

Foster Care Manual



Section 1: Introduction

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering dogs for NCPAS. By opening up your home to foster dogs, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these dogs desperately need.

Once you have completed your foster application online, a volunteer will get in touch with you. In the session, we'll go over this manual and answer any questions you have about the program.

Our dog foster program is designed to help dogs adjust from shelter life to home life. In a loving foster home, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family.

Foster homes are asked to provide care for the dogs, as well as transportation to and from veterinary appointments and adoption events as needed. 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. By participating in this program, you are saving lives and helping dogs find the families they've been longing for.

Through fostering, we can work together to answer the call of animals in need.

Frequently asked questions

Where do the foster dogs come from?

The dogs in need of foster care come mainly from the southern United States and New York City. We do occasionally take in owner surrenders

What do foster families need to provide?

Foster families need to provide:

- A healthy and safe environment for their foster dogs
- Transportation to and from all vet appointments, meet and greets, adoption appointments and adoption events
- Socialization and cuddle time to help teach dogs positive family and pet relationships
- Lots of 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. We will do our best to match you with the best animal 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 okay 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 the foster dog. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you are outside. If the dog is outside and not in a fenced, secured yard, the dog must remain on a leash. Because of safety issues, retractable leashes are NOT permitted at any time.

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

Ideally, until their forever home is found. It is really tough on already stressed dogs to be shuffled around. GENERALLY they will be with you for under a month.

Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?

Almost all of the dogs that we have in our foster program are rescued from shelters 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 the animal 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 an NCPAS pet, we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet.

What if I want to adopt my foster dog?

If you want to adopt a foster dog, you will need to complete the adoption application. Communication is key if you are thinking of adopting – that way we don't promise the dog to someone else.

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 for NCPAS you will need to contact the foster coordinator to make arrangements until you return. Please provide at least one week's notice. If your trip is over a holiday, please provide a minimum of two weeks' notice. If adequate notice is not given, you may be asked to provide payment for your foster dog's boarding.

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 me?

If any of your foster pets bite you and break skin, you need to report the bite to the staff member within 24 hours of when the bite occurred. The law requires that we report all bites. If you are unsure, then please report the bite anyway.

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. However, we may not have an immediate alternate foster home for the dog. We will work on

moving your foster dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience. Please contact the foster coordinator if this situation arises.

Section 2: Preparing for your foster dog

When you take your foster dog home, he may be frightened or unsure about what's happening, so it's important not to overwhelm him. Prepare a special area for the foster dog to help ease his 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 him adjust before giving him 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 his food and water dishes and toys.

We require 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 she is 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 her own where she 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 until you are comfortable that all of the animals can interact safely.

We do ask that you follow the two-week shutdown protocol, which is included in this packet.

Supplies you will need

NCPAS 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: All dogs are fed dry food unless a special diet is needed. We ask that foster dogs be fed a good, quality food like Science Diet, Purina Pro Plan or something similar.
- We do not allow choke, prong, or shock collars.
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well.
- A baby gate: This comes in handy to keep certain areas of your home off-limits.
- 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 latch securely 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 3: 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. Without you, we could not save as many as we do.

Choosing a foster dog

The 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 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.

Either the foster coordinator or the director will meet you and introduce you to the dog. Together, you 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 staff member 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 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.

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. 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 smells.

After a week or two, do the face-to-face 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.) 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 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.

- Put the dog in his crate or a separate room when the kids are eating or have snacks.

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.

Section 4: Daily care

Feeding

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified by the staff member. 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 hoofs, 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 her with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes, too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly toward a person or animal, which is why it's a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of days 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. You might want to 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. Most of the dogs in the foster program have lived in a shelter for a while, often with minimal walks or chances to relieve themselves outside. 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 perfect this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times per day (3-6 times daily, depending on age). Initially, you may need to take her out more frequently to remind her where the door to the outside is and to reassure her that you will take her 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 her. It will only teach her 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. He should only associate good things with the crate, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging him to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If he is afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far as he is willing to go. After he takes the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until he is eating treats at the very back, then feed him his next meal in the crate with the door

open, so that he 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.

