



**Above & Beyond
English Setter Rescue**

FOSTER HOME HANDBOOK

June 2025

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Goals and Objectives

Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue's goal is rescuing English Setters in need of new homes. While in our care, the dogs will be vetted, spayed or neutered, and evaluated in foster homes, where they can learn love and stability and we can determine which type of home would work best for each dog. Once adopted, Above and Beyond volunteers will be available with advice and support for the dogs and adopters for each dog's life. Our mission is to put the dog's welfare first and foremost.

Each adoptive home will be carefully screened to determine whether an English Setter is the best breed choice. Home visits will be done as well as veterinary checks and no dog will be placed before their time. Every dog rescued by Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue will remain in our care until the correct match is found for that dog. English Setters in our care will live with a foster family in a home situation (no kennels or living outdoors). It is our aim to get the best match for the dog and adoptive family, so that the family is the dog's forever home.

Responsibilities

Foster Home Contract: Each foster family will be required to sign a Foster Home Contract prior to receiving their foster dog. Included in the contract is a waiver acknowledging awareness of any potential risks a rescued foster dog may pose while within care and that A&B cannot be held liable for any damage to property or persons. You only need to complete this once, the first time you foster.

Financial Obligations: A&B asks foster families to cover all food, treats, toys, bedding, and whatever else a dog will need on a day-to-day basis. We also ask that you cover the cost of oral flea/tick preventatives. Topical is available upon request. Certain vet visits will need to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Visiting the Vet: Routine vet bills will be reimbursed and heartworm pills will be supplied to you as requested. Your foster needs to be up to date on all vaccines, heartworm/tick-borne diseases tested (SNAP 4Dx test), microchipped, fecal tested, and spayed/neutered (if over one year old) before being adopted. **Remember to bring your foster's medical records to your first vet appointment to avoid duplicating vaccinations and tests.** If your foster dog is not microchipped, A&B will send you a chip for insertion by the vet. Please work with your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator on vet care.

Training & Socialization: In order to improve the dog's chances of adoption, the dog will most likely need basic obedience training such as sit, down, stay and leash work. Most also require crate and house training. This will require consistency, patience, and understanding as the dog learns to trust within a loving family environment. Setters are very sensitive and need to be trained using positive reinforcement and should never be harshly disciplined, as this will instill fear. PATIENCE is key with this breed. Some may also need socialization with people, other pets, most importantly other dogs, cats and children. This can be achieved through simply taking a walk, visiting a dog park, having friends and family visit, and other opportunities to expose your dog to the outside world.

Transportation: You may be asked to help with a transport leg to get your foster to you and/or to their adopting family. Obviously, transportation will be required to vet visits, possible A&B events near you to promote your foster, and possibly meet with a potential adopting family, if they are in close proximity to you.

Love & Care: Above all else, your foster needs your loving care to restore confidence and trust in people. You will be able to watch your foster blossom into a loving family dog to be proud of. It takes a lot of patience to deal with your foster dog. Please allow the dog time to adjust in your home.

What You Can Expect from Your Foster Dog

Every dog is different and has come from a different background. Some may have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. They are the result of their life to date and some carry their past and fears with them. Most are afraid of their new situation and are nervous. Wouldn't you be? They don't know that you are the beginning to their recovery and happily ever after life. They need time to adjust in your loving and caring household. This will take time and patience! Go slowly with introductions to resident pets and/or children. They are often anything but a "ready-made" family dog. In their fear, occasionally some may show signs of aggression which should be immediately reported to A&B.

Some have health problems to be addressed. They may not be used to living indoors and so need house training, basic obedience training and they may chew things they shouldn't. Many however will shower you with love and affection from the moment they meet you. Some will steal your heart and may even end up staying forever.

The Adjustment Period

Foster dogs often adjust more quickly when they have boundaries, structure, and a routine that they can learn and count on for stability. Do Not Give Too Much Freedom Too Soon (especially furniture privileges)! Let them start to feel safe with a crate, or in a small area of your home. Keep a leash on them for the first few days even while in the house. Give them time away from your other dogs and always supervise them when your foster is spending time with your own pets. To help focus their attention and get them into a routine, start working on having them sit before they eat, go outside, or get a treat. Try to ensure that they get up, eat, and have potty breaks at predictable times each day, so that they can learn what to expect more quickly. Do some research on dog training and behavior. The dog will need YOU to help make its transformation.

