introduce her to the other animals in your home. As mentioned above, the mom dog and her puppies should have a quiet room of their own away from all other pets so that she and her babies can always feel safe. If she has seen another animal and becomes stressed or aggressive, it is very important to leave her alone and not try to comfort her. Give her 20 minutes or so to calm down and then check on her.

Maternal aggression toward people. Sometimes mother dogs will act aggressively toward people. These behaviors may include growling, showing teeth, and nipping. Again, the mother is merely trying to protect her young. We evaluate mom dogs for these behaviors before sending them into foster homes, but sometimes the behaviors develop later. If you have a mother exhibiting these behaviors, do not try to "correct" the behavior with a spray bottle or any type of punishment. She is only acting out of instinct to protect her babies and you could cause her aggressive behavior to escalate. Contact the volunteer/foster coordinator at the first sign of any of the above behaviors so we can assess the situation and decide on the safest option for momma and her babies.

Separating puppies and moms

If all of your foster animals, mom included, are healthy and friendly, we have no reason to separate mom from puppies before they are eight weeks old. But there are a few medical or behavioral reasons for separating them earlier than eight weeks:

- As mentioned above, if the mother dog is showing signs of maternal neglect and is no longer caring for her puppies, the volunteer/foster coordinator may decide to separate her from her puppies.
- If the mother dog is very under socialized, we may decide to separate the puppies once they are eating on their own consistently and no longer need to nurse (around four to five weeks old). Separating them would prevent the puppies from learning behaviors from their mother and help them to become socialized.
- If there is a medical concern about the mom or babies, our shelter veterinarian could make the decision to separate the puppies from the mother dog.

The puppies' best chance at survival is to stay with their mom. Please do not separate your foster puppies from their mom for any reason, or attempt to supplement the mother's milk with formula, without consulting the volunteer/foster coordinator.

Section 10: Orphaned Puppies

Raising orphaned puppies can be very rewarding. It is, however, a serious responsibility that requires some time and work on your part if you want to help the little ones grow up healthy and happy. Close observation and prompt attention if any problems develop are especially important.

Basic medical care for newborn puppies

What are the medical concerns when raising orphaned puppies? Here's some basic information about what's normal and what's not.

Temperature. A normal rectal temperature for a newborn puppy is 95 to 99 degrees Fahrenheit for the first week, and 97 to 100 for the second week. By the fourth week, the puppy's temperature should reach the normal temperature of an adult dog: 100 to 102 degrees. Puppies under the age of about 38 days have a reduced ability to regulate their body temperature and will need a temperature-controlled environment.

Weight. Weighing the puppies daily to check for weight gain can reassure you that they are doing well. If a puppy is failing to gain weight or losing weight, you should consult with the volunteer/foster coordinator.

Vision. Puppies' eyes open when they are 10 to 14 days old. Because their eyes are very sensitive to light, they should be kept out of direct sunlight until approximately four weeks of age.

Hearing. The ear canals of puppies open between five and eight days.

Warmth. A puppy burns far more body heat per pound of body weight than an adult dog. To stay warm, puppies depend on radiant heat from their mother. In her absence, they need constant temperature control. So, you'll have to provide your puppies with a draft-free nesting area. Snuggle Safe warming devices can be used to keep the temperature controlled.

During the first four or five days of life, puppies should be kept in an environment that is between 85 and 90 degrees. The temperature may gradually be decreased to 80 degrees by the seventh to tenth day, and may be reduced to 70-75 degrees by the end of the fourth week.

Provide necessary warmth or cooling to the puppies gradually. If you have a large litter, they will huddle together, which means they won't require as much help with external heat from you. Take care not to overheat the puppies; newborns cannot move away from the heat on their own.

Stimulation for elimination. For the first two weeks of life, puppies are stimulated by their mother to encourage urination and defecation. In the absence of their mother, you will have to provide the

stimulation. Massage your puppies' genital area with a moist cloth to stimulate bladder and bowel action. After two weeks, puppies should urinate and defecate on their own. Watch them carefully to make sure that happens.

