THE ESSENTIALS OF FOSTERING

The ins and outs of fostering your rescued dog

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IN ONE CONVENIENT MANUAL

courtesy of

HULL'S HAVEN
BORDER COLLIE RESCUE

MERCY KNOWS NO BORDERS

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ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This manual is designed to provide foster parents with a comprehensive overview of fostering a dog. This manual is meant to be a helpful resource for foster parents and should answer many of the questions that may arise before and during foster care.

If at anytime you require further information, please contact one of HHBCR's foster coordinators at fosters@hullshaven.org, they will be happy to answer all your questions.

HHBCR is a proud member of MANITOBA ASSOCIATION of RESCUE STANDARDS

HHBCR FOSTER PROGRAM

Thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our rescued dogs. Your generosity will provide your foster dog a chance to grow or heal before finding their forever homes.

REASONS TO FOSTER

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family - you can feel good knowing you have helped save a dog's life. Foster dogs provide companionship and purpose - your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

thank you from all of us at

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. HOW LONG ARE DOGS IN FOSTER HOMES?

It completely depends on the dog and the situation. The average stay in a foster home is about 2 months. However, most puppies and some dogs with great photos and stories on the web may stay only a few weeks. Others, recovering from an injury, certain breeds and senior dogs, may stay much longer.

2. CAN I ADOPT MY FOSTER DOG?

YES! As long as you as foster parents meet HHBCR's requirements necessary for adoption, you have first choice to adopt your foster dog. (See question 4 for the adoption procedure)

3. HOW ARE FOSTER DOGS PROMOTED?

Photos and stories of all adoptable dogs in foster homes are posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter social pages, and Petfinder.com. Foster dogs are also promoted at special events throughout the year. Foster parents can also help promote their foster dog to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public through a variety of means including flyers, emails and even just by walking your foster in local neighborhoods with your dog's "Adopt Me" bandana around its neck.

4. WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR ADOPTING A FOSTER DOG?

- Potential adopters are required to submit an adoption application for review before they can physically meet a foster dog.
- Suitable applicants may be contacted for additional screening.
- Once approved, meet and greets with the foster dog and foster parents will be scheduled with qualified applicants.
- After the meet and greet (and if the applicant is still interested in the dog), foster parents will make a recommendation to the adoption coordinator regarding the adoption. The foster dog stays with the foster parent until they hear from the coordinator.
- Adoption is approved or rejected by the coordinator. While taking the foster parent's opinion into account, final approval of all adoptions is at the sole discretion of HHBCR.

- Once approved, the adopter pays adoption fees. Your foster dog cannot go to a potential adopter's home until the adoption is official and approved by HHBCR.
- Foster parents should stay in contact with the coordinator for assistance with the adoption process. Please refer to the section on "The Adoption Process" in this manual.

5. IF I HAVE MY OWN ANIMALS, CAN I FOSTER DOGS?

Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintains a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young.

6. WHAT SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED TO FOSTER?

Foster parents provide space, basic training, exercise and love for the dog. HHBCR will provide you with all the food, tags, supplies and equipment needed throughout your foster experience. In Winnipeg, tags must on your dog at all times.

HHBCR receives donated items regularly, and receives special pricing for vetcare and medicine. These items include: dog food, kennel, collar & leash, veterinarian services, any medicinal requirements such as vaccinations, training tools and tons of moral support.

7. DO I HAVE TO CRATE TRAIN MY FOSTER DOG?

No, but it is one of the most efficient and effective ways to house train a puppy or re-train an adult dog. Some dogs do not like crates, and most dogs need to be transitioned or "trained" to use a crate, so it's up to the foster parent to decide whether to crate or not.

Putting the dog in a crate while you are gone will give you peace of mind knowing that they are in a safe place, away from harm, and not doing any damage to your belongings or themselves.

For many dogs, a crate can also represent a safe and comfortable place to call their own and provides them with a sense of security. Dogs actually like having a "den" to cuddle up in. Crating should never be used as punishment.

8. DO I NEED TO HAVE PRIOR MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERTISE?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster dog so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions if fostering a sick or injured dog. Occasionally, HHBCR will host a "***Fostering Session with HHBCR***" to educate fosters on training, medical or behavioural issues and to answer any questions fosters may have on any particular situation. Check our website at www.hullshaven.org to see when the next seminar will be held.

9. WHAT IF MY FOSTER DOG BECOMES SICK?

All veterinary costs are paid by HHBCR. If a foster dog becomes sick, foster parents must contact the Foster coordinator to authorize an appointment with our approved Veterinarian service. Once a veterinary visit has been authorized, you can make an appointment with one of the veterinarians listed in the back of this manual. These veterinarians bill the shelter directly so there is no cost to foster parents.

If you visit a vet that is not on the list, you may not be reimbursed for the cost. If you have any general questions regarding the health of your foster dog, contact the foster coordinator. Be sure to review the section for "Veterinary and Medical Care" in this manual.

10. HOW MUCH TIME EACH DAY IS NEEDED TO FOSTER?

Commitment and responsibilities depend on the individual dog and situation. It's essential that foster parents understand that rescued dogs may be stressed and moving the dog to the foster home is also very stressful and emotional. Foster parents must be willing to be patient and commit to the dog because our goal is to keep them in a stable and consistent environment.

Adolescent dogs between the age of 6 months and 2 years typically have a lot of energy and require vigorous daily exercise. This means at least a 30-45 minute brisk walk/run in the morning and again in the afternoon, with plenty of play time in between. Older dogs may only need a morning and evening stroll. Also, take into account the breed of your foster dog, some breeds require more exercise than others.

11. CAN I TAKE MY FOSTER DOG TO AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK FOR EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZATION?

Yes - as long as the dog in foster is completely vaccinated and has proper leash and off-leash training. It is the responsibility of all dog owners at dog parks to ensure the safety and general rules of the park are followed. If your foster has aggression or fear issues, this may not be the place for them to exercise. Also, taking a leashed dog to a park can create barrier frustration and aggression.

12. HOW CAN I HELP MY FOSTER DOG BECOME MORE ADOPTABLE?

There are two ways to make a foster dog more adoptable. First and foremost is marketing. If no one knows about your foster dog, or how wonderful it is, then it will be next to impossible to find them a forever home.

Social media such as Facebook, Twitter and emails to your network provides additional exposure. Simple steps steps like taking a foster dog on walks in local parks, outdoor shopping areas and other high-traffic areas will help find potential adopters. HHBCR also attends or hosts several Adoption Fairs per year and will invite all foster parents to attend with their fosters. Don't forget your 'Adopt me' bandanas!

Secondly, providing a foster dog with basic training and manners will increase their adoptability. Shy dogs will benefit from your patience, routine and slowly exposing them to new people to build their confidence. Rambunctious adolescents who learn good manners will help show off their trainability and long term potential. And while puppies are adorable, they need a lot of love, attention and hand-holding from humans to develop properly and feel secure.

13. AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING MY FOSTER DOG ITS FOREVER HOME?

No, but we do need your help. Once a qualified applicant is identified, you will be asked to schedule a meet and greet with your foster dog and the potential adopter. Your quick response and then final input on the potential adopter is critical to finding a great match.

Many times a foster parent will find a perfect match through their own network of friends, family and colleagues. HHBCR greatly welcomes these referrals! If you think you have found a perfect forever home for your foster dog, remember they still must go through the application process and be approved by the adoption coordinator.

14. CAN I RETURN MY FOSTER DOG IF I AM UNABLE TO FOSTER ANY LONGER?

We prefer that foster parents continue to foster until we find a permanent home for their foster dog. However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary

to discontinue fostering a dog. We request that a foster parent provides as much notice as possible so that we can find an alternative foster home to transfer the dog to.

15. WHAT IF I GO ON VACATION OR HAVE A BUSINESS TRIP?

We can usually find other foster volunteers that can foster sit for short durations. A request can be made on our FaceBook Volunteer Group page. We ask that foster parents always keep the foster coordinator aware of any temporary foster sitting situations. We must be aware where your foster dog is located at all times.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FOSTER PARENTS

In order to foster for HHBCR, you will need to complete the following:

- Complete and submit the Foster Application form which is available on our website (www.hullshaven.org)
- Agree to a home visit from one of our foster coordinators
- The foster coordinator approves all foster applications and all foster dog/foster parent matches. The HHBCR coordinator may also remove a foster dog from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.

IMPORTANT RULES AND REMINDERS REGARDING YOUR FOSTER DOG

Foster parents MUST abide by the following rules. These are in place for your and your foster's safety:

- Foster dogs must be on leash at all times when outdoors unless in your own secured fenced yard
- Any aggressive behavior must be immediately reported
- All vet visits must be pre-approved
- You must visit a designated veterinarian
- Foster parents must respond within 24 hours to communications from HHBCR coordinators or potential adopters, so please check your emails and phone messages frequently.

YOUR HHBCR VOLUNTEER TEAM

Hull's Haven Border Collie Dog Rescue could not exist without the support and dedication of our volunteer coordinators.

