



City of Rockwall
The New Horizon

ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES FOSTER HOME PROGRAM HANDBOOK



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ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES FOSTER HOME PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our shelter's orphans. Your efforts give many pets a chance to grow and heal before finding a permanent home. Your work will not only help the animal in your care, but it will also assist in providing additional shelter space. That will hopefully result in more animals being adopted into loving homes.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

As a foster parent, you will be notified by the Foster Coordinator Juan Hernandez when an animal is in need of fostering. You will need to make arrangements to pick up the animal the same day and return the animal as agreed in the contract.

REASONS TO FOSTER

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family, and it makes a real difference in our community. Fostering provides an animal an extension of time that might otherwise be limited in a shelter setting, meanwhile keeping space open for other incoming homeless pets. It is truly a life-saver! Fostering is also a great way to teach children the value of community service, responsibility, and caring for others. Foster animals provide companionship and purpose, and your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

TYPES OF CATS AND DOGS REQUIRING FOSTER HOMES

- Animals too young or immature for adoption
- Abused animals that need tender loving care
- Injured animals or animals recovering from surgery
- Any animal in need of more family socialization
- Abandoned mother with a litter of young
- Other "special needs"

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long are animals usually in foster homes?

It depends on the animal and their situation. The average stay in a foster home is two to four weeks. However, some animals stay only a few days while others, recovering from an injury, may stay for a few months. You and the Foster Coordinator will plan a set date to return the animal, an extension may be granted if necessary.

Can I adopt my foster pet?

Yes! The foster parent has first option to adopt their foster animal.

If I have my own animals, can I foster animals?

There is always a slight health risk when you expose your pets to other animals. This includes walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. However, the health risk is minimal if the foster parent's animals are currently vaccinated, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not too elderly or very young. It may not be a good idea to expose immuno-compromised pets to random-source animals. If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, you may wish to consult with your physician before fostering, as working or living with animals may expose people to a group of diseases called zoonoses. A zoonotic disease is defined as a disease transmitted between animals and humans, to find out more about zoonotic diseases, talk to your veterinarian. Proper hygiene, a little prevention, and an understanding of these illnesses can greatly reduce the risk of disease.

What supplies are needed to foster?

You will be responsible for providing food and general care items for your foster pet; however, the foster program receives donated items regularly. If we have food and other supplies we will be happy to provide you with these items. Foster parents provide space, feedings, basic training and love for the animal. When food and other supplies are not available, it will be the responsibility of the foster parent to supply those items.

Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster animal, therefore you need to be comfortable following veterinarian's instructions when fostering a sick or injured animal.

What if my foster animal becomes sick or gets injured?

If you have any questions regarding the health of your foster animal, contact the Foster Coordinator, Juan Hernandez (972) 771-7750. If the need is outside of the Animal Adoption Center's business hours, please contact Rockwall Police Dispatch (972) 771-7724 and ask them to notify the Animal Control Officer on duty.

Rockwall Animal Shelter Hours:

Monday thru Friday 9:00AM - 6:00PM, Saturday 8:00AM - 4:00PM, Closed Sunday

How much of my time is needed to foster?

Your commitment and responsibility depends on the individual animal and its situation. Animals placed in a foster home have often been stressed beyond normal limits. It's essential that foster parents understand that moving the animal from the shelter to the foster home may also be very stressful and emotional. Newly fostered pets will depend on the foster parents for patience and guidance through this adjustment period, which may last up to four weeks. It requires a lot of love and patience from a special kind of person! Please take a few moments to read through this manual. Foster parents should be willing to make a commitment to the fostered animal and be able to provide the animal a stable and consistent environment. The sooner the animal feels secure, the closer to adoption they will be.

How can I help my foster animal become more adoptable?

Homeless animals benefit greatly from the exercise (unless they have an existing medical condition), training, and special love and attention you give them. Providing them with training and manners will increase their adoptability. Shy animals benefit from your patience. They like to have a consistent routine and slowly exposing them to new people will build their confidence. Young animals need a lot of love, attention, and physical contact from humans to develop properly and feel secure. Young animals also benefit from socialization with other animals in your household.

When do foster animals return to the adoption center?