Diarrhea. Diarrhea is common in puppies and may be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes (e.g., formula that is too concentrated, a new brand of formula), stress, overfeeding and other causes. If the diarrhea is mild and the puppy is otherwise alert and vigorous, you can try giving less food more often and monitor the pup closely.

Also, make sure that the puppy gets a lot of fluid, as they are prone to dehydration if they don't get enough. This can be done by diluting the formula with extra water, or giving the puppy clean warm water in a bottle or syringe. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than three or four feedings, or contains blood or obvious parasites, you should call the volunteer/foster department.

Dehydration. The lack of normal parental care may mean that you receive puppies who are dehydrated. They may also become dehydrated from other causes, such as diarrhea, vomiting or by being chilled. Newborns can't nurse if they are too cold, because their energy is spent trying to stay warm.

One sign of dehydration is loss of elasticity in the skin. If you pick up the pup's scruff with two fingers, it will stay up, looking pinched. Another way to test for dehydration is to look at the puppy's gums (mucous membranes). The gums should be moist and shiny; if you touch them, they should not be sticky.

Hypoglycemia. Hypoglycemia, an abnormal decrease of sugar in the blood, can also happen to orphaned puppies. The signs to look for are lack of strength, lethargy (lack of movement), and muscle twitching (sometimes with convulsions). If a puppy shows signs of hypoglycemia, place a few drops of corn syrup under his tongue and on the gums, and call the volunteer/foster department for further assistance.

Internal parasites. If a puppy is developing very slowly, has an extremely large bloated belly or has blood in his stool, he may have internal parasites. The shelter has deworming protocols that will be followed.

Puppy living space, feeding, disease prevention

Living space. If the puppies were being cared for by their mother, she would choose a place that is soft, warm and away from full sunlight. In the absence of their mother, you must provide this type of environment. A carrier may be large enough for a first home for the family. Put the carrier in a warm, sheltered space. (See the section above on temperature.) If the litter is a big one, you may need to use a child-size plastic pool. As the puppies grow, watch to see whether they can climb out of the box or pool. Once puppies start to move, they can climb well within a surprisingly short period of time.

Bedding. Use clean packing paper (newspaper without print) or newspaper layered on top of a flat towel for the first week or so. Newborn puppies can get caught up in soft cloth. After they are able to lift their heads and move around a bit, you can use a towel, sheet or blanket. When the puppies start crawling, and then walking, they'll use the cloth for traction.

Feeding. Newborns will need food every two to three hours, around the clock. Six or eight meals, equally spaced over 24 hours, are sufficient for most puppies; small or weak puppies may need more feedings.

You can give your orphans complete nutrition by using a commercial puppy milk replacer.

Commercial milk replacers have feeding directions on the label and should be given at the puppy's

body temperature (about 100 degrees). Once the can is opened or the powder reconstituted, unused formula should be kept refrigerated and discarded after 24 hours. When the puppies are 3-4 weeks old, you can start feeding them milk replacer at room temperature.

When feeding orphaned puppies, it's best to use commercial animal baby bottles; you can use an eyedropper in an emergency, but it does not allow normal sucking as well as a nipple. The size of the hole in the nipple is crucial. If you turn the bottle upside down and the milk drips freely, the hole is too large. The bottle should require a light squeeze (simulating a puppy suckling) for milk to drip out. If you need to make the hole bigger, you can heat a needle with a lighter and use it to enlarge the hole.

Here are the steps for feeding:

1. Position the puppy on his stomach with his head level, as though he is nursing from mom. Puppies do not have a well-developed gag reflex, so you must be very careful that fluid does not go down the windpipe into the pup's lungs. For this reason, do not feed the puppy on his back.
2. Open the puppy's mouth gently with one finger and place the tip of the nipple on his tongue. If he won't eat, try stroking him.
3. Tilt the bottle up slightly to prevent the puppy from inhaling too much air. Do not force the puppy to nurse, or allow him to nurse too fast.
4. After each feeding, the puppy should be burped. Hold him against your shoulder and gently pat his back.

Disease prevention. Puppies are very vulnerable to disease, so disease prevention is really important. Always wash your hands before touching the puppies. If you work with other animals or visit shelters or dog parks (anyplace where you come into contact with other dogs), always change your clothes and shoes **before** entering the area where the puppies are kept and before handling the puppies.

