

Dog and Puppy Foster Manual



Riverside County Department of Animal Services



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining the RCDAS Foster Family!



In becoming a foster caregiver, you are joining a revolution in animal welfare that is forever changing the scope of animal sheltering.

As a foster caregiver, your work is invaluable in saving lives. The shelter environment can be extremely stressful to animals. A foster home can make all the difference! A foster caregiver's role is to love, care for, and to help market their foster pet(s) for adoption. Any notable characteristics or improvements should be used by the foster caregiver to help with marketing their foster pet.

Fostering is a common practice amongst animal sheltering organization; it has helped save countless lives.

This manual is a compilation of fostering best practices utilized by animal welfare organizations nationwide. Any reproduction of other authors' works has been done so with permission of the original author.

#Rivcopets

www.rcdas.org

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Types of Foster Care

All types of animals are available for foster through RCDAS for any length of time!

In the dog foster program, our focus is on dogs experiencing shelter stress and behavioral decline as a result of the shelter environment. This includes dogs who have been at the shelter a while and are in need visibility/marketing to help them get adopted!

Behavior Fostering

The dogs in this category may need just a little more help to learn how to become the perfect house guest. This can range from simple house-training, to basic obedience training, for example.

Medical Fostering

Medical fostering involves animals that may be critically ill, injured, recovering from surgery, or have a variety of other needs.

Examples may include the following:

- Ringworm: Requires a 4-6-week commitment. As a foster, you would be asked to bathe pet(s) twice weekly with Lime Sulfur dip, give daily oral medication, and come back to the shelter weekly for rechecks. Please note: After fostering a pet with ringworm, you will only be able to foster other ringworm positive pets until given clearance from our medical team.
- Mange (non-contagious): Is a 2-3-month commitment. As a foster, you would be asked to give daily medications, bathe pets 1-2 times per week, and bring to shelter for rechecks every several weeks.
- Broken Bones: Involves a 4-6-week commitment. These pets often need to come in weekly for re-checks and may or may not need daily medications. Most have exercise restrictions and/ or need strict crate rest.
- Extensive Wounds: The time commitment varies, but most will need several weeks to several months in foster care. These pets need frequent bandage changes, sometimes under sedation. Consequently, some may need to come to the shelter multiple times per week initially. They also may need medications given daily.

- Post-Operative Care: Approximately 1-2-week commitment. These pets may need daily medications, warm or cold compressing of surgery site, suture/staple removal, etc.
- Upper respiratory Infections (kennel cough): Is a 1-2-week commitment. These pets need daily medication(s), and depending on the severity, may require other supportive care (such as subcutaneous – sub Q – fluids, special diet, etc.).
- Pets in need of special monitoring for medical conditions, appetite, weight loss/gain, etc. The time/medical commitment will vary; this will be discussed on a case by case basis.
- Bottle Babies and Pregnant Moms: Is a 4-8-week commitment. Bottle babies need around the clock care and to be kept warm and fed at all hours. They start to become independent at around 4 weeks old. They become available for adoption at 8 weeks old or 2 lbs.

Short Term Fostering

This type of foster care often expedites adoption faster than any other! Short term foster is a low time commitment with an emphasis on getting to know the dog and gathering marketing material. Often short-term foster dogs are adopted within days after their return because of the information we learn about their needs and personality, and because of the great photos and video we use to market them on social media!

Day Trips & Pawjama Parties

We have pre-selected dogs eligible for doggie dates and sleepovers with any member of the public. This is the lowest foster time commitment. Only have a few hours? Perfect! Even grabbing a puppaccino from the Starbucks drive-thru is A+ enrichment for a shelter dog.

To take a dog on a day trip or pawjama party, head to the front counter in the adoptions lobby to view our binder of eligible dogs!



Taking Home a Foster Pet

Fill out the online application:

<https://www.rcdas.org/index.php/volunteer/foster-care>

Foster Returns Schedule

We do not have the kennel space to accommodate unannounced drop-offs. Please use the above link to schedule your return appointment. If return availability does not line up with your availability, please email your foster coordinator.

