



Foster Packet

Thank you very much for donating your time and efforts to Fetching Tails Foundation (FTF) as a foster parent. Because of your efforts, and those like you, we are able to save animals that may otherwise not have made it out of the shelter. The following instructions and information is designed to provide the most successful experience for you and your foster pet as they are on their journey to find their forever home. Please reach out to your assigned Foster Buddy with questions along the way. They will reach out to the correct party if they are not able to answer your question(s).

Your Role

As a foster parent, you are serving as a stepping stone between the shelter and the pet's forever home. You are an integral part of their journey. You will help them adjust to life in a home by providing food, shelter, training, and love. FTF will provide everything you need to support your foster pet including crates, food, treats, medication, toys, leashes, and collars. Any additional items purchased by the foster will be at their own expense, unless otherwise specified. Before purchasing anything for your foster, please consult with your Foster Buddy first to see if we have what you are looking for.

Getting Your Foster

Getting your first foster is very rewarding. There are a few steps you will need to follow when first bringing her/him into your home.

1. Make sure to pick up all the supplies you will need from FTF so you are ready for your foster to arrive.
2. When you arrive home with your foster it is recommended that you give the foster time to decompress. Keep your foster in a quiet area of the home, away from pets and other activity, so they can rest during this stressful time. Do not introduce pets until the foster has had time to decompress.
3. If you have a pet at home, make sure your personal pet and foster first meet on neutral ground to ensure a successful first meeting.
4. Once you first receive your foster, you may want to give them a bath and will want to keep them separate from any household pets until they have been to the vet and received any needed medications or treatment. If your foster dog was spayed/neutered before you received them, they cannot get a bath until 7 days after the surgery.
5. Always feed any animals in the house **separately** to prevent any food guarding or potential issues as animals can be protective over their food.

6. We require crating your foster when you are not home to prevent any issues or damage to property while you are not home. This also helps with training.
7. You will be assigned a Foster Buddy who can help you review and assess applications, if needed. Be there for questions, support and vet appointments. This will be **your go-to person** from here on out!
8. After 7 days, please provide a bio or a filled out bio questionnaire (found on the Facebook page) about your foster to Jenna at jenna@fetchingtailsfoundation.org so it can be uploaded to the web.
9. As your foster receives applications for adoption, you will review them and assess which one is the best fit for your foster pup with your foster buddy. Once applications are reviewed, you will schedule a meet and greet. If successful, then proceed to do a home check, personal reference check, and vet reference check.
10. Coordinate adoption with your foster buddy.
11. **DO NOT** bring your foster to dog parks when they are still a FTF dog.

Supplies Needed

FTF will provide you with a crate, bedding, food, treats, medication, leash, collar, and FTF tag. If you need anything specific to your foster, please communicate your needs with your Foster Buddy and we will provide it for you, if deemed appropriate. Once your foster is adopted you will bring back all supplies provided by FTF.

Training

All dogs under 5 years old will be required for the adopter to sign up for training. So please let any potential adopters know this is a must and it must be a professional trainer, not them.

Please be advised, we use **NO** types of negative punishment tools or training such as: prongs, chokes, or shock collars. Martingales and Harnesses **ONLY** allowed on our dogs. If we find out you use one on one of our dogs or suggest it to our adopters, you will be removed from our organization.

Vet Appointments/Emergency Vet

You are required to get your foster to any veterinary appointments they have. You will contact your Foster Buddy to schedule the appointments. Most fosters will have a vet appointment for vaccines and spay/neuter within the first 7 days with FTF.

For any emergency vet visits, please contact the Foster

Coordinator. Fosters are **NOT** to contact the vet directly.

Fosters are **NOT** to take the dog to their own vet until adopted.

Vet Office Locations

Park Rose Animal Hospital
700 E. Irving Park Rd.
Roselle, IL 60172

Animal Medical Center of Itasca
220 Catalpa Ave
Itasca, IL 60143

Noah's Animal Hospital of Wheaton
414 S. Main St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Bensenville Animal Hospital
1208 Irving Park Rd
Bensenville IL 60106

Wrigleyville Veterinary
3651 N Halsted St
Chicago, IL 60613

Vacations

Foster dogs are not allowed to go out of town with the fosters. Fosters can take dogs within the 50 mile radius of Itasca and within the state lines of Illinois. Nothing further is permitted. If you plan on taking your foster dog with you within the limits, please let your foster buddy know. If you need a sitter for the time you are out of town, please let your foster buddy know and we will find them a foster sitter for the time being. Please try and give as much notice as possible, but we do understand that things come up.

Reviewing Applications

You live with your foster pet so you will be able to know which home they will have the best success in. We do not operate on a first-come, first-served basis. We want to take our time with our foster animals to ensure they are successful in their new home. Review the applications you receive for the best fit. You will do this with your foster buddy.

