

Adult Dog Fostering Information

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a shelter pet in need! Here are some important ways that you can help your foster dog stay safe while in foster care:

1. Prepare a safe and comforting space for your foster dog. Remove and put away any possible hazards such as cords, plants, garbage cans, household food & medications, etc. Add plenty of soft and hard toys, soft bedding, and calming elements.
2. Adult dogs will need a routine and structured home environment. Establishing a routine will allow the dog to have predictability of what happens to them and will allow for proper response.
3. Allow time to decompress from the shelter environment. Your foster dog may take a week to begin feeling less anxious and stressed, and instead full of energy and rested.
4. Your foster dog may not know any commands or be potty trained.
5. Your foster will need to have a crate available at all times. A crate set up with a soft blanket allows your dog a choice to tuck away for a nap and to begin feeling comfortable around a crate. This will ease anxiety around going into the crate when you leave. Please don't use this as punishment!
6. Your foster will need outdoor and indoor enrichment. Give them something to work on. HSWM can provide Kongs, snuffle mats, and additional enrichment items.
7. Your foster dog may bark, jump, and leash pull. Please be patient and help guide them.
8. Your foster dog may not be able to interact with other dogs.
9. Your foster dog may sleep more than you think they should as they can finally rest in the comforts of a home, and may have a lot of sleep to catch up on!
10. They should eat only the food provided by HSWM.
12. Commit to assisting in their adoption by providing photos and bio information throughout the foster pet's time with you.
13. Please read through the Canine Fostering Manual.
14. Read over your Emergency Protocol and understand steps to take in the event of an emergency or urgent matter.
15. Enjoy much laughter and many smiles!

HSWM Foster Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HSWMFoster/>

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