Nail trimming. The puppies will need nail trims often, so if you have not trimmed toenails on dogs, ask staff to show you how to do it safely. Human nail clippers work well on small puppies.

Visitors. You should limit the number of visitors and the number of people who handle the pups until the puppies are a few weeks old. Hand-washing before handling the puppies is always recommended. Limit interaction if the visitors have been in contact with sick animals or have been to a shelter just before visiting. Use caution: Gentle handling and disease control will continue to be concerns for many weeks.

Veterinary checkup and weaning

Visits to the shelter. Puppies in a foster should start receiving vaccinations at 4-6 weeks of age and every two weeks thereafter until 18 weeks of age.

Weaning puppies to gruel. During the third week, begin offering the puppies a dish of water. The dish should be one that isn't too large and cannot be tipped over, since the pups may attempt to climb into it instead of drinking from it.

Then, introduce the puppies to gruel. Make a gruel by blending a good-quality dry puppy food with commercial milk replacer. Put the gruel (warmed up and not too thick) in a low pan. As the puppies discover how to lap up the gruel, you can gradually thicken the mixture. Feed gruel four times a day. By week six, most puppies can eat a diet of dry puppy food. Don't forget to give them a constant supply of fresh water.

Socializing puppies

In your role of dog parent, you will have the challenge of safely socializing the pups to the rest of the world. They have much to learn — things that mom would normally teach them. Be careful to protect the puppies from any harm, keeping in mind that not all other animals like puppies.

When children visit, supervision is absolutely necessary. Puppies can scratch and bite; children sometimes get too rough in their handling of them. Both children and puppies can benefit from learning the proper manners required for human-animal relationships to be safe and harmonious. The puppies should also encounter a variety of people, objects, sounds and smells — anything you can think of that is commonplace out in the world. To prevent them from becoming fearful of noises, for instance, you can play thunderstorm sounds, run the vacuum and turn on the TV all while offering yummy treats to make the experience positive.

Section 11: Cleaning

Cleaning up between dogs

Once you've returned your foster dog to Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control for adoption, you must sanitize your fostering area before you can take home another dog. If you have items that can be washed in the dishwasher, please do so since the heat will disinfect those items. Plastic or metal items that need to be sterilized, such as crates or plastic toys, should be soaked in the bleach solution for 10 minutes and then rinsed off. Wash all bedding with bleach and hot water and throw away any toys that cannot be sterilized. Being conscientious about sterilization will help ensure that your next foster will not catch any illnesses from the previous dog.

Daily Cleaning Protocols:

- Remove and throw away disposable items.
- Remove reusable items. Place unsoiled bedding and toys aside to return to the same kennel once cleaning is complete.
- Dirty bedding and toys should be laundered.
- Clean out all debris from the kennel area.
- If any spots remain, lightly spray a towel with bleach solution and scrub the area until clean. NEVER spray the kennel area, only spray the cleaning towel.
- (Bleach solution is 1:32, 32oz Spray Bottle = 1oz of bleach + 32oz of water)
- Make sure the kennel is **completely dry** before setting the kennel area back up.

Deep Cleaning Protocols should be utilized as needed and after your foster dog returns to FWACC:

- Put on a pair of gloves.
- Remove ALL items from kennel.
- Throw away all disposable items. Place all bedding and fabric toys in the laundry and all reusable items in the sink. When available, use metal bowls instead of plastic. Plastic is porous and can harbor bacteria.
- Clean out all debris from the kennel.
- Thoroughly spray all surfaces with bleach solution.
- (Bleach solution is 1:10 ratio; 32oz Spray Bottle = 3oz of bleach + 30oz of water)
- Let the chemical sit for **10 minutes** while it disinfects the kennel.

- Dampen towel with more bleach solution and wipe down the kennel while making sure to clean any nooks, crannies, and surfaces as thoroughly as possible.

Bleach Rules

Make a new batch of bleach solution for each use. Bleach rapidly degrades in the presence of light and when mixed with water.

Let it sit on the surface for 10 minutes. Enough solution should be applied to ensure it does not evaporate within 10 minutes.

Discard any remaining solution.