Anxiety: The change in a dog's environment may be overwhelming for many dogs. Thus, many may experience anxiety that can be eased. We highly recommend the use of pheromone plug-ins/collars (Adaptil/Comfort Zone), which are very effective in reducing anxiety in dogs. This hormone product creates an atmosphere of comfort and calms dogs. It helps with separation anxiety, fear, and the stress of a new situation. The plug-ins will have an effect on all dogs, and thus may also help pets already in your home to be more relaxed.

If your foster continues to exhibit anxiety, please reach out to your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator, as we have many suggestions for helping to soothe foster dogs. Anxiety may also lead to your dog having difficulties with eating.

The 3-3-3 Rule:

When adopting a dog it is important to give the dog time to settle in to their new home. The 3-3-3 Rule shows what to expect from your newly adopted dog over the next few days, weeks and

months. Not all dogs are instantly comfortable in their new homes.

In the first 3 days, your dog will be overwhelmed with his new surroundings. He will not be comfortable enough to be himself. Don't be alarmed if he doesn't want to eat for the first couple of days, many dogs don't eat when they are stressed. He may shut down and want to curl up in his crate or under a table. He may be scared and unsure of what is going on. Or he may be the opposite and test you to see what he can get away with, kind of like a teenager.

After 3 weeks, he's starting to settle in, feeling more comfortable, and realizing this really may be his forever home. He has figured out his environment and getting into the routine that you have set. He lets his guard down and may start showing his real personality. Behavior issues may start showing, this is your time to be a strong pack leader and show him what is right and wrong.

After 3 months, your dog is now completely comfortable in his new home. You have built trust and a true bond with your dog, which gives him a complete sense of security with you. He is set in his routine and will come to expect his dinner at his usual time.

3D	3W	3M
		
In the first 3 days,	After 3 weeks,	After 3 months,
☐ Feeling overwhelmed ☐ May be scared and unsure of what is going on ☐ Not comfortable enough to be "himself" ☐ May not want to eat or drink ☐ Shut down and want to curl up in his crate or hide under a table ☐ Testing the boundaries	☐ Starting to settle in ☐ Feeling more comfortable ☐ Realizing this could possibly be his forever home ☐ Figured out his environment ☐ Getting into a routine ☐ Lets his guard down and may start showing his true personality ☐ Behavior issues may start showing up	☐ Finally completely comfortable in his home ☐ Building trust and a true bond ☐ Gained a complete sense of security with his new family ☐ Set in a routine
		

Bringing Them Home

Introduction to your dogs: [How to successfully introduce two dogs](#)

Please proceed with caution when introducing your foster to any resident pets. We recommend introducing your dog to your new foster dog outside of your house, on neutral territory, on leash, with

a separate person walking each dog if possible. Walk the dogs next to each other first, but do not allow them to interact. Keep the leash as loose as possible while still maintaining control. Dogs can process a lot of information about each other through smell. If all goes well during their initial joint walking, allow the dogs to circle and sniff each other for a few seconds then lead them away. Repeat this several times. Any time the dogs' bodies go still, lead them away and take a break. Once you have the dogs' bodies appearing relaxed (loose, wiggly bodies) the next step is to try the two dogs loose in a fenced area so they can move around as they wish. Having your foster drag a leash for a few days, even inside, is strongly encouraged. Keep the dogs separated while you are gone until they are comfortable with each other under a variety of circumstances. New dogs and resident pets should have their own private safe area in the home especially during mealtime.

If you have a very welcoming pack that loves company, you can probably introduce your new foster to your dog one by one. Preferably have your own on leash and the foster either free or crated. Your foster will probably be a little nervous, therefore they need to feel safe and be able to move out of a situation if they feel the need to do so. Also give your foster the opportunity to explore their new surroundings in the home without your dog being around, but of course you should be with them. Do not rush the introductions. It is recommended to keep the new addition separated from your pack for a few days and gradually allow them to integrate into the pack over a 2-week period. Set boundaries for the new dog on appropriate house behavior and as the new dog learns they can gradually be allowed more freedom. Many dogs may require slower introductions, as this is an overwhelming time for them. They may be stressed and need some down time before making new friends. Dog fights often break out over food, toys, or other resources (space, attention), so picking up any toys for the first few days is a good idea. Then just reintroduce them slowly.