If you're fostering puppies or kittens, you can return them to the shelter when they are able to eat freely on their own and weigh 2 pounds or more. This is typically at around 6 weeks of age. If your foster pet is old enough but developmentally slow, under socialized, or undernourished, you may keep the animal until it is more developed, after it has been evaluated by the Foster Coordinator. We will set a date in the Foster Agreement, for you to return the animal. Failure to comply may result in losing privileges to foster in the future.

Are foster animals ever euthanized?

We devote incredible amounts of energy, love, time, and veterinary care to our foster animals, and Animal Services is committed to finding homes for all of our animals. However, some fostered animals may be seriously ill and suffering, with little or no chance of ever getting well. It is our moral and ethical duty to humanely euthanize these animals when necessary. It is rare for this to happen to a fostered pet, but it is not impossible. Fortunately, most animals in foster care heal beautifully and euthanasia of the animal will no longer be warranted.

WHERE TO KEEP YOUR FOSTER ANIMALS

When you first arrive home with your foster animal, you'll want to keep them in a single room like a kitchen or family room, where you spend a large part of your day. Animals are social and want to be with you. This is especially important when you're at work or away from the house. Your home is a new environment in which they need time to become familiar and comfortable. Try using a baby gate to block off the entrance to other rooms. By keeping a dog or cat in one room, you're helping to prevent "accidents" that may occur because of stress or adjustment to your routine. Remember that you are also helping to housetrain them, so you must be able to monitor their activities. We recommend that you also use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house.

Do

- Do place your foster animal indoors in a crate or secure location.
- Do keep your foster animal in a warm, dry, and well-lit area.
- Do keep your foster dog **on a leash at all times** when outdoors unless you are in your secure, fenced yard.
- Do place young animals indoors, perhaps in a kitchen (you may want to use a baby gate), bathroom, mudroom, or laundry room. Young animals should be around humans for socialization purposes and **should not be isolated from you.**

Don't

- Do not place your foster animal around other strange animals as its past history may not be well-known. Foster animals should not be put in the dangerous position of possible dominance issues with strange animals in an unfamiliar environment. It may reduce their chances for adoption.
- Do not allow young animals outdoors unless supervised by an **adult**.
- Do not take your puppy to an off-leash dog park with your resident dog.
- Do not allow your foster dog off-leash at an off-leash dog park.
- Do not allow a foster cat outdoors at any time unless it is crated.

HOW TO ANIMAL-PROOF A ROOM

Walk into the room that you plan to use and confine your foster animal, **then ask yourself:**

- Is there room for the crate (animal's safe place, or "den")?
- 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 to show your foster animal that it's their bed?
- Is there quick access outdoors for a dog's bathroom break?
- Are there any items that can be chewed, such as drapes, furniture, rugs, etc.?
- Are there exposed electrical wires that may be chewed?
- Is there anywhere the animal can hide? Will you be able to get the animal out if hidden?
- Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked over by a wagging tail?
- Are there plants in the room? If so, check the list of toxic plants in this manual.

ITEMS THAT THE FOSTER PARENT CAN SUPPLY

The Foster Program often receives donated supplies, so be sure to ask if we have any supplies available!

- Food and water bowls
- Crate
- Bedding (A clean, old blanket, towel, or a washable dog bed)
- Leash

HOW TO FEED YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

Create a consistent feeding schedule for your foster animal, feeding at the same time every day. Set aside a separate space for your foster animal to eat so that it will feel comfortable. If you have other animals at home, feed your foster animal in a separate room and close the door. This will help prevent food aggression amongst the animals. Never feed your foster pet table scraps or any people food. Do not reward begging at the table. And **never feed an animal chocolate**, as it is toxic to them.

Amount of Food

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

- **Adult Animals:** dry adult food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- **Nursing Mothers with Young:** dry food (extra calories) twice a day and any supplemental vitamins directed by your Animal Care Coordinator.
- **Adolescent animals:** (4 months-1 year) dry food, twice a day.
- **Weaned Puppies:** (6-8 weeks-4 months) dry puppy food three to four times a day. Moisten the food with water or puppy formula.
- **Weaned Kittens:** (6-8 weeks-4 months) dry kitten food three to four times a day. Moisten the food with water or kitten formula.
- **Un-weaned puppies/kittens:** (4-8 weeks) canned food for 4 weeks. Introduce dry puppy/kitten food at 5 weeks and gradually change toward mostly dry food week by week. At 8 weeks, the puppies/kittens should eat straight dry kibble. Puppies/kittens of this age need to be fed four times a day.

