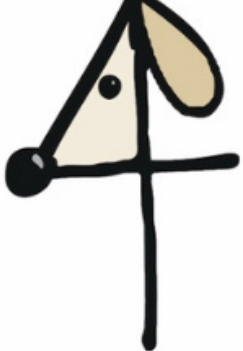


FOSTERING THROUGH

PROMISE  PAWS

Foster Team

Kendal Hurd
(805) 404 2021

Rebecca Taylor
(949) 886 2870

Board Members and Adoption Team

Sue Walshe
(949) 422 4271

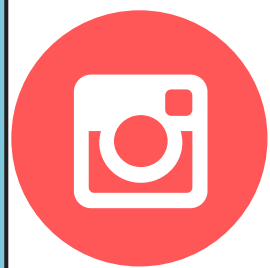
Michelle Cole
(949) 633 3119

Robin Dolmage
(949) 351 4041

Kevin Walshe
(949) 422 4261

Social Media

Melissa Sciacca
(949) 886 2870



@promise4pawsrescue



Promise 4 Paws

Promise 4 Paws Fosters
and Friends



Promise 4 Paws

For advice please contact the **FOSTER TEAM first** and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

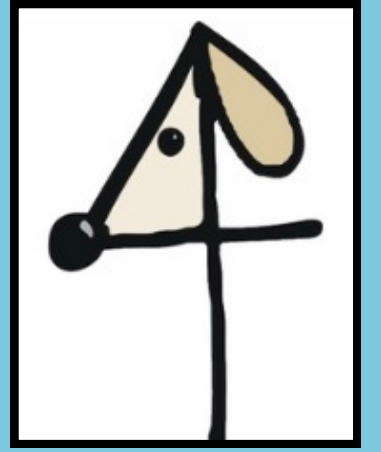
For emergencies try all numbers above.

Fostering can be one of most rewarding things you can do. Not only are you saving the life of the dog you foster but you are also freeing up a space for another dog or taking one off the euthanasia list.

With that being said, it can still be challenging. All new foster dogs will need time to decompress and become 'themselves'. Please see the attached 3-3-3 Rule. At the beginning you will need to be patient and have realistic expectation.

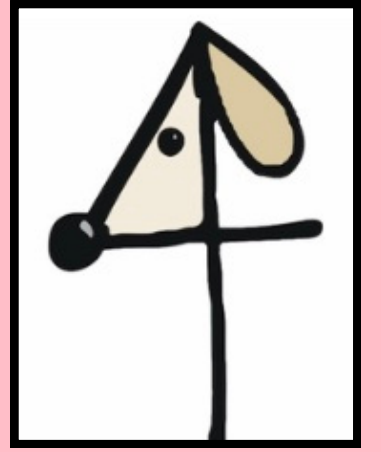
All of us have fostered so please know we are here to help.

BEFORE THE FOSTER DOG ARRIVES . . .



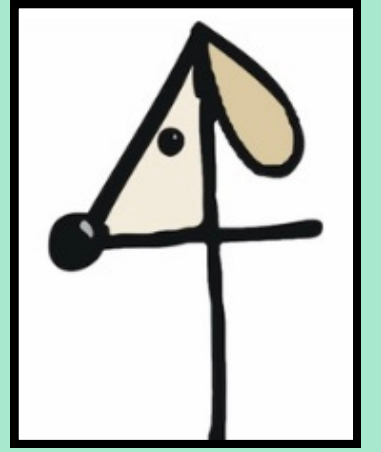
- Think about where you will keep your foster dog. They must be safe and secure when unsupervised and it is advised not to give your foster dog free range of the house, especially at the beginning, as this can be very overwhelming. Spare rooms and kitchens are good spaces as the dog will need to decompress and these spaces may be good for easy clean-up.
- Communicate with the foster team about what you will need. We will provide a size appropriate crate, pen, wipeable flooring, bedding, collars and leashes, ID tag, food bowls, toys, puppy pads, chews and food if wanted/needed.. Purchase requests **MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY THE FOSTER TEAM OR A BOARD MEMBER**. We have most items already in our storage facility. Reimbursements for things we already have can take away valuable funds from other dogs.
- Dog-proof the area where the foster dog will be spending most of their time. This may mean securing electrical cords, storing household chemicals high, moving children's toys, removing plants, rugs, and breakables.
- Check fences and gates are secure. Check around house foundations for any gaps.
- Discuss as a household the routines and commands everyone will use for consistency. If you have children it is very important to talk about how to be responsible with a foster dog. (See **Parental Responsibilities** and **Training Tips**.)