Foster pets will be picked up and returned through the foster office.

Recommended Supply Checklist

Supplies: We will provide you with all medical care and medical supplies needed for your foster pet. When possible, we will provide other supplies.

We cannot guarantee to provide the following supplies, however if donations are received, we will gladly provide what we can. Please remember: Any money spent on foster care may be tax deductible as donations!

Strongly Recommended

- Food
- Food Bowl (For Food & Water)
- Dog Food Storage Bin
- Collar & Leash
- ID Tag W/Phone #
- Crate
- Dog Bed
- Poop Baggies
- Toys (Hard & Soft)
- CHEWS! (Rawhides not recommended)
- Treats
- Kong
- Animal First Aid Kit

Recommended to make your life easier, but not required!

- Baby Gates
- Exercise Pen
- Dog Brush
- Doggy Shampoo & Conditioner
- Nail Clippers
- Ear Cleaner
- Enzymatic Odor Neutralizer
- Potty Pads

Feeding

Please refer to the weight chart on your bag of dog food for appropriate feeding quantities.

If you have other resident pets, DO NOT feed them together with your foster. Some animals can become protective of their food. We never want to learn this the hard way after a serious altercation. It is very important that your animals and your foster are kept separate during feeding times.

Fresh water should always be available for your foster pets to drink. We never offer cow's milk, as dogs and cats cannot properly digest it.



Housing

We recommend keeping foster pets separate from resident animals for the first two weeks to wait out the incubation period for certain contagious illnesses like kennel cough and ringworm. This is also helpful for slowly and properly introducing a foster animal to your resident pets as many pets will not get along right off the bat. Bathrooms, baby gates and crates can be useful tools when working to keep animals separate.

DO:

- Sterilize surfaces between foster animals to minimize spread of possible contagious illnesses.
- House your foster primarily indoors.
- Keep your home temperature between 60- and 85-degrees Fahrenheit.
- Supervise your foster in the backyard to ensure they don't attempt to escape or jump the wall.

DON'T:

- Leave your foster on a "tie out" under any circumstances.
- Allow your foster to be off leash outside the home ever.
- Visit a dog park.

Caring for Puppies

Mom should be keeping them warm but keep the room warm and draft free.

At one week of age, the puppies should be handled only enough to determine that they are healthy and gaining weight. Always handle puppies where mom can see them and put them back with her as soon as your evaluation is done. Puppies will sleep 90% of the time and eat the other 10%.

1-2 weeks of age

If bottle feeding: Bottle feed 1/2 tablespoon formula every 2-3 hours, until puppies are full but not bloated.

Environment: The temperature of the nest box should be nice and warm: 85-90° F. Chilling is the number one danger to newborn puppies.

Ear canals open between 5 and 8 days. Eyes will open between 8 and 14 days. They open gradually, usually starting to open from the nose outward. All puppies are born with blue eyes, and initially the pupil cannot be distinguished from the iris; the eyes will appear solid dark blue. Healthy puppies will be round and warm, with pink skin. If you pinch them gently, their skin should spring back; if the skin remains "tenting" this is a sign of dehydration. When you pick a puppy up, it should wiggle energetically and when you put it down near the mom it should crawl back to her. Healthy puppies seldom cry.

2-3 weeks

Feeding: If bottle feeding, feed formula every 3-4 hours, until puppies are full but not bloated.

Environment: The floor temperature of the nest box

should be 75 to 80° F. If there is a mom, she will begin to spend larger periods of time out of the nest, though she will not go far from it.

Puppies begin to crawl around day 18 and can stand by day 21. They will begin to play with each other, biting ears, tails and paws even before their teeth have come in. Their temporary teeth will become evident during this period. They learn to sit and touch objects with their paws.

Puppies begin their socialization phase; they will be strongly influenced by the behavior of their mother for the next six weeks. To further socialize puppies, increase the amount of handling, and get them accustomed to human contact. It is important not to expose them to anything frightening; children may seem intimidating and should be supervised closely while visiting to ensure gentle handling.

