



# A Guide for Foster Dog Parents

Fostering -*Author Unknown*

There I sat, alone and afraid,

You got a call and came right to my aid. You bundled me up with blankets and love. And, when I needed it most, you gave me a hug.

I learned that the world was not all that scary and cold. That sometimes there is someone to have and to hold. You taught me what love is, you helped me to mend. You loved me and healed me and became my first friend.

And just when I thought you'd done all you could do, There came along not one new lesson, but two. First you said, "Sweetheart, you're ready to go. I've done all I can, and you've learned all I know."

Then you bundled me up with a blanket and a kiss. Along came a new family, they even have kids! They took me to their home, forever to stay.

At first I thought you sent me away.

Then that second lesson became perfectly clear. No matter how far, you will always be near. And so, Foster Mom, you know I've moved on. I have a new home, with toys and a lawn.

But I'll never forget what I learned that first day. You never really give your fosters away. You gave me these thoughts to remember you by. We may never meet again, and now I know why.

You'll remember I lived with you for a time. I may not be yours, but you'll always be mine.

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**About this manual**

This manual is designed to provide foster parents with a comprehensive overview of the Don't Bully Us Rescue Foster Dog Program. This manual is meant to be a helpful resource for foster parents and should answer many of the questions that may arise before and during foster care. Throughout this manual, the use of the word "Dog" is in reference to dogs of all ages, including puppies. If something is specific to puppies, then the word "puppy" is used. Furthermore, dogs are either referred to neutrally, or using the male gender (he/his) in this guide, but only for convenience and consistency and is interchangeable with she/hers. Foster parents should always consult with Mark Peters, Founder, and the volunteer Foster Dog Team members for specific help and assistance. All information is subject to change.

**Program Information**

Thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our rescue's dogs. Your generosity will provide young and old, injured and sick, abused and under socialized dogs a chance to grow or heal before finding their forever homes. Fostering is a labor of love for most of us who do it. We all have a common goal of saving as many animals as we can. We can't save them all, but, through fostering, we can play an active and important role in saving many of them. Don't Bully Us (DBU) began its foster care program in 2013. Since then, the program has hundreds of dogs that might otherwise have been euthanized.

**How the program works**

As an approved foster parent, you'll be added to our Team Facebook page. Our Team members post dogs that are in need of a foster home. When you see a dog that might be a good match for your household and lifestyle, you simply respond to the post. A team member will contact you to provide more information and determine if the dog is a good match. They will also arrange a meeting between you (and your own dog if applicable) and the foster dog. DBU will provide you with all the necessary supplies for fostering, support you throughout the entire process, and will be available to address any questions or concerns.

**Reasons to foster**

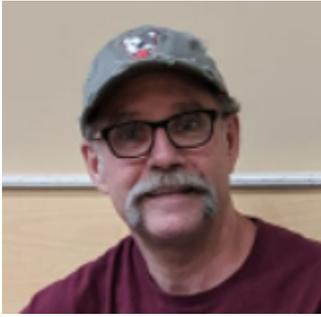
Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family - you can feel good knowing you have helped save a dog's life. Foster dogs provide companionship and purpose - your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

**Important Rules and Reminders Regarding Your Foster Dog**

Foster parents MUST abide by the following rules:

- No off-leash park visits.
- Foster dogs must be on leash at all times when outdoors unless in your own secured fenced yard.
- Any aggressive behavior must be immediately communicated to the DBU team.
- All vet visits must be pre-approved by Mark Peters.

**Meet the Team**



Mark Peters- Founder (856) 371-2780



Karin Woolly - Adoption Coordinator (856) 278-0477



Mariann Wright-Feliciano - Volunteer Coordinator (856)237-5100



Elaine Braslow- Foster Program Coordinator



Morganne Caufield- Social Media Coordinator



Letty Hempsey- Fundraising Coordinator

**Getting Ready to Foster a Dog**

After being approved DBU as a qualified foster home, but before you bring a foster dog home, we suggest you prepare yourself, your family and your home for a new canine companion.