- **FOSTER COORDINATOR:** A volunteer assigned to you and your foster dog to support you throughout the entire foster care process; including assistance in posting your foster on-line and any fostering/medical questions you may have.
- **ADOPTION COORDINATOR:** A volunteer assigned to screen all incoming applications and will assist with all aspects of the adoption process.
- **EVENT COORDINATOR:** Sends out requests and invitations for your attendance to fundraisers and adoption fairs which promotes your foster dog and increases its adoptability.
- **FACEBOOK FOSTER GROUP:** Group in place on Facebook available to all fosters - post questions and communicate with other fosters and receive advice and moral support
- **FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER GROUP:** Group in place on Facebook available to all fosters and allumni - post questions and communicate with other HHBCR members and receive advice and moral support. HHBCR uses this page to ask for temporary assistance on foster-sitting or requesting your participation at events or fundraising activities.
- **HULL'S HAVEN WEBSITE PAGE:** Our website is to assist your foster dog and potential adopters find each other. Write-ups on foster dogs available for adoption, educational blog posts, fundraisers and event schedule are just a few of the features that our website offers. Printed materials for our events and for educational purposes are available upon request.

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www.hullshaven.org

FOSTER CO-ORDINATOR: fosters@hullshaven.org

ADOPTION CO-ORDINATOR: adoptions@hullshaven.org

EVENT CO-ORDINATOR: events@hullshaven.org

DAVE'S Quick PRINT

GETTING READY TO FOSTER A DOG

After being approved by an HHBCR volunteer as a qualified foster home, but before you bring a foster dog home, we suggest you prepare yourself, your family and your home for your new canine companion.

BE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY PREPARED

Fostering is a family affair, so please make sure that everyone in your household is ready, willing and able to provide a loving home for your foster dog. Many adults and children have a difficult time adjusting to a new schedule or routine, and also have a difficult time "giving up" an animal to its forever home. Make sure everyone is ready for this new, albeit temporary, addition to your family.

Be realistic about your time commitment to a foster dog. Don't over-extend yourself when starting out. And even if you have experience with big adolescent dogs, starting with an older dog, a small dog or even a puppy is a great way to build your foster parenting experience.

WHERE TO KEEP YOUR FOSTER DOG

Planning where you will keep your dog before you bring your dog home will make the entire process easier for everyone. When you first bring a foster dog home, you'll want to confine them to a single room, such as a kitchen or family room. This room should not be an isolated room, but a room where you spend a large part of your day or evening, as dogs are pack animals and want to be with you.

This room is especially important when you're at work or away from the house, as it will be a new environment in which they need time to become familiar and comfortable.

Use a baby gate to block off the entrances to other rooms. By keeping the dog in one room, you're helping prevent "accidents" that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your routine. (Even a house-trained dog might have an accident or two during this adjustment period.)

For dogs that are not housetrained, keeping them confined to one room will help start this important training as you must be able to monitor their activities. We also recommend that you also use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house.

THE DO'S

- Do keep your foster dog indoors in a location with a crate available.
- Do keep your foster dog in a warm/cool (depending on the season) and dry location.
- Do keep your foster dog on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in your secured fenced yard. Keep an eye on your foster when in the yard, some rescues have a tendency for escaping and not used to being confined.
- Do keep your puppy indoors in a kitchen, bathroom, mudroom or laundry room (try using baby gates to limit access to other parts of your home). Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.

THE DON'Ts

- Do <u>not</u> place your foster dog around other strange dogs as we often do not know the dog's past history. Foster dogs should not be put in a position of possibly fighting with a strange dog, thus reducing their chances for adoption.
- Do <u>not</u> allow your foster dogs outdoors unless supervised by an adult.

HOW TO DOG-PROOF A ROOM CHECKLIST

Walk into the room in which you plan to confine your foster dog, and ask yourself:

- ☐ Is there room for the crate (dog's safe place)?
- ☐ Is there quick access to the outside for bathroom breaks?
- ☐ Is there anything that can be chewed, such as drapes, a couch or rugs?
- ☐ Are there exposed electrical wires?
- ☐ Is there anywhere the dog can hide? Will you be able to get the dog out if hidden?
- ☐ Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked off by a wagging tail?
- ☐ Are there plants in the room? If so, check the list of toxic plants in this manual.
- ☐ Where will I set up the crate once all hazards are removed?
- ☐ Is the crate in a quiet, low-traffic area of the room? Is there a blanket in the crate?

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR YOUR NEW FOSTER

HHBCR provides all of the necessary items that you will need to provide for your foster dog. There may be some items that you'd like to purchase yourself, but these items will not be refunded, unless for emergency situations.

- Food & training treats
- Crate
- Bedding - a clean, old blanket or towel or a dog bed that is washable
- Leash
- Collar which includes Rabies tag (if applicable), HHBCR Foster Dog ID and City of Winnipeg Foster Dog tags. All except the rabies tag are the property of HHBCR and must be returned once your foster is adopted.

If there are items that you require to provide for your foster such as medicine, or run out of food, please contact the foster coordinator to make arrangements for supplies

ITEMS NOT SUPPLIED BY THE RESCUE

- Baby gate(s).
- Odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle) or vinegar & water; it's the only thing to clean housetraining mistakes. If you clean mistakes with soap and water, your dog will still smell the urine and go to the bathroom in that spot repeatedly.
- Toys, such as: hard rubber balls, Kongs, fleece toys, rope toys or nylabones. Do not give your foster dog hooves, rawhide, pigs' ears or vinyl toys that can cause diarrhea or choke the dog.

Some donated items listed above may be available - please contact the foster coordinator

PLEASE CONTACT THE FOSTER CO-ORDINATOR FOR LIST OF SERVICES THAT WHICH HULL'S HAVEN RECEIVES DISCOUNTS. (SUCH AS GROOMING SERVICES, ETC.)

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email: fosters@hullshaven.org

TRANSPORTING YOUR FOSTER DOG

The safest way to transport your dog, is in a secure crate / grill in the back of a vehicle or back seat. The crate should be secured so that it doesn't tip over or move around.

It is always a good idea to put a blanket down under your crate or in the back section of your vehicle, so that if your dog becomes car sick, or has an accident, the blanket will protect your seats and carpet.

If you can't fit a crate into your vehicle, your dog is safest in the back seat. Use either a special harness for your dog that hooks on to a seat belt, or a leash that attaches to the seat belt.

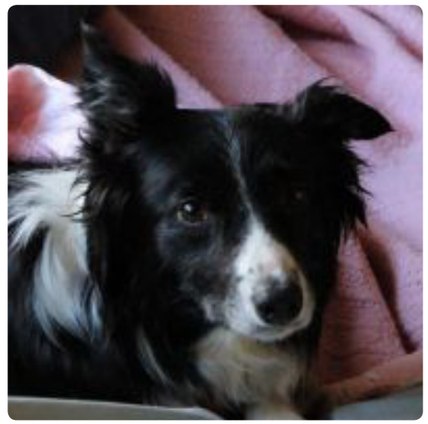
Avoid letting your dog ride in the passenger seat next to you. Not only can your view be obstructed, but if you brake suddenly your dog could get injured by hitting the windshield or by the air bag.

GETTING IN THE VEHICLE

You might need a few treats to encourage a dog to jump into a car. If you can get a dog to put his front paws up, then you can lift his back end by supporting his hind quarters (as if he were sitting on your crossed arms).

If you need to completely lift your dog, the best way is by putting one arm behind his hind legs and one arm in front of his front legs – essentially a scoop. Another way is to have one arm just behind his front legs, and one hand behind his hind legs. This way the dog's weight is being supported in the same general area of its legs. Keep in mind, most dogs don't really like to be lifted.

Remember to always keep a handle on the leash!



INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO A FOSTER DOG

Typically dogs of the opposite sex do better together. Dogs are like people, and sometimes a dog may not like another dog for no apparent reason.

Be alert and make the reintroductions gradually and calmly.

If possible, go for a walk around your neighborhood with both dogs and two handlers. Walk the dogs side by side on leashes and allow them to sniff one another and become familiar with each other.

- Give your own dog LOTS of praise.
- Leave leashes on the dogs when you are in the home, so that you can get immediate control if needed. You may only need to do this for a short time.
- Talk normally. Letting the dogs know that you are fine; they are fine; everything is fine!
- Be patient and go slowly with your foster dog as they may have been through a stressful surgery, abusive situation or a lot of recent changes.
- Don't leave your foster dog unattended with your resident dog. Even if they seem to get along well in your presence, you should separate the dogs when you leave your house. Putting your foster dog in a kennel is ideal, as it will make your foster feel more secure when you are not around.
- After a week, you may determine that this is no longer necessary, but be sure to always remove all toys, food, chews and start slowly.

SOME COMMON MISTAKES:

- Holding the leash too tensely as dogs may react with defensiveness.
- Leaving toys and chews around the house. This can cause resource guarding which can escalate very quickly. Remove all toys and chews before you arrive home with your foster dog.
- Feeding your foster dog with your resident dog. It's best to separate them initially, and to supervise always.
- Over-stimulating your foster dog with introductions to many people or your neighbours' dogs.

INTRODUCING YOUR CAT TO A FOSTER DOG

Before you introduce your foster dog to your cat, you will need to have your foster dog under control and know which behaviors are appropriate when interacting with a cat. Allow your foster dog to settle down to get to know your surroundings first before you start introductions to unfamiliar animals.

Introducing a cat to a dog is similar to introducing dogs to one another. Take your time and create a stress-free environment.