3-4 weeks

Feeding: If bottle feeding, feed formula every 4 hours, until puppies are full but not bloated Puppies may start lapping from a bowl.

Environment: The floor temperature of the nest box should be 70 to 75° F. from this point onward.

Adult eye color will begin to appear but may not reach final shade for another 9 to 12 weeks. Puppies begin to see well, and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dogs' eyes. Puppies will start cleaning themselves, though their mother will continue to do most of the serious cleaning.

4-5 weeks of age

Feeding: If bottle feeding, feed as needed to keep pups from crying with hunger. Puppies usually can drink and eat from a saucer by 4 weeks. Weaning should be done gradually. Introduce them to solid food by offering warmed canned food, mixed with a little water into gruel, in a shallow saucer. You can begin by placing one puppy by the plate of canned food gruel and hoping for the best - if it starts eating, great! Its litter mates will probably eat also. But without mom around to show them, many puppies do not have a clue about feeding time. The puppies will walk in it, slide in it, and track it all over the place. Sometimes one will begin lapping right away, and in its anxiety to consume as much as it can, it will often bite the edge of the plate. Some will prefer to lick the gruel from your fingers. Some will start licking your finger after they sniff it, then slowly lower your finger to the plate and hold it to the food. The puppies need to learn to eat with their heads bent down. Sometimes it takes several meals before they catch on. If they do not seem interested enough to even sniff your finger, try gently opening the puppies' mouths and rubbing a little of the food on their teeth. Hopefully then they will start licking your finger.

If there is a mom present, she will usually begin weaning by discouraging her puppies from nursing; however, some dogs (particularly those with small litters) will allow nursing until the puppies are old enough for permanent homes. Some nursing activity is the canine equivalent of thumb-sucking, that is, for comfort only. Even if puppies appear to be nursing, they may not be getting all the nutrition they need from mom. Make sure they are eating food and gaining weight. Be sure that the puppies have access to fresh water in a shallow, stable bowl.

Begin house training at four weeks Place pee pads in a corner. After each feeding, place the puppy on the pee pad for it to eliminate. Be patient! It may not remember to do this every time, or may forget where to find the pee pad, but the puppy will learn quickly. Be sure to give the puppies lots of praise when they first start using their papers or cry to go out. It is a good idea to confine the puppies to a relatively small space, because the larger the area the puppies have to play in, the more likely they will forget where the papers are. Keep the pee pads clean and away from their food.

5-6 weeks

Feeding: Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken gruel gradually. Introduce dry food and water. If you are fostering a litter with their mother, continue weaning. For reluctant eaters, try

mixing dry kitten food with warm water to create a gruel. If that doesn't work, try again in 2-3 days.

At about five weeks, puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest. The others will quickly follow.

Play with your puppies daily! If you sit on the floor they will play "King of the Mountain," using your knees as vantage points. This game is lots of fun and good exercise for them. Some puppies may be fearful at first; do not force yourself upon them. You can get them used to your presence by sitting in the middle of the room making phone calls; this way they hear your voice but do not feel threatened. Make them an important part of your household activities; accustom them to the sounds of the TV, vacuum cleaner and other household sounds.

6-7 weeks

Feeding: Should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least three meals daily on a set schedule, this will help with house training. If one puppy appears food-possessive, use a second dish and leave plenty of food out so that everyone is eating. Although they may not eat much at a single sitting, they like to eat at

frequent intervals throughout the day.

By this time, you have "mini-dogs." They will wash themselves, play games with each other, their toys, and you, and many will come when you call them. Be sure to take them to their pee pads after meals, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual times that puppies need to eliminate.

7-8 weeks

Feeding: Offer dry food 3-4 times a day. Leave a bowl of water for them to drink at will. If you have a litter with a mom, she should only be allowing brief nursing sessions, if any. **DO NOT** feed the puppies table scraps.