***Be physically and mentally prepared***

Fostering is a family affair, so please make sure that everyone in your household is ready, willing and able to provide a loving home for an orphaned dog. Many adults and children have a difficult time adjusting to a new schedule or routine, and also have a difficult time “giving up” an animal to its forever home. Make sure everyone is ready for this new, albeit temporary, addition to your family.

Be realistic about your time commitment to a foster dog. Don't over-extend yourself when starting out. You may want to begin with foster sitting. And even if you have experience with big adolescent dogs, starting with an older dog, a small dog or even a puppy is a great way to build your foster parenting experience.

***Where to keep your foster dog***

Planning where you will keep your dog before you bring your dog home will make the entire process easier for everyone. When you first bring a foster dog home, you'll want to confine them to a single room, such as a kitchen or family room. This room should not be an isolated room, but a room where you spend a large part of your day or evening, as dogs are pack animals and want to be with you. This room is especially important when you're at work or away from the house, as it will be a new environment in which they need time to become familiar and comfortable.

Use a baby gate to block off the entrances to other rooms. By keeping the dog in one room, you're helping prevent “accidents” that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your routine. (Even a house-trained dog might have an accident or two during this adjustment period.) For dogs that are not housetrained, keeping them confined to one room will help start this important training as you must be able to monitor their activities. DBU recommends you also use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house. Be sure to review the section for “Exercise, Training and Attention” in this manual.

***Bringing Your Foster Dog Home***

Have the foster pet's area ready – crate set up, food and water, bed or towels, and toys. If you have pets, you may choose to let your pets meet the foster pet – it's best if this is a brief introduction, so as not to add a lot of stress. It's a good idea to separate your pets from the foster pets for a few days to monitor the foster pets' health. Comfort and cuddle your foster pet(s). Allow them time to become familiar with their surroundings and take a nice nap. Once they wake up, play with them, bathe them, and have some fun! Try to get into a routine for regular feedings, naps, and play. Just like us, animals are creatures of habit.

**The Do's**

- Do keep your foster dog indoors in a location with a crate available.
- Do keep your foster dog in a warm/cool (depending on the season) and dry location.
- Do keep your foster dog on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in your secured fenced yard. When in a secured yard, you must supervise them at all times. It is very common for a dog to try and escape so always supervise your dog.
- Do keep your puppy indoors in a kitchen, bathroom, mudroom or laundry room (you may want to use baby gates to limit access to other parts of your home). Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.

**The Don'ts**

- Do not place your foster dog around other strange dogs as we often do not know the dog's past history. Foster dogs should not be put in a position of possibly fighting with a strange dog.
- Do not allow your foster dogs outdoors unless supervised by an adult.
- Never take your foster dog to an off-leash park. This is a liability to the rescue.
- Taking a foster dog to an off-leash park will result in the removal of the foster dog and end your role as a foster parent.

**How to dog-proof a room**

Walk into the room in which you plan to confine your foster dog, and ask yourself:

- Is there room for the crate (dog's safe place)?
- Is there quick access to the outside for bathroom breaks?
- Is there anything that can be chewed, such as drapes, a couch or rugs?
- Are there exposed electrical wires?
- Is there anywhere the dog can hide? Will you be able to get the dog out if hidden?
- Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked off by a wagging tail?
- Are there plants in the room? If so, check the list of toxic plants in this manual.
- Where will I set up the crate once all hazards are removed?
- Is the crate in a quiet, low-traffic area of the room?
- Is there a blanket in the crate to train your foster dog that it's his bed?

**Items you may need**

The Foster Dog Program often receives donated supplies, so be sure to ask a DBU team member when you are picking up your foster dog!

- Food and bowls.
- Crate
- Bedding - a clean, old blanket or towel or a dog bed that is washable.
- Odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle); it's the only thing to clean housetraining mistakes.; If you clean mistakes with soap and water, your dog will still smell the urine and go to the bathroom in that spot repeatedly.
- Flea comb/brush.