THE FIRST FEW DAYS . . .



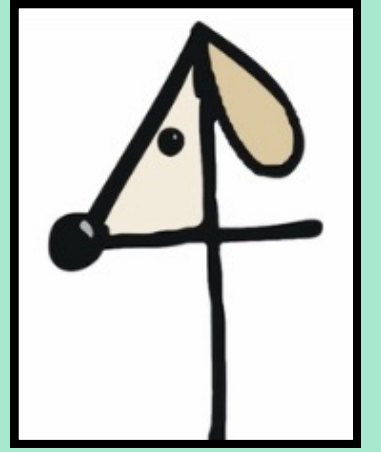
- The first few days with a foster dog are special and critical for a foster dog's adjustment. They will most probably feel confused about their new surroundings and what to expect from you. Establishing clear structures during this time will help ensure a smooth transition for your furry friend.
- It's easy to want to "baby" your foster dog or "make up for what they've been through" but please set boundaries to reduce resource guarding and separation anxiety – that means no couches, human's bed or unlimited time with you until proven it's not creating any issues. As soon as you see any protective or stressed behaviors appear please let us know immediately so we are aware and can provide some advise. Also immediately remove resources that are causing conflict.
- Have realistic expectations and allow your foster dog time to acclimate to their new environment without overwhelming them. Keep the atmosphere calm to help your dog settle in comfortably.
- Once home, introduce them to their designated toileting area immediately and establish a toileting, play, sleep routine.
- If you have a dog(s) of your own please take time to introduce the new dog/puppy properly (see **Introducing Your Dog**).
- Ensure the dog is wearing a collar with a tag (or even consider using an air tag) at all times. Be cautious when opening doors etc, as new dogs can be prone to fleeing.
- Maintain their feeding schedule to prevent gastric distress. If you do wish to switch food please consult the FOSTER TEAM first and do this gradually.

FOLLOWING WEEKS UNTIL ADOPTION . . .



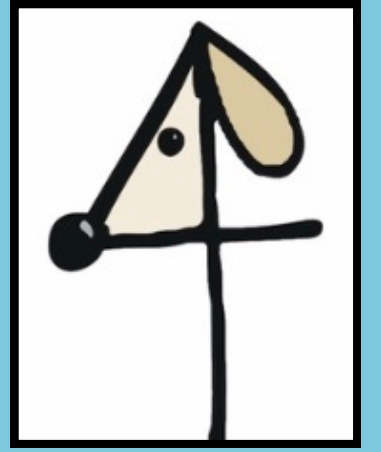
- Remember the 3–3–3 rule and be flexible with this as it may take some dogs longer to work through these stages. You may even see them go “back” before going “forward”.
- People often say they don’t see a dog’s true personality until several weeks after they have settled. Keep this in mind when any difficulties arise. Also depending on where they have come from they may be dealing with past abuse. Please be patient with them and provide them with a place they can go to if they need a break.
- Keep to a schedule for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him/her as well as what they can expect from you. Consistency will boost their confidence and increase their trust in you.
- Continue to follow our Parental Responsibilities, Foster Dogs with Other Pets and Training Tips.
- Monitor your foster dog's behavior closely in new environments to understand what he/she does and doesn’t feel comfortable with and areas they may need more training in.
- Ensure your foster dog is leashed at all times. We advise against dog parks with unknown dogs, especially at the beginning.
- Please contact the FOSTER TEAM within 24 hours if you notice any changes in behavior or health (including growling, baring teeth, food, toy, people, or object guarding, lunging, biting, nipping, lethargy, depression, sensitivity to touch, not eating or drinking, diarrhea, frequent urination, circling, tipping over, limping, etc).
- WEEKLY CHECK IN – Please message the FOSTER TEAM with a short update on how your foster dogs is going, any new behaviors or things they have learnt and a new up to date photo. This helps to keep their website profile up to date and will be sent onto our social media team. This will also helps us when we get a new adoption application to best suit the dog with the applicant.

