

# Adult Dog Fostering Guidelines

*Thank you for opening your home to a homeless dog in need!*



**We greatly appreciate you and your family for giving SPCA's deserving pets a chance to spend time out of the shelter in a loving home.**



The transition from shelter to home can be trying on new pets as they learn what is expected of them and where they fit into the household. To ensure an enjoyable time for all, please abide by the following:

- *Foster dogs can go outside for supervised playtime/exercise. When outdoors, foster dogs must be kept on leash or in a securely fenced yard. Some dogs can jump/climb over or dig under fences surprisingly fast, so please be cautious when leaving foster dogs unsupervised*
- *Please do not take your foster to an off-leash dog park or other off-leash areas*
- *Limit socialization of your foster animal to animals within your own home*
- *If your foster animal gets loose, contact the foster team immediately*
- *Children under the age of 18 should not be left unsupervised with any foster animals*
- *Never leave your resident pets and your foster pet alone together without supervision*
- *Foster dogs should be fed separately (preferably in a crate) and high-value items (toys, treats, dishes, etc.) should be taken up*

**How do you find your foster dog a forever home?**

*Record your foster experience!*

Take lots of photos and videos. Some great examples to show the dog's personality would be photos of him/her:

- *having a good snuggle*
- *sleeping soundly their first night out of the shelter*
- *playing with resident pets*
- *playing with resident children*
- *eating a yummy treat*
- *fun playtime with dog toys*



**If your foster is available for adoption, you are expected to respond to adoption inquires within 24 hours.**

Adoption staff will connect you via email with pre-screened adoption applicants.

As a foster parent, you are in a unique position to speak on behalf of your foster. Think of how you could write a catchy bio about him/her. Always lead with positive attributes while still being truthful and honest.

Remember, dogs show best in an environment they are comfortable in. Feel free to video chat the adoption applicant to ensure they can see the best side of your SPCA foster pup!

### **Returning Your Foster Dog**

The SPCA is in the business of saving lives. Our kennels are always full. Unless there is an emergency, foster dogs are to be returned by appointment only.

Please contact the foster team at **foster@caszca.org** to schedule a return at least 24 hours in advance.

*Thank you again for opening your home to an animal in need. If at any point you have questions, please reach out for support. We cannot do our lifesaving work without you!*

### **Training**

The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA takes a positive-only approach to training.

We encourage fosters to ignore, prevent, or redirect undesirable behavior, while rewarding good behavior. For example, if a foster dog is chewing on an item they should not be, exchange the item for a toy or a chew bone. *Dominance based training (i.e. alpha roles) have been disproven and in our experience, are ineffective. Please do not use adverse training tools such as choke chains, pinch collars, or shock collars.*

If you are experiencing behavioral concerns and would like guidance as to how to address them, please contact the foster team.

## **Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA**

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