INTRODUCING YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL TO YOUR OWN ANIMALS

Do

- Do keep foster animals separate from your own animals until you are sure the foster animal does not have any contagious diseases or parasites (usually 10-14 days). Please remember that these animals are random-source animals, and while we attempt to screen them, we cannot guarantee that they will be absolutely free of disease.
- Do keep in mind that the medical or behavioral condition of some foster animals may make it necessary to keep them separate from your own animals.
- Speak normally to the foster animal. Keep assuring them that they are safe.
- Do be alert and make the introductions with your own animals gradually and calmly.
- Do leave leashes on the dogs, if you prefer, so that you can re-establish immediate control if necessary.
- Do give your own pets LOTS of love and praise so they won't feel jealous.
- Do be patient with your foster pet. They may have been through a stressful surgery, abusive situation, or a lot of recent changes.
- Do give your foster pet a chance to adjust and begin to build confidence by making your home a sanctuary and a safe place to heal and grow.

Don't

- Do not hold the leash too tensely as dogs may react defensively. Some animals have never been on a leash, so be patient.
- Do not allow your foster dog off-leash anywhere other than your home or securely enclosed yard.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL

Expectations of behavior

Allow sufficient time for adjustment. It usually takes an average of 24 hours or longer for an animal to become comfortable. Watch their behavior closely. On average, foster parents have their animals

for 2-4 weeks. While this amount of time is not sufficient enough to fully train your foster animal, it will be enough time to give it a good foundation for its new family. Begin the training with some basic commands and crate training for dogs. Your foster animal may be a little disoriented at first. You can help teach it that most people can be trusted, by working with your foster pet each day. Any signs of aggression or fear (growling over food or toys, biting, or hiding), should be reported to the Foster Coordinator.

Animals & Children

As a general rule, children under 12 years old should **NOT** be left alone and unsupervised with any unfamiliar animal. Please do not allow smaller children to play roughly with a foster pet. Children should leave an animal alone when it is eating, chewing, and sleeping. Any interaction must be supervised by a responsible adult. This can be an excellent opportunity to teach kids how to treat animals with kindness and respect.

Housetraining

Please be patient with your foster dog. Even housetrained adult dogs occasionally have accidents, especially if they've been at the shelter for a long time. If there are trace odors in your house from another dog or cat, some pets may "mark" out their new territory. This action should be re-directed immediately by bringing the dog outside where it may finish. Use some odor neutralizer on the areas where the foster dog "marked" to insure that it will not begin using that area regularly. Puppies may begin housetraining at six to eight weeks of age. Even an adult dog that is already housetrained may need to follow these guidelines for the first couple of weeks, as it adjusts to its new situation and schedule.

Determine the spot where you want your foster dog to relieve itself. It might be the backyard, side yard, or front yard of the house. When your foster pet must relieve itself, it should go to the same area every time. Usually a verbal command to "Go potty" or something similar will help the animal eventually understand what is expected. When the pet does eliminate, be sure to praise it exuberantly, and you may provide a treat or a piece of dog food in order to reinforce the act.

Always take a dog out when it wakes up, after it eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every few hours. Puppies should go out every hour. Stand alongside the dog for 5 minutes. If it eliminates, praise him. If it doesn't go in five minutes, take it back inside and try every 15 minutes until he goes. Supervise the puppy closely while you're inside. If it starts to go, scoop it up quickly and take it to the approved spot. Puppies take a lot of effort at first because they must be watched closely. Praise the puppy when it finishes. If it goes in the house while you're not around, don't correct it. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer to get rid of the smell. Never put the dog's face in its accident, or raise your voice. The puppy won't understand why you are angry, and you will be teaching it to fear you. Puppies like to get attention and don't make a distinction between positive or negative, they just know you stopped what you were doing to pay attention to them when they eliminated in the house. The only time you should provide your attention to the dog is when they relieve themselves in the selected location.