Some words of wisdom: if the situation arises in which you have to deny an application, be as vague as possible. When given a specific reason for the denial, the applicant could take it as criticism.

Emailing Applicants

You are responsible for responding to applications. Please respond to any application within 24-48 hours to let them know you have received their application. You can say you are reviewing applications and will follow up with them soon. If you think the application may be a good fit then you can schedule a meet and greet. If you get an application and do not feel comfortable turning them down, you can contact your Foster Buddy to help. Contact your Foster Buddy for other help with applications and wording.

Please remember you're representing Fetching Tails.

Meet and Greet

The potential adopters should meet your foster in neutral ground. If the meet and greet is successful, a home check, personal reference check, and vet reference check will be the next steps.

Home Check

This is an important step in the adoption process. This gives you the opportunity to see the home and environment your foster will be living in. Use this check to make sure that they have proper measures in place to have a safe environment for their new family member. Things to look for are:

1. There is a designated outdoor area for the pet to exercise and potty.
2. If the pet requires a fenced in yard, make sure there is one.
3. Make sure there is a place for the pet in the home. We do not allow dogs to be kept outside, in garages, basements, etc.
4. There are no small toys or objects the dog could chew or get into.
5. Garbage cans have lids.
6. There is nothing in the home that would be harmful or unsafe for the animal.

You do not need to make a decision on the adoption at the time of the home visit. It is totally acceptable to walk away and process the home check and then contact the potential adopter later. Your foster buddy will accompany you on your first home check.

Vet Reference Check

This is another important step in the adoption process. You should call a vet reference on applications where the applicant currently owns pets, or has previously owned pets, as it lets you know if they are a responsible pet owner. If the applicant has never owned a pet before, you should have discussions with them to ensure they know and are willing to provide proper care for the dog as well as the costs involved. Additionally, please educate them with the importance of annual vet visits, vaccines, and preventative care (heartworm and flea/tick meds).

1. Pre-plan the call. Review the application and know the pets you are calling about.
2. Call the vet office and introduce yourself and let them know why you are calling. Ask if they have time for some questions:
 - a. How long has the applicant been coming to your office?
 - b. Are the pets spayed/neutered? Verify this matches the application.
 - c. Are the pets microchipped?
 - d. Have you ever known them to delay reasonable care or treatment for any reason?
 - e. Do the pets come in for a routine wellness exam? (How often? Annually?). Find out date of last appointment.
 - f. Are the pets up to date on their vaccinations? Verify this answer matches the application. Find out date of last vaccines.
 - g. Are the pets heartworm tested? Find out the date of the last test. What type of heartworm preventative are the pets on?
 - h. Are the pets free of ticks and fleas when you see them?
3. Ask about the Pet Owner:
 - a. Are you aware of any reason we should not consider them for adoption?
 - b. Describe your foster dog briefly and ask if they feel the applicants are capable of handling a [insert breed or behavior type], and giving them a good home?
4. After the call, if there are inconsistencies between what the vet tells you and your discussions/application answers you can address them politely with the adopter.

Adoption Process

Once all of the required steps have been completed and you have decided on an adopter, you will contact the Foster Coordinator or one of the approved adoption processors to complete the paperwork. You will need to forward the adoption counselor the application.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Adoption Counselors

Kristen Gottschalk	E: Kristen@fetchingtailsfoundation.org	P: 847-220-4410
Doreen Wos	E: Doreen@fetchingtailsfoundation.org	P: 630-816-3374
Sarah Ruhl	E: Ftfsarahr@gmail.com	P: 630-258-0442
Kristina Wos	E: Kristina@fetchingtailsfoundation.org	P: 847.220.4526
Bethany Erickson	E: Bethanyftf@gmail.com	P: 630-743-3194
Melissa Kita	E: Melissak412@att.net	P: 847-630-5482

Animal Care Coordinator:
Kristina Wos
847.220.4526
Kristina@fetchingtailsfoundation.org

Puppies (Medical):
Doreen Wos
630-816-3374
Doreen@fetchingtailsfoundation.org

In an emergency, please contact Linda Wyka immediately: 847.220.8595



Foster Agreement

I/We, _____, have read the attached Foster Orientation packet and understand what is expected of me.