FOLLOWING WEEKS UNTIL ADOPTION . . .



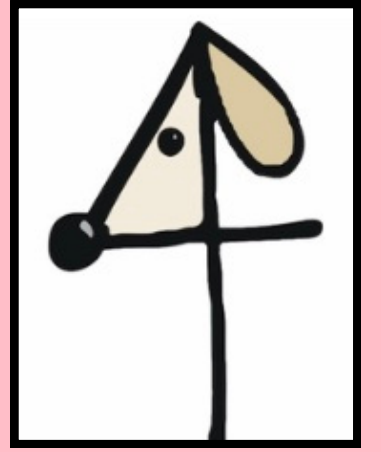
- Message the FOSTER TEAM with all medication, food, and supply refills. Ideally this will be submitted at least 1 WEEK prior for food and 2 WEEKS for medication running out so we have time to call in and order new medication. On occasion, some medications are out of stock, discontinued, or a pet needs an exam before refilling so advanced warning is appreciated.
- Please message vacation cover details to the FOSTER TEAM a MINIMUM OF 3 WEEKS in advance so we can have time to make arrangements. Before covering your own vacation cover, please inform and seek permission from the FOSTER TEAM. Do not move a dog without permission. You can post your own request for cover on the Promise 4 Paws Foster & Friends Private FB group if you wish. Summer and major holidays are incredibly busy for travel so if possible please give 4–6 weeks notice.
- Please call the FOSTER TEAM before going to the vet. If the FOSTER TEAM can't be reached then please contact THE BOARD MEMBERS. If you choose to use your own vet without authorization you will be responsible for any payments.
- All fosters are expected to participate in at least one adoption event a month. All events are listed on our website, instagram, public Facebook page and private Facebook group. If you would like your foster to go to an event but you are unable to attend please message the FOSTER TEAM at least 1 WEEK in advance so they can arrange someone to take them if possible.
- Fosters dogs need to come to the events clean. If you need help with grooming either for events or otherwise please let us know in advance so we can make arrangements with our groomers. If you choose to go to your own groomer you will be responsible for any payments.
- Reimbursement requests for anything MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY THE FOSTER TEAM OR A BOARD MEMBER.

FOSTER DOGS WITH OTHER PETS ...



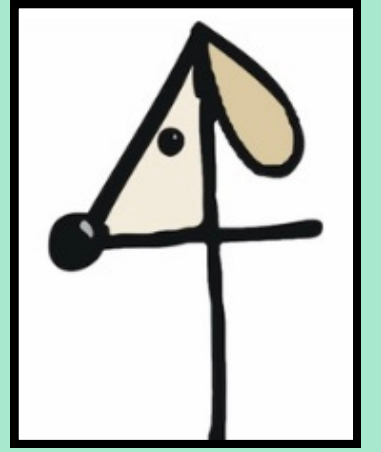
- Many of the dogs come to us from stressful environments, such as shelters, and we're learning about them just as you are. Please use caution when interacting foster dogs with any new animals (yours, family members, friends or strangers). If you are at all concerned with your foster dog's, or another pet's, body language it's best to be overly cautious and refrain from interactions. If at any point you feel concerned, separate the dogs immediately.
- When first introducing grown dogs:
 1. Find a neutral place to make introductions. Ideally take both dogs for an on-leash walk where there is plenty of space. Start walking far apart and treating when they pay positive attention to each other. Continue to have dogs walk closer and closer to each other until the dogs walk next to each other without reacting.
 2. Once they are relaxed and you are confident, introduce them in your yard or biggest room if you do not have a secure yard. Keep the leashes on so you can control the dogs if needed.
 3. In a multiple dog household, do this with each dog and gradually add dogs to the yard. Do not introduce all of them together at once.
 4. Watch them carefully, especially at the beginning, and give them breaks by crating the foster dog. The foster dog will need time to decompress.
- When first introducing a puppy to a grown dog(s):
 1. Control the first interaction, using a barrier such as a gate, crate or playpen. This allows your dog and the puppy to safely meet, sniff and be around each other without physically interacting just yet.
 2. Please read 2 – 4 from the steps above.
- Do not leave the foster dog with your dog(s) in the same room unsupervised. Dogs may seem fine with each other while you are supervising but this may not be the case when left alone.
- Please feed dogs separately at all times to prevent any resource guarding or incidents.
- No shared toys. If you would like your foster dog, or personal pets, to be able to play with toys please put your foster dog in a secure area. No shared outside toys, such as balls or rope tugs, at the beginning while you're getting to know your foster dog. Please refrain from using any squeaky toys which can heighten prey drive in animals.
- If you need help interacting your foster dog with new pets please contact the FOSTER TEAM for help.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES ...