- Begin by keeping your cat in a different room. Allow the dog to become comfortable in his own room.
- Once the dog is comfortable, let him explore the rest of the house for short periods while the cat is in another room. This will allow them to pick up each other's scent.
- After a few days, allow the two to meet but keep the dog on a leash. Observe their interactions - a dog that is showing overt aggression, such as snarling, growling, baring teeth, etc., will probably never accept a cat without training.
- The cat and dog should be separated by baby gates or kept in separate rooms during training periods.
- If all is reasonably calm, walk the dog around the room on leash, but don't let go of the leash in case the dog decides to chase the cat.
- On-leash interactions give the cat the opportunity to approach the dog if they choose, or to find a route of escape.

During the first few meetings, the cat and dog will probably not interact face to face. A dog is a predatory animal, and it's a natural instinct for a dog to want to chase a cat — depending on the age and breed and if your rescue has been around cats before.

Assume the dog will chase the cat so you are prepared. Never allow the dog to intimidate the cat by barking or chasing. Each time the dog acts inappropriately (barking), let him know these behaviors are unacceptable; try using a quick sharp tone, like "Aah-Aah" to get their attention and redirect their energy.

On the other hand, if the cat bops the dog on the nose as a warning, that's a good sign and should not be discouraged. When they set up boundaries between themselves, they are beginning to establish a working relationship.

more...

Let them interact with the dog on leash for about 30 minutes, then return the cat back to its safe haven and bring the dog to its dog crate or bed. Give the dog a treat and lots of praise.

Increase the amount of time they are together a little each visit. It's important to be patient and encouraging in their interactions. If you're relaxed, they will be more at ease.

Always praise friendly behavior profusely. Don't rush the introduction or force them to interact more than either is willing. Pressing them to accept each other will only slow down the adjustment process.

When the cat and dog seem to be getting used to each other, let the dog go, but keep his leash attached to his collar. Let him drag it around the house as he wanders, that way you can control him at any time. The cat will probably hide at first.

You should use your best judgment as to when they can begin supervised sessions with the dog off-leash.

FOSTERING – THE FIRST WEEK

Now that you're home with your foster dog, you should start a regular routine so your dog can begin to adjust to your household. During this adjustment period, please keep stimulation to a minimum. Some recommendations include:

- Find a quiet route to walk or run your foster dog (depending on energy level) to familiarize him with his new environment. This also helps start the bonding between you and your foster dog.
- Don't introduce your foster dog to people you meet on your walk. For the first 7-14 days (could be more or less) your foster dog should lay low while he tries to figure out just what this new situation is. You may not see any unwelcome behavior initially -- eventually all will be revealed.
- Do not introduce your foster dog to other dogs (other than your own resident dog) this week. This includes neighborhood dogs, and dogs belonging to your family or friends. Why? There is no way to tell how your foster dog will behave when introducing him to other dogs. If your foster dog bites a person or dog you are required to report it to HHBCR's foster coordinator immediately.
- Don't throw a party, or have a lot of people over to your home. During the first week you should try to spend quality one-on-one time with your new foster dog.
- The most important thing to do during this initial transition time is to clearly but NON-confrontationally establish the household rules. As well, take care not to "indulge" your foster dog's timid, tentative or fearful behavior; we understand how tempting this may be as many of our orphans have come from less than ideal situations, but in the long run it does not benefit the dog.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST WEEK

If your dog is available for adoption, take new photos and write a new bio for your foster dog and submit to the foster co-ordinator to post on the HHBCR website. One of the many benefits of adopting a dog from foster care is that the foster parent can provide detailed behavioural and personal information about their foster dog.

Your dog will be adopted more quickly if you can update this information as soon as possible. Please check in with the foster and adoption coordinators to ensure that all is going well, or if you have any questions or concerns.

GETTING YOUR DOG ADOPTED

Many dogs that go into foster are already available for adoption. If not, and you are unsure if your foster dog is ready to be adopted, ask yourself the questions below:

- Did your foster dog or puppy gain or lose enough weight?
- Is your foster dog healthy? (Some dogs can be adopted with kennel cough)
- Has the dog recovered fully from an illness?
- Is your foster puppy at least 10 weeks old and weaned from its mother?
- Is your foster dog or puppy successfully socialized with no major behavioral issues?
- Does your foster dog or puppy have good basic manners?

If your foster dog is ready for adoption or is already available, the first step is to create or update his bio and take new photos.

Once you have your bio and photos ready, send this information to the HHBCR foster co-ordinator. Make sure that you include the following specific details:

- Name
- Gender
- Breed
- Weight
- Age
- Has your foster dog been spayed or neutered?

Also very helpful – is your foster ok with cats? Ok with other dogs? Ok with children (indicate appropriate ages)?

TIPS FOR WRITING A GREAT BIO

Accentuate the positive and let potential adopters know why they should consider your dog. You will improve your dog's chances of finding a home if you write a thorough description.

A good bio is part press release, part story telling. Don't turn it into a lengthy restaurant review, but instead try to pull the reader into the bio so that they can start to imagine a life with this new canine friend.

It can be very helpful to read the bios of other similar dogs on Petfinder.com. Tell it from the animal's perspective - the most compelling thing you can write on behalf of an animal is what you imagine the animal is thinking, feeling or remembering.

Most bios start off with the basics - but the most appealing bios are written so that they are not just a list of facts. One intro paragraph on "who your dog is" can help a potential adopter visualize the dog. Your second paragraph might go into personality traits, and provide information about any training, tricks or cute behavior. Your final paragraph should outline the required forever home environment.

Tell potential adopters what you know about your dog. Be honest and avoid negative statements. Choose wording carefully. A dog that is not potty-trained might instead be, "working on her house manners." A dog that doesn't get along with other dogs or cats merely "wants to be your one and only." A dog that desperately needs obedience training is really "looking forward to attending class with his adopter." If dog has special needs, mention them, but don't dwell on them. You can go into these details once you have someone hooked on your dog.

TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS

A picture is worth a thousand words! The picture is the first thing people see when they visit the website`s listing or on Petfinder.com. If the dog has a poor picture, visitors may move on to another dog without clicking or reading your dog's description. If you want to give your dog the best chance possible, take large, clear, good quality (high resolution) pictures of the dog alone.

A good picture is often the difference between a dog who generates inquiries and one who doesn't.

- Take a lot of digital pictures. You may have to take 50 pictures to get 1 or 2 really great shots. If you don't have a digital camera, borrow one from a friend.
- Pictures taken outside in natural light are usually much better than those taken inside or with a flash. Lighting is very important for accurately capturing a dog's coloring and detail. Have the sun or light source behind you and check to make sure you're not casting a shadow on your subject.

- Use treats and/or a squeaky toy to capture the dog's best expression. Sometimes having two people makes this process easier.
- Try taking pictures using a neutral backdrop. Select a background that contrasts with the dog's coloring. Darker-colored dogs will show up better against a lighter backdrop. Most dogs look great against a lush green lawn.
- Try different props. If the dog likes to fetch, you might get a picture of the dog with his favorite ball. Wrap a bandana around the dog's neck to add a streak of color (especially good for solid and darker-colored dogs). A bright, cheerful collar is a nice touch.
- The dog is the subject of your picture so the dog should take up the majority of space in your picture. Avoid excessive amounts of background.
- The dog's eyes should be focused on you. Try to capture at least one "hero" shot, where the focus is on the dogs face. A full body picture is also a great way to show size and scale.
- Exercise the dog before your photo shoot. A calmer dog is easier to photograph, and a panting dog looks like she's smiling! Before snapping the photos, take the time to get the pet as calm and relaxed as possible, so the photos don't show an animal that looks anxious or scared.
- Check out the competition. Visit Petfinder.com and look at the photos of similar dogs and see which ones pop out to you. Then try to mimic these shots with your own foster dog.
- If your first attempts fail, don't be discouraged. Just keep trying and have fun. When you are having fun, your foster dog will probably be having fun too and it will show!

PROMOTING YOUR FOSTER DOG

The more you network your foster dog, the more quickly you are able to find it a great forever home. Here are some simple ways to promote your dog:

- Send an email to your family, friends and colleagues. Let them know about your foster dog and ask them to help you spread the word and to tell their friends and colleagues.
- Post a flyer of your foster dog at your workplace or put one on your office door or outside your cube. HHBCR can help you create a poster for you to print.
- Spread the word at your child's school, your place of worship, or other organization that you belong.
- Record a video of your foster dog or create a slideshow with more photos and have them posted on your FaceBook or other social media.

- Make sure you always walk your foster dog with an HHBCR “Adopt Me” bandana
- Create business cards for your foster dog and keep them in your pocket or purse. These are great to use when you are on your walks. Include a small picture and link to HHBCR website
- Post your foster dog on some of the popular free online classified sites and social networking sites. There are even social networking sites specifically for dogs!
- Many companies have newsletters, email lists, blogs or intranets where you might be able to post information about your foster dog. See if you can bring your foster dog to work!
- Blog about your foster dog, or find a local community blog and blog about your foster dog there!
- Post a flyer about your dog at local dog parks. Most have a bulletin board for flyers. Even though you can’t take them to the park, you can still promote them at the park!
- If you’re a runner, enter a local 5K race and bring your dog. Check with the race rules first, but many will let you run with a dog. Don’t forget your dog’s HHBCR “Adopt Me” bandana!
- Participate in any HHBCR events or fundraisers that will help you promote your foster dog.

