



## Foster Information

You and your time are So Very Important.

Thank you for volunteering to foster a dog for Whiskers, Tails and Feral. We appreciate your generosity in opening your home to a homeless dog. Because of your help, we are able to save more dogs.

W,T&F is powered totally by volunteers. Many families give hours of time selflessly to save animals. W,T&F also relies on public donations. We run a Christmas Tree and Wreath Lot and another big fundraising event for Springtime. These events are run completely by volunteers.

By providing a foster home, you are giving these neglected and abandoned dogs a safe place to live and the love of your family. Some dogs may need socialization, some basic training, others just time to recover. The time spent with your foster, the behaviors you observe, the lessons you teach him, will assist in a successful match. These dogs need and deserve a forever home. You and your family will be making them better members for their adoptive families.

The dogs of Whiskers, Tails and Ferals come mostly from the local shelters but may also come from as far away as Southern California, or even Hawaii.

The shelters are overflowing with wonderful animals that will be euthanized if not rescued. Many of the animals Whiskers, Tails and Ferals Rescue are in their last hours at the shelter. Our dogs are taken from the shelters, kept quarantined for a period of time, then spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, given the necessary vaccines, flea-treated and de-wormed. Most dogs are then placed into the Foster Home although some may be placed before.

This manual is intended to provide guidelines on what to expect as a foster. It is a work in progress and has been shortened to the most basic information.

## General Guidelines

1. Prior to fostering, all Foster Homes must complete an online Foster Home Application as well as a Foster Home Agreement and possible home inspection.
2. All Foster Homes agree to accept primary responsibility for providing food, lodging and care of their foster dog until a permanent adopting family is found.
3. If you think your Foster Dog needs any medical care, including vet visits or over-the-counter medications, please contact one of the volunteer representatives included in the complete manual OR leave a detailed message on the doggie phone line.
4. Foster Homes agree to bring their Foster Dog to adoption events regularly, at least twice per month. These events are the primary method of showcasing our dogs and meeting potential adopters. Events occur generally every Saturday from 12:00-4:00 p.m., at the Napa Petco located at 3284 Jefferson St. Pet Food Express is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Foster homes will receive an email confirming the adoption event and asking if you will attend. Foster Homes are asked to notify W,T &F on whether they will be able to bring their Foster Dog to the event.
5. Foster Homes are asked to provide info on their Foster Dog. This info includes: the foster dog's behavior, habits, likes and dislikes, if they are kid friendly, cat friendly, etc. and if any issues arise. If you are not handling your foster dog at the adoption event, this basic information should be given to the adoption event coordinators.
6. Foster Homes are not required to foster any dog that they do not wish to. However, there may not be an immediate alternate foster home for your dog. We will work on moving your Foster Dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding as we work on it.
7. Only those dogs that have received prior approval for fostering by a W,T&F representative can be considered for the Foster Program. Volunteers and/or Foster Families are not authorized to pull dogs from the shelters.

8. Foster-to-adopt is done on a case by case basis only. All potential adopters must go through our regular application process. Approval can only be given by an authorized W,T&F volunteer.
9. Foster Homes are asked to commit to providing a safe and loving home until your Foster Dog is adopted into its forever home. (if this is possible)
10. All adoption applications for your Foster Dog must go through the W,T&F Animal Rescue application process ( application, interview, supervised meet and greet, home check, etc.). If a friend or family member of the Foster Home wishes to adopt your Foster Dog, that's great! But, the adopter must go through the same process as other applicants.
11. Your own dogs should be current with their vaccinations. We also recommend that you vaccinate your dogs with the Bordetella vaccine to prevent kennel cough, a common illness with shelter dogs.
12. Whiskers, Tails and Ferals, is not responsible for any veterinary bills for resident dogs. The Foster Home assumes responsibility for any veterinary bills that result from resident dogs becoming ill due to exposure with a Foster Dog.
13. If you are planning a vacation, please notify W,T&F as far in advance as you can. We will need at least two weeks to arrange for alternative placement for your Foster Dog. If you want to take your foster dog with you, even for just a weekend, you MUST notify W,T&F beforehand. If there is an pending adoption application, we may make arrangements to keep your foster dog locally to be able to show him/her.
14. Do not leave your Foster Dog with anyone else without prior approval from W,T&F. Anytime a Foster Dog is left we MUST have a signed release of Liability.

***This is a brief description on what you can expect as a foster. We have a much more detailed manual available via email .***