8+ weeks

Feeding: Offer dry food 2 times a day. Leave a bowl of water for them to eat and drink at will.

By the end of this week, prepare yourself to return them to our department. They are also old enough for spay or neuter.

Your Puppy's Health

At the first sign of illness – seek help. **DO NOT** try to diagnose and treat. Contact the Foster Coordinator at foster@Rivco.org or call 951-358-7376. If it is an emergency and after hours, call 951-358-7387.

A healthy puppy has bright eyes, a nice coat, and a plump belly. Younger puppies are content to sleep between feedings. As they approach 8 weeks, they begin to spend more time playing. Normal body temperature for a puppy is 100-102° F. Unfortunately, puppies do become ill and sometimes die while being fostered, so it is important to take steps to prevent disease and follow the veterinarian's directions if disease or illness occurs.

A note about treating your puppy: If you hold the puppy in your lap to medicate it, the puppy will associate being picked up with being medicated and may think the worst every time you go to cuddle the puppy. It is better to put the puppy up on a countertop and perhaps wrapping it in a towel to administer medication. It is also worthwhile to give extra praise to a young puppy after medicating it, as this will help ease the stress of the situation.

ABNORMAL SIGNS TO WATCH FOR IN A PUPPY

- Runny discharge from the eyes or nose
- Lack of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Diarrhea lasting more than 2 or 3 feedings

- Vomiting (twice in same day)
- Weight loss (any weight loss)
- Coughing and sneezing
- Bleeding of any kind from nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, limping, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty breathing
- A puppy that does not respond or that hasn't eaten for more than 1-2 feedings
- Anything else that concerns you
- If you see any of these signs, call the Foster Coordinator at 951-358-7376

Socializing

One of the most important parts of your job as a foster caregiver is to convince your foster pet(s) that humans are kind and loving. Some pets will adjust quickly to you and their new environment, while others may take much longer. Be patient and allow your foster(s) time to acclimate to new surroundings.

Patience is the biggest kindness you can show your new foster as they adapt to home life. They don't understand who you are or what's happening and will need time to settle in. We see many failed adoptions for the simple fact that an animal wasn't given proper time and space to adapt before being introduced to new animals, people, environments, noises, etc. We call the settling in period the "decompression phase" and it often takes around two weeks before a dog feels confident and comfortable in the home. Every dog is an individual and will move at their own speed. Be calm. Speak quietly. Move slowly. Sit low. The more approachable you are, the more likely an animal is to come out of their social shell.



Remember that RCDAS provides all veterinary care on-site at no cost to you!

Health and Disease

Vaccinations & De-worming

Your foster pet(s) will be up to date on age appropriate vaccinations and de-worming. Puppies must return to the shelter every three weeks while in foster care to be weighed, dewormed, and have vaccines booster starting at 4 weeks of age. Adult foster pets may or may not need to return to the shelter for vaccines. At the time that you pick up your foster pet, we will set an appointment for you to return for this.

Seeking Veterinary Care

Many pets will head to foster with an established treatment plan for an existing medical concern (such as bandage changes, rechecks for broken bones, etc.). We will do our best to ensure that any medical concerns are addressed prior to a pet leaving for foster. Please make sure to give all doses of medications and come to shelter for any required rechecks.

Pets coming from the shelter have been exposed to many germs, do not have an established vaccination history, and their immune systems may be suppressed due to shelter stress. Therefore, it is not uncommon for a pet to become sick shortly after arriving in a foster home. Please watch for the following symptoms:

In puppies or kittens younger than 9 months of age:

- Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours
- Not eating for more than 12-24 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than 12 hours or lethargy with fever
- Sneezing, coughing, and/or goopy eyes
- Areas of crusty skin and/or hair loss
- Lameness paired with discomfort or pain

In adult dogs or cats:

- Not drinking for more than 24 hours
- Diarrhea that lasts for more than 1-2 days
- Vomiting more than 2-3 times in an hour
- Not eating for more than 72 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than a day or lethargy with fever
- Sneezing, coughing, or goopy eyes
- Lameness paired with discomfort or pain
- If you notice any of these symptoms, please contact your foster coordinator immediately for guidance and/or an appointment to bring them in to be checked by the vet.

THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF PET POISONING

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

Human Medications

- Blood pressure pills
- Heart medications
- Opiates and pain medications
- NSAIDS such as Aleve, Advil, Motrin, Aspirin
- Acetaminophen, such as Tylenol

Plants

- Sago Palms
- Castor Beans
- Poinsettia
- Azaleas
- Lilies

Household Chemicals

- Cleansers
- Fire logs
- Rat poison
- Anti-freeze
- Fertilizers
- Weed killer
- Insecticides

Human Food

- Coffee
- Chocolate
- Baker's chocolate
- Sugar-free candy and gum
- Alcoholic drinks

VERY DANGEROUS

Human Medications

- Tricyclic Anti-Depressants, such as Asendin, Elavil & Etrafon
- Methylphenidate ADHD medication
- Decongestants, such as NyQuil, Sudafed & Theraflu

Plants

- Amaryllis
- Cyclamen
- Oleander
- Tulip bulbs
- Autumn Crocus

Household Chemicals

- Mothballs
- Paint thinner
- Batteries
- Bleach

Human Food

- Mushrooms
- Yeast dough
- Raw meat & eggs
- Bones
- Onions
- Garlic

DANGEROUS

Human Medications

- Birth control pills
- Sleep aids, such as Restoril, Ambien, Lunesta
- Codeine
- Melatonin
- Bupropion, such as Wellbutrin & Zyban

Plants

- English Ivy
- Peace Lily
- Pothos
- Schleflera
- Chrysanthemum

Household Chemicals

- De-icing salts
- Liquid Potpourri
- Fabric softener
- Glow jewelry

Human Food

- Milk
- Dairy products
- Fatty foods
- Fat scraps
- Avocados

EARLY SIGNS OF POISONING

- Vomiting
 - Depression
 - Lethargy
 - Nosebleeds
 - Diarrhea
 - Agitation
 - Loss of appetite
 - Bleeding gums
 - Drooling
 - Seizures
 - Inability to urinate
 - Black or bloody stools
-



GET HELP!

Call immediately if you suspect your pet has been poisoned!

BE PREPARED!

Keep Hydrogen Peroxide & Activated Charcoal on hand in case of poisoning.

CALL!

The ASPCA® National Poison Control Center at 800-548-2423.

Notify the foster coordinator of incident. **Foster Email Inbox:** Foster@rivco.org

If you cannot get a hold of your coordinator, this is the next best mode of contact.

Foster Coordinator Desk: 951-358-7376

For afterhours medical emergencies: 951-358-7387.

Keep in mind that this number is only for afterhours emergencies. If you have an emergency during open hours, please bring your foster straight to RCDAS and call your foster coordinator immediately.

Outside veterinary care must be approved by RCDAS first! Unauthorized outside veterinary care will be at your own expense. If you go to an outside veterinary clinic you will have to pay for the visit yourself and will not be reimbursed (but it may be tax deductible).

The sooner your foster pets get checked by a vet, the more likely they are to recover well.

If you suspect your foster animal is sick, injured, or if you need to bring them in for something clinic-related, please contact the foster coordinator at 951-358-7376 or email Foster@Rivco.org.

For afterhours medical emergencies, call the foster emergency line: 951-358-7387.

Spay & Neuter Surgery: If the pet you are currently fostering needs to be spayed or neutered email Foster@Rivco.org for an appointment.



Emergency situations may include:

- Continuous diarrhea coupled with lethargy
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind (from the nose or mouth or in urine/ stool)
- Any trauma such as being hit by a car, dropped, stepped on, etc.
- Seizures
- Difficulty breathing



If your pet is exhibiting any of the above symptoms during business hours, please bring your pet to the clinic to be seen by our veterinary team.

