

FOSTER CAREGIVER GUIDELINES

Please keep these guidelines for your records

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Buster Foundation foster caregiver. Foster caregivers are a vital part of The Buster Foundation. The number of dogs we can take in is determined by the number of foster homes available. We are always in need of quality foster homes. Becoming a foster caregiver is a commitment that provides many rewards. The Buster Foundation relies heavily on the foster caregiver's assistance and judgment - we encourage our foster caregiver's to share their experiences and insights with us so these can be passed along to current and future volunteers.

After your application is received, it will be reviewed and your references checked. Once this process is completed, we will call you to arrange an appointment to visit your home and discuss the foster program in depth. Please be aware that it may take up to 3 weeks from the time you submit your application to the time you receive a call.

The Buster Foundation provides all veterinary care necessary while in foster care, including heartworm and flea preventative. Foster homes may be reimbursed for approved brands of dog food up to \$20 per dog per month. If you itemize your tax return, please consider requesting a tax receipt instead of reimbursement so our funds can pay for more critical needs. All items needed for your foster dog are tax deductible (shampoo, Milk Bones, Nylabones, etc.). All receipts for dog food and supplies must be turned into The Buster Foundation. Please specify if the receipt is for reimbursement or tax-deduction.

All of our dogs coming from shelters or an unknown background are quarantined and treated if necessary before being placed in a foster home that has other dogs or pets. All dogs are checked by a veterinarian, and brought up to date on shots and worming before being placed in a foster home. ALL Buster dogs will be spayed or neutered and microchipped as soon as possible if they are not already.

A rescued dog may have come from a shelter, been a stray, or had a very wonderful home. We ask that you provide the same care and love to your foster dog as you would your own dog. We require that the dogs not be "kennel dogs" or left outside unsupervised, and have as much house time as possible for proper evaluation of temperament and problems. Your foster dog will need general grooming and brushing. Grooming simply includes brushing the coat and trimming the nails. A Buster Foundation volunteer will be glad to show you how. Please take note of any lumps or bumps you find while brushing and petting your foster dog, and be sure to tell The Buster Foundation about them. As a foster volunteer, you are responsible for administering any required medication and for keeping your dog free of fleas and ticks.

Please keep the collar and id on your foster dog at all times. The only exception is when they are crated, as a collar can become caught or tangled in the crate and cause injury or death to the dog. Each foster dog will also have a microchip traceable back to the Buster Foundation. You must notify The Buster Foundation immediately if the dog is lost or missing.

Also, please advise the Buster Foundation of any unusual behavior, or if your foster dog seems to have trouble getting up and/or moving around, exhibits changes in eating habits or elimination patterns. Notify the Buster Foundation immediately if you suspect any medical or behavioral

problem. It is better to call and ask, than to have the dog become seriously ill or to continue with unacceptable behavior.

The Buster Foundation participates in “adoption days” at area pet stores 2-3 times per month. As a foster volunteer, you will be asked to bring your foster dog each adoption day, or allow a Buster volunteer to pick up your dog for one or more adoption days each month. We ask that your foster dog be clean and brushed before the day of the event.

If an approved adoptive family is interested in your dog, the Buster Foundation will call to set up an appointment with you to visit the dog. Again, we ask that the dog is clean and brushed before the visitors arrive. Please tell them all the positive and negative things you have observed about the dog. Do not omit any behavior or medical problems the dog may have. In some cases, a Buster volunteer will arrange to pick up the dog and bring it to another location for visitation. Please be sure to tell the volunteer all of the positive or negative things you have observed.

When a dog is selected and the potential family is approved, you will be given at least 24 hours notice to prepare the dog for adoption. Preparation includes bathing and making sure the dog has a several week supply of any medications he/she gets, and at least a 2 month supply of heartworm or flea preventative as necessary. All medication will be paid for the The Buster Foundation and is picked up at the animal hospital by the foster family.

If you have a foster dog in your home and have vacation plans, please notify the Buster Foundation at least 2 weeks prior to the start of your vacation. If an emergency arises and you need to leave on short notice, please notify The Buster Foundation immediately. The Buster Foundation will find the dog a temporary foster home, or place the dog into a temporary boarding facility until you return.

We know you will find that being a Buster Foundation foster home is a rewarding experience. All of our foster homes have expressed a sense of satisfaction upon seeing their foster dogs adopted into permanent, loving homes.

That said, recognize that you can't save them all. It is ok to say no sometimes. You have other commitments that take precedence at times – your family, job and your own pets. If you try to do too much, you will burn out way too soon. You will need to be selective about which dogs you will take and realistic about how many you can keep at one time. Above all, don't feel bad about wanting some time off between fosters - you deserve it.

Foster Home Adoption Policy

Please keep this policy at hand, for it will be enforced. This policy has been established to aid the adoption committee. They spend a great deal of time and effort matching dogs to potential owners and “selling” a particular dog, and it is unfair to all involved to find out that the foster home decided at the last minute to adopt the dog. This creates a situation where it is frustrating for both the adoption committee and the family who had their heart set on a particular dog.

The Buster Foundation hopes the foster home understands the need to establish this policy. We DO appreciate the love and affection the foster home gives in the care of these wonderful dogs.

The policy on foster homes adopting their foster dog is as follows:

The foster home does not have priority on adopting the dog.

Should the foster home decide to adopt the dog, they must notify the Buster Foundation immediately.

If a member of Buster Foundation calls to take the dog to a potential family, or has called to arrange for someone to come by to see the dog, it is too late for the foster home to adopt the dog.

If there is an approved home waiting for a dog that meets the description of the dog you are fostering, that home has priority for adopting the dog.