



Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster for our rescue! This manual will give you answers to common questions about fostering.

Rescue Contacts:

Dianne Iannello 585-208-6796 (Text only)

Dawn Saunders 585-490-9939

Please understand we try our best, however these contacts are not available 24/7. Please try and limit your calls and texts to day time hours and refrain from calling after 8pm unless it is an emergency. Thank You!

Fosters, please send pictures of your foster(s) at least weekly so we can update their bios! Pictures can be sent to any one of our phone numbers or to the rescue's volunteer Facebook, Instagram, or email to petstophererescue@gmail.com.

Welcome to Fostering!

Thank you for choosing to foster for PSHR. Without people like you, we would not be able to continue our mission to save all the dogs. We hope this manual/guide will help you on your journey of fostering.

Here's what you will need to help make your foster dog's transition to your home a smooth one:

- 2 bowls, 1 for food, 1 for water
- Dog food (Wegmans Grain-Free is our preferred, but you may be provided with something different based on current donation supply or specific dog's needs)
- Collar (with PSHR ID tag), harness, leash (flexie is prohibited)
- A cozy place to sleep (bed & blankets will be provided)
- Baby Gate - This will help keep pup outside of restricted areas of the home or separate resident pups from your foster during the 2 week shut down. These may not always be necessary and will be provided if needed.
- Crate to be provided and sized appropriately for you (for safety purposes, our pup should not be collared in the crate)
- Treats – These are crucial for training all sorts of behaviors
- Toys – We will provide you with a plethora of toys & a least 1 Kong to ensure our pup is have a great time during their stay.
- Time – We ask you evaluate your life and be sure that you have time not only for our pup, but your own furry family. Fostering cannot be successful if all of the family (including furry members) are not on board. Make sure you have time to spend with your pack individually as you do as our pup!
- Patience – We have no knowledge of the previous lives of most of our pups, this means you may need to work with them on items like potty training, walking on leash, and other basic behavioral items, we ask you are kind and patient with our dogs. No one is perfect!

If after the 2 Week Shut down, you feel additional training is needed please contact your liaison immediately

If additional items are needed, before purchasing yourself, please check with your foster liaison or a director of PSHR to be sure we do not have on hand. If it is not on hand we can purchase for you OR you will be reimbursed with a copy of the receipt for purchase

A little heads up...

Most of our pups come from a shelter environment. What does this mean to you? This means we have no history on this pup. We don't know if they are housebroken, crate trained, good with kids, cats, or other pertinent information. What we do know is that we all try our best to ensure they come to you altered and up to date on shots. However, if you take on an emaciated pup or owner surrender, the probability that they are unaltered will be much higher.

Before bringing in your foster, get your house ready as if you were bringing in a new child; remove any unsafe materials from reach, if there is something that may get chewed up, put it in an area of the home where your foster won't have access to it. Making sure that cabinets and doors latch appropriately is also HIGHLY recommended. These pups can be very nose-y and some foods or chemicals can be very dangerous to dogs if ingested. While we are all about giving "snacks" or "treats", please refrain from sharing people food regularly.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A MOTIVATED PUP!

Here are a few extra tips:

- Make sure all trash bins are covered/latched OR put them in a closet/cabinet (don't forget the bathroom!)
- Keep toilet lids closed – no one likes a wet bathroom floor
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops(counter surfers are a real thing)
- Move house plants to a higher level or secure them down. Some dogs like to play with plants; they could be knocked over or damaged. Some plants are also poisonous. SAFETY FIRST!
- Make sure aquariums or cages for small animals are securely out of reach
- Remove any medications, lotions, or cosmetics out of reach (preferably in a secured cabinet)
- Move and/or secure all electrical and phone cords out of reach, no one wants to replace a phone charger!
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, these can be harmful to a pup & are also extremely tempting to play with!
- Please keep children's toys out of your foster's approved area (they may chew)
- BEWARE! Toilet paper and the rolls are VERY appealing to play with!

- Inspect fences to be sure there are no weaknesses – DO NOT leave pup unattended until you have observed they will not attempt escape!
- DO NOT leave a pup on a tie-out/corkscrew unattended. EVER.

Dog Introductions

All initial dog on dog introductions for foster or adoption will be done by Dianne, Kelley, Dawn, or any combination of the three

Please adhere to the 2-week shut down instructions provided. We understand that following this strictly can be challenging. You will need to follow it, even if it is a modified version of it.

Once you take your foster pup home, please make sure that high-value items are put away. Items like Kongs, chew toys, plush toys, or any items that are your pup's favorite. These items should be put away whenever the pups are interacting at first. You don't want to allow for the possibility of a fight. Never feed the foster pup & resident dog separately. Be sure to pick up any empty food dishes when feeding time is done. Water is not typically considered a resource, therefore there is no need to be concerned with those dishes.

Resident dogs take time to adjust to having a visitor. You will need to be sure that you adhere to the 2-week shut down. This gives your pup the opportunity to relax and be completely ready to embrace the foster pup. Remember crate and rotate with short times together is the best way to be successful.

Your pack is the most important. You need to show your foster that they are the "new guy". When doing walks, or trips to the back yard, the resident pup goes through doorways or entry points first. Entry order to any door way, into the yard, or entry to your house, should be you, resident pup, then foster.

We understand that you have a personal life, this includes friends or family that have personal dogs. Please under no circumstances introduce our foster pup to their dogs without the permission of Dawn, Dianne or Kelley.