Protecting Your Own Pets

As mentioned previously, pets coming from the shelter have an unknown medical history and may be contagious to other pets. As such, all resident pets should be fully vaccinated before a foster animal enters the home. We strongly recommend that you keep your fosters separate from your resident pets at all times for at least the first 14 days and disinfect the environment before allowing resident pets into areas that foster pets have been in.

Protecting Yourself

Animals can carry diseases that are transmittable to humans. These are especially common in stray pets or pets coming from a shelter. To protect yourself from these diseases, everybody in the home should:



- Wash hands before and after handling animals.
- Use gloves when cleaning feces and other animal-related messes.
- Disinfect with a 10% fresh bleach-and-water solution. All areas (floors, walls, furniture, etc.) and materials (bedding, toys, litter- boxes, dishes, etc.) that have come into contact with foster animal(s) must be bleached before being used for new foster animals.
- Use ceramic, glass, or stainless-steel food/water dishes for easy disinfection.
- Be aware that animals can carry disease without exhibiting symptoms. Use the same precautions with a healthy-looking animal as you would with a sick one.
- Always make it a habit to practice good hygiene, including washing your hands thoroughly with hot water and antibacterial soap after handling your foster animals.
- Be familiar with the disease information provided in this handbook and be sure to let your physician know that you work with shelter animals.

Dog to Dog Introductions

There may be a few situations in which you would introduce your dog to another dog. Examples are walks in the neighborhood, hiking in a park, dog sitting for a friend, fostering a dog from the shelter, etc. For whatever the reason, we need to understand that not all dogs will be best friends and some dogs just aren't very social at all. Safety should always be your primary concern (for you and your dog/s), though accidents may happen, and we cannot always prevent them. Always work within your comfort zone. If you are uncomfortable about any given situation, stay away from it, if possible and seek the help of someone with more experience to help you through the situation.

Every situation may be different, so always be aware and pay attention to what your dog is doing. It may not be your dog in the wrong, but you don't want them to have a bad experience.

Some of the biggest errors in the handling of dogs is having a tense leash. If your dog cannot approach another dog calmly to greet them, then you will need to work on that separately from the walk.

Introductions on a casual walk/hiking:

Always alert and discuss with your foster coordinator before attempting a dog introduction on your own.

If you encounter another dog out on a walk, always ask the owner if you can greet their dog. If yes, continue to the next step. If no, try again another day.

For two dogs to greet, the dogs must be relatively calm (not excited and pulling). If either dog is excited and pulling, it would be safest not to greet at that time. Work on calming skills and having your dog focus on you and try again another day.



Once your dog is relatively calm and has good focus, use the three second rule. Have the dogs greet one another so their noses and rear ends are together so they can smell each other. The entire process should not take more than three seconds.

After three seconds, you want to mark the pleasant encounter by saying "yes" (or whatever your mark happens to be) and offering a treat away from the other dog making encouraging sounds. Try your best not to pull on the leash, though a light tug may be necessary, if the treat does not work.

You will be able to extend the time your dog interacts with that dog with each encounter. Brief encounters are always better than extended ones.

We want our dogs to have pleasant experiences with nothing bad happening. There will be times when two dogs appear to be best friends with the first greeting.

Even though they get along great it is far better to keep the encounter short and arrange a play date in a neutral area, so they can play off lead and not be tangled with leashes. Meeting in a neutral area eliminates the possibility of one of the dogs guarding familiar territory.

Always supervise the play, if the play starts to escalate just step in and give them a break. You can add a command cue like "time out" each time you step in.

Decompressing Your Foster Dog

Decompression Phase

When adopting or fostering a rescued dog from the shelter, it's a happy time for you and a relief to the dog. As the new owners or foster of the dog, you're also excited because you're bringing in a new member of the family into your home.

Wait

Before you go showing off your new pet to your family, friends, and resident pets, please give the new dog time and space to relax for a while.

Dogs that have been at the shelter for an especially long period of time need to decompress and get themselves back into a calm state of mind.