During disease outbreak, clean all kennels with disposable paper towels rather than fabric towels. Discard any fabric items that the infected animal came in contact with and soak any reusable plastic/metal items in Bleach solution overnight. Discard all mop heads and brooms. Deep clean contaminated kennel multiple times over multiple days with Bleach before allowing a new animal to occupy.

Section 12: Scheduling appointments for your foster dog

During the time that you foster dogs, you'll need to make a few appointments — to pick up and drop off your dog, take 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 notify the volunteer/foster department immediately to reschedule as appointment times fill up quickly.

Picking up and returning your foster dog

To pick up and return dogs, simply schedule an appointment with the volunteer/foster coordinator. This is typically done straight through our foster Facebook page when you comment on the status of a dog waiting for foster. Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control does have the right to assist foster families in selecting dogs that are best suited for their lifestyle and experience.

Scheduling vaccines for your foster dog

When you pick up your foster dog, you will receive the dates that your foster dogs' vaccines are due and any pertinent medical or behavioral information that you need for that dog. Upcoming appointments are scheduled at the time of pick up.

Scheduling vet appointments for your foster dog

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 dog's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster dogs.

If your foster needs to see the shelter veterinarian, please notify the volunteer/foster coordinator by email or phone. The volunteer/foster coordinator 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 the volunteer/foster coordinator.

Picking up supplies

If you need additional supplies for your foster dog please help yourself to our foster supply pantry. If you do not see what you are looking for please find volunteer/foster department staff as they can assist you.

Scheduling your foster dog's spay/neuter surgery

When your foster puppy is 8 weeks old, they can be spayed or neutered. You will contact the volunteer/foster department to schedule a day/time to bring the puppy in for surgery. If your adult dog is not spayed/neutered already Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control will keep in close contact with you on when that can happen. Dogs/puppies need dropped off at the shelter the afternoon before the surgery date between 4-6pm or between 7-7:30am the day of surgery. The day after surgery dogs will come into the adoption program.

Section 13: Helping your foster dog get adopted

Frequently asked questions

When is my foster dog ready for adoption?

Puppies are ready for adoption once they reach 8 weeks old and have their spay/neuter surgery. Adult dogs are ready for adoption after they have completed their treatment/behavior program requirements and are spayed/neutered.

Will I need to take my foster dog to adoption events?

Sometimes with litters of puppies we arrange Puppy Snuggle events. This is where our fosters bring their foster puppies to a location where guests can make a donation to play and socialize with them.

How can I help my foster dog find a great home?

As you get to know your foster dog, we ask that you stay in close contact with the volunteer/foster coordinator so that we can update the foster animal's biography online to reflect accurate information about the dog's preferences and quirks. Some people write their own biography for their foster dogs, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also welcome any quality photos that you take of your foster dog in your home; we can use the photos to create a kennel card and accompany the online biography. You may market your foster dog through mouth, social media, etc.

What if I know someone who's interested in adopting my foster dog?

If you would like to adopt your foster, or find someone who wants to adopt your foster, we will need a completed adoption profile from the potential adopter (with foster's name and animal number) and the full adoption process will be followed. Please contact the volunteer/foster coordinator right away with this information because once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.

Section 14: Breaks

We understand bringing your foster dog back may be an emotional time for many fosters. A one to two week break between foster assignments is generally enforced for reasons of sanitation and mental health.

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!

Modified from the Best Friends Animal Society's Dog Foster Care Manual

Thanks again for opening your home for dogs/puppies in need. Please reach out to the volunteer/foster department for any additional questions/concerns.

Additional Resources

Maddie's Fund How to Bottle Feed Kittens and Puppies

https://www.maddiesfund.org/how-to-bottle-feed-kittens-and-puppies/presentation_html5.html

Maddie's Fund Kitten and Puppy Bottle Feeding Problems and Solutions

https://www.maddiesfund.org/kitten-and-puppy-bottle-feeding-problems-and-solutions/presentation_html5.html

Maddie's Fund Transitioning Kittens and Puppies to Solid Food

https://www.maddiesfund.org/transitioning-kittens-and-puppies-to-solid-food/presentation_html5.html