- Toys such as: hard rubber balls, Kongs, fleece toys, rope toys or nylabones. Do not give your foster dog hooves, rawhide, pigs' ears or vinyl toys that can cause diarrhea or choke the dog.
- Collar.
- Leash.
- Training treats such as string cheese, squeeze cheese, lunch meat or small dog biscuits.
- Baby gate(s).
- Bitter Apple (to spray on leashes, woodwork, drapery — anything you don't want chewed).
- Promotional t-shirt or bandana that says, "I'm Available for Adoption!" .

**Transporting your foster dog**

The safest way to transport your dog is in a secure crate in the back of a SUV or station wagon. The crate should be secured so that it doesn't tip over or move around. Another option is to use a grill between the back of the vehicle and the back seat. If you have a sedan, then you may be able to secure a crate on the back seat. It is always a good idea to put a blanket down under your crate or in the back section of your vehicle, so that if your dog becomes car sick, or has an accident, the blanket will protect your seats and carpet. If you can't fit a crate into your vehicle, your dog is safest in the back seat. Use either a special harness for your dog that hooks on to a seat belt, or a leash that attaches to the seat belt. Avoid letting your dog ride in the passenger seat next to you. Not only can your view be obstructed, but if you brake suddenly your dog could get injured by hitting the windshield or by the air bag.

You might need a few treats to encourage a dog to jump into a car. If you can get a dog to put his front paws up, then you can lift his back end by supporting his hind quarters (as if he were sitting on your crossed arms). If you need to completely lift your dog, the best way is by putting one arm behind his hind legs and one arm in front of his front legs – essentially a scoop. Another way is to have one arm just behind his front legs, and one hand behind his hind legs. This way the dog's weight is being supported in the same general area of its legs. Keep in mind, most dogs don't really like to be lifted. Remember to always keep a handle on his leash.

## Introducing Your Dogs to Foster Dogs

DBU will assist you with introducing your dog to a foster dog. Typically dogs of the opposite sex do better together. Dogs are like people, and sometimes a dog may not like another dog for no apparent reason.

### ***What to do once you are home with your foster dog***

- Do be alert and make the reintroductions gradually and calmly. Your dog may be extremely territorial in the home.
- If possible, go for a walk around your neighborhood with both dogs and two handlers. Walk the dogs side by side on leashes and allow them to sniff one another and become familiar with each other.
- Do give your own dog LOTS of love and praise.
- Do leave leashes on the dogs when you are in the home, so that you can get immediate control if needed. You may only need to do this for a short time.
- Do talk normally. Letting the dogs know that you are fine; they are fine; everything is fine!
- Be patient and go slowly with your foster dog as they may have been through a lot of recent changes.
- Don't leave your foster dog unattended with your resident dog. Even if they seem to get along well in your presence, you should separate the dogs when you leave your house. After a week, you may determine that this is no longer necessary, but be sure to always remove all toys, food, chews and start slowly.

### ***Some common mistakes:***

- Holding the leash too tensely as dogs may react with defensiveness.
- Leaving toys and chews around the house. This can cause resource guarding which can escalate very quickly. Remove all toys and chews before you arrive home with your foster dog.
- Feeding your foster dog with your resident dog. It's best to separate them initially, and to supervise always.
- Over-stimulating your foster dog with introductions to many people or your neighbors' Dogs.

**Fostering- The First Week**

Now that you're home with your foster dog, you should start a regular routine so your dog can begin to adjust to your household. During this adjustment period, please keep stimulation to a minimum. Some recommendations include:

- Find a quiet route to walk or run your foster dog (depending on energy level) to familiarize him with his new environment. This also helps start the bonding between you and your foster dog.
- Don't introduce your foster dog to people you meet on your walk. For the first 7-14 days (could be more or less) your foster dog should lay low while he tries to figure out just what this new situation is. You may not see any unwelcome behavior initially. Eventually all will be revealed.
- Do not introduce your foster dog to other dogs (other than your own resident dog). This includes neighborhood dogs, and dogs belonging to your family or friends. Why? There is no way to tell how your foster dog will behave when introducing him to other dogs. If your foster dog bites a person or dog you are required to report it to the rescue immediately.
- Don't throw a party, or have a lot of people over to your home. During the first week you should try to spend quality one-on-one time with your new foster dog.