Attention/Playtime

Human contact is important for recovering, sick, injured or neglected animals. Human interaction is especially important for the healthy development of puppies and kittens. Attention and playtime are rewards for your foster animal. Play with your foster animal several times each day if possible. If you

have a shy dog, do not throw the toy toward it. It may think you are throwing things at it and become fearful. After you finish playing with a toy, put it away. You must be in control of the toy and the playtime. When giving the dog a toy or treat, it's always good to teach it to sit before receiving the treat. That way, it becomes a great learning experience for the dog. If you're fostering puppies, spend a lot of time with them so that they become well socialized. Since it is best not to take puppies out in public until they are fully vaccinated, new experiences should be brought to them. Have friends over and invite children over to play (always supervise playtime with children and dogs closely). Take your foster animal for car rides (crate them for safety) to get used to the car. Keep in mind that young animals need to go to the bathroom frequently, so be sure they "go potty" before you leave. It's a good idea to keep the ride brief, as they will have to go again soon.

DOG PARKS

All foster dogs are required to be on leash at all times, off-leash parks are no exception. Please do not take puppies to any parks. Puppies' vaccinations may not yet be fully effective and they may be exposed to diseases in the environment. The parvo-virus is especially dangerous to young dogs and it is easily spread through contact with feces and urine in areas where other dogs congregate.

POISONOUS HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Remove any rat or mouse poison, anti-freeze, and windshield wiper fluid from your home before fostering!!!

The following items are poisonous for dogs (**those in CAPS and bold can be fatal**).

Alcohol	Chrysanthemum	LILLY OF THE VALLEY
ALMONDS	CHOCOLATE	Lupine species
Amaryllis bulb	Clematis	MARIJUANA OR HEMP
Anthurium	Crocus bulb	MILKWEED
APRICOT	Croton	MISTLETOE BERRIES
ASPIRIN	Daffodil	MORNING GLORY
AUTUMN CROCUS	Delphinium, larkspur	Mountain laurel
Avocado	Dumb cane	Narcissus
Azalea	Elderberry	OLEANDER
Begonia	English Ivy	ONION
Bird of paradise	Fig	PEACH
Bittersweet	Four-o'clock	PENCIL CACTUS
BLEEDING HEART	FOXGLOVE	Philodendron
Boxwood	GARLIC	Poinsettia
Bracken Fern	HEAVENLY BAMBOO	Potato
Buckeye	Hyacinth bulbs	Rhododendron
Buttercup	HYDRANGEA	Rhubarb leaves
Caffeine	Holly berries	Rosary Pea
Caladium	Iris Corms	Schefflera
CALLA LILLY	JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT	Shamrock

Castor bean
Cherry
**CHINESE SACRED
CHOKE CHERRY**

JIMSON WEED
Kalanchoe
LANTANA
Lilly

Spurge
Tomatoes
YEW

CANINE KENNEL COUGH (BORDETELLA) FACTSHEET

What is Kennel Cough?

“Kennel Cough” is the common name for a contagious upper respiratory infection of dogs. It may be caused by the canine parainfluenza, adenovirus, or bacteria called Bordetella bronchiseptica or a combination. Veterinarians may refer to kennel cough as Upper Respiratory Infection (URI). Kennel Cough is commonly seen in dogs that are exposed to many other dogs in places such as animal shelters or boarding kennels. Kennel cough is “species specific”, meaning it infects only dogs and puppies, not cats or humans.

How is it transmitted?

Kennel cough is transferred to dogs by fluid discharged from the mouth or nose of an infected dog, similar to the transfer of the common cold between humans. Dogs can spread the virus through the air by sneezing, coughing or direct contact with cages, toys, food bowls, even the hands and clothes of people handling them. Some dogs may be “silent carriers,” carrying and spreading the virus without showing symptoms of the disease themselves.

What are the signs?

The most common symptom of kennel cough is a dry cough (sometimes described as “honking”) and in some cases, gagging after each cough. The cough is often brought on by excitement, exercise, or pressure on the dog’s trachea, such as that produced by a leash. Some dogs will only exhibit a runny nose. Affected dogs are usually otherwise alert and active, with a healthy appetite and no fever. In some cases, kennel cough may progress to pneumonia. In these cases, dogs may cough up mucus, have nasal discharge, have difficulty breathing, run a fever, lose their appetite and become depressed.

Which dogs get it?