Please review any of these activities with HHBCR`s foster co-ordinator to ensure that you are consistent with our rescue`s policy.

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

As a foster parent, your involvement in the adoption process is both extremely important and essential. After a potential adopter sees your foster dog’s bio on the HHBCR website or through your promotional efforts, and is interested in meeting the foster dog, the potential adopter is required to submit a completed dog adoption application.

This application is available for download from the HHBCR website. Once the application is completed, the potential adopter can submit the application online. HHBCR`s volunteer adoption co-ordinator monitors the incoming applications daily. Once a qualified applicant is screened and approved, the foster co-ordinator will contact the foster parent and ask them to schedule a meet and greet with the applicant.

Meetings can take place at a mutually agreed upon location or at the foster parent`s residence. Once you have scheduled a meet and greet, please let the adoption co-ordinator know the date and time of the meeting. All family members of the potential adopter (including family dogs) must be present for the meet and greet, or final adoption.

After the meet and greet (and if the applicant is still interested in the dog), foster parents will make a recommendation to the co-ordinator regarding the adoption. If the foster parent feels that it is a good match, they will let the adoption co-ordinator know.

The foster dog always stays with the foster parent until final approval from HHBCR. All adoptions are at the sole discretion of HHBCR. Please do not make any promises during a meet and greet. You should always let the potential adopter know that final decisions are made by Hull`s Haven.

Once the adoption application and a successful meet and greet is approved by HHBCR, the adopter pays the adoption fees. Foster dogs cannot go to a potential adopter’s home until the adoption is finalized by HHBCR and a notification from the adoption co-ordinator is received. You must keep all of the supplies provided to you from the rescue and return them at your earliest convenience. This includes HHBCR foster tag, City of Winnipeg foster tag, collars, leashes, crates, bowls, etc.

When surrendering of the foster dog to its new owner, remove all collars and foster tags (HHBCR Foster and City of Winnipeg Foster tag) --- Rabbies vaccination tag goes with the dog --- the new owner must supply collar and leash.

You should provide the new owner with any medication that your foster dog is taking, along with instructions and a few days worth of food. You may also want to give them your foster dog’s favorite toy, or anything else that will help with transition.

Please be emotionally prepared. Even if you feel sad, the new parents are excited and happy about finding a new companion. Please remember to rejoice and celebrate that you have helped to find a forever home for your foster dog. Foster parents should stay in contact with the adoption co-ordinator for assistance with the adoption process.

SCREENING QUESTIONS TO ASK POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

Foster parents often say their goal is to find a home even better than their own! HHBCR will screen qualified applicants, but your input is critical to finding an appropriate forever home for your foster dog. Remember, this can be a very emotional experience, but it’s important to stay neutral.

Some additional guidelines:

- This should be a two-way dialog, rather than just a one-sided Q&A session. Instead of just answering a question, use this as an opportunity to learn more about the potential adopter and find out if they are a good match. For example, if they ask you how much exercise does he get, turn this around “he gets a fair amount of exercise… how do you plan on exercising him?” And probe for specifics.
- Don’t over-sell, or under-sell your foster dog. This should be an open and honest discussion about what the potential adopter is looking for and how this matches the needs of your foster dog.

- Be objective about personality traits. The best way to approach this is to ask about what they are looking for in personality before you talk about what type of personality your foster dog has (beyond what is already mentioned in the bio). This way you can find out if they really are a good match, or if they are going on appearances alone.
- Ask a lot about their past experiences with dogs. Even if this is their first dog, how do their friends or family approach dog ownership? Most people are greatly influenced by those around them.
- Find out how they would approach training and/or behavior problems. Again, don't tell them what you are doing, but find out how they would handle this. Better yet, find out how they handled this with previous dogs! This is where the hypothetical questioning can come in handy. "What would you do if you came home to find out she just chewed your brand new Jimmy Choo sandals?"
- If you don't feel good about the potential adopters, then let the HHBCR adoption co-ordinator know your concerns.

Don't hesitate to contact HHBCR for assistance or guidance. If the potential adopter isn't suitable for specific reasons (they are couch potatoes and your foster dog needs to run 10 miles every day, etc.) Please let us know and we can change the dog's bio to better reflect its needs.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

Your foster dog has been adopted! You've found him a permanent home that might even be better than yours - if that's possible! The staff and volunteers at HHBCR greatly appreciate your time, energy and dedication. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make fostering easier and even more rewarding.

On behalf of all the allumni dogs of the Hull`s Haven Border Collie Rescue, we thank you!

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www.hullshaven.org

GENERAL INFORMATION ON FOSTERING A DOG

EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

Allow time for adjustment. While it usually takes about 24 hours for a dog to settle in, it will take much longer for their overall adjustment to this new environment. Watch their behaviour closely and remember that it will take up to a month before your foster dog bonds with you, so keep your expectations realistic.

On the average, foster parents have their dogs for about 2 months before they're adopted. While this amount of time will not be long enough to fully train your foster dog, it will be enough time to give him a good foundation for his new family.

Begin training with some basic commands and crate training. Your foster may have been traumatized before coming to you – you'll be teaching that people are good and can be trusted.

You should handle and work with your foster dog every day. If he shows any signs of aggression or fear (growling over food or toys, snapping or hiding), contact HHBCR for guidance.

FEEDING

WHAT TO FEED YOUR FOSTER DOG

The food you feed your foster dog is important because, as the saying goes, "You are what you eat," and this applies to dogs as well as humans. It especially applies to dogs who have been sick, injured or found as strays.

If you need to transition your foster dog to any new brand or flavour, begin by mixing small portions of old food to the new and slowly reducing the amount of old food until the dog adjusts to eating solely the new (about 3 to 5 days).

DIET CHANGE

Some dogs react to a change in diet with diarrhea. If this happens, feed them cooked rice mixed with cottage cheese (two cups rice to one cup cottage cheese) for a day or two, then reintroduce the dry kibble. If diarrhea persists, please contact the foster co-ordinator.

FEEDING SCHEDULE AND QUANTITY

Create a consistent schedule for feeding your foster dog. Feed at the same times every day. Create a separate space for your foster dog to eat so they will feel comfortable.

If you have other dogs at home, feed your foster in a separate room and close the door - this will help prevent any arguments over food.

Do not feed any “people” food.

Feeding times will depend on the age and size of your foster dog.

- ADULT DOGS: dry adult dog food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- ADOLESCENT DOGS (4 months to 1 year): dry puppy food, twice a day
- WEANED PUPPIES (6-8 weeks to 4 months): dry puppy food three to four times a day. Can be moistened with water or puppy formula.
- NURSING MOTHERS with puppies and unweaned puppies (4-8 weeks)

(Be sure to review the section for “Puppy Care” in the appendix of this manual)

The quantity of food you provide your foster dog will vary depending on weight, age and activity level. Refer to the suggested amounts on the dog food package you are feeding your foster dog as the amounts may change depending on the brand.

Remember to reduce this amount to compensate for any treats, including chews.

Please do not overfeed your foster dog.

If your foster dog is experiencing hot spots (red patches of hairless skin), it may be due to food allergies. Please contact HHBCR’s foster coordinator - you may be required to change food.

~<u>ALWAYS</u> PROVIDE PLENTY OF FRESH WATER~

EXERCISE, TRAINING AND ATTENTION

EXERCISE

Foster dogs should be exercised every day, rain or shine. The old adage, “A tired dog is a happy dog,” holds true for foster dogs. Depending on the age and breed, most foster dogs will need at least two 30+ minute walks a day to release excess energy.

If your foster dog is an adolescent, you may need to step up the activity level to include regular runs/hikes/or brisk walks. A dog that is exercised regularly will tend to sleep when you are not at home - and a sleeping dog cannot do undesirable things, such as bark, chew, etc.

Even a 10 week old puppy that plays inside or in a yard needs numerous daily walks as part of the socialization process. The exception to this is if your foster dog is recovering from an illness or injury, then they may need rest.

LEASH WALKING AND THE SIX FOOT RULE

When walking your foster dog, it is suggested to leave at least six feet between your dog and any other dog you meet. This keeps handlers and dogs safe from possible conflicts and also reduces the transmission of diseases. Foster parents will need to be extra diligent because many dog owners seem to encourage their dogs to “greet” every dog they encounter out on a walk. This nose-to-nose greeting is particularly stressful for many dogs, as dogs typically greet each other from an angle.

One simple way to avoid an oncoming dog walker is to just cross the street, or start to walk in a wide semi-circle around them. Most people recognize that this is a sign that you don’t want your dogs to meet. If this isn’t possible, just announce to the oncoming walker that you are walking a shelter dog, and you would prefer that the dogs don’t greet each other.

Sometimes you must broadcast this loudly if their dog is off-leash or on a retractable leash. Keeping your dog to your side (rather than at the end of the leash) and creating a “body block” with your own body is also helpful.

Sometimes it’s impossible to avoid another dog, so just stay calm, walk between your foster dog and the oncoming dog and move past quickly. Also try talking to your dog, “Fido, keep with me” and giving them treats as you pass an oncoming dog will help keep their attention on you, not on the other dog.

Please do not use retractable leashes when walking or running your foster dog. It’s impossible to have control with a retractable leash, and they can easily tangle or break. We have long line training leashes available for foster parents to practice recalls.