***Additional information for the first week***

Take new photos and jot down fun facts to help our team write a new bio for your foster dog. One of the many benefits of adopting a dog from foster care is that the foster parent can provide detailed, personal and anecdotal information about their foster dog. Your dog will be adopted more quickly if you update this information as soon as possible.

## **Feeding**

DBU provides all of our fosters with food for the entire duration of a foster's stay.

### ***Feeding schedule and quantity***

Create a consistent schedule for feeding your foster dog. Feed at the same times every day.

Create a separate space for your foster dog to eat so they will feel comfortable.

If you have other dogs at home, feed your foster in a separate room and close the door - this will help prevent any arguments over food. **Do not feed any "people" food.** You do not know what the adoptive family will want to do, so don't start a habit they will have to break; and by feeding only dog food, you are also discouraging begging.

Feeding will depend on the age and size of your foster dog.

- Adult dogs: dry adult dog food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- Adolescent dogs (4 months to 1 year): dry puppy food, twice a day
- Weaned puppies (6-8 weeks to 4 months): dry puppy food three to four times a day. Can be moistened with water or puppy formula.
- Nursing mothers with puppies and unweaned puppies (4-8 weeks) :

The quantity of food you provide your foster dog will vary depending on weight, age and activity level. Please refer to the suggested amounts on the dog food package you are feeding your foster dog as the amounts may change depending on the brand. Remember to reduce this amount to compensate for any treats, including chews. Obesity is an epidemic for pets in the US, and can lead to health problems, exacerbate existing health issues and reduces overall quality of life. Please do not overfeed your foster dog.

### ***Food allergies***

If your foster dog is experiencing hot spots (red patches of hairless skin), it may be due to food allergies. Some dogs react to food allergies by getting raw sores on the pads of their feet, between their toes. Please contact DBU if this occurs with your foster dog.

## Exercise, Training & Attention

### *Exercise*

Foster dogs should be exercised every day, rain or shine. The old adage, "A tired dog is a happy dog," holds true for foster dogs. Most foster dogs will need at least two 30+ minute walks a day to release excess energy. If your foster dog is an adolescent, you may need to step up the activity level to include regular runs/hikes/or brisk walks. A dog that is exercised regularly will tend to sleep when you are not at home - and a sleeping dog cannot do undesirable things, such as bark, chew, etc. Even a 10 week old puppy that plays inside or in a yard needs numerous daily walks as part of the socialization process. The exception to this is if your foster dog is recovering from an illness or injury, then they may need rest.

### *Training*

Most potential adopters are looking for dogs with basic manners. You might feel it's appropriate to let your own dog jump on people, sleep on the bed, or beg for food, but please don't let your foster dog have these same indulgences. Set boundaries for your foster dog, and be consistent.

- Short 5 minute training sessions 4-6 times a day is more effective than one long session.
- Dogs need and respond to positive rewards when learning new behaviors. Remember, most behaviors that we want are boring to a dog, so it's important to make it more interesting to them. A positive reward is a tasty treat, or a game of fetch, or anything that your foster dog enjoys.
- You provide the guidance and information they needs to succeed and build their confidence. Always praise your foster dog when they are doing something good.
- Be consistent with your terminology and routine. Your foster dog will become confused if you let them steal your socks sometimes, but not others.
- Start small and easy and slowly build from there. Most people jump too quickly into advanced environments (outside on a walk, etc.), so make sure you start inside in a safe and quiet location.
- Use Aak-Aak or Ah-Ah instead of the word "no." The canine mother would use this type of sound to correct her pup. Only use "no" for very serious matters, if it is overused the canine will no longer respond.
- Be patient and calm. Dogs respond to your tone of voice and facial expressions as well as your emotions.
- Never lose your temper with a foster dog or strike him- EVER. We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.