Cat Introductions

We cannot ensure that a foster has been “cat tested”. Many of our rescue dogs come without a history or previous living environment. If you have cats in your home, you will need to make an introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely. Start by keeping your foster dog and cats separate. You can either keep the cats in a separate room (with water, food and litter boxes), or keep your foster dog confined to a separate room. Your foster dog will be going through the 2 weeks shut down during this time. During the initial 2 weeks, allow your foster dog and cat to smell each other through the door. Do not allow direct contact at this point. This will also be the time to swap blankets between animals, so that they familiarize themselves with each other’s scent.

After the 2 week shut down is complete, begin face to face introductions. Keeping your foster dog on a leash, allow your cat into the same area (introduce one cat at a time if you have multiple). Do not allow the foster dog to run or charge directly at the cat. Never allow the cat to be cornered. Try to distract the dog as best you can so that the cat can approach without fear. If either animal is showing signs of over stimulation or aggression, please end the meeting by removing either animal. It is imperative to keep interactions safe, positive and controlled.

Finally, never leave your foster dog alone with any cats in your home.

If you have any questions or concerns about introductions; reach out to your foster liaison or PSHR staff.

Children and Dogs

Please remember, PSHR typically does not typically know the history of our pups. We do not know if they have been around children. We do not always know the history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster pup. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate dog for your home situation. We require that all children in your home meet any potential foster dog. You should still supervise all interactions between children and our pup.

Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs, cats, or other small animals who may cross their path.

A few important things:

- Always leave the pup alone when they are eating, chewing or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping
- Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the pup – trade for an item of higher value (treat)
- Do not tease your foster pup
- Don’t chase the foster pup around the house or run quickly around the dog; it may scare them

- Pick up all the children's toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is belongs to them and what belongs to a child
- Until a level of tolerance has been observed, always have our pup drag a leash
- Please do not allow the foster pup to sleep with your child
- Do not leave children unattended with your foster pup. This can help avoid any unwanted behaviors from children (climbing on, laying on, tail pulling, toys being taken away)

Daily Routine

When you first take your foster home, take care not to overwhelm them with too many new experiences all at once, sometimes too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly towards another dog or a human(refer to 2-week shutdown). It's extremely important to develop a daily routine of regularly scheduled meals, potty breaks, and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on.

Also, on a daily basis, be aware of our foster's appetite and energy level. If they aren't eating well or you find something medically wrong, contact PSHR. It may be wise to record any observations (loose poop, coughing, vomiting). Keep in mind a lack of appetite is normal during change. Add a little bit of wet food to their kibble, that should spark a bit of eating.

Daily Routine is extremely important. Please develop one prior to integrating into your home

House Training

It's unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take them home. Most of the dogs in the foster program have lived in a shelter for a while. In this environment potty breaks are unpredictable. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster adjusts to your schedule.

A house-trained pup has a much better chance of being adopted. Please help your pup perfect those skills. Initially you will want to take your pup out for a potty break every 30-45 minutes using the same door. This will help them to create a signal that they need to go. Most dogs will give cues that they need to go potty. These can be things like standing near a door or walking in circles sniffing the floor. Be sure

to keep your pup in a crate when you cannot supervise in order to avoid accidents. Pee pads & Nature's Miracle can be provided if needed. Please always check with us before buying these items as we may have a supply.

Please also be aware that with some of our pups they may come to you unaltered. Female dogs may go into heat while in your care. Please notify PSHR immediately so that we can supply you with diapers/ reusable diapers.

How can you help find your foster a great home?

As you get to know your foster, we ask that you stay in constant contact with your foster liaison so they can update your foster's biography online to reflect the accurate information about the dog's preferences and quirks. Some people write their own bios, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also require that new photos are sent to us at least 1 time a week. This allows for your foster's Petfinder profile to include the most up to date photos. It helps to get your foster adopted seeing photos of them living in a home! Please send these items directly to your foster coordinator.

Use your own social media! Post them as often as you can and tag PSHR. We are on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok! We want to see those smiling faces!!

In addition, we will provide you with an "Adopt me" bandana or leash. When you have your foster out for a walk or on a hike, please make sure they are wearing these items. It will help to bring attention to your pup!

Criteria for emergencies

What constitutes a medical emergency in a dog? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. Here are some specific symptoms:

- Not breathing or extreme labored breathing
- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever(above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin(when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- A Large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours

If your foster dog displays any of these symptoms, please CALL/TEXT Dianne, Dawn, & foster liaison **immediately!** If the pup is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help.

Our Veterinarians:

Penfield Animal Hospital – 585.381.2441

Ark Veterinary Clinic and Urgent Care – 585.487.8700

East Ridge Animal Hospital – 585.467.2120

Animal Hospital of Rochester – 585.730.7704

Rules to follow while our pup is in your care

- Do NOT contact any other rescue in regards to our pup. If you feel additional marketing is needed or a cross-post, please reach out to your foster liaison
- Absolutely no dog on dog interactions or introductions are to be done without approval
- PSHR dogs should be the ONLY foster in your home – typically we will only have you care for one pup at a time. There should NEVER be another agencies pup under your care at the same time unless we have given approval
- Absolutely no use of a controversial training tool without permission
- Vet visits – while most of our vets will allow a foster to schedule the appointment, you must get approval first and are only authorized to have what is instructed completed.
- A harness should be used at all times when walking our pup
- ABSOLUTELY NO off leash activities unless it is in your fenced in backyard
- DO NOT take your pup to a dog park