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 he is outside at all times to ensure that he doesn'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 her 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.

Section 5: Helping your foster dog get adopted

Frequently asked questions

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 constant contact with the foster coordinator so that he/she can update the foster animal's biography 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 need quality photos that you take of your foster dog in your home. Please send the info about your foster dog and photos to info@northcountrypetadoption.org or to the rescue's facebook page.

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 many more dogs need wonderful foster homes like yours. Remember, you are playing a crucial role in helping to answer the call of animals in need.

Section 6: Medical and emergency protocols

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 animal has not responded to prescribed medications after five days (or in the time instructed by a veterinarian), please contact the foster coordinator.

Veterinary care

NCPAS provides all medical care for our foster animals at our approved veterinary clinics (Lowville and Carthage Countryside Veterinary Clinics.) Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster dog's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster dogs at our approved veterinary partners.

If your foster dog needs to go to the veterinarian, please notify a staff member by email (info@northcountrypetadoption.org) or Facebook Messenger. The staff member will schedule the appointment. For non-emergency situations, please understand that our veterinary partners book quickly and may not be available for same-day appointments.

Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster animal to a veterinarian without authorization from a staff member.

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 under the weather will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. It's a good idea to keep track of these levels in a journal. You'll also want to record any of the following symptoms, which could be signs 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 staff member to schedule a vet appointment.

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 staff member to find out if a vet appointment is necessary.

If the discharge becomes colored, make a vet appointment 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, call the foster coordinator immediately and 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, however, if the dog hasn't eaten after 24 hours, please notify the staff member. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12 to 24 hours, call the foster coordinator to set up a vet 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. Keeping an activity log and journal will help you notice whether your foster dog is less active than he normally is. 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 foster coordinator the next business day to schedule a vet 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 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 us 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 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 foster department. If your foster dog has bloody or mucoid diarrhea, please contact the foster coordinator immediately.

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 by a veterinarian, so please call the staff member to schedule a medical 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 called otitis. 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 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 foster coordinator. These ailments can worsen if left untreated.

Always pick up fecal matter immediately from foster animals.

Criteria for emergencies

What constitutes a medical emergency in a dog? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. 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: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- 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.

Section 7: 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 dogs, 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.

Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we may or may not be aware of at the time of their rescue. Some of these behavior challenges are separation anxiety, destruction of property, fear issues or aggression toward other animals. We will only place dogs with known 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 feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the foster coordinator during daytime 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. Please understand that we have limited resources, so for basic training and minor behavior problems, we will personally work with the dog.

Thank you so much for opening up your heart and your home to foster pets. Together, we can answer the call of animals in need.

TWO WEEK SHUT DOWN

“The First Two Weeks – Give’em a Break!”

why?

If I could stress one of the biggest errors people make with new dogs and foster dogs it is rushing the dog into the new world so fast . This shut down gives the dog a chance to say “ahhh” take a breath and restart into its new world.

From people I have helped I hear;

"I introduced her to 15 people the first day I had her!" ;" he was a bit leery but seems to like my other 3 dogs" ; "she went everywhere with me " All in the first few days of the new home..... (!!!)

two weeks later we hear;

" I think we will have to rehome the new dog" "the new dog barked and nipped at my kid"

"we had a dog fight" ; “the new dog barked at me for moving him off the couch”

Ok, folks, here it comes, some feel this is extreme, why? I really do not know.

But when bringing in a new dog, post finding, adoption, buying, etc, Give it time to adjust to you and your family and the dogs in the new environment. Just as if it were a new baby or puppy, we wouldn’t think of rushing out with a baby or puppy, yet with older pups and dogs we just expect them to take our lives in all at once!

TWO WEEKS - "shut down"

For the first two weeks, (sometimes even longer) a dog takes in the new environment, and is figuring out who ARE these people!? By pushing a dog too fast, and throwing too much at the dog we look like we are not the leaders, and the dog can feel it MUST defend itself , as the leader is surely no one he has met so far!