### *Housetraining*

Be patient with your foster dog. Even housetrained adult dogs will make mistakes, especially if they've been at the shelter for a long time and have been eliminating in their kennel. If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some foster dogs may "mark" out their territory. This action should be re-directed immediately with a calm "Ah-Ah" and escort him outside where he can finish. You will then want to use some odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle) on

the areas where the foster dog “marked” to insure he will not smell and mark that area again.

You can begin to housetrain a puppy at 8 weeks of age. Even if you bring home an adult dog that is housebroken, you will want to follow these guidelines until your foster dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule.

- Determine where you want your foster dog to eliminate
- When you have determined where he should do his business, take him to the same place every time. Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every 2 hours. Puppies should go out every 45 minutes until you learn their pattern. Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he eliminates, reward him (with treats, praise, a favorite game and your own special happy dance). If he doesn't go in 5 minutes, take him back inside and try every 15 minutes until he goes. Every time he goes, make sure you reward him!
- Supervise the puppy closely while you're inside. If he starts to sniff the floor, or even squats to go, interrupt with a calm “Ah-Ah”, scoop him up quickly and take him to the approved spot and praise when he finishes.
- If he goes in the house while you're not paying attention, don't correct him - it's not his fault. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle) to get rid of the smell. Never put the dog's face in his mess, or yell at him, he won't understand you, and you will only be teaching him to fear you.

## Puppy Socialization

The greatest window of learning in a dog's life starts – and finishes – early: it opens around 3 weeks of age and closes around 14 weeks. This period allows puppies to be exposed to a wide variety of sights, sounds, smells and sensations without becoming fearful. Why does this matter? Because puppies who miss out on these experiences may never learn to be comfortable around unfamiliar things, paving the way for anxiety, fear and aggression later on in life. While socializing puppies takes time and effort, such efforts are well-spent and can be very enjoyable at the same time. Follow these steps to give your puppy the best start possible:

- 1. Handling:** Young puppies should be cuddled and handled daily by as many different people as possible. Keep the contact gentle and pleasant for the pup. Hold the puppy in different positions (never harsh or punitive positions), gently touch their feet, rub their muzzle, stroke their back and sides, look in the ears... try to handle the pup's body in as many ways as possible. This is done most easily when the puppy is very young, before her eyes and ears are fully open (7-10 days from birth), but can also be accomplished in the first 1-2 months.
- 2. Sound sensitivity:** Acclimate your puppy to lots of different sounds, being careful not to overwhelm them with too much noise too fast. Expose them to kitchen sounds, telephones ringing, children playing, sportscasters yelling on TV, radios playing and so on.
- 3. Food bowl exercises:** Teach your puppy to enjoy having people approach their bowl while they're eating. How? Walk up to your pup during their dinner-time, drop an even-tastier treat into her bowl and walk away. Repeat (once or twice during each meal) until puppy is visibly excited about your approach. Walk up, pick up her bowl, put in a treat, give bowl back, walk away. These exercises are designed to prevent resource-guarding, which occurs when dogs feel anxious about others approaching their own valued resources.
- 4. Teach your puppy to be alone:** Puppies must learn to tolerate being alone (completely separate from other people and animals) each and every day so as to avoid developing separation anxiety later in life.
- 5. Prevent aggression:** There is no need to "show the dog who's boss" or try to "dominate" them. This includes pinning the dog down, "scruffing" him or popping his leash. Confrontational approaches like these frequently backfire and create the very aggression dogs owners seek to avoid. Focus on rewarding correct behavior and preventing undesirable behavior to teach your puppy human rules and build a trusting relationship.
- 6. Socialization:** Expose your pup to new people every day, keeping the interactions pleasant and unthreatening. Focus especially on setting up pleasant encounters with unfamiliar men and well-behaved children. Also expose the puppy to different surfaces, textures and objects.
- 7. Bite inhibition:** Provide plenty of appropriate toys to redirect puppy mouths to appropriate outlets. Remember that this is how puppies explore their world... don't take it personally! When puppies bite too hard during play, making a sudden noise ("Ow!") and ending the game will help them learn to use their mouths gently. Never squeeze puppies' mouths shut, yell at them or hold them down: this will frighten them and likely make biting worse!