Maddie's Fund How to Stimulate an Orphaned Kitten or Puppy to Pee and Poop

https://www.maddiesfund.org/how-to-stimulate-an-orphaned-kitten-or-puppy-to-pee-and-poop/presentation_html5.html

Maddie's Fund Taking the Temperature in a Kitten or Puppy

https://www.maddiesfund.org/Taking-the-Temperature-in-a-Kitten-or-Puppy/presentation_html5.html

How to greet a dog: <https://www.facebook.com/166775166774321/posts/2273369596114857/>

Dog body language: https://youtu.be/bstvG_SUzMo

What dogs are saying, this is a good resource in general: <http://www.ispeakdog.org/how-to-speak-dog.html>

Understanding dog tolerance levels: <https://vimeo.com/210692574>

<https://www.adoptapet.com/> has great recourses as well

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

Puppy Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

Puppy Weight (lbs, oz)	Puppy Weight (grams)	Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)**	Amount Per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
2 oz	57 g	11 kcal	13 ml	2 ml	6
4 oz	113 g	23 kcal	25 ml	5 ml	6
6 oz	170 g	34 kcal	38 ml	7 ml	6
8 oz	227 g	45 kcal	50 ml	9 ml	6
10 oz	284 g	57 kcal	63 ml	11 ml	6
12 oz	340 g	68 kcal	76 ml	14 ml	6
14 oz	397 g	79 kcal	88 ml	16 ml	6
16 oz (1 lb)	454 g	91 kcal	101 ml	18 ml	6
2 lb	907 g	181 kcal	202 ml	36 ml	6
3 lb	1,361 g	272 kcal	302 ml	54 ml	6
4 lb	1,814 g	363 kcal	403 ml	73 ml	6
5 lb	2,268 g	454 kcal	504 ml	91 ml	6
6 lb	2,722 g	544 kcal	605 ml	109 ml	6
7 lb	3,175 g	635 kcal	706 ml	127 ml	6
8 lb	3,629 g	726 kcal	806 ml	145 ml	6

* The daily caloric requirement was calculated using 20 kcal/100 g body weight and the amount per feeding using 4 ml/100 g body weight. The energy requirement is ~20-26 kcal/100g body weight daily and the maximum comfortable stomach capacity is ~4 ml/100 g body weight.¹

** Concentration 0.9 kcal/ml. Most commercial puppy milk replacers in the US provide less than 1 kcal/ml, acting to increase the volume of milk required to meet caloric needs. This can be problematic in terms of the number and size of feedings given relative to stomach capacity and more likely to result in gastrointestinal disturbances. This may also account for why bottle fed puppies grow slower than puppies that nurse off a mother.

*** As the puppy is adjusting well to the milk and the feeding volume, you may be able to increase the volume fed to help reduce the number of feedings per day. Be aware that exceeding the stomach capacity (amount per feeding) may put the puppy at risk of aspiration, vomiting, diarrhea, and gas build-up in the stomach and intestines.

Puppies at that are between 3 ½ -5 weeks of age are usually eating some solid food, decreasing the amount of milk replacer required to meet daily caloric requirements. This may result in less frequent milk feedings.

¹ Lawler, D. F. "Neonatal and pediatric care of the puppy and kitten." *Theriogenology*, vol. 70, no.3, 2008, pp. 384-392.



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FECAL SCORE CHART

Fecal consistency is primarily a function of the amount of moisture in the stool and can be used to identify changes in colonic health and other problems. Ideally, in a healthy animal, stools should be firm but not hard, pliable and segmented, and easy to pick up (Score 2).



Score 1
Very hard and dry; requires much effort to expel from the body; no residue left on ground when picked up. Often expelled as individual pellets.



Score 2
Firm, but not hard; should be pliable; segmented in appearance; little or no residue left on ground when picked up.



Score 3
Log-like; little or no segmentation visible; moist surface; leaves residue, but holds firm when picked up.



Score 4
Very moist (soggy); distinct log shape visible; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



Score 5
Very moist but has distinct shape (piles rather than distinct logs); leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



Score 6
Has texture, but no defined shape; occurs as piles or as spots; leaves residue when picked up.



Score 7
Watery, no texture, flat; occurs as puddles. Leaves residue.