Dog Body Language to be aware of:

- Good signs:
 - upright ears, tail is relaxed and mobile, face is relaxed.
 - Play bow: front feet set far forward, ears pricked, and head held with eyes forward, mouth slightly open in a "grin."
 - Puppies especially will shift weight to their back legs and paw at the air. These are both ways of saying, "We're just playing, not too rough now."
- Bad signs:
 - ears are down/back
 - tail is tucked down or stiff
 - face is stiff or lips are pulled back.

Visitors: Although your new foster dog may be getting comfortable with you and your family, there is still a lot of change for them and they may be stressed. Please avoid bringing visitors to your home for the first week, if possible, and if/when visitors do come by, ensure that they are respecting the dog's boundaries and are cautious in their interactions with your new dog. Let the foster dog come to your visitors, not the other way around. That way, they can approach when they are comfortable. Note that most dogs bite out of fear, when someone tries to do something to them that they are not comfortable with. They often signal with their body language that they are not comfortable and will only bite if their signs of discomfort are not recognized and are ignored.

Children: Setters are a wonderful breed with children and both gain from being raised together. Many families wishing to adopt will have children. Both dogs and children have to learn to be respectful of each other and what is acceptable behavior and what is not. Some foster dogs have been mistreated in their life before rescue and it is with this in mind that A&B requires all foster families to sign the Foster Home Contract and liability waiver. If you have children, please use caution when introducing the dog into your home. The dog and child(ren) should NEVER be left unsupervised. Young children especially can inadvertently stress a dog and cause the dog to react defensively. Always supervise, and if you need to leave the room, even for a moment, crate or separate your foster from any child. **As a foster home, you have a responsibility to educate the KIDS!** Children need constant advice on how to treat animals and what NOT to do around animals.

Examples: Do not disturb/touch a sleeping dog. Use words to wake him up first. Do not put your face in the dog's face or hug the dog. Try to let the dog come to you if it wants attention. Don't always approach the dog. When a dog is in its crate, they are to be left alone and not disturbed. Have children sit still and call the dog to them. Have the children help with training and give treats, too. The dog will learn to respect the child as a handler. Some families wait to foster until their children are older, others choose to foster only puppies. The decision rests with the individual family, as does the responsibility. Do not let the dog on the furniture.

Food: Sometimes a foster won't eat as soon as they arrive. Many times, stress will cause this. If your foster is not eating by day two, you should be a bit concerned. Starting your foster out on boiled beef/rice or chicken/rice sometimes will entice them and also be a little easier on their stomach. You can then start to introduce kibble.

A lot of dogs are very "aloof" at first, eating isn't always a priority. If your foster has been a stray, expect some food guarding issues, growling, he may even snap at other dogs. It is best to try to prevent any issues, thus, we recommend feeding your foster dog and your own dogs apart, so that each dog has its own space until you have a better sense of whether they will show any food guarding. As hard as it may seem, try to stay out of their canine conversations, unless of course things are getting out of hand. NEVER try to separate fighting dogs by grabbing them by the collar, you will get bitten! Use a loud noise, toss water on them, or if things get really bad, separate them by pulling on their back legs.

Your foster will certainly eat when he is hungry. If he is very food aggressive, or timid, you may have to feed in separate rooms or feed in a crate. Be sure to pick up the food dishes when they are finished.

A change in food and/or water might give the dog an upset stomach for a few days. Sometimes it is not possible to gradually introduce new food when it's unknown what they ate before. Using canned pumpkin when switching food is also helpful. Keeping a foster confined by crating or in one room, at least during the night, can help contain any fall out! We do not recommend letting a foster dog sleep on your own bed, especially if the resident dogs are also sleeping on your bed.