TRAINING

Many potential adopters are looking for basic manners in older dogs. You might feel it's appropriate to let your own dog jump on people, sleep on the bed, or beg for food, but please don't let your foster dog have these same indulgences.

Set boundaries for your foster dog, and be consistent.

BUILDING A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FOSTER DOG

Establishing Leadership

A leader in a dog pack is not the biggest dog, not the meanest dog and not necessarily the oldest dog. It is the one who controls the resources! Within a pack of dogs, strong canine leaders rarely use physical means to control other dogs; this is true in both wild and domesticated dogs. Humans can apply this concept of hierarchy by controlling all the resources in the home and doling them out contingent upon desirable behavior.

Training

We suggest positive, rewards based training for dogs. Increasing your foster dog's obedience skills has many benefits. Not only will the future adopter appreciate these skills, but your foster dog will "show" better when visiting with potential adopters and you will have a much happier fostering experience.

Some basic obedience cues that your foster dog should learn are: sit, down, come, crate/bed, stay, heel, and an attention cue such as "watch me." These are very helpful in managing any dog. If you have a dog that does not like other dogs, these cues will be helpful on walks as well.

Why positive training? Many times, owners ask why one should use positive based methods. The use of choke chains, prong collars, electronic shock devices, and "correction" can all be problematic for a number of reasons. First, if a dog has aggression issues, using force can further exacerbate an already potentially dangerous situation. Second, a foster parent can damage his relationship with the dog if they are always correcting the dog or using aversive methods.

In addition, force based methods can often temporarily suppress undesirable behaviors, but under certain stressors, when a dog feels threatened and has no other options, he may resort to aggression to remove the unpleasant stimulus or to escape the situation.

Positive training methods, on the other hand, are very unlikely to yield such undesirable and unsafe results. Using positive training methods can in fact, increase the likelihood of your dog wanting to respond correctly, increase your dog's motivation to work, and they are fun for you and the dog!

Additional training tips:

- Short 5 minute training sessions 4-6 times a day is more effective than one long session.
- Dogs need and respond to positive rewards when learning new behaviors. Remember, most behaviors that we want are boring to a dog, so it's important to make it more interesting to them. A positive reward is a tasty treat, or a game of fetch, or anything that your foster dog enjoys.
- You provide the guidance and information he needs to succeed and build his confidence. Always praise your foster dog when he is doing something good.
- Be consistent with your terminology and routine. Your foster dog will become confused if you let them steal your socks sometimes, but not others.
- Start small and easy and slowly build from there. Most people jump too quickly into advanced environments (outside on a walk, etc.), so make sure you start inside in a safe and quiet location.
- Use Aak-Aak or Ah-Ah instead of the word "no." The canine mother would use this type of sound to correct her pup. Only use "no" for very serious matters, if it is overused the dog may no longer respond.
- Be patient and calm. Dogs respond to your tone of voice and facial expressions as well as your emotions. Dogs were once predators, and can read your body language quickly. Don't try to "fake" your emotions as your foster dog will know!
- Never lose your temper with a foster dog or strike him - **EVER**. We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.

Housetraining

Be patient with your foster dog. Even housetrained adult dogs will make mistakes. If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some foster dogs may "mark" out their territory. This action should be re-directed immediately with a calm "Ah-Ah" and escort him outside where he can finish.

You will then want to use some odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle) on the areas where the foster dog "marked" to insure he will not smell and mark that area again.

You can begin to housetrain a puppy at 8 weeks of age. Even if you foster an adult dog that is housebroken, you will want to follow these guidelines until your foster dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule.

When you have determined where your foster dog should do his business, take him to the same place every time, and tell him to "do his business." Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every 2 hours.

Puppies should go out every 45 minutes until you learn their pattern. Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he goes, reward him (with treats, praise, a favorite game and your own special happy dance). If he doesn't go in 5 minutes, take him back inside and try every 15 minutes until he goes. Every time he goes, make sure you reward him!

Supervise the puppy closely while you're inside. If he starts to sniff the floor, or even squats to go, interrupt with a calm "Ah-Ah", scoop him up quickly and take him to the approved spot and praise when he finishes.

If he goes in the house while you're not paying attention, don't correct him - it's not his fault. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle or water & vinegar) to get rid of the smell. Never put the dog's face in his mess, or yell at him, he won't understand you, and you will only be teaching him to fear you.

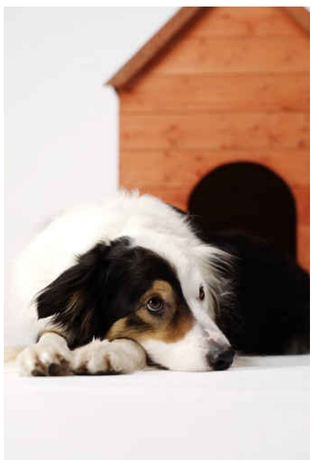
Crate training

Crates provide safe havens and dens for dogs. They calm them and can help prevent destructive chewing, barking and housetraining mistakes.

Puppies should not be crated for more hours than they are months old, plus one. For example, a 4 month old should not be crated longer than 5 hours.

How long an adult dog can be crated will depend on many factors. For example, if your foster dog was left outside, it has never been required to hold it for any period of time. It will take time for this dog to learn to hold it and you will need to start slowly.

Older dogs and dogs with some medical conditions may only be able to successfully hold it for short periods of time.



Rigorous exercise should be given before and after any long periods in the crate, and good chew toys should be in the crate at all times. You may want to crate your new foster dog for the first few nights in your bedroom - most of them feel more secure in their crate and it protects your house from accidents.

Crates should never be used as a means of punishment for your foster dog. If used for punishing, the dog will learn to avoid going in the crate.

Crates are not to be used for keeping puppies under 6 months out of mischief all day either. Crates should be thought of as dog play rooms - just like child play rooms, with games and toys. It should be a place dogs like to be and feel safe and secure when they are there.

Introducing the crate

- Place the crate (with a blanket inside) in a central part of your home. Introduce your foster dog to the crate after a good walk, when he's tired and sleepy. Keep all chew toys in the crate so that he can go in and out as he pleases, selecting toys to play with. Feed your dog in the crate with the door open. If the dog hesitates going in, place the bowl inside the door so their head is in and their body is outside.

- If your foster still refuses to go near the crate, put the smelliest, tastiest wet food in the crate and shut the door. Let the dog hang outside the crate for a while, smelling the food inside. Soon he should beg you to let him in!

- Now that the dog is familiar and willing to go near the crate, throw some of his favorite treats in the crate. Let him go in and get them and come right out again. Do this exercise three or four times. Then, throw more treats in and let him go in and get them. When he is in, shut the door and give him another treat through the door. Then let him out and ignore him for 3 minutes. Then, put some more treats in the crate, let him go in, shut the door and feed him 5 bits of treats through the door, and then let him out and ignore him for 5 minutes.

- Next time, place treats, peanut butter, freeze-dried liver or frozen food and honey in a Kong, so it is time-consuming to get the food out of the ball, and put the Kong in the crate. After your foster has gone in, shut the door and talk to him in a calm voice. If your dog starts to whine or cry, don't talk to him or you will reward the whining/crying/ barking behaviour. The foster dog must be quiet for a few minutes before you let him out.

- Gradually increase the time in the crate until the dog can spend 3-4 hours there. We recommend leaving a radio (soothing music or talk radio) or TV (mellow stations: educational, art, food) on while the dog is in the crate and alone in the house. Rotate the dog's toys from day to day so he doesn't become bored of them. Don't put papers in the crate - the dog will instinctively not go to the bathroom where he sleeps/lives. Instead, put a blanket in his crate to endorse the fact that this is his cozy home.

- To help your foster get accustomed to the crate, place his favorite bed inside it and place it in your bedroom. If you're fostering a puppy, you can try placing a warm hot water bottle wrapped in a towel next to him. Warmth makes puppies sleepy. Make sure the sides of bedding are tucked in firmly so the puppies don't get lost or suffocated in a fold of the bedding. Be wary of dog crates during hot weather - a dog may want to lie on the cool floor, instead of the crate. Make sure the crate is not in direct sun.

Attention and playtime

Lots of human contact is important for recovering, sick, injured or neglected dogs. Human handling is especially important for the healthy development of puppies. Attention and playtime is a reward for your foster dog. Be sure to give your foster dog several minutes of playtime periodically through the day.

- As a general rule, children under 16 years old should NOT be left alone and unsupervised with any dog, but specifically a foster dog. Do not allow children to behave with the foster dog in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling.
- Teach children to leave a dog alone when he is eating, chewing and sleeping. Never allow a child to remove a toy or any other “prized” possession from a dog. A child will not differentiate between a foster dog and a dog they have grown up with, so you must make sure to keep everyone safe.
- Do not play tug of war or wrestle with your foster dog. If you have a shy or fearful dog, do not throw the toy toward the dog, because he may think you are throwing things at him and become more fearful. After you have finished playing with a toy, put it away. You are controlling the toy and the playtime.
- When giving the dog a toy or treat, have him sit before giving it to him. That way he has to work to get the toy or treat - making the toy a reward.
- After your foster dog has settled in and has acclimated to his new home, it’s time to get him out into the world. The more you can do this, the better socialized he will be. Get him used to different people and different environments.
- Start slowly and don’t over stimulate as many foster dogs may not have had exposure to what seems like a “normal” environment. When you are out and about, you should remain calm as this will help your foster dog key off of your behavior. But always be aware of your surroundings. lways keep a good handle on your leash and be extremely careful around busy streets, or in parks where there are squirrels or birds or other distractions.
- If your dog reacts to someone/ something on your walk, interrupt the behavior by crossing the street or walk in a different direction. If you’re a runner/jogger, start off slow and keep an eye on your foster dog and see how they react. Many dogs pull when they are in front of you, and running can intensify this behavior. Keeping them at your side, rather than in front can help eliminate this pulling behavior. You may need to start and stop many times, but be patient. Remember, these runs should be about the dog, not about your own exercise.
- Puppies under 6 months old should not run with you and only occasionally, for short distances after 6 months. Also, remember your foster probably is not used to running regularly, and like a person, will have to improve his conditioning and stamina over a period of time to avoid injury.

