FAQ’s of Fostering for Rescue Village

Q: What animals need Foster Care?
A: The majority of animals that need fostering are kittens and puppies that aren’t yet old enough to go up for adoption, puppies or kittens that need socializing, Mom cats & their kittens, Mom dogs & their puppies, or animals recovering from an injury or illness. We also have a program for Adult Dogs in which they are adopted straight from foster homes. This allows us to help take in more dogs at the shelter and save more lives. If interested in fostering adult dogs, please see our separate FAQ’s sheet for that program.

Q: What if I only want to foster a particular type of animal, such as kittens or puppies?
A: Foster Homes may specify which type/age of animal will best fit their lifestyle. Every foster home helps save lives, no matter what you decide to foster!

Q: Can I foster if I have pets of my own?
A: Of course! Foster animals should stay separated from resident animals for at least 7-10 days to reduce the risk of possible disease transmission. While GHS provides veterinary care for animals before they are sent into foster homes, we usually do not have any prior medical history on the animal(s). We also recommend that your resident animals be current on all vaccinations as this will help protect them from possible disease transmission.

Q: How should I isolate foster animals?
A: For litters of kittens and puppies, a spare bathroom or bedroom works great. For adult dogs, we recommend keeping them crated in another room when you are unable to supervise them.

Q: Can I foster if I have children?
A: Yes! Fostering can be a very rewarding experience for families with children. It teaches children about the selfless nature of being a volunteer, how to responsibly care for an animal, and how to help homeless animals even if you can’t adopt them. As a general rule, children under the age of 16 should NOT be left unsupervised with foster animals, especially adult dogs.

Q: I work, can I still foster?
A. Yes! And we would love to have you! A reasonable amount of time to be away from an adult animal or litter of kittens on a regular basis is 8 hours. Young puppies, ideally, should be let outside at 4 hour intervals. Medications are normally given two to three times daily and can easily be scheduled around work or other commitments. If you have a busy schedule, fostering animals that need special attention or a lot of constant care, such as bottle babies that need fed every two hours, may not be the best fit for you.
FAQ’s of Fostering for Rescue Village cont’d.

Q: What kind of training do I need to be a foster parent?
A: You do not need any formal training to become a foster parent. You will need to fill out a Foster Application and Agreement, and we will email you a copy of our Foster Manual as a reference tool, but most training will be given to you one on one with the Programs Coordinator or other staff. There is someone here at the shelter 7 days a week to answer any questions that you may have.

Q: What supplies are needed to foster, and what will it cost me?
A: GHS provides basic care supplies for foster animals. Supplies differ depending on the animal that you foster. We will provide, if needed: a crate, startup food, cat litter, bottles, KMR formula, newspaper, bowls, collar, leash and toys. We do ask that foster homes provide ongoing food while the animal is in your care.

Q: Do I have to provide medical care for my foster animal?
A: No. GHS provides ALL medical care for your foster animal. Before an animal goes into foster care, he/she receives a basic medical evaluation, vaccines, de-worming, and flea treatment. You may have to bring your foster animal back to the shelter every couple of weeks to keep their vaccines and deworming up to date.

Q: What if my foster animal gets sick?
A: Call the Programs Coordinator immediately. If necessary, we will have you bring the foster animal to GHS for any medical treatment. GHS cannot reimburse you if you take the animal to any vet other than GHS.

Q: What if I cannot foster at the time of need?
A: That’s ok! We will call someone else on the “active waiting” list. Because of the amount of animals that need fostering, there will always be another chance to foster down the line. We will just try you again another time.

Q: How long will I have my foster animals?
A: It depends on what you are fostering. Most puppies and kittens only need about 2-4 weeks, while bottle babies could be upwards of 8 weeks. Adult dogs could be about a month, and Moms & babies could be about 8 weeks.

But, if you can only foster for a few weeks, that helps too! We can always use multiple foster homes for long term foster situations to help break it up for the foster families.

Q: What if I have a foster animal and cannot continue to foster?
A: That’s ok! We ask that you call and try to give us at least 24-48 hours’ notice. We will then line up another foster home for the animal(s).