Decompression time varies with each dog. Some need more time than others, but it's safe to recommend at least one week to start.

Give every foster structure, exercise (dog walks, playing), and love and you will see them begin to blossom. If after the decompression phase, the dog starts to show behavioral problems, please contact your foster coordinator immediately.

Decompression Checklist for Foster Dogs

When a dog suffers from kennel stress, it can take from several minutes to 48 hours or more for that pet's anxiety to return to near normal levels.

In some cases, the buildup of shelter stress can make a dog difficult to tire out. This will improve with time, but there are several things a foster should do to make this process go smoothly.

Suggestions for Decompression:

- Prepare needed supplies in order to engage your foster dog mentally
- You may want to use food-filled frozen Kong's, puzzle toys, etc.
- Continue walking, either at the shelter, a park or in your neighborhood until your foster dog appears to relax.
- Consider only using essential (safety-related) commands during the first 24-48 hours. Don't want the dog to jump onto your couch while jumping around the house?
- Think about saving that lesson for another day when they are calmer and more available for learning and engage your foster in another task that's incompatible with jumping on the couch, like a puzzle toy.
- Make sure your activities don't overstimulate the dog.
- When you arrive home, ensure that any family members who are meeting the dog for the first time are seated. They should let the dog come to them for attention, as opposed to soliciting attention from the dog.

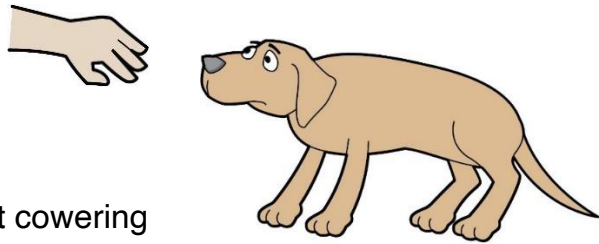
- Keep your foster dog separated from your own dogs until your foster is visibly relaxed.
- If your foster is unable to settle down (panting, whining, constantly in motion, etc.) channel their energy into a task such as fetch, puzzle toys or any game that engages their brain until they can relax.
- Do only essential meet-and-greets for the first 48 hours to week, depending on the dog's comfort level.
- Consider playing soft music. Classical, reggae and ambient electronic work well for helping pets decompress.



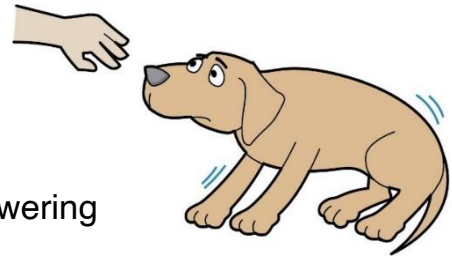
Try to stick it out for the first 24 hours. It will get better, we promise!

Body Language- Recognizing Canine Anxiety

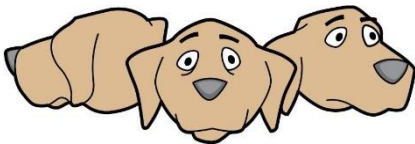
Illustrations by Dave Burnham, Pima County Communications Office



slight cowering



major cowering



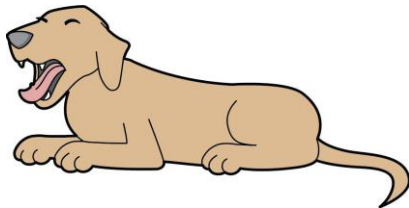
hyper vigilant, looking in many directions