**Illness & Emergencies**

The first indication that a puppy may be sick is if he has vomiting or diarrhea or is not interested in eating or playing. A puppy can get dehydrated very quickly so it is important to act right away if he is vomiting or having diarrhea. If you try some of the tips listed below to get him to eat or drink and he isn't interested.

**If it's a true medical issue please contact Mark Peters (856) 371-2780**

(Please be aware that you may not be reimbursed if you bring the foster puppy/dog to your own veterinarian.)

The normal temperature for a puppy is under 102 degrees. Check his temperature by using a standard or flexible baby thermometer. Lubricate it with Vaseline and insert into the rectum. It may be easier to have someone help hold the puppy still. Never take the puppies temperature unless directed by Mark or give a dog/puppy without consulting a Mark or our veterinarian.

If your puppy is not interested in eating or drinking you can try the following tips: Call Mark

- Give him Pedialyte to drink). This can be diluted 50% with water.
- Moisten dry food with baby food, warm broth( no salt ) , a little canned food or canned pumpkin.
- Try feeding moist food.
- Try cooked egg whites
- Nutri-Cal (in a tube) can be given in more serious cases or if the puppy has not eaten in over a day.

Look at the stools when your puppy goes potty. Watch for signs of blood, mucus , diarrhea or worms in the stool, Although many worms can be detected only with a microscope, the presence of two types of worms may be determined by the naked eye. Roundworms resemble spaghetti strands. They may be found in vomited material or in the stool. Tapeworm egg packets look like rice grains and may be attached to the surface of the stool or to the hair near the anus or tail. Report any problems to the DBU Rescue Staff ( Mark , Karin or Mariann). We will supply worming medication .

***Diarrhea***

The first thing to know is that when the brand/type of food is changed, it may mess up their system. Give your foster a few days to get used to the food you are using. If your foster's stool continues looks loose or watery , we will try changing the food. Another cause of diarrhea is coccidia. Worms are another cause of diarrhea. The foster may need to be wormed or may be due for their second worming.. Panacur is used for worming. If there is no coccidia and the food is not the issue, talk to the DBU Rescue staff about what to do next.

***Ear Mites***

Black, foul-smelling debris can indicate the presence of an infection or mites. Repeated head shaking, scratching of the ears, or rubbing of the ears are additional signs of issues.

***Kennel Cough***

If the foster has a cough, you will probably notice it during the first day or two. Report it to the DBU Rescue staff. Kennel cough is usually not life threatening. Your pets being Vaccinated is not 100% preventative. If you think your foster has kennel cough, isolate him from your other pets because it is highly contagious.

***Itchy Skin & Hair Loss***

You can minimize the puppy/dogs discomfort by bathing with an anti-itch shampoo, like oatmeal shampoo. Some causes of itchy skin and/or hair loss are fleas, ringworm, and mites. Ringworm is a fungal infection which is diagnosed through a fungal culture and treated with fungal shampoo, among other remedies. Mites are identified by examining a skin scrape with a microscope. Check with the DBU Rescue staff if you think the itching is severe. Ringworm is contagious to people, so wash thoroughly after handling.

***Upper Respiratory***

If not treated, it can get serious. Symptoms include sneezing, runny/stuffy nose, and runny eyes.

**Medications**

Panacure (wormer) – 1 cc per 5 pounds once a day for three days.

Safeguard ( wormer ) 0.5 ml for every 2.2 pounds

Benadryl – safe to use if the puppy is itching badly. The dosage is 3cc for a 7 lb puppy liquid or 1/4 of a 25mg pill every 12 hours.

**Never give any medication without consulting Mark or the DBU Rescue staff.**

***Bleaching***

Even though to your knowledge your foster puppy or dog has been perfectly healthy, it is still recommended that in between fostering, all of the crates, pens, bedding, towels, and toys be bleached. To bleach the crates, pens, and floor, mix 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Use a sprayer to spray, then let sit for about 10 minutes, then rinse off. Just add bleach to the wash for towels, bedding, fabric toys, and such.

## Tips for Taking Great Photos

We can't stress this enough...a picture is worth a thousand words.