Housebreaking: Your foster may or may not be housebroken. Even if they are, it is typical for them to have an accident or two or if a male, to mark. If your foster has never seen the inside of a house then managing their environment is even more critical. Belly bands/male wraps are an effective tool and readily available.

Crating your foster when you are not able to dedicate 100% of your attention to them is the quickest

way to housebreak. Crates can be a wonderful management tool, but should not become the dog's primary residence. If your foster is not in its crate, he should be with YOU. Attaching a leash to your waist is a good way to keep the foster nearby and under your watchful eye to see signs of needing to potty (pacing, sniffing the ground, circling, and going behind furniture). If your foster is not attached to you, make sure you have a leash nearby, to snap on their collar if they start to potty in the house. If you catch them in the act, say AH, AH, and immediately take them outside to finish. House training will go much easier if you keep the dog on a schedule, go out with them and praise them when they go in the correct spot. Remember the fewer mistakes they make the quicker they will learn that outside is the place to go. Never correct a dog for an accident after the fact.

Keep a good enzymatic cleaner on hand to clean up any accidents or try this homemade cleaner: mix 2/3 white vinegar, 1/3 water and a dash of liquid dish soap. Close and shake the container. Pick up or blot with a paper towel and apply just the foam to the area.

Safety & Containment

Fencing: As we all know different dogs require different types of fencing. It is strongly recommended to keep the foster on a leash or long lead while in your yard for a few days to try to get a feel for their fencing requirements. Even after they have been with you for a while and formed some type of bond, they should still be supervised while out in the yard. Use caution when opening doors to your home. Some dogs may try to bolt out an open door. The risks of a dog running off are the highest during the first week of being in a new environment/home. Always put some type of name tag with your phone number on your new foster.

Leashes/collars: While indoors, using a drag leash gives you something to catch hold of when opening a door to let someone in or out, it's handy to tether them to the railing, a door-knob or simply hold in your hand. The leash can also be used to prevent the foster from going somewhere he is not allowed. Hands are for petting and leashes are for controlling. If the dog is dragging a leash it gives you a steering wheel to direct their behavior. Some dogs may have been trained with harsh methods in their previous life. If they are dragging a leash, you are able to grab something besides the dog to direct their behavior to something more appropriate, rush them out to use the facilities, and teach them house manners. It's not advised to grab collars as this can be very scary for the dog. You can also use a leash as a tie-down by looping it around a heavy piece of furniture. We also discourage the use of flexi-leashes and do NOT allow the use of prong collars. When walking your foster dog, double leashing is strongly recommended, with a slip lead + regular leash, martingale collar &/or harness. Many setters are allowed on furniture, but we recommend keeping fosters off of furniture at least until you get to know the dog. Keep in mind the adoptive home may not want the dogs on furniture or bed.

Medical Care and Visiting the Vet

Please review your foster dog's paperwork to see what items below have been completed and make sure you take the dog's paperwork to your first vet appointment to avoid repeating vaccines/procedures that have already been done. Please ask the vet to confirm the dog's microchip number and spay/neuter status. Always use a low-cost clinic if there is one in your area. If there is no

low-cost clinic in your area, ask for a "Rescue Discount" and use a vet that offers one. We have fosters all over the country and rely on you to help keep our costs down as much as possible. Always send copies of your foster dog's paperwork to your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator and keep a copy for the adopters. A folder is a great way to keep everything organized.

Routine Vet Services: The services listed below are covered by A&B for your foster dog. These are basic services that must be performed before any of our rescue dogs can be adopted.

- Physical Exam: General observations & complete physical exam
- Snap 4DX Test: This may already have been performed by the shelter from which the dog came. If you do not have proof that these services were done and the results, these services need to be done when the dog arrives in the foster home.
- Lyme and Ehrlichia Test: This is usually done along with heartworm test and is part of the Snap 4DX.
- Rabies Vaccination: Required by law in all states.
- DHLPP or DA2PPA-C Booster: This parvo/distemper combo booster is required.
- Leptospirosis Vaccination: this vaccination requires a booster 3-4 weeks later
- Spay/Neuter & Related Surgery Expenses: Please see detailed notes below on spay/neuter vet services.
- Ear or Worm medication: If prescribed.
- Antibiotics: If prescribed.
- Bordetella Vaccination: For kennel cough, if the foster will be boarded in the near future or if foster has other dogs.
- Other Vaccinations: Lyme, Canine Influenza, etc. are primarily geographical in need. Please obtain only if recommended by your vet.