We coo , coodle, drag the dog to home to home to person to person, and the dog has NO idea who we are. We correct for things it doesn't understand, we talk in a new human language using words he does not know.

A key thing to remember is "this is the dating period NOT the honeymoon" When you first met your "spouse or significant other", you were on your best behavior, you were not relaxed enough to be all of yourself, were you? Just think of the things you do physically once you get to KNOW a person, you wouldn't run up to a stranger and hug them and squeeze them! Imagine, if on the first date, this new person, was all over you touching you and having their friends hug you and pat you on the head, and jostle your shoulders, looked in your mouth then he whisked you off to another strangers home and they did the same thing.

Would you think this person normal and SAFE? Wouldn't you feel invaded and begin to get a bit snarky or defensive yourself? Wouldn't you think to push these people away for obviously your date is out of their mind, as they aren't going to save you from these weirdoes!! Yet we do this very thing to our dogs, and then get upset or worried that they aren't relaxed and accepting of EVERYTHING instantly!

By shutting down the dog, it gives the dog TIME to see you , meet YOU, hear and take in the new sounds and smells of your home and all the people in it. In the 1st two weeks;

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Crate the dog in a room by itself if possible. (Believe me, dogs are sensory animals, they know more than you think without seeing it). Leash the dog (so I don't have to correct it ..you don't have that right yet!), give it exercise time in the yard on lunge line or in fenced yard..but other than that.. LEASH , (yes..leash in the house too.) Do no training at all, just fun exercise and maybe throw some toys for fun, leash the dog if you don't have a fence outside. But DO NOT leave the yard, AT ALL.

No car rides, no other dogs, (unless crated beside them), no pet stores, no WALKS even, nothing but you and household family, your home, your yard. (Unless of course the dog needs to go to the veterinarian.)

Believe me dogs can live two weeks without walks. Walks are stressful because there is so much coming at you and your dog, and the dog has no clue who you are yet. The dog may react to something and we start correcting it with the leash and we just installed a VERY STRESSFUL moment to the dog in what should be a fun and learning walk.

TEACH the dog, by doing the shut down, that YOU are the one to look to, that you are now here for the dog! He can trust in you and look to you for guidance. Then you can venture out into new situations one at a time, the dog knows he can trust in his new humans and can relax under their fair guidance.

In the house, take the dog out only for about 20-30 minute intervals , post exercise/yard times.,and ALWAYS on a leash when in the house or in an unfenced yard. Exercise is important! Running and free time are stress relievers, but don't set your dog up for failure, make exercise and yard time fun and relaxing and tiring!

Then PUT THE DOG AWAY. let it absorb and think and relax. Ignore crying or barking, just like a new born baby, he must find security when you are not right there, and if you run to him each time he will think barking and crying will get your attention. I do not introduce resident dogs for these two weeks, they can be side by side in the crates, (not nose to nose for they can feel defensive) . Some dogs will bond instantly with the other dogs if we don't bond FIRST with the dog, and this can lead to some other issues, as the dog will look to the other dog(s) for guidance and not YOU!

Literally in two weeks you will see a change in the dog and begin to see its honest and true personality.

Just like a house guest.. they are well behaved and literally shut down and "polite" these first few weeks, then post this time, they relax and the true personality begins to shine thru.

So, please, if nothing else for your new dog, give it the time to LEARN YOU as you are learning who they are! This method works on shy dogs, confident dogs, abuse cases, chained dogs that come in, rowdy dogs, all temperaments!

Is this an emergency?

Patti: 315-335-7604

Beth: 518-578-9629

Lowville Countryside Vet: 315-376-6563

Carthage Countryside Vet: 315-493-7387

If you are fostering a puppy or kitten, call with any concerns right away. Puppies and kittens go downhill fast, so if you notice something is not right, call immediately.

