

Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe Foster Guidelines for Dogs and Puppies

Dogs:

- All people living in the home must agree to the guidelines for being a foster parent.
- Please be aware that each person interacting with your foster dog can help or hinder his/her training experiences. Please help him/her behave when around visitors.
- Put your foster dog away from visitors if the situation is overwhelming or the dog seems uneasy.
- If you have a pet of your own in the home you **MUST** kennel your foster dog when you are not present. This is to ensure the safety of both your pet and the foster dog.
- You may only foster one adult dog at a time.
- Keep a close eye on doorways to make sure the dog can't escape. One door left open can have tragic implications for a dog, especially when he isn't quite sure where "home" is.
- Keep your foster dog on a leash at **all** times when outside and make sure that they are always wearing their collar and HSTT identification tag. The only time a dog can be let off leash is when he/she is in a fully confined area (i.e. fenced yard, house, deck, etc).
- Always supervise interactions between children and the foster dog. Never leave small children unattended with a foster dog of any age.
- Your foster dog should not be left outside for long periods of time or when you are away from the home.
- Even if a dog is housebroken, an accident upon arriving at a new home is not uncommon.
- Dogs should be fed twice daily unless otherwise noted.
- Your foster dog depends on you to look out for his/her safety and well-being. If someone is displaying inappropriate behavior or treating your foster dog poorly please stop them immediately.
- If you notice your foster dog has worms, please call Emily Holmes as soon as possible. Our animals are given dewormer before going into foster care but some animals require multiple rounds of dewormer before clearing the worms completely.
- For specific behavior issues, contact HSTT.
- Contact us immediately if **ANY** aggression or concerning behavior is observed under any circumstance.

- Report any bites that break the skin IMMEDIATELY.
- Please call immediately if your foster dogs is displaying illness/injury. Sneezing, eye discharge, lethargy, limping, blood in stool or urine, eating habits change, vomit, diarrhea, coughing, etc.
- If you are interested in adopting the dog, please let Emily Holmes know as soon as possible.
- Contact Emily Holmes if anyone is interested in adopting your foster dog. DON'T try to arrange adoptions or do interviews on your own. All adoptions go through HSTT.
- Please remember this dog belongs to HSTT and must be treated as such. However you are fully responsible for the animal while in your care.
- Foster parents must respond within 24 hours to communications from HSTT staff.
- DON'T allow your foster dog to get away with any behavior that the average adopter would not consider desirable. These include...
 - begging
 - jumping up (on people, counters, car doors, etc)
 - barking
- DON'T allow anyone to take your dog on outings away from the home.
- DON'T tie your foster dog out, leave on a runner, or chain him/her. Discuss appropriate methods of confinement with someone on the HSTT staff if you have concerns.
- DON'T put a foster dog in the back of an open truck even if tethered.
- DON'T crate an animal while at work all day. Please speak with HSTT staff about the appropriate amount of time a dog can be crated.
- As a foster parent, you agree to let HSTT visit your premises where the dog is being kept to determine the setting is appropriate for him/her.
- You MUST provide adequate food, water, shelter, and kind, loving treatment for your foster animal at all times. In addition, Foster parents must adhere to all state and local animal laws. You must agree to follow all additional written instructions from HSTT.

Puppies (additional info):

- Must be kept separate from other animals in the house unless instructed otherwise by HSTT staff.
- Any and all medical issues MUST be reported immediately. Puppies have immune systems that aren't fully developed, making them more susceptible.

- Puppies need to be handled on a regular basis for socialization purposes, so make sure that you are playing, holding and handling the puppies regularly!!
- Puppies under four months of age must remain in your home and yard. They are not fully vaccinated and aren't protected against diseases.

If you cannot foster any longer, please give HSTT as much notice as possible so that HSTT can find a suitable replacement foster home.

Shelter staff may remove a foster dog from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.

Training Reminders

Notice and reward good behavior! Good behavior can be simple things like being calm around other dogs, playing nicely with others, polite leash greetings, and not jumping up. The more you notice and reward good behavior, the more it will be repeated.

- Give praise immediately after your foster dog responds to your request. Praise must be given before the dog changes behaviors.
- Interrupt and redirect undesirable behavior. (Take shoe from dog, say thank you, give dog toy, say “good boy” or “yes”)
- DON'T punish or scold behavior you did not see occur (.i.e. getting into trash, chewing a shoe, having a potty training accident). It is ineffective and can be damaging to scold a dog after the fact.
- DON'T physically punish your foster dog in anyway EVER!

PLEASE READ and SIGN:

I have read the 2 page HSTT foster guide for dogs and puppies and I understand that I am taking an animal into my home and the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe cannot be held accountable for incidents and accidents inside or outside of the house or any other location. I understand the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe cannot guarantee this animal's health or behavior. The Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe has given me all the information on this animal that they know. I have read and understand the foster guidelines.

Date: _____

Signature of Foster Parent

Printed Name of Foster Parent