Spay/Neuter Guidelines: All adult dogs must be spayed/neutered and up to date on tests & shots prior to adoption. Most puppies under one year cannot be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. They will be adopted with a special contract ensuring this is taken care of by the adopter.

Tips for finding a reasonably priced Vet:

1. If you already have a vet you trust, ask if he will work with you for this temporary foster dog and provide a rescue discount. Some vets will give 10% to 40% off. If no discount is available and the spay cost is more than \$450.00 or neuter cost is more than \$300.00, go to step 2. This should be the TOTAL cost for altering, including pain meds, supplies, etc.
2. Call at least 2 nearby vets to compare the price of an exam and a spay/neuter. If the lowest price for spay is more than \$450.00 or neuter is more than \$300.00, go to step 3. Please get a quote for the price from at least one low-cost clinic, as they usually have MUCH lower prices than a regular vet. Many regions have low-cost clinics. Please research and request a quote.
3. Go online to <https://friendsofanimals.org/get-a-certificate-spay-neuter-certificate/> & enter your zip code at the bottom of the page. A list of vets may appear. Follow the instructions on the website. If there IS a vet in your area within 60 miles that accepts the certificates, please request one and let your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator know. Once you receive it (may take 7 days), make the appointment to have the dog seen at the vet and tell the vet that you have a Friends of Animals certificate for the spay/neuter.
4. If there are no vets in your area that use the certificates, submit the two estimates to your

Foster Follow-Up Coordinator for review and approval. Once approval is received, make the appointment, pay the bill and send in for reimbursement. Original invoices are required for reimbursement. Always submit a copy of any vet invoice and send to your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator for inclusion in your foster dog's file.

Reimbursement for Vet Expenses: In order to document the care provided to a foster dog, ALL bills must be submitted. Please refer to the Foster Dog Vet Expense Reimbursement Process and Foster Dog & Vet Checklist for detailed information. Reimbursement usually occurs within two weeks.

Optional/Other Vet Services: Any additional services/procedures/visits require prior approval before being performed and payment reimbursed.

- Dental cleaning is a special service and not routinely performed. We must have your vet set a "grade level" for the dental disease. If the grade is severe, you may request the Board to consider a dental.
- Please contact us to purchase any medication. Please get approval for medications other than those associated with sickness or condition being treated. Commonly prescribed medications can sometimes be ordered from an online pet pharmacy at a greatly reduced price, please see if your vet will authorize online prescriptions for these.
- All other services must be advised to the board, prior to treatment, via email or phone. We will get back to you about approval for those expenses ASAP. If there is an ailment requiring immediate diagnosis or treatment, please let us know as soon as you've seen the vet. If possible, provide us with an estimate of the costs of the services your vet feels your foster dog needs.
- It is also advisable to keep your personal dog(s) separate from the foster dog until you rule out any contagious illnesses. Always pick up after your foster dog & you'll need a stool sample for the vet. This will also help to contain the spread of any worms or parasites in your yard.

Preventatives:

- Heartworm Preventative
 - If your dog tests negative for heartworms, your dog must be kept on heartworm prevention. DO NOT PURCHASE heartworm preventative from your vet. Email your Foster Follow-Up Coordinator with your dog's information (that they have tested negative, their weight, and where to send the preventatives) and request that they arrange for heartworm preventatives to be sent to you. **We will send you heartworm medication to use for your foster dog.**
- Flea/Tick Preventative
 - We do not routinely pay for flea/tick preventatives. If you feel the ticks and/or fleas are prevalent in your area during the foster period, we can supply topical meds on request. Due to the cost, we are unable to supply oral flea/tick medications but will issue a donation receipt if you opt to use these products.

Emergency Vet Services: In case of an emergency with your foster dog, please seek medical attention right away and notify a member of our Crisis Team (*contact info on checklist*). Please make this notification as soon as the dog is stable, as we may be able to qualify for discounted services.

