



## WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN FOSTERING

Foster dogs arrive from shelter in New Jersey and out of state. Some of our fosters are surrendered by their family because they can no longer care for them.

Most arrive scared, tired, travel weary and confused. Everything that is familiar – even if the familiar is not ideal – is gone. It takes time for the puppies and dogs to adjust to everything new – new sights, new sounds, new smells, new routines, new humans!

Fostering a dog—taking a dog into your home and providing it with shelter and care for a predetermined amount of time or until a forever home is found—is one of the most rewarding things a dog person can do.

People choose to foster for a variety of reasons including:

- wanting to help transform a shelter dog into a pet, and help another family find the right dog for their home.
- thinking about getting a dog but you're not sure you're ready for the lifelong emotional and financial commitment, and you want to get some practice while helping dogs in need.
- wanting to give your current dog some canine companionship.
- having space in your home and schedule to accommodate a temporary canine guest and give her the attention she needs.

Traveling 4 Paws foster homes provide the necessary caregiving, training, and assessment to help dogs find forever homes, and are a vital aspect of their lifesaving work.

The main function of our foster homes is to provide a safe, loving home environment. For the most part, this entails caring for your foster as you would care for your own dog: offering food, affection, socialization, and exercise to keep the dog happy and healthy.

As a foster parent, you may also be asked to:

- Transport the dog to and from adoption events.
- Participate in obedience training at home and/or in classes.
- Report back to the shelter/rescue workers with information about the dog's personality and behavior.
- Speak with potential adopters to tell them about your foster dog and help determine if they are a good match.



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Traveling 4 Paws strives to keep our costs low. If you have the following items and can use them to foster our pups great! If not, we can provide:

- Collar and leash
- Bowls
- Crate
- Food
- Treats
- Toy

Traveling 4 Paws prioritizes the needs of the dog and tries to make sure foster homes have all the resources they need to be successful. Any help you can provide is appreciated.

One of the greatest rewards of fostering is watching a rescue dog bloom into a pet, but of course, it's not without its challenges. Foster dogs sometimes need to learn the basic rules of living in a house, including:

- Housetraining
- Appropriate greeting behavior with humans
- Appropriate play behavior with other dogs

Whatever your foster dog needs remember that Traveling 4 Paws is your ally and support network.

Sometimes it is hard to say goodbye when their foster puppy or dog finds a permanent home. The important thing to remember is that fostering saves lives, and by letting your foster dog go to a forever home, you free up space for another dog in need.

Please look around your home and consider dog-proofing:

- Clear out small and sharp objects like paper clips, nails, staples, needles, and rubber bands from low tables and floors
- Move curtains or drapes that can be chewed or pulled off the wall out of reach
- Move electrical cords out of reach, or even cover them with PVC pipe, to prevent chewing
- Keep washer and dryer units closed (And always check that they are empty before using)
- Cover trash cans to keep out curious noses (Or purchase a "dog-proof" trashcan)
- Install childproof latches for cabinets where toxic cleaning supplies and medications are kept
- Keep toilet lids closed (safety latches optional)
- Keep all houseplants out of reach



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Get down to a dog's eye-level to look for safety hazards you may have missed, including small holes, tight spaces between furniture, and escape opportunities in your backyard fence (if you have one).

When it comes to housetraining or lack of housetraining, be ready. Former owners may have left their dog for days at a time with no proper potty set-up. Other dogs may have spent their whole lives outside and do not understand the concept of indoors versus outdoors. Other times, he may have attempted to cue you but you simply didn't understand. Extra compassion and patience can help you remedy this confusion.

Your rescue dog may need to learn to trust humans again, and that is why your role is so important. Your role as foster dog parent may be their first consistent source of love and understanding. Show them they have nothing to fear from you, even when they do something unwanted. A nervous bladder is only made worse by yelling, so instead work to reinforce their proper potty behaviors.

Fostering is a lot of work. It can be messy, and at times tiring. At the end of the day many of our foster families do not mind the extra work as fostering provides unconditional love from their foster and a sense of doing good.

If you have any questions, please email Chelsea at [traveling4pawsfoster@gmail.com](mailto:traveling4pawsfoster@gmail.com)

If you want to start with filling out our adoption application [click here](#).