



Foster Facts

What is the process to become a foster parent?

Fill out a foster application. Our Foster Home Coordinator will contact you to discuss what is involved with fostering rescue dogs. We have a foster home group page on Facebook that provides pictures of incoming dogs that need foster placement, helpful tips, and support. If possible, we will add you to this group to keep in contact with the rescue.

How long does it take to find a home for my foster?

Typically, you can expect your foster dog to be adopted within 2-4 weeks, although some special needs, senior or "only pet" dogs may take longer.

What should I know about Texas rescue dogs?

Most rescue dogs that arrive from Texas have had very little care, training, or love during their lives. It is safe to assume that your foster dog has likely spent its entire life as a stray on the streets. Some dogs have never been inside a house. They are under an extreme amount of stress having just arrived from a 2,500-mile road trip from Texas. They are transported in a large trailer or bus with as many as 80+ dogs over a 3-day period.

What do I need to provide for my foster dog?

Street Savvy Dog Rescue appreciates any assistance with the care of your foster dog. If you can provide food, a leash, crate, bedding, dishes, toys, and treats we are always grateful. If not, we will provide them so that you can volunteer regardless. We also cover all vetting and medical expenses for the dogs.

What is my role as a foster parent?

Foster parents provide temporary, safe, loving homes for rescued dogs. We ask that you help with basic training and teach foster dogs good house manners, potty training, crate training, and socialization. We rely on foster parents to provide appealing pictures and videos to expedite permanent placements. Potential adopters will contact you to arrange meetings, so being responsive and available is extremely important. You may also need to take your foster dog to the vet if the need arises. We may request that you transport the dog to adoption events as well.

What are some DO's and DON'Ts for my new foster dog?

- Please keep your foster dog separate from other pets for the first week. This allows your foster dog time to decompress and allows you to monitor the dog for any medical issues prior to interaction with your own pets.
- Create a "safe space" in your home by utilizing a spare bedroom or bathroom blocked with a baby gate or another barrier to keep your foster dog separate from other pets. Giving your foster dog the quiet space to decompress from the stress of transitioning from life as a stray to a home is considerate to the dog.

- Keep your foster dog on a leash with you in the house for the first couple of days. If they exhibit any inappropriate behaviors such as going potty in the house, chasing the cat, jumping etc. you will have the ability to correct it.
- Crate your foster dog when you are not able to supervise and anytime you leave the house.
- Have someone else help you with a proper dog introduction away from your property where your dogs might feel territorial.
- Feed dogs separately and pick up dishes immediately after they are done eating.

Plan to keep your home as calm and boring as possible for the first two weeks. Please do not take your foster dog to public places like dog parks or training classes during that timeframe. The decompression period is critical to foster dogs transitioning into your home successfully and reduces the odds of complications.

Please read the following article: "The First Two Weeks: Decompressing the Rescue Dog" By Tracy Baldwin (ABCDT) <https://www.reboundhounds.org/the-first-two-weeks.html>