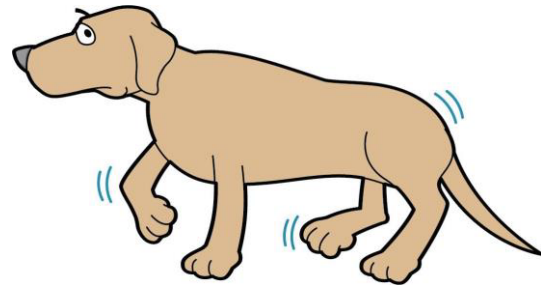
brows furrowed, ears to side



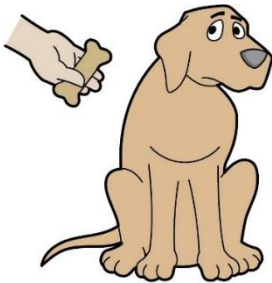
licking lips, when no food is nearby



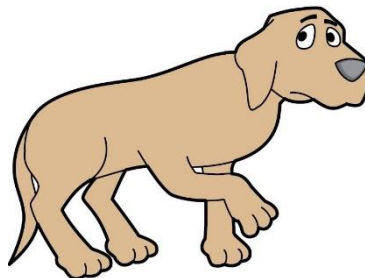
acting sleepy or tired, when they shouldn't be tired



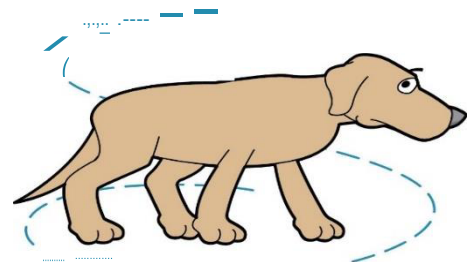
moving in slow motion walking slowly on the floor



suddenly won't eat, but was hungry earlier



moving away



pacing back and forth

Marketing Your Foster

Even though hundreds of people visit the rescue's Facebook page and website every week, the more you network your foster dog, the more quickly you can find it a great forever home.

Here are some simple ways to promote your dog:

- Send an email to your family, friends and colleagues. Let them know about your foster dog and ask them to help you spread the word and to tell their friends and colleagues.
- Join local pet related Facebook groups and post your foster dog's bio and pictures.
- Post a flyer of your foster dog at your workplace or put one on your office door or outside your cube.
- Spread the word at your child's school, your place of worship, or other organization that you belong.
- Record a video of your foster dog and have it posted on your foster dog's Petfinder.com bio.
- Make sure you always walk your foster dog with their "Adopt Me" bandana.
- Carry some fliers for your foster dog with you. Include a small picture and link to his Petfinder.com bio.
- Many companies have newsletters, email lists, blogs or intranets where you might be able to post information about your foster dog.
- Take your dog for a walk any place that has a lot of foot traffic. Do this with a friend so that someone can be the "spokesperson" while you handle the dog. Don't forget your dog's "Adopt Me" Bandana!
- Post a flyer about your dog at local dog parks.
- Don't limit your flyers to just the dog park! Post them in pet supply stores, vet offices, parks, business, really!
- If you're a runner, enter a local 5K race and bring your dog. Check with the race rules first, but many will let you run with a dog. Don't forget your dog's "Adopt Me" bandana!

DON'T FORGET TO USE OUR HASHTAG #Rivcopets

Adopting Your Foster Out from Home is Easy!

If your foster is spayed/neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated, they can be adopted right from your home!

All the adopter needs to do is:

1. Fill out the adoption agreement
2. Pay the adoption fee
3. Pay the licensing fee check or money order (dogs only) (if applicable)

You or they can either bring these to us physically or make sure we get the paperwork and fees within two (2) days of the adoption!



CONTACT INFORMATION

Foster Email Inbox: Foster@rivco.org

If you cannot get a hold of your coordinator, this is the next best mode of contact.

Foster Coordinator Desk:951-358-7376

For afterhours medical emergencies: 951-358-7387. Keep in mind that this number is only for afterhours emergencies. If you have an emergency during open hours, please bring your foster straight to RCDAS and call your foster coordinator immediately. Outside veterinary care must be approved by RCDAS first! Unauthorized outside veterinary care will be at your own expense.



To Schedule a Foster Return: Foster@rivco.org Foster returns are by APPOINTMENT ONLY. If our availability does not line up with yours, email your foster coordinator for additional time slots. We need a minimum 24 hours' notice.