



Foster Carer Handbook

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming a foster carer for Dog Trouble Foundation.

Fostering is one of the most valuable ways you can help a rescue dog. By offering a temporary home, you give a dog the chance to experience life in a safe and caring environment while we find the right permanent home.

Some dogs settle quickly, while others need a little more time, patience and reassurance. Foster carers help us learn about each dog's personality, behaviour and needs, which is essential in finding the most suitable forever family.

You do not need to be a professional dog trainer to foster. What matters most is a secure home, a willingness to follow our guidance and a commitment to providing kindness, routine and care.

If you are considering fostering, we hope this handbook gives you a clear understanding of what is involved and helps you decide whether fostering could be the right opportunity for you.

Throughout the fostering period, the dog remains the responsibility of Dog Trouble Foundation.

Before Your Foster Dog Arrives

Before your foster dog comes home, please make sure:

- Your garden and home are safe and secure;

- You have a comfortable bed or crate for the dog;
- Food and water bowls are ready for them;
- You have a collar and lead supplied or approved by the rescue;
- You have any medication or special food provided for them;
- You have contact details for the rescue and veterinary practice.

Remove any hazards such as toxic plants, medicines, household chemicals and electrical cables where possible.

Settling In

The first few days are important. Many rescue dogs are anxious or unsure in a new environment.

Please:

- Keep the home calm and quiet;
- Allow the dog to explore at their own pace
- Give them a quiet place to rest
- Keep to a regular routine for meals and toilet breaks;
- Avoid overwhelming them with visitors or unfamiliar situations.

Every dog settles differently, so be patient and allow them time to adjust.

Feeding

Feed only the food recommended by the rescue unless advised otherwise.

Always provide fresh drinking water.

Please let us know if your foster dog loses their appetite or develops digestive problems.

Exercise

Exercise should be suitable for the dog's age, fitness and health.

Unless agreed otherwise:

- Walk your foster dog on a lead;
 - Avoid busy parks and other locations during the settling-in period;
 - Do not allow off-lead exercise unless authorised by the rescue.
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Health and Veterinary Care

If your foster dog appears unwell or is injured, contact the rescue as soon as possible.

Routine veterinary treatment must be authorised by the rescue before appointments are made.

In a genuine emergency, seek immediate veterinary treatment and notify the rescue as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please administer any medication exactly as instructed.

Behaviour

Many foster dogs are learning how to live in a home.

Please tell us about their:

- Toilet training;
- Walking on a lead;
- Behaviour with adults and children;
- Behaviour around other dogs or pets;
- Travelling in the car;
- Confidence levels;

- Any fears, anxieties or behavioural concerns.

Regular updates help us find the right adoptive home.

Keeping Your Foster Dog Safe

To help keep your foster dog safe:

- Check that their collar fits correctly;
 - Keep doors, windows and gates secure;
 - Never leave the dog unattended in a vehicle;
 - Keep the dog on a lead unless otherwise agreed;
 - Ensure the dog wears an identification tag – required by law.
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Visitors, Children and Other Pets

Introduce new people and animals gradually.

Children should always be supervised around foster dogs and taught to respect the dog's space, particularly while eating or resting.

Never leave dogs together unsupervised until they are fully settled.

Adoption

Dog Trouble Foundation is responsible for selecting adopters and arranging adoptions.

You may be asked to:

- Provide updates about your foster dog;
- Take photographs or videos;
- Meet prospective adopters;
- Share your experience of living with the dog.

Your knowledge of the dog is invaluable in helping us achieve a successful match.

Expenses

The rescue will advise you which expenses are covered and how to claim reimbursement where applicable. Please obtain approval before making purchases unless it is an emergency.

If You Can No Longer Foster

If your circumstances change and you are unable to continue fostering, please contact the rescue as soon as possible.

The dog must not be passed to another person, rescue or boarding kennels without the rescue's agreement.

Keeping Us Updated

We love hearing how our foster dogs are getting on. If possible, please send us regular updates, along with photos or videos, so we can monitor their progress and share their journey with potential adopters and supporters. Your observations help us understand each dog's personality and find them the most suitable forever home.

Contacting the Rescue

Please contact us promptly if:

- Your foster dog becomes unwell or is injured;
- There is a behavioural concern;

- The dog goes missing;
- Your circumstances change;
- You have any questions or need advice.

We would much rather you contact us early than struggle on your own. You can contact us at foundation@dogtrouble.co.uk.

Thank You

By fostering, you are giving a rescue dog the opportunity to experience the comfort and security of a home while they wait for their forever family. Your time, patience and kindness make an enormous difference to every dog in our care, and we are sincerely grateful for your support.