If you’re fostering puppies, make sure they have lots of new experiences, so they are well socialized and will be adaptable as an adult. Since it’s best not to take puppies out in public until they are fully vaccinated, bring new experiences to them.

- Find out from your foster co-ordinator if there are other puppies in foster care and schedule a puppy play date.
- Expose them to men and children as much as possible.
- Have friends over and invite children over to play. Always supervise playtime with children and dogs closely!
- Take your foster puppy in car rides (crate them for safety) to get used to the car. Keep in mind that puppies need to go to the bathroom frequently so be sure they eliminate before you go on a car ride, and keep the ride brief, since they will have to go again soon.

Do not take foster puppies to any public parks.

Puppies are not yet fully vaccinated and can pick up viruses, particularly the Parvo virus, through contact with feces and urine in areas where other dogs congregate.

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BEHAVIORAL ISSUES

Some foster dogs will have specific needs regarding behavior, training or socializing. Your HHBCR volunteer foster co-ordinator will advise you if your foster dog has a behavior problem that may require your help, such as an abused or fearful dog who needs socializing or confidence-building with other dogs or people.

- A dominant puppy may benefit from an adult dog in your home to "show them the ropes" and appropriate behavior.
- A dog with an unknown/questionable history may just need to be observed in someone's home before being adopted.

- Many times it is the foster parent that is the first to learn about a foster dog's specific behavior so constant communication with the foster co-ordinator is important. There are many resources that HHBCR can provide to help you manage most behavioral issues.

It's important to recognize that dogs are not humans with fur. Based on DNA evidence, dogs were domesticated from wolves about 15,000 years ago in East Asia. A few basic breed types have evolved gradually during the domesticated dog's relationship with humans over the last 10,000 or more years, but all modern breeds are of relatively recent derivation.

Many of the behaviors that we find problematic, such as barking, whining, digging, chewing, scavenging and hunting other animals are really just normal dog behaviors and can be explained as "dogs truly being dogs."

In many ways, modern or urban dog training is what we do to decrease normal dog behaviors and increase those behaviors we, as city dwelling humans, prefer. But we should keep in mind that these behavioral "problems" are usually only problems to us. And remember that historically these behaviors were usually bred by humans into a particular breed of dog.

For example, Siberian Huskies and others in the Spitz breeds are descendents of sled dogs and typically pull when on a leash. Australian Cattle Dogs drive cattle by nipping at their heels or tails and may do the same to children, bikes and cars. Terriers (everything from the diminutive Yorkshire Terrier, to the large Airedale Terrier), were bred to hunt and kill vermin and typically have a high prey drive and like to dig.

The easiest way to coexist with our canine companions is to provide more appropriate (human accepted) outlets for these behaviors.

Some common behavioral issues include:

- Barking
- Humping
- Digging
- Begging
- Attention seeking
- Garbage hunting
- Leash pulling
- Greeting manners
- Destructive chewing
- Puppy nipping and rough play
- Submissive and/or excitement urination
- Urine marking behavior
- Fearfulness
- Separation anxiety
- Resource guarding
- Prey drive

If your foster dog is exhibiting any behavioral issues, ask yourself the questions below:

- Is my foster dog getting enough exercise?
- Is he being left alone for long periods of time?
- Does he have interesting toys to keep his mind engaged and stimulated?
- Is he getting enough attention and playtime?
- Am I reinforcing bad behavior? Some examples include telling a fearful dog that "It's ok", verbally scolding a dog when they are seeking attention, etc.
- Does my foster dog have a safe place that is dog-proofed with appropriate chew toys, or am I leaving my own belongings within reach?
- Am I providing specific outlets based on its breed?

Additional training resources to help deal with these (and other) behavioural issues may be found on-line or call your foster co-ordinator and discuss any behaviour issues. We don't expect foster parents to be miracle workers. If your foster dog requires more attention, exercise or training than you can provide, the best solution for you and your foster dog might be a different foster home.

Regardless of the issue, we don't recommend punishment as this is rarely effective in resolving behavior problems. Punishment will not address the cause of the behavior, and in fact it may worsen any behavior that's motivated by fear or anxiety. Punishment may also cause anxiety in dogs that aren't currently fearful.

Never discipline your dog after the fact. People often believe their dog makes this connection because he runs and hides or "looks guilty." But dogs display submissive postures like cowering, running away, or hiding when they feel threatened by an angry tone of voice, body posture, or facial expression. Your dog doesn't know what he's done wrong; he only knows that you're upset. Punishment after the fact will not only fail to eliminate the undesirable behavior, but may provoke other undesirable behaviors, too.

VETERINARY AND MEDICAL CARE

All veterinary care must be pre-authorized by contacting the HHBCR foster co-ordinator. Once a visit has been authorized, call to make an appointment at the vet offices at which Hull`s Haven has an account. You must bring your foster dog's information and current vaccinations with you to the appointment. Please arrange to have your foster dog seen during regular business hours. Once treatment has begun, you must continue with the same veterinary clinic.

Please note: HHBCR has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals if you do not receive pre-approval or go to an approved vet office. Emergency/ nighttime clinics are incredibly expensive and should only be used in cases of dire emergencies and only after pre-approval.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SEEKING VET VISITS

Puppies younger than 12 weeks must see a vet for the following:

- Diarrhea that lasts for more than a day
- Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours
- Vomiting more than once in an hour
- Not eating for more than 12-24 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than 12 hours
- Lethargy with fever

Dogs older than 12 weeks must see a vet for the following:

- Diarrhea that lasts for more than 1-2 days
- Diarrhea and occasional vomiting for more than a day
- Vomiting more than 2-3 times in an hour
- Not eating for more than 24 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than a day
- Lethargy with fever

For all of the above, you still must contact the foster co-ordinator for pre-approval.

SPAY AND NEUTER

Most foster dogs are altered prior to going into foster care. However, puppies or injured dogs may need to be spayed/neutered during foster care or just before going into their new adoptive homes. If you are fostering an unaltered dog that is healthy and old enough for surgery, it is beneficial to have the procedure done while in foster care for either behavioral or physical reasons. Please contact the foster co-ordinator and an appointment will be scheduled.

If your foster dog is unaltered at the time of adoption, your foster or adoption co-ordinator will advise the adopter when the dog is scheduled to be altered. The foster parent may drop the dog off at the spay/neuter clinic the morning of the scheduled surgery to avoid having the dog spend the night at the shelter prior to the day of surgery.

Both male and female pups can be neutered or spayed as early as 8-10 weeks of age.

ILLNESS

Your foster dog may not display any signs of illness until quite ill. Therefore, it's up to you to observe your dog closely each day. Call your foster co-ordinator if you see abnormal behavior; unusual discharges from the eyes, nose or other body openings, abnormal lumps, limping, difficulty getting up or down, loss of appetite or abnormal waste elimination.

DIARRHEA

Diarrhea can be caused by several factors, including stress, change of diet, poor diet, eating garbage, parasites and viruses. If your foster dog has diarrhea and has no other symptoms, rule out change of diet by feeding your dog 2 cups of cooked rice mixed with one cup of cottage cheese for a day or two, and then reintroduce dry kibble.

Provide plenty of fresh water since diarrhea can cause dehydration.

To check for dehydration, pull the skin up over the shoulder blades. If it snaps back quickly, the dog is not dehydrated. If the skin goes down slowly, then the dog is dehydrated and needs fluids. Dehydration can kill a puppy so call your foster co-ordinator if you suspect your foster is dehydrated.

DISTEMPER

Distemper is an extremely contagious and often fatal viral disease. Over 50% of dogs and 80% of puppies that contract the virus die from it. It is an airborne infection that can be transmitted with or without direct contact with an infected dog through mucous, urine and feces.

Some of the symptoms of Distemper include squinting, congestion of the eyes, puss from the eyes, weight loss, coughing, vomiting, nasal discharge and diarrhea. This disease is another reason why foster puppies shouldn't go to off-leash parks.

FLEAS

Most foster dogs have been treated upon rescue. But additional flea treatments are available if needed.

Puppies younger than 4 months should NOT be treated with toxic chemicals. Puppies over 8 weeks of age and adult dogs can be treated with Advantage or Revolution. Flea treatments contain insecticides that can cause nerve and liver damage, impair the immune system and even cause cancer.

Regular flea combing is the best way to control and monitor the fleas. Vacuum all areas of your house that your foster uses at least every 2-3 to three days. Fleas usually are found on dogs that are ill and so, as with any illness, you'll want to strengthen the overall health of the dog. As a rule, healthy dogs are less likely to get fleas than sick ones.

