

RESCUECONNECT

OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ABUSED, ABANDONED, AND HOMELESS ANIMALS BY AIDING IN THEIR JOURNEY TO A BETTER LIFE

Guidelines for Introducing a New Foster to your Home

Thank you for providing a lifesaving safe haven for your foster dog! The guidelines below are in place to help aid in a positive fostering experience for both you and your foster! Particularly for those homes with other pets and children following these will greatly improve your chances for a successful experience. Every dog is an individual and will need support and care catered to their needs. These best practices should be followed unless otherwise discussed with a member of the RescueConnect Team.

Health and Safety First

Review any medical records that came from the shelter. If you did not receive any paperwork contact RescueConnect immediately. Records should contain a date associated with the following. If not, please contact RescueConnect to discuss scheduling a vet appt to complete:

- **Vaccines:** Rabies, DHLLP, Bordetella. Please note if a booster is recommended for any of these.
- **Fecal and deworming:** Please take note of the potty habits of your foster. If you see any loose stool, blood, or worms collect a sample and refrigerate so it can be taken in for analysis.
- **Spay or Neuter:** if done note date, baths should not be given within 48 hours.
- **Flea medication:** make a note of any fleas seen.
- **Heartworm Test:** if HW negative has a preventative been given? If HW positive, we will start the foster on 30 days or antibiotic pre-treatment (doxycycline). Check with RC for an RX.
- **Microchip:** If completed is there a tag?
- **Collar and Leash with Name tag:** Fosters should wear a secure collar or harness with a name tag listing their name and a phone number at ALL TIMES. All foster should also be walked on a slip lead at ALL TIMES when outside even within a fenced yard for a minimum of 2 days.
- **General health condition:** take note of any drainage from eyes, condition of ear canals (odor, black junk, etc.), any limping, hair loss etc. Call or email RC with this information.
- **Consider the use of a muzzle at the initial vet exam;** please request the vet us a muzzle for the initial vet exam. These are painless tools that will ensure there are no bite incidents. This will allow you and the vet to see how the foster responds to the exam.

RescueConnect will cover the cost of all APPROVED medical care. Please do not take your foster to the vet without speaking with us first. You may be liable for any unapproved vet costs incurred.

Preferred Vets:

The Country Vet 6841 Market St. Wilmington, NC 910 399 2934

Fix A Friend Spay and Neuter Clinic 6033 Ocean Hwy Winnabow, NC 910 253 8161

Leland Veterinary Hospital 508 Village Rd NE, Leland, NC (910) 371-3440

If you have an emergency medical situation, please call Ava (704 560 9517) or Leslie (910 352 5150).

Introduction to your home and pack

Foster dogs should be contained in a crate or secure location for the first 24-72 hours in your home. We do not recommend introducing them to your pack until they have had this period to settle in. This will allow you to evaluate any medical conditions not identified at the shelter that could be contagious and to allow them time to decompress and adjust to their new environment.

- Give your foster dog a quiet environment where they can do limited damage. A crate is a wonderful tool to contain them while you learn if they are house broken or are prone to chewing or other destructive behavior. For nervous dogs you may wish to drape the crate with a blanket or towel to give them a “cave” within which to decompress. Remember the shelter is a LOUD, CHAOTIC, place. Give your dog a few days to settle in and learn to trust you.
- It’s best to introduce your foster to any resident animals on neutral territory- - front yard or driveway, not in your living room or main play area for your dog. Give them plenty of space and limit food or toys in the area. We HIGHLY recommend the foster being leashed, especially when introducing to cats. Cat tests are usually not an option in a shelter, so we will likely NOT know if they are cat friendly or not.
- Do not feed your foster dog in the same space as your dog. We highly recommend feeding in a crate to encourage the crate as a safe haven positive space for them.
- Please do not allow your foster to be off leash with other dogs or CHILDREN for at least 48 hours. A slow and steady introduction allows everyone the time to get used to the visitor and will GREATLY add to the success of your foster experience.

With fostering, SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE!

For more information there is a FANTASTIC article available via the link below:

<http://www.bostonterrierrescuecanada.com/the-2-week-shutdown-how-to-introduce-a-new-foster-dog-to-your-home/>

Supplies

RescueConnect has supplies available for your foster dog. Please call or email us if you need any of the following. **It’s best to collect these before your foster has arrived so you are ready for their welcome into your home:**

- Crates
- Old towels and blankets for bedding
- Collars
- Leashes
- Name Tags
- Food
- Monthly flea and heartworm preventative.

Fosters are the lifeblood of rescue and the hardest resource for us to recruit. By fostering you are saving the life of the animal in your care. We cannot do this work without your support. THANK YOU