Any dog that is stressed by overcrowding, poor nutrition, cold or heat, age, fear, or infection with another disease is susceptible to kennel cough. Dogs who are especially at risk for infection include unvaccinated dogs, puppies (because they have immature immune systems), and dogs whose immune systems are compromised by another disease, such as heartworm infection. Well vaccinated dogs that have healthy immune systems may still be susceptible to illness, but symptoms are very mild and short-term, usually limited to 5 to 10 days of coughing with no fever or loss of appetite.

How is Kennel Cough treated?

Kennel cough is a “self-limiting” illness, meaning that in most dogs it will go away in 5 to 10 days without treatment. Because most dogs and puppies are under stress, antibiotics are often prescribed by the attending veterinarian to prevent or treat secondary bacterial infections that may

accompany the infection. Occasionally a veterinarian will prescribe a cough suppressant to make the dog feel better and decrease the throat irritation caused by coughing. In rare cases, kennel cough may progress to pneumonia, requiring more intense medical therapy and possibly hospitalization.

How is Kennel Cough prevented?

Kennel cough cannot be totally prevented in the shelter environment; many dogs will enter the shelter already infected. The stress of being sheltered can lead to full-blown illness, spreading the illness to other dogs and puppies. The Rockwall Animal Adoption Center's goal is to control and limit the illness as much as possible and to strengthen the health of all sheltered dogs so that infections are mild and short-lived. Sanitation programs, health evaluations, isolation of sick and injured dogs, and preventive health care (vaccinations and deworming) all play a part in the control of kennel cough.

FELINE UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION FACTSHEET

What is feline Upper Respiratory Infection?

Feline upper respiratory infection, or URI as it is commonly known, is a contagious illness affecting the nasal passage and sinuses of cats and kittens. It is common in animal shelters, catteries, multiple-cat houses, and free-roaming cat populations. Almost all cases of feline URI are caused by infection with one of two viruses: feline herpesvirus (also known as feline rhinotracheitis virus) and feline calicivirus. These two viruses are "species specific," meaning they infect only cats and kittens, not dogs or humans.

How is it transmitted?

Feline URI is transferred between cats by fluid discharged from the mouths and noses of infected cats, similar to the transfer of the flu virus between humans. Cats can spread the virus through the air by sneezing, coughing, or breathing; or by direct contact with cages, toys, food bowls even the hands and clothes of people handling them. Cats that have previously had the illness are often "silent carriers," meaning they spread the virus and can infect other cats without showing any symptoms of the illness themselves.

What are the signs?

Symptoms of the feline URI include sneezing, fever, runny nose or red, watery eyes, nasal congestion (often seen as drooling or open-mouth breathing), ulcers on tongue, gums, lips, nose, or roof of mouth, mild to severe depression, and lack of appetite or thirst. Kittens infected with feline calicivirus may develop what is known as "limping kitten syndrome," featuring fever and painful swelling of the joints, especially the joints of the rear legs. Symptoms of feline URI are generally mild at first and worsen within one to three days. The incubation period (the time between infection and the first signs of illness) is typically 1-10 days. The illness itself typically lasts from one to two weeks, depending on the strength of the cat's immune system.

Which cats get it?

Any cat that is stressed by overcrowding, poor nutrition, cold or heat, age, fear, or infection with another illness is susceptible to feline URI. Cats who are especially at risk for infection include

unvaccinated cats, kittens (because they have immature immune systems), and cats whose immune systems are compromised by another disease, such as feline leukemia (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), cancer, malnutrition, or parasites. Recently vaccinated cats that have healthy immune systems are still susceptible to the disease, but symptoms are usually very mild and short-term, usually limited to three to five days of sneezing with no fever and no loss of appetite.

How is feline URI treated?

Feline URI is easily treatable even though there are no drugs available to kill the feline URI viruses, just as there are no drugs available to treat many human viruses. Treatment of feline URI is aimed at strengthening the cat's body and immune system to help the animal fight the virus and usually consists of vitamins, good nutrition, and good nursing care. Antibiotics are often prescribed to prevent or treat secondary bacterial infections that may accompany the viral infection. Infected cats may stop eating or drinking and may require specific treatment to combat dehydration and malnutrition. Some cats become sick enough to require hospitalization. The illness can lead to fatal pneumonia if medical care is not provided. Almost all cats and kittens recover with proper care. A few cats may have chronic (long-lasting) symptoms and some symptoms may recur whenever the cat is stressed or otherwise ill.

How is