Euthanasia: It is with sadness that A&B realizes we cannot save all rescued dogs brought into our foster program. Euthanasia is a responsibility that we accept as necessary on very rare occasions. This

may be due to terminal illness and physical suffering, or because a dog is found not to be emotionally and mentally adoptable. Some have simply been through too much trauma in their lives. All A&B foster dogs are the property of A&B until adopted, therefore, if it is deemed absolutely necessary, only a board member can make a decision to euthanize.

Preparing for Adoption

After your dog's medical needs have been taken care of and you have gotten to know them well enough, we will ask you to make your dog available for adoption. This can be anywhere from 2-4 weeks after arrival in your home, or longer if the dog has medical or behavioral issues. Once you are ready, we will ask you to write a bio for your dog that potential adopters can read to learn more about the dog and decide if they are interested in adopting. We encourage you to be honest in writing your dog's bio and provide detailed information so that potential adopters have a good sense of your foster dog's personality, needs, and traits. Emphasize how and why they are great, but also be honest about any issues they need to be working on. We will also ask you to send us photos of your foster dog to be posted along with their bio on our website. Many people decide whether they are interested in a dog by looking at the photos, thus having good quality photos of your dog are very important in generating interest in your foster dog and gives potential adopters something they can be drawn to. Please try to take many photos of your foster dog and send us the 6 best ones that show your foster dog in a positive light! A short video is also very helpful.

Once your dog is posted as Available for Adoption, Buddies will send you applications from interested already approved potential adopters. You must acknowledge receipt of all applications. After 3-5 days of accepting applications, choose your top few to call and talk to about possibly adopting your foster dog. In some cases, you may not get a suitable application right away, especially if your foster dog has special needs. You can keep looking at applications until you feel that you have found a suitable applicant. Once you and an applicant have agreed who will adopt the foster dog, let ALL Buddies know of the decision. The applicant's Buddy will announce the adoption to the Board, and an adoption contract will be sent. Dogs cannot move to their adopters until the adoption contract and fee have been received by the rescue.

Transport

Transport information will be collected by the Buddy. A date for transport will be scheduled by the Transport Coordinator. You may be asked to drive the first leg of the transport.

For interstate transports, your dog will need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) within ONE week of transport. Contact your vet for an appointment as soon as the transport date is known.

Transport Guidelines

- Ensure that your foster's health records are all in one file including the RABIES CERTIFICATE from the last vaccination. This information travels with the dog to their adoptive home.
- Your foster should be UTD with all vaccines as provided by our health care policy.

- If your foster is moving to another state and we are arranging volunteer transport or the adopter is paying another service for transport, a CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI) is required before the dog can travel. A copy of the CVI should be sent to your Foster Follow Up Coordinator and to the Transport Coordinator to evidence compliance with the law to allow transport.

Typical scenario:

After weeks of your new foster settling in and becoming a member of your pack, you begin to see his real personality shine through. You've made the dog available for adoption and now the e-mails are coming in from buddies with information on potential adopters. Next, you review the applications and speak with the most qualified applicants. You can usually tell immediately which applicant would be the perfect home for your foster.

After agreeing on the adoption, a transport is set up, updates as the transport fills always adds to the anticipation, emails fly back and forth, questions from the new family, etc., vet appt. for the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, and then the night before your foster is to leave, you pack his travel bag with all his paperwork, dog food along with feeding instructions, treats, bowls, water, any medications and instructions for giving along with information as to when HWP and flea/tick meds are due, and his leash. By this time the excitement is in the air, your foster feels it as well. He is excited to be on his way, and you should be too, remember there are many more just like him waiting for you to bring them home!

Be sure to have contact information attached to the dog's collar, you get in the car, call the Transport Coordinator, tell her you're on the way, and call your connection to confirm meeting places and you're on the road. You pull in and your connection is there waiting, you make the exchange of his personal items (paperwork transfers FIRST) and it's time to hand over the leash, one last setter kiss and he hops in the car, you watch them pull away and all you see is that setter tail, as he is already looking ahead to his new family. Some cry all the way home and miss their foster terribly, until they get home and there is an email asking, "Can you take this one?"