Good food, minimal stress, proper hygiene and TLC will most likely keep the dog from getting fleas or an illness. To check for fleas, inspect your dog daily - inspecting the rear groin, belly, and tail, under the chin and head, and neck (common places for fleas). Look also for black specks of flea dirt, which is actually digested blood.

Before you begin combing, get a bowl of tap water and put a few drops of dish soap in it. You can put any fleas you find in the water and they will drown. If you don't use soap, the fleas may swim to a fluff of fur and jump out of the water.

If fleas are present, treat as soon as possible. Change bedding and vacuum the floors daily. The washing machine will remove fleas, eggs and dirt. If your foster dog had fleas, watch his stools for short pieces of white rice that are tapeworms, which come from ingesting fleas. Tapeworms can cause diarrhea. If you see tapeworms, call your foster co-ordinator who can provide you with medication that will treat parasites.

INJURED DOGS

Injured foster dogs will have specific needs. They'll most likely be recovering from surgery and will come with veterinary orders. Generally fracture, cast or other surgery patients may need to be confined to a crate or a small room to limit mobility.

This type of foster situation may require you to schedule follow up appointments with the dog's veterinarian. As with all foster dogs, watch for signs of illness, since injured foster dogs are under additional stress and are more prone to illness. Lots of human contact is important for healing injured dogs. Active play should be limited, but cuddling, petting, talking, brushing and massaging are all good social activities for a recovering animal.

KENNEL COUGH

Kennel cough, or the equivalent of a human cold, develops when the dog is stressed or when the immune system is compromised. Kennel cough usually goes away as soon as the dog has a warm, quiet and soothing place to sleep, and where they can drink lots of water, eat healthy food and receive lots of TLC!

Kennel cough is typically a dry, hacking cough. There may be some discharge from the nose and a clear liquid that is coughed up. It's generally a mild, self-limiting illness of the trachea and bronchi encountered in all age groups of dogs, but especially in those under unusual stress, crowding or close confinement.

Kennel cough exists in shelters, boarding kennels, groomers, veterinary offices, off-leash areas, etc. Because kennel cough is contagious, infected dogs should NOT be around other dogs until they're over their cough. If you have a dog at home and plan to foster a dog with kennel cough, we have found that if your own dog is healthy and has been vaccinated annually, then your dog will most likely not get sick.

Talk to your vet about giving your own dog the Bordetella nasal vaccination. Immunity to kennel cough is usually established 3-4 days after vaccination.

Kennel cough treatment

Treatment for kennel cough involves bed rest and doggie videos! Make sure your foster dog has plenty of fresh water and healthy food. If your dog is not eating, try cooking up something special and smelly such as eggs, chicken or steak. Take short, leashed walks.

If your dog's energy is good and the cough seems mild, try some Vitamin C (5-10 mg/lb, 2-3 times a day with food), and Vitamin E (3-5 mg/lb, once a day). If you don't see improvement of the cough or cold after 3 days, OR if the condition worsens, call the HHBCR foster co-ordinator.

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Dogs rarely develop a fever and lethargy with kennel cough. In fact, it can be difficult to keep them quiet! Strenuous activity can bring on coughing episodes, so limit activity and encourage rest. Even baths can be stressful to the system and should be avoided. However, bringing your foster dog into the bathroom while you're taking a shower can be helpful as the steam can help loosen mucus.

Incubation of kennel cough is 5-10 days; its course is 10-20 days with symptoms generally more marked the first week. Fever, lack of appetite and a yellow-green-brown nasal discharge can indicate secondary infections. Call the HHBCR foster co-ordinator if any of these symptoms occur.

PARVO

Parvo attacks the intestinal tract, white blood cells and heart muscle. Signs of infection are depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, severe diarrhea, fever and sometimes kennel cough symptoms. The illness is contracted through contact with the infected feces of another dog. This is why you must NOT take your foster puppy out to public places where other dogs have been until he has completed his vaccine series against the disease.

This virus can be deadly especially in younger puppies. Call your HHBCR foster co-ordinator immediately if you believe your foster dog may have this illness.

PARASITES

Parasites can cause diarrhea, stomach bloating or vomiting. Parasites include tapeworms, round worms, hookworms and mange.

Tapeworms will look like pieces of rice coming out of your foster dog's anus or in his stool. Round and hookworms may be vomited, and roundworms look like spaghetti (hookworms are smaller and rarely distinguishable without the aid of a microscope).

Mange is an infestation of tiny mites that bite and cause intense scratching, reddened skin and loss of fur. Only rare cases of mange (sarcoptic) are contagious to humans.

If you suspect your foster dog has parasites, call your HHBCR foster co-ordinator to schedule a fecal test. Once diagnosed, parasites are easily medicated and treated.

VACCINATION AND WORMING

Your foster dog's vaccination and worming history will be given to you. Your dog has most likely been vaccinated for Distemper, canine Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvo, and Bordetella. Rabies vaccinations are only given if the foster dog has being spayed or neutered and is old enough to receive this vaccination.

Adult dogs are vaccinated once a year, while puppies may be vaccinated starting at 8 weeks of age (if they have been with their mother) and should be given boosters until they are 16 weeks old. If you are fostering a very young orphaned puppy, we will refer you to a vet to determine age and vaccination schedule.

POISONOUS FOODS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Many household products can be toxic to dogs. Remove any rat or mouse poisonings, antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid from your home before fostering! Store cleaning products and other items listed below out of reach of pets. The following common food items are poisonous for dogs.

Chocolate Caffeine Grapes/Raisins

Macadamia Nuts Mushrooms Onion and Garlic

THE TEN MOST COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS ARE:

Azalea/Rhododendron, Castor Bean, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Lilies, Marijuana, Oleander, Sago Palm, Tulip/Narcissus bulbs, Yew

Call your HHBCR foster co-ordinator immediately if you believe your foster dog may have ingested any of these items.

fosters@hullshaven.org

HULL'S HAVEN
BORDER COLLIE RESCUE
MERCY KNOWS NO BORDERS

HOW TO TAKE A DOG'S TEMPERATURE

A normal temperature for dogs and puppies is 101 to 102.5 degrees. Any temperature below 100 degrees or above 103 is a problem. Call your HHBCR foster co-ordinator immediately.

If a puppy has a temperature below 100 degrees, place him on a heating pad turned to low and covered him with a towel immediately. If the dog's temperature is 103 degrees or higher, and the puppy has been on a heating pad, remove him from the pad immediately.

You will need:

- Rectal thermometer
- Vaseline
- Disinfectant (30:1 water and bleach solution)

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Sterilize the thermometer by dipping it into the disinfectant solution.
2. Dry with a clean paper towel.
3. Shake the thermometer down to under 80 degrees.
4. Coat the tip of the thermometer with a small amount of Vaseline.
5. Insert the tip of the thermometer ½ inch into the dog's rectum and hold there for 1-2 minutes.
6. Be gentle, as the rectal tissues are fragile, and you don't want to tear the tissue.
7. You may need a second person to help hold the dog to prevent struggling.
8. You should speak softly to the dog, if a second person is helping; sometimes it is helpful to stroke the dog around the head to distract him from what is going on in the other direction.
9. Be sure to sterilize the thermometer again when finished.

PUPPY CARE

NURSING MOTHERS WITH PUPPIES — 0-4 WEEKS

- A small, quiet, warm, easily cleaned room (laundry room, bathroom, family room, kitchen, or dry and warm basement) is best for a mother and her pups.
- Clean bedding should be provided with food and water nearby.
- A child's plastic baby pool, lined with a blanket makes a wonderful, safe den for mom and pups.
- The mother dog should be allowed outside on leash (or supervised in a fenced yard) twice daily to eliminate. The puppies should not go out at all. Be aware of other dogs and other dogs' feces when taking the mom out for a walk, since she may not be properly vaccinated.
- The mother will spend most of her time early on nursing, cleaning up and caring for her pups. Later, as the pups become more mobile and less demanding on her, she may enjoy more time away from them and play actively with people and chew toys.
- As pups become more mobile, check their living area for hazards.

FEEDING NURSING MOTHERS AND HER PUPPIES

- The mother dog requires extra nutrition for adequate milk production. Feed a premium diet three times each day.
- Be sure all the puppies are nursing and steadily gaining weight. Newborns depend entirely on mom's first milk, receiving valuable antibodies (colostrum).
- When the puppies are 3 weeks old, begin offering a low bowl (a pie plate) of water-soaked puppy kibble. Be sure to offer this at a time when the puppies are hungry, and, if necessary, separate the mom so she won't eat it.
- By 4 weeks of age they should be eating some mushy meals. (See the next section on Weaning Orphan Puppies.)
- By 6 weeks of age puppies should no longer need mother's milk and should be eating soaked kibble and starting on dry kibble.

MEDICAL CARE FOR PUPPIES

Call HHBCR`s foster co-ordinator if you see any signs of illness in mother or pups. If the mother dog goes off food or is stressed, milk production may drop sharply, and puppies may have to be raised as orphans. Check mother's mammary glands daily for redness, harness, discharge or streaking color. A hard, red, hot or painful mammary gland may mean mastitis which should be checked by a veterinarian.