- I agree to grant FTF access to my home to perform a home check qualifying me as an approved foster.
- I agree to provide full care and housing for my foster while he/she is in my care.
- I understand that I could be required to provide foster care to him/her for an extended period of time until they find their forever home.
- I understand I am responsible for my foster and family pets living together without incident. I will know their limitations and implement interventions as needed.
- I understand it is my responsibility to get my foster to the necessary adoption events and veterinary appointments. If I am not able to perform I will find transportation to the event and/or appointment.
- I agree to additional costs spent by me not approved by FTF are of my own accord and not reason for reimbursement from FTF unless otherwise specified.
- I understand shelter pets can come with a variety of conditions and their health is not guaranteed. I will know the condition of my foster pet ahead of time but understand it is not uncommon for pets to come with worms or in dirty conditions requiring bathing and vetting.
- If other pets are residing in the home, they will be current on all necessary vaccinations.
- I am aware of my homeowner's insurance policy on fostering and any breed restrictions and city regulations.
- I agree to follow and adhere to the rules, policies and procedures set forth by FTF.
- I understand and agree that Fetching Tails Foundation makes no express or implied warranty, representation or promise to the age, health, breed, habits, disposition or safety of the animal. I hereby accept the animal as is, assume all risks and responsibilities associated with the ownership of the animal, including bites, and I hereby fully and completely release, indemnify and hold harmless Fetching Tails Foundation, its directors, officers, volunteers, servants, and employees from any claim, cause of action or liability of any sort or nature, whether known or unknown, directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the adoption, care or ownership, maintenance, temperament or condition of the animal.
- I grant to Fetching Tails Foundation ("FTF"), its representatives and employees the right to take photographs of me in connection with any FTF activity or event. I authorize FTF, its assignees and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that FTF may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.
- I agree to allow the Department of Agriculture to inspect my home, if requested. See pg. 9
- This agreement covers any one under the age of 18 living in the household as well.

ALL adults in the home must sign. Please add additional lines if needed.

Print: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



Frequently Asked Questions

- Where and when do adoptions take place?
At one of our Petsmart or Petco locations
- What does the adopter get when they adopt a dog?
 1. The left over open bag you have been feeding your foster for transitioning the dog to their new food. You may need to explain how to transition to the adopter too.
 2. If your foster has a favorite toy you may decide to send the toy with them to help with the transition
 3. A list of trainers we will email them
 4. Medical records (our dogs are fully vetted).
 5. Microchip tag.
- What should the adopter bring to the adoption?
 1. ID
 2. Either forms of payment (**cash or check only**)
 3. A collar and leash to take the dog home (we take our collar off the dog when adopted),
 4. possibly a crate in their car if the dog doesn't travel well
- Where can I take my foster dog for training class?
We will make a post in our Facebook group about free training to take your foster to
- What do I do if I have a vacation planned?
Contact your Foster Buddy your Foster Buddy to notify them of the date you will need a foster sitter. Consider when you're taking vacation to determine when to give notice. If your vacation is over the holidays, you'll want to give plenty of notice. Please let your Foster Buddy and sitter know if there are any applicants you are in the process of speaking with.
- Help! My applicant has a cat, but I don't know if my foster is cat friendly.
We are able to cat test to determine if a dog is generally "cat friendly". If there is an applicant you really like, and they have a cat, but you don't know if your foster dog is okay with cats, you can have your foster dog "cat tested". Please email Sarah at ffsarahr@gmail.com
- When does my foster receive Flea/Tick and Heartworm Medications?
Dogs receive them monthly April through October. You should discuss with the adopter and let them know when the dog is next due. Our dogs do not receive these medications in the winter months.



- What posts can go on Facebook fosters and volunteers?

Please keep all posts related to current fosters and fostering questions. Please only comment on a post if you can take the dog or have relevant questions.

All photos and updates of past dogs can be posted on our Fetching Family Facebook Page.

- Can I foster for another rescue while fostering for Fetching Tails?

Yes, we just ask that you do not foster dogs from different rescues at the same time.



In summary, the Department of Agriculture can go to any foster homes and investigate, if necessary. This went into effect January of 2020.

(225 ILCS 605/3.2)

Sec. 3.2. Foster homes. A person shall not operate a foster home without affiliating by formal written agreement with an animal shelter or animal control facility for which that person will operate the foster home. The written agreement shall include a clause allowing for the Department to inspect the foster home. The animal shelter or animal control facility shall be responsible for the records and have the obligation of stewardship for animals in the foster home with which it affiliates.

Foster homes shall provide the care for animals required by this Act and shall report any deviation that might affect its adherence to its written agreement with the affiliating animal shelter or animal control facility. If the subject of a complaint, a foster home may be inspected by the Department under the Department's licensing authority relative to the affiliating animal shelter or animal control facility. Refusal of the Department's inspection may result in revocation of the license.

A foster home shall not care for more than 4 foster animals or more than 2 litters under 8 weeks of age at any one time.

(Source: P.A. 100-870, eff. 1-1-19; 101-295, eff. 8-9-19.)