

Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe Foster Pet Guidelines

- 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 pet can help or hinder his/her developmental experiences. Please keep the animal in a separate space away from visitors if the situation is overwhelming or if the animal seems uneasy.
- If you have a pet of your own in the home you **MUST** ensure your foster pet is safely kept separate when you are not present. This is to ensure the safety of both your own pet and the foster pet.
- Please keep your foster pet separate from other animals in the house for the first two weeks unless you've been told otherwise by HSTT staff. This is one of the most important things to remember. This policy is put in place to protect your pets at home as well as the foster pet.
- All foster cats and kittens must be kept indoors at **ALL** times.
- Keep a close eye on doorways to make sure your foster pet can't escape. One door left open can have tragic implications for a foster animal, especially when he/she isn't quite sure where "home" is.
- If your foster pet goes missing you must contact HSTT **IMMEDIATELY** at 530-562-7000 or 530-587-5948, as well as Animal Services at 530-582-2484.
- You may only foster one adult dog at a time.
- 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.).
- Your foster dog should never be left outside for long periods of time or when you are away from the home.
- Always supervise interactions between children and your foster pet. Never leave small children unattended with a foster pet of any age.
- Even if a dog is housebroken or cat is litter box trained, an accident upon arriving at a new home is not uncommon.
- Dogs should be fed twice daily unless otherwise noted.
- Do not give cats or kittens any kind of milk. They cannot digest it.

- Your foster pet **depends** on you to look out for his/her safety and well-being. If someone is displaying inappropriate behavior or treating your foster pet poorly please stop them immediately.
- If you notice your foster pet has worms, please contact the Foster Manager at foster@hstt.org or call the foster phone at 530-562-7000 as soon as possible. Our animals are given dewormer before going into foster care but they could still present worms, and some animals require multiple rounds of dewormer before clearing the worms completely.
- Please contact the Foster Manager at foster@hstt.org or call the foster phone at 530-562-7000 if your foster pet needs medical attention or is displaying signs of illness or injury. Sneezing, eye discharge, lethargy, limping, litter box issues for cats, blood in stool or urine, eating habits change, etc.
- For behavior issues, contact the foster manager at foster@hstt.org for guidance and support.
- Contact the foster manager at foster@hstt.org if **ANY** aggression or concerning behavior is observed under any circumstance.
- **Any bite that breaks the skin must be reported IMMEDIATELY. No Exceptions!**
- If you are interested in adopting your foster pet, please let the Foster Manager know as soon as possible by emailing foster@hstt.org. This must be done prior to the animal returning to the shelter.
- Contact the Foster Manager at foster@hstt.org if anyone is interested in adopting your foster pet. DON'T arrange adoptions or do interviews on your own. All adoptions must go through HSTT.
- Please remember your foster pet 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, etc.
- DON'T allow anyone to take your foster 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 HSTT 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 about the appropriate amount of time a dog or cat can be crated.

- As a foster parent, you agree to let HSTT visit your premises where the foster pet 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 pet 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.
- In the case of an emergency requiring you to evacuate your home, you must plan to take your foster pet with you to the location you evacuate to. We recommend having a go-bag with the necessities to care for your foster pet ready to go at a moment's notice. Once evacuated, if you cannot continue to provide care and/or housing under these circumstances, please contact HSTT so we can make further arrangements. Please allow at least 48-72 hours for HSTT to find alternative placement as our shelter may be at capacity with other displaced pets. If possible, HSTT will look for an alternative foster sooner.
- If you cannot foster any longer, please give HSTT as much notice as possible so that a suitable replacement foster home can be arranged.
- Shelter staff may remove a foster pet from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.

Puppies and Kittens (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 and kittens have immune systems that aren't fully developed, making them more susceptible.
- Puppies and kittens need to be handled on a regular basis for socialization purposes, so make sure that you are playing, holding and handling them safely and 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.
- Kittens must always be kept indoors. No Exceptions!
- Any and all medical issues **MUST** be reported to HSTT immediately. Puppies and kittens have weakened immune systems.

Training Reminders

- Notice and reward good behavior! Give praise immediately as soon as your foster pet responds to your request.

- Interrupt and redirect undesirable behavior. (i.e. 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 after the fact.
- DON’T physically punish your foster pet in anyway EVER!

PLEASE READ and SIGN:

I have read the 4 page HSTT Foster Pet Guidelines 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