As long as pups all nurse and gain weight, milk production is probably adequate. If milk production or mother's calcium reserves are inadequate, the mother may develop eclampsia, an emergency situation of low blood calcium levels requiring immediate attention. Symptoms include muscle twitching, tremors, anxiousness, progressive or stiffening, seizure-like tremors.

Nursing mothers often "blow their coat" when nursing due to nutrition demands on their body; feeding premium diet in adequate amounts helps avoid this situation. Vitamin supplements can also help. The mother's vaginal discharge (lochia) should taper from dark mucoid green to reddish brown in smaller amounts by 3 weeks postpartum.

The mother should be vaccinated as soon as she is finished nursing. Check the pups' umbilical cords daily until they dry and fall off.

Eyes open at 7-10 days — watch for infections/crusting at the lids. If you see fleas, ask HHBCR`s foster co-ordinator for advice on treating the newborns.

Puppies should receive their first dose of deworming medicine at 2-3 weeks of age, followed by a second dose in 10 days. Dewormer will be provided for you.

At 8-10 weeks of age the pups should receive their first set of shots. You will need to visit the veterarian to receive their vaccinations.

SOCIALIZING PUPPIES

Be aware that mama dog may be protective of her pups, but most mother dogs will allow a calm, gentle approach by adults picking up and handling pups. Puppies need a lot of human contact. Handle them as much as you can.

Refer to the chart at the end of this puppy section for more information on how puppies' needs change as they grow.

ORPHANED PUPPIES — 0-3 WEEKS

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A/D or baby food
- Baby shampoo
- Bottles and Nipples
- Box or Carrier
- Dishes with low sides, such as pie plates
- Esbilac or similar formula
- Flea comb
- Hot water bottle or heating pad
- Kaopectate
- Kitchen scale in 1 oz increments
- Small syringes
- Timer/ticking clock
- Towels & wash cloths

Since the mother is not available (and another nursing mother is not available), the foster parent must provide all of the mother's functions: feeding, warmth, cleaning and stimulation to urinate/defecate. These supplies will be provided to you from HHBCR.

SAFETY AND CONFINEMENT FOR ORPHAN PUPS

These pups should be set up in small living quarters (crate or box with bedding) easily kept consistently warm at about 80-90 degrees.

They will pile on each other to keep warm, but a hot water bottle and warm bedding are needed. Heating pads can be dangerous. If used, they should be kept on low, with several layers of bedding between the pad and pups, and they should be monitored closely.

FEEDING ORPHAN PUPS

- Puppy milk replacer, such as Vet-alac or Esbilac, should be mixed and fed according to package directions. Generally, feeding every 3 hours is needed in the beginning.
- By 3 weeks of age, feeding every 4-5 hours with a night break of 8 hours should work well. Milk replacer can be fed by dropper, syringe or bottle as pups accept it and need larger feedings.
- Some of the pups may be too weak to suck from the bottle and you will need to feed them with syringes. If you need to syringe-feed the puppies, drip the formula slowly into the side of their mouths, and give them time to swallow. Going too fast can cause liquid to go into their lungs and cause pneumonia.
- Do not hold pups on their backs, or allow them to suck too fast, as this can lead to aspiration of formula into the lungs. The puppies should be tilted forward and slightly up, as if they were nursing on their mother. Never try to bottle feed an unconscious or semi-conscious puppy.

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- Feed until the puppy's tummy feels tight and full.
- Sick puppies will not eat eagerly, and you will have to feed them slowly and often to ensure they are getting enough food.
- After each feeding, you must stimulate bowel and bladder movement. Use a warm, damp cotton ball or later a cloth as volume increases. Mineral oil on a Q-tip at the anus may stimulate defecation. Gently massage their genital areas in a circular motion and do not stop until they have finished eliminating.
- Note the color of the urine. If it is light yellow or straw colored, this is normal. If it is a bright canary yellow, the puppy is dehydrated and needs fluids immediately. Cottage cheesy stools or diarrhea are also an indication of illness. Call HHBCR foster co-ordinator if you see these symptoms.

WEANING ORPHAN PUPS

- As your pups grow and become more mobile, weaning time approaches. Weaning can be started at 3 weeks by offering formula in a low dish or pie plate with or without canned food mixed in.
- Be sure to offer when puppies are hungry, so they will make their best effort to lap/lick/eat. Supplement with bottle feedings as needed until pups are lapping consistently from a dish.
- By 4-5 weeks no more bottle feedings should be needed. At 4 weeks, offer water soaked kibble with or without canned food mixed in or formula added. Water penetrates kibble better; soaking in formula does not work as well.
- Begin offering dry food at 5 weeks when the puppies are hungry near meal time so they will start to try the dry food. Continue feeding soaked kibble until 7 weeks or so.
- By 8 weeks, the puppies should readily eat dry food only.

MEDICAL CARE FOR ORPHAN PUPS

If signs of illness develop in the pups, notify HHBCR`s foster co-ordinator. Lack of appetite and diarrhea are of special concern. Check umbilical cords daily until the cord dries out and falls off. Eyes open at 7-10 days - watch for infections/crusting at the lids.

Newborns without a mom may also try to nurse on each other causing injury (genitalia are the common site for this false "nipple"). Pups may need to be separated if this occurs.

Deworming should occur at 2-3 weeks of age with medication which will be provided to you. A second dose should be administered10 days later.

From birth on, puppies must be kept clean and flea free. Fleas can kill a puppy or cause anemia. Daily flea combing is usually enough, but you should be prepared to bathe them as necessary. If fleas are found, call your foster co-ordinator for advice in treating newborns.

At 8-10 weeks of age, the pups should get their first set of vaccinations.

CLEANING ORPHAN PUPS

Initially, newborn pups should be kept in a box or crate, and bedding should be changed as needed. The process of stimulating urination/defecation, then cleaning or soaking up urine/feces with cotton or cloth should keep puppies fairly clean.

As pups become more mobile and learn to urinate/defecate on their own, a larger box or small, papered, gated area like a kitchen or bathroom may be used to confine them. Keep area free of feces/urine.

The weaning process (low dish of mushy food) can make for messy feet and faces - wash with a warm wet cloth as needed. If you must bathe the puppies, make sure they are thoroughly dried after bathing to avoid chilling, which can lead to illness.

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIALIZATION

It's important to start handling and manipulating puppies right from birth to get them comfortable with humans. Although their ears and eyes are still sealed, their sense of smell is already relatively well developed. The wild stress they may experience when being picked up accelerates body growth, reduces emotionality and possibly increases their resistance to certain diseases. Moreover, they become imprinted to human scent.

- The growing puppies should be handled every day, and gentle grooming should be started at 4-5 weeks.
- As they become more aware of their environment, they should be exposed to as many stimuli as possible, including the vacuum cleaner, young children, men, women, other friendly animals, loud noises, etc.
- However, you must pay attention they do not become too stressed, over-stimulated or tired. Short car trips will get puppies used to traveling.
- At first, all puppies should experience things by themselves to learn to cope with life later on. When the mother is not available it's important that puppies come in contact with an older, friendly dog from about 5 weeks of age on. They have to learn how to communicate like a dog and most importantly, how to submit. A puppy that has not learned submission from its mother or another adult dog will be more difficult to train later on.
- At this age, it's also very important that puppies learn bite inhibition - best from his littermates or an adult dog.
- Starting at 8 weeks, the puppy is ready to learn "human" language and the rules of human society. Socialization with other dogs and humans has to be continued. With any introduction, be aware of the possibility of transmission of infectious disease - use good judgment.

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT CHART

Age	**1-3 weeks**
Needs	• Warmth • Food • Sleep • Dependent on mother
Mental Capability	• Reflex behavior • Needs stimulation to eliminate • Cannot regulate body temperature • Ears/eyes open (eyes 8-10 days, ears 13-17days)
Notes	• Should be handled gently for brief periods of time • Sense of smell is functioning • Will imprint on humans • Littermates important
Age	**4-7 weeks**
Needs	• Food • Sleep • Mother for discipline
Mental Capability	• All sense functioning • Aware of environment • Responding to stimuli • Eliminate on their own • Temperature regulation has improved • Begin weaning
Notes	• Influence of littermates increases • Interaction with mates necessary to learn bite inhibition • Regular handling • Exposure to people, animals and noises • Begin to form social attachments with other species • Provide sensory rich environment
Age	**8-12 weeks**
Needs	• Continued socialization • Play
Mental Capability	• Fully weaned • Mental capacity fully developed • Can learn basic commands
Notes	• Learns dog language from litter mates/adult dogs • Learns submission from mother • Most sensitive period in pup's development - what it experiences now remains for life

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

SALLY HULL
(H) 204-513-1866
(C) 204-999-1866

EMAIL FOSTER CO-ORDINATOR
fosters@hullshaven.org

LOST DOG

If your foster becomes lost, there are many resources available to help! Note time and place last seen, detailed description and photos if available.

1. Please contact the *EMERGENCY CONTACTS ABOVE* as soon as possible.
2. For Winnipeg, *CALL 311 ANIMAL SERVICES* and report your dog missing
3. For outside Winnipeg, *CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VET* or *MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SERVICES* and report your missing dog
4. *NOTIFY WLDA* (Winnipeg Lost Dog Alert) - post on their Facebook page and follow their "tips" instructions
5. *POST AN AD* on Kijiji's Lost & Found section

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