For Adult Animals:

These are legitimate reasons for waking us up:

- Your pet isn't breathing or you can't feel a heartbeat
- Your pet has experienced some kind of trauma, such as being hit by a car or a blunt object or falling more than a few feet
- Your pet is unconscious and won't wake up
- Your pet has been vomiting or has had diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Your pet is vomiting blood
- You suspect any broken bones
- Your pet is having trouble breathing or has something stuck in her throat
- Your pet is bleeding from the eyes, nose, or mouth, or there is blood in her urine
- You think your pet might have ingested something toxic, such as antifreeze, flower bulbs, rat poison, any kind of medication that wasn't prescribed to her, or household cleansers
- Your pet, particularly your male cat, is straining to urinate, or is unable to
- Your pet shows signs of extreme pain, such as whining, shaking, and refusing to socialize
- Your pet collapses or suddenly can't stand up
- Your pet begins bumping into things or suddenly becomes disoriented
- You can see irritation or injury to your pet's eyes, or she suddenly seems to become blind
- Your pet's abdomen is swollen and hard to the touch, and/or she's gagging and trying to vomit
- You see symptoms of heatstroke
- Your pet is pressing its head against a wall or other object
- Your pregnant dog or cat has gone more than three to four hours between delivering puppies or kittens
- Your pet is having an allergic reaction to something, like an insect bite

A note on diarrhea: unless the animal is young, diarrhea is usually not an emergency, even if it has a little blood or mucus in it. If the animal is a puppy or kitten, let us know immediately. If the animal is older, and there are no other symptoms, it can wait until morning!

Seizures: Stay calm! The animal is probably already stressed out and not feeling right. Don't contribute to their stress! There is not much you can do for them while they are seizing, except keep them safe from the other animals and from falling off of a bed or down stairs. If your foster has a seizure, make sure you separate them from other animals in the house once they have come out of it. Even the best of animals will sometimes attack an animal that is having a seizure. Sometimes animals will have one seizure and that's it. We may just have you keep an eye on things.

The vet that we use is Countryside Veterinary Clinic. They have locations in Carthage and Lowville. If you feel it's a non-life threatening emergency and you can't get ahold of me, call the clinic and the staff there says.

Carthage: 315-493-7387 Lowville: 315-376-6563.

If it's a life-threatening emergency – like being hit by a car, call the clinic and tell them you're on your way, and then call me.

*We can use ANY vet at either clinic

Taking Pictures!

When you foster, it is really important for you to send us many GOOD pictures and videos. We will use those to help your foster get adopted! The pictures have to be of good quality or we can't use them. Even if you aren't a photographer, you can use your phone to take great pictures, AND video! Here are a few tips on taking great pictures:

1. Watch the light! If you are outside, cloudy days can take some of the best pictures! If the sun is out full-blast, find a shady area to take pictures. Or take some in the sun and then some in the shade and see which ones you like better! If you are inside, the flash on your camera or phone will inevitably make your dog look like a zombie. One way to avoid that is to make a homemade diffuser out of a white piece of paper. Cut a piece just big enough to go over the flash and then use tape to keep it in place.
2. Take photos at eye level with your dog! Sometimes that means getting down on the floor with them!
3. As weird as it sounds, most dogs won't look into your camera. The best way around this is to hold a treat near the phone. If you don't have treats, you can sing, make high-pitched clicky sounds, throw wild hand gestures, toss a rock over your shoulder to make noise behind you, or anything else to get them to look. You may feel a little silly, but the end result will be worth it (this advice is courtesy of Wendy Newell who wrote an article for Dogster about pet pictures.)
4. Selfies! It's a great way to get your dog to look at the camera and show people a real person interaction with the dog!
5. Be patient. If you are trying to take their picture, and they don't want to cooperate, just wait for them to settle down. Sometimes this seems like FOREVER. Just be still and calm and they will slow down to see what you're doing eventually.
6. Get pictures with your kids or other animals! (Of course if you are not okay with pictures of your kids being on facebook or petfinder, we totally understand.) Pictures that show potential adopters how your foster behaves around other dogs, cats and kids can tip the scales.
7. Take lots of pictures! That's the beauty of the digital age! Snap away...there's bound to be a good one in the bunch that we can use.

This may all seem like common sense, but it is so important that we have decent pictures of the fosters to show potential adopters! We don't have a building, so really pictures online are the main way people are going to become interested in meeting your foster!