Adoption Information

Foster Homes always have the option to adopt their foster dog. If you find that you and your family have fallen in love with your foster dog, or just can't bring yourself to writing your dog's bio for adoption, you may realize that your foster dog is already in their forever home with you and wish to adopt your foster dog. If you are thinking about adopting your foster dog, please let your foster follow-up coordinator know that you are considering adoption. It is okay to "foster fail"! 😊

We understand that during the course of caring for your foster dog you may meet an individual or family that you think would be just the "perfect" home and they want to adopt. These persons must still apply and be approved to be considered for adoption. The dog should not be held for this person during the approval process, so they must act quickly. We strive to be open and fair with all of our applicants and give everyone an equal opportunity to be considered for the dog that could be a match for them. This is why we require that the dog be listed as available on the website for at least 3 days. Any unusual or controversial decisions on adoptions must be made by the Board. NO dogs are to be

released to adopters until a signed contract and payment has been received. Funds must be in US currency.

Resources

Dog Proofing: Dogs, like small children, will play with, chew and eat things they shouldn't and which can potentially cause serious harm, illness and even death. Dog proofing your home is much the same as baby proofing it. If you wouldn't leave something within the reach of a small child then it's not good for your foster. Have your vet and poison control contact information programmed in your phone and on your refrigerator (888-426-4435). If you ever need to find out if something is dangerous or not, here is a site for poison control: <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control> Common sense and supervision of your foster inside your home and especially outside, can avoid many dangers. Don't leave your foster unattended, that's when things can go wrong.

Plants: It is best to keep pets away from all plants. The especially dangerous ones are: azalea (entire rhododendron family), begonia, bleeding heart, caladium, calla lily, Chinese sacred lily (paperwhite narcissus), heavenly bamboo, choke cherry, delphinium or larkspur or monkshood, dumb cane, English ivy, all hederia species of ivy, foxglove, garlic, onions, potato and tomato stems and leaves, hydrangea, iris corms, jack-in-the-pulpit, angel's trumpet, kalanchoe, lantana, lily all species, lily-of-the-valley, lupine, marijuana, milkweed, mistletoe berries, morning glory, oak, oleander, peach, apricot and cherry pits, pencil cactus/plant, philodendron all species, rhubarb leaves, rosary pea, umbrella plant, shamrock, yew, geraniums, castor beans, holly, pine needles, mushroom plants, mustard seeds, onion powder, walnuts, almonds, grapes. Bulbs are especially dangerous. If consumption is suspected call a poison control center or your vet.

Household and yard products: All cleaning products pose a poison hazard. Opting for natural cleaners like baking soda, vinegar, hydrogen peroxide on areas that pets walk is advisable. Be aware that the following items can cause illness and even death: salt, alcohol, tobacco, sugar-free candy, sugar free peanut butter, chocolate, coffee grounds and caffeine, macadamia nuts, moldy food, garbage, grapes, raisins, hops, apple seeds, onions, garlic, avocados, yeast, anything that contains Xylitol, self-cleaning ovens emit a dangerous odor, dryer sheets, floss and rubber bands pose intestinal blockage or strangulation. Sharp objects can cause rips and infection if ingested e.g. staples, glass, jewelry (call the vet and give 2/3 can of pumpkin). Cords and plugs should be safely held down, cooling/heating systems outdoors pose electrocution risk as well, cedar shavings, all lawn products, rodenticides, insecticides, Teflon, de-icing salts, anti-freeze, gas products, flea products, heavy metals such as lead. All medication whether over-the-counter or prescription must be kept out of the dogs' reach.

Other:

- Do not leave a collar on your dog in a crate with a gridded bottom. Keep bathroom doors shut. Make sure fencing is secure, garage and basement doors closed.
- Keep pumpkin, peroxide, and activated charcoal on hand. Do not induce vomiting until a vet has told you to do so as more damage can be done on the journey back up.

Recommended Items to Have on Hand

If you're already a dog owner you'll know what items your dog needs. Here are some suggestions: dog crate or bed, blankets, towels, bedding, feeding / water bowls, grooming supplies including shampoo and a grooming brush, leash, safe dog toys and chews (designed for the rough wear and teeth of dogs and without easily removed parts or choking hazards). Tick and flea medication.