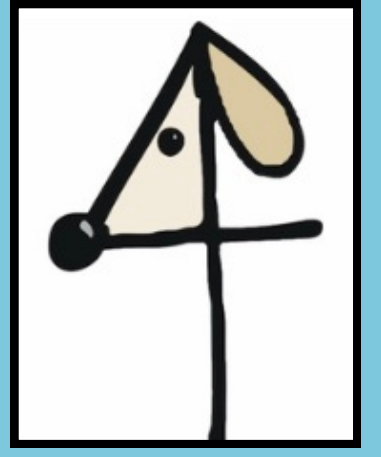
- Give the foster dog a private space that children are not allowed to go. Children should not go in doggy beds and/or crates. Do not let children reach into crates. Dogs need a safe space they can have a break.
- Never leave a child unsupervised with the dog or allow the dog to sleep in a child's room to prevent accidents or injuries.
- Ensure the adult(s) of the household has control of the leash and walks the foster dog.
- Discourage children to engage in rough play with the foster dog.
- Teach children appropriate interactions with the dog and the commands you as a family have agreed upon.
- Training together as a family will encourage an appropriate relationship between the foster dog and child(ren). Have the adult give the treat/reward at the beginning or if they are too quick to take them.
- Children should not ever be put in a position of working through any behavioral modification with a dog. If a foster dog does something wrong, it's up to a responsible adults to intervene and create a situation where everyone can be successful moving forward.
- Feed the foster dog in a separate area away from children to prevent resource guarding behaviors. Ensure children do not take toys and treats away from the dog.
- Have children play with their toys separate from the foster dog as understandably dogs may get confused and assume they are dog toys.
- Most children are not injured by their own dog, but a friend or neighbors dog. Ensure you are supervising closely when friends and family come over. Put dog toys, bones etc away while other children are visiting to ensure safety.

TRAINING TIPS ...



- Walking dogs in the morning will help to discourage unwanted behaviors... “drain the dog” and then you can “train the dog”.
- When leaving the house, ensure dogs are not near the door so they can’t dart out of the door . When leaving the house with the foster dog, exit the door before your dog and have them follow you to create good habits.
- With a leash on, you can also practice having the front door open and having your foster dog wait and not go out.
- Try “rewarding calm” – whatever you reward is what kind of dog you will get.
- Try to feed your foster dog in their crate as this will build a positive association with it.. Do not leave their food bowl down all day. Throw out any uneaten food after 15–20 minutes.
- When you get home, have your foster dog wait quietly for a few minutes before rewarding them with coming out.. Once they are out, take them straight out to do their business.
- If they are in their pen, do not give them attention if they bark or jump up as this is positively reinforcing unacceptable behavior. If they do bark, whine or jump, wait for them to calm down and then reward with attention, treats or exist.
- There are a lot of benefits to being crate trained. Crate training should happen both when you are at home and when you are gone so they do not associate the crate just with you leaving. Putting them in the crate for naps, and when people are eating, are good habits to get into. Have a command like “bed” to send them in. Then sprinkle treats in or give a Kong. Do not leave highly stimulating toys or bones they could choke on. Always toilet a dog just before they are put into a crate and immediately when they come out. TOP TIP: Try covering most sides of the crate with a blanket to make them feel secure and the crate more ‘den-like’.
- Try leaving a radio, or calming music, on low when you leave the house.

ADOPTION PROCESS AND TIPS



Dog Profiles and Sharing:

- Each foster dog has a profile on our website and Petfinder.
- Profiles are also shared on our social media pages (Instagram, Facebook, TikTok).