The picture is the first thing people see when they visit the rescue's listing on Petfinder.com. If the dog has a poor picture, visitors may move on to another dog without clicking or reading your dog's description. If you want to give your dog the best chance possible, take large, clear, good quality (high resolution) pictures of the dog alone. A good picture is often the difference between a dog who generates inquiries and one who doesn't.

- Take a lot of digital pictures. You may have to take 50 pictures to get 1 or 2 really great shots.
- Pictures taken outside in natural light are usually much better than those taken inside or with a flash. Lighting is very important for accurately capturing a dog's coloring and detail. Have the sun or light source behind you and check to make sure you're not casting a shadow on your subject.
- Use treats and/or a squeaky toy to capture the dog's best expression. Sometimes having two people makes this process easier.
- Try taking pictures using a neutral backdrop. Select a background that contrasts with the dog's coloring. Darker-colored dogs will show up better against a lighter backdrop. Most dogs look great against a lush green lawn.
- Try different props. If the dog likes to fetch, you might get a picture of the dog with his favorite ball. Wrap a bandana around the dog's neck to add a streak of color (especially good for solid and darker-colored dogs). A bright, cheerful collar is a nice touch.
- The dog is the subject of your picture so the dog should take up the majority of space in your picture. Avoid excessive amounts of background. The dog's eyes should be focused on you. Try to capture at least one "hero" shot, where the focus is on the dog's face. A full body picture is also a great way to show size and scale.
- Exercise the dog before your photo shoot. A calmer dog is easier to photograph, and a panting dog looks like she's smiling! Before snapping the photos, take the time to get the pet as calm and relaxed as possible, so the photos don't show an animal that looks anxious or scared.
- Check out the competition. Visit Petfinder.com and look at the photos of similar dogs and see which ones pop out to you. Then try to mimic these shots with your own foster dog.
- If your first attempts fail, don't be discouraged. Just keep trying and have fun. When you are having fun, your foster dog will probably be having fun too and it will show!

### **Promoting Your Foster Dog**

Even though hundreds of people visit our website every week, the more you network your foster dog, the more quickly you are able to find it a great forever home.

Here are some simple ways to promote your dog:

- Send an email to your family, friends and colleagues. Let them know about your foster dog and ask them to help you spread the word and to tell their friends and colleagues.
- Spread the word at your child's school, your place of worship, or other organization that you belong.
- Record a video of your foster dog or create a slideshow with more photos and have them posted on your foster dog's Petfinder.com bio.
- Make sure you always walk your foster dog with an "I'm available" bandana
- Blog about your foster dog, or find a local community blog and blog about your foster dog there!
- Participate in any shelter events that will help you promote your foster dog.

### **Helpful Tips from Experienced Foster Families**

- Allow your foster puppy to decompress, before introducing them to any of your family pets or friends. Remember these puppies came from stressful situations I need time to settle in.
- Rub puppy's paws, ears, nose, belly, etc. so he gets used to it. This is helpful when it comes to giving medication.
- Sing or hold puppy next to your heart to help settle them down.
- Give them a warm blanket from the dryer at bedtime. This really settles them down fast. They love it!
- Have a definite schedule for feeding, taking out to potty, and bedtime.
- Put small puppies in an x-pen with a piece of vinyl flooring underneath for easy clean up.
- Have the crate/pen set up and ready before bringing pups home.
- Talk to your foster with an even tone, not a baby voice.
- A good puppy is a tired puppy. Wear them out by playing with them outside.
- To housebreak, take puppy out frequently, especially after eating or playing.
- A fun toy most puppies like is an empty water bottle .

Event Expectations

Supply Checklist

- Crate/pen
- Dry dog /puppy food
- Pee pads
- Plenty of clean towels/ blankets for crate
- Toys/chew bones
- Collars/leashes
- Shampoo/ear cleaning solution
- Cotton balls for cleaning ears
- Brush/nail clippers
- Plungers for giving medicine
- Thermometer
- Canned pumpkin (pure pumpkin only – not pumpkin pie mix)
- Chicken or beef baby food