Pictures can be sent to us via facebook messenger or to our email:

info@northcountrypetadoption.org



Foster Home Guidelines, Responsibilities and Release of Liability of North Country Pet Adoption Services, hereby referred to as NCPAS.

Email: info@northcountrypetadoption.org, Phone: 315-335-7604,
www.northcountrypetadoption.org

Please read and initial where a blank appears.

___ I AGREE to care and love ANY foster animal given to me by NCPAS as if it were my own.

___(Dog Fosters) I AGREE to provide my foster dog with exercise, basic obedience training and housetraining.

___I UNDERSTAND that general training information is provided in NCPAS's Information Pack .

___I AGREE to bring the animal to at least one NCPAS adoption event each month (these will generally be at the Lowville Tractor Supply. If you can stay during the event, that would be perfect, but not required.)

___I UNDERSTAND my foster animal may not be spayed or neutered when they first come to me. This will be done as quickly as possible and paid for by NCPAS.

___I UNDERSTAND that all basic medical expenses for each foster animal that comes into my care will be covered by NCPAS, and the foster is not to take to animal to the vet unless cleared by NCPAS or in a dire emergency. If I take the animal without authorization (except in a life-threatening emergency in which case I will still contact NCPAS,) I may be responsible for the bill.

___(For Dogs) I UNDERSTAND that NCPAS will provide a collar, tag, and leash for each foster dog that comes into my care. NCPAS appreciates willingness to donate toward the dog's general expenses, like food, treats, etc., and NCPAS will offer donated items, as available, for use by foster homes (Such general expenses, if paid for by a foster home and not by NCPAS, may be tax deductible.) Crates can be lent to foster homes and returned to NCPAS when a foster dog is adopted.

___(For Cats) I UNDERSTAND NCPAS appreciates willingness to donated toward the cat's general expenses, like litter, food, treats, etc., and NCPAS will offer donated items, as available, for use by foster homes. (Such general expenses if paid for by the foster home and not by NCPAS, may be tax deductible.)

ANIMAL DESCRIPTION AND PHOTO ON WEBSITE

___I AGREE to assist in getting a photo of each foster animal that comes into my care on the NCPAS website. I agree to either take a photo and write a short description myself, and submit it to my NCPAS representative for review and assistance, or ask for assistance in taking the photo and writing the description of each foster dog in my care. I understand that quality photographs are essential for promoting foster animals, and I may need to bring my animal somewhere to have its photograph taken by a volunteer photographer.

___I UNDERSTAND that I can and should also advertise: in local shops, on other websites, with friends, on walks, at the park, and anywhere else dogs can be advertised for adoption.

ADOPTION/TRANSFER

___I UNDERSTAND that any potential adopter MUST be screened, interviewed and approved by an authorized NCPAS representative. I understand that my input will be appreciated and a part of the process, and that the final decision to place or not to place any particular dog with any particular potential adopter will be made by an authorized NCPAS representative.

PROTOCOL WITH CHILDREN and Foster Dogs

___I/We understand that the following protocol should be followed regarding children in the house

Do not under any under any circumstances leave a child unattended with any dog

- Do not leave bones/ treats/ toys around the house when children are present and be overly-cautious and observant when children are eating and the dog is in the room
- If there is a child in the household under the age of 5 the dog must be in a crate or separate room while the dog is eating or sleeping to prevent accidents
- Children under the age of 16 will not walk the dog unless supervised by an adult
- Whenever a child is in the house with a dog, the child is at risk of being accidentally knocked over, scratched or bitten etc.
- Should you have ANY concerns or feel uncomfortable with a situation between the dog and a child contact NORTH COUNTRY PET ADOPTION SERVICES. We will either take the dog out of your home immediately or give training advice, depending on the severity of the situation

CATS AND DOGS CO-EXISTING

____ I/We understand that even if this animal has been housed with cats in a previous environment, that NORTH COUNTRY PET ADOPTION SERVICES cannot guarantee the behavior with a new cat(s) will be the same. Please use caution when introducing a new dog to existing cats in the household and do the introduction slowly over a period of a few weeks, keeping the dog on leash. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact a NORTH COUNTRY PET ADOPTION SERVICES representative.