Q: Can I adopt my Foster animal?
A: Yes. As a foster home, you will get first “dibs” on adopting your foster animal. But remember, if you adopt your foster animal, will you be able to provide foster for more animals that will need you?
FAQ’s of Fostering for Rescue Village

Adult Dog Edition

This year, Rescue Village is working with various rescuers, rescue groups, shelters, and volunteers to give adoptable dogs who might otherwise be euthanized a second chance at a happy ending. We are going to use foster homes as a means of adoption for adult dogs. This helps us by freeing up more space at the shelter to take in more dogs. Since these dogs will be adopted from their foster home, below are more specified questions about this program.

Q: I work, can I still foster?

A. Yes! And we would love to have you! Most adoptive families work 8 hours a day, so working a full 8 hour day doesn’t exclude you at all! It’s a good way for your foster dog to learn a normal family routine.

Q: Can I foster if I have pets of my own?

A: Of course! Foster dogs should stay separate from resident animals for at least 7-10 days to reduce the risk of possible disease transmission. While GHS provides veterinary care for animals before they are sent into foster homes, we usually do not have any prior medical history on the animal(s). We also recommend that your resident animals be current on all vaccinations as this will help protect them from possible disease transmission.

We also ask that you ALWAYS feed your foster dog in his/her crate. This helps prevent any problems between resident dogs and the foster dog, and helps promote crate training.

Q: Do I have to crate train my foster dog?

A: Yes. For the safety of the foster dog, we will have you crate your foster dog during feedings and whenever you cannot supervise them and at night. Crating is also the most effective way to help with house training.

Q: Can I foster if I have children?

A: Yes! Being a foster home can be a very rewarding experience for children and families. It teaches children about the selfless nature of being a volunteer, how to responsibly care for an animal, and how to help homeless animals even if you can’t adopt them. As a general rule, children under the age of 16 should NOT be left unsupervised with foster dogs.

Q: Am I responsible for finding a home for my foster dog?

A: No, but we need your help! Photos and stories of the foster dog will be put on our website, facebook page, and wherever else we can put them! However, we do ask that you attend as many off site events as possible. The more foster parents can help us promote their foster dogs to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public, the faster they will get adopted.
Q: So, what is the process for an adult dog adoption from foster care?

A: If someone shows interest in meeting your foster dog, you will be called to set up an appointment here at the shelter for a meet and greet. If you’d like, you can sit in with the adoption counselor to talk about your foster dog. We definitely encourage this because no one knows your foster dog better than you. Potential families love to hear how a dog may be in their home, so your knowledge of your foster dog is so important! If they decide to adopt the dog, the adoption will take place right then at the shelter, and the adoption counselor will proceed with all the paperwork and medical information.

Again, we also ask that you attend as many off site adoption events as possible. You will be given significant notice as to when and where they will be held. There will be an adoption counselor on site to again work with the adopter and complete any necessary paperwork.

Q: I don’t have a fenced in yard; can I still foster an adult dog?

A: Yes! While a fenced in yard is great for playing and running without worry of running away, leashed walking is just as great! Remember, your foster dog should never be let off leash while outdoors.

Q: Can I take my foster dog to an off leash dog park for exercise and socialization?

A: No. Due to liability issues, we ask that you do not take your foster dog to an off leash park. Dog parks can be overwhelming to some dogs, and it may not be a healthy or good experience for your foster dog. A nice long walk on leash is the best thing for your foster dog!

Q: Do I have to provide medical care for my foster dog?

A: No. GHS provides ALL medical care for your foster dog. Before an animal goes into foster care, he/she receives a basic medical evaluation, vaccines, de-worming, Heartworm testing & preventative, and flea treatment. You may have to bring your foster dog back to the shelter every couple of weeks to keep their vaccines and deworming up to date.

Q: What if my foster dog gets sick?

A: Call the Programs Coordinator immediately. If necessary, we will have you bring your foster dog to GHS for any medical treatment. GHS cannot reimburse you if you take the animal to any vet other than GHS.

Q: What if I cannot foster at the time of need?

A: That’s ok! We will call someone else on the “active waiting” list. Because of the amount of dogs that need foster, there will always be another chance to foster down the line. We will just try you again another time.

Q: What if I have a foster animal and cannot continue to foster?

A: That’s ok! We ask that you call and try to give us at least 24-48 hours’ notice. We will then line up another foster home for your foster dog.

Q: Can I adopt my Foster dog?

A: Yes. As a foster home, you will get first “dibs” on adopting your foster dog. But remember, if you adopt your foster dog, will you be able to provide foster for more dogs that will need you?