



WELCOME TO PAWS & POSSIBILITIES, THE REWARDS & REALITIES OF FOSTERING



“To foster an animal is a
great **GIFT** and
act of **KINDNESS**.

The animals hold a special place
in your **HEART** and you
make a world of **DIFFERENCE**
in their lives!”



What Does It Mean To Foster A Dog?

- As a foster, you'll welcome a dog into your home and care for them as part of your family until they are adopted. You'll be responsible for their daily routine, including feeding, exercise, training, and enrichment activities that help them thrive.
- Working in partnership with the rescue or shelter, your role is to provide a safe, supportive, and structured environment where the foster dog can decompress, learn, and prepare for their forever home.

Where Do Foster Dogs Come From?

Many dogs entering foster care come from challenging or uncertain pasts. As a foster, you may need to help your dog adjust, build confidence, and learn how to thrive in a home environment. Some may simply need basic training or medical care, while others may be recovering from emotional or physical trauma.

Foster dogs may come from a variety of situations, including:

- Owner surrenders
- Unplanned litters of puppies
- Transfers from overcrowded shelters or dog wardens
- Strays found wandering without identification
- Cruelty or neglect cases

While their pasts may be difficult, your care, patience, and support can make all the difference in their future.



What to Expect When Bringing a Foster Home(first 2-3 weeks)

Bringing a foster dog into your home is a big transition—for both of you. Many foster dogs are coming from difficult or unknown situations and arriving in a new environment with unfamiliar people and routines can be stressful.

It's important to remember the “3-3-3 Rule” for decompression:

- **3 Days** to adjust to the new environment
- **3 Weeks** to begin settling into a routine
- **3 Months** to fully feel at home and show their true personality

In the early days:

- Give your foster dog space to observe and adjust. Avoid overwhelming them with too much affection or attention right away.
- Establish a calm, predictable routine with clear boundaries.
- Set your dog up for success by managing their environment and reinforcing positive behaviors while preventing unwanted ones.
- With patience, consistency, and compassion, your foster dog will begin to feel safe and start building trust in their new surroundings.



During the First Two Weeks a Fosters Should...

- Create a routine for your foster dog. This will make it easier for them to decompress.
- Set-up an area for the foster dog. Ideally the foster should not spend all their time in a crate or be completely isolated from the rest of the household. Put up gates, a crate, puppy pen, etc.. To manage the dog when you cannot supervise them.
 - **A new foster should never be left unattended in the home!**
- Perform any dog-to-dog intros slowly and with caution. In most cases it is best to wait two or three days to let the foster decompress before any intros are performed. The initial stress from being in a new home can impact introductions.
- While waiting for the dog to decompress you can expose the dogs to each other through a gate or crate to let them get used to each other. If you are nervous about doing the intro or if you see any signs of aggression, contact the rescue.
- Foster dogs should stay on leash when out of their crate for at least two weeks. You do not know how this new dog will react in many new situations and the leash can help control and protect the dog and anyone around the dog if a situation should occur.



Rescue/Shelter Responsibilities

- Vet care (Rescue should provide all vet care for your foster)
- Food
- Collars & Leashes (training collars and leashes)
- Crates/gates should be provided
- Identification (dog tag or microchip)
- Support, ie behavior, advice etc





Foster Responsibilities

- Setting up the home before dog arrives. Dogs should not have access to your whole house at first. Set up dog area.
 - cage
 - Gates
 - Bowls
 - Toys
- During decompression period (first 2 weeks)
 - Keep dog on leash
 - Supervise at all times if you are not managing
 - Don't overly coddle
 - Have all family members feed & water the dog
 - Try to create a routine - structure
- Attending adoption events
- Home visits – home visit forms(see handouts for home visit sheet)
- Taking your foster to the vet
- Training, potty training, crate training, etc.
- Photos & bio(see handouts)



Importance of the Home Visit Form

- Reminding yourself of questions to ask.
- Educate on possible hazards to your foster
- Document behavior of resident dog for future reference
- Educate on food allergies
- Educate on anxiety of transition period
- Encourage training that comes along with adoption

Realities of Fostering

- Sometimes dogs are sick or have behavior problems
- Some dogs stay in foster programs for a very long time
- Some dogs may not be adoptable.



Rewards of Fostering

- You help a dog recover
- You get to see your dog get adopted.
- You learn a lot about dogs, training, and behavior.



Toledo's PET Bull Project: Our Mission

Toledo's PET Bull Project is committed to Preventing animal cruelty and dog fighting, Educating pet owners on pet responsibility and the importance of spay & neuter and to Train people to be good advocates for their pet; whatever their breed!

Services Available to Our Fosters

- **Foster Training:** is offered bi-monthly. Check the TPBP calendar for foster training dates. This is an opportunity to work on and discuss any behavior issues with one of our trainers.
- **Transportation to Adoption events:** if you cannot attend an adoption event one of our volunteers can help transport or pick-up your foster dog. Let the adoption event coordinator know early in the week if your foster dog needs transportation.
- **Facebook Group:** the Facebook group is a great way to communicate with other members of TPBP. You can ask questions and get updates on important events. All the important forms, handbooks, and training resources are located in the guides/files sections of the Facebook group.

As a Foster You Must Attend One Foster Training Session and One Adoption Event Each Month.



Contact Information



Phone- 567-315-8051



Email- TPBPfosters@gmail.com

Scan QR Code for Foster
Application



SCAN ME

Questions/Discussion?