MULTIPLE DOG HOUSEHOLDS

____ I/We understand that the following protocol should be followed when bringing additional dogs into the house

- Do not leave multiple dogs at home in the same room unattended
- Do not feed the dogs in the same room, unless crated, and don't leave toys and treats laying around the house
- NORTH COUNTRY PET ADOPTION SERVICES can assist you with a dog to dog introduction if needed

GENERAL AGREEMENTS FOR FOSTER DOGS

____ I UNDERSTAND that the NCPAS ID tag must be worn on the dog's collar at all times, because this is its link to back to NCPAS. If the dog loses its tag, I agree to immediately contact NCPAS for a new one.

___ I AGREE to keep each foster dog that comes into my care on a leash when outside my home or my own securely fenced yard.

___ I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that no foster dog that comes into my care will be allowed to run or play off leash in a park or other open public area.

___ I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that I am responsible for the safety of each foster dog that comes into my care, for the safety of other dogs and people the dog comes into contact with.

___ I AGREE to immediately notify NCPAS in the event of a missing or injured foster dog.

___ I UNDERSTAND that if I decide to adopt a foster dog in my care, I must go through the adoption process, including paying the requested donation. (Donations are used to help cover costs to save and help more dogs.)

___ I UNDERSTAND that if I need to return a dog to NCPAS's care, for any reason, enough forewarning is necessary for NCPAS to locate a new foster home placement for the dog, and that this process may take a week or more, depending on the dog and the number of other dogs in foster care. North Country Pet Adoption Services retains the right to remove a foster dog from my care at any time.

GENERAL AGREEMENTS FOR FOSTER CATS

___ I UNDERSTAND foster cats are to be INDOOR ONLY

___ I UNDERSTAND I need to add an additional litter box for each foster cat (rule of thumb is one per cat, plus a spare)

___ I UNDERSTAND the litter boxes need to be scooped daily and washed weekly

___ I UNDERSTAND that if I need to return a cat to NCPAS's care, for any reason, enough forewarning is necessary for NCPAS to locate a new foster home placement for the cat, and that this process may take a week or more, depending on the cat and the number of other cats in foster care. North Country Pet Adoption Services retains the right to remove a foster cat from my care at any time.

This document provides for the release of liability of North Country Pet Adoption Services, Inc. (NCPAS) and its volunteers on account of the actions of any dog of any breed, or any cat, which has been released into the ownership of NCPAS and placed into the care of a Foster Care Provider.

I, _____ the Foster Care Provider named above, understand that NCPAS and its volunteers cannot guarantee actions or disposition of any fostered animal placed into Foster Care with me. I understand that although reasonable effort has been made to assess the disposition of each animal released to NCPAS beforehand but, being living animals, they may act unpredictably in any given situation, and that I must take necessary precautions to prevent accidents and guard against unpredicted actions by any fostered animal in my care. I promise to take adequate care of any fostered animal in my care by providing nutritious food, plentiful water, and adequate shelter. I promise to notify NCPAS if any fostered animal in my care is in need of treatment for illness.

____(For dogs)At no time will I allow any fostered dog to be a nuisance to people or other animals. I promise to keep any fostered dog in my care safely confined in a fenced yard or kennel run or inside a house when the dog is not with me or a member of my family. I promise that at no time will any foster dog be placed outside on a tie-out (in a yard, in front of café, store etc.) I promise that when off of my property, any fostered dog will be kept on a leash at all times unless I have approval from a senior NCPAS volunteer. In that case the dog can only be off leash in a safely enclosed dog play area. Bully breeds and large dogs shall never be allowed off leash and shouldn't go to a dog park even if they are on leash.

Signature, Responsible Party ("Foster Care Provider")

Printed
Name _____

Address City/State/Zip code Telephones Email addresses

Signature, NORTH COUNTRY PET ADOPTION SERVICES

Representative _____

Printed
Name _____