Adoption Application Process:

- All adopters must apply through our website.
- The adoption team reviews applications and contacts suitable applicants.
- If the initial call goes well, a meet-and-greet and a house assessment are arranged.
- Meet-and-greets can occur at adoption events or the foster home, depending on the dog and/or foster home.
- If multiple applications are suitable, various meet-and-greets will be scheduled. The best home for the dog will be chosen, it will not be based on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Foster parents have the opportunity to adopt their foster dog. Discuss this with the FOSTER TEAM as soon as possible.
- If friends or family are interested in your foster dog, inform the FOSTER TEAM before any official meet-and-greets. They must also apply through the website.

Fostering Time Frames:

- Fostering durations vary widely. If you have a specific time frame in mind, or need to return the foster dog, contact the FOSTER TEAM directly with a minimum of ONE WEEKS notice to allow time for arrangements.

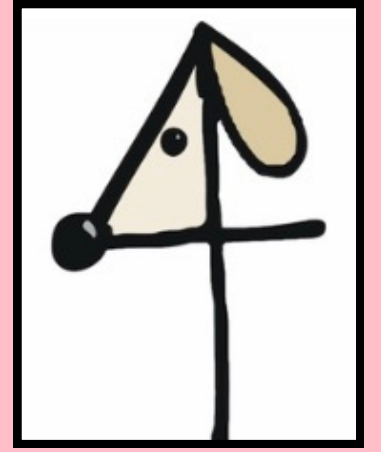
Tips to Help Your Foster Dog Get Adopted:

- Consistent Training: Use the provided TRAINING TIPS consistently.
- Quality Photos and Videos: Take high-quality photos and videos and send them to Rebecca Taylor (website) and Melissa Sciacca (social media). These invaluable in helping the dog stand out and attract potential adopters.

Social Media Sharing:

- Share photos and videos on your personal social media and Facebook groups.
- Regular Updates: Keep the foster team updated on the dog's behavior and personality. Honesty helps match the dog with the perfect home.
- Visibility: Take the dog to places their future owners might frequent wearing an "Adopt Me" banner. (Never take your foster dog anywhere they are uncomfortable with without first discussing this with our FOSTER TEAM or in-house trainer.)

3-3-3 RULE ...



- Taken from LCPA

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

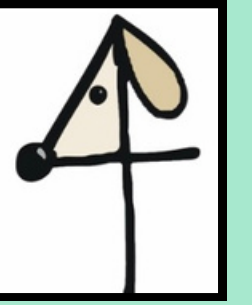
THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY

		
3 DAYS	3 WEEKS	3 MONTHS
TO DECOMPRESS	TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE	TO START TO FEEL AT HOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FEELING OVERWHELMED● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE 'HIMSELF/HERSELF'● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● STARTS SETTLING IN● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE● REALIZED THIS COULD BE HIS/HER FOREVER HOME● FIGURES OUT HIS/HER ENVIRONMENT● GETS INTO A ROUTINE● LETS HIS/HER GUARD DOWN● MAY BEGIN TO SHOW TRUE PERSONALITY● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS/HER HOME● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY● SETS INTO A ROUTINE



GIVE THEM A CHANCE

FOSTER FACT SHEET



Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

Color/Markings: _____ Age: _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Initial Vet Assessment

Location: _____ Date: _____

Fecal Sample taken: _____

Deworming Medication

Name: _____ Date Given: _____

Next Due: _____

Flea/Tick Medication

Name: _____ Date Given: _____

Next Due: _____

Vaccination History

☐ Rabies. ☐ DA2PP ☐ Bordetella

Location: _____ Date: _____

Spay/Neuter ☐ Spayed ☐ Neutered

Location: _____ Date: _____

Background

Rescued from: _____ Date: _____

☐ House-trained

☐ Crate-trained

Good with: ☐ Dogs ☐ Cats ☐ Kids

Personality: _____

Food

Name: _____ Amount: _____

Feeding Schedule: _____ (breakfast) _____ (lunch) _____ (dinner)

Sleeping Habits ☐ Crate ☐ Dog Bed Comments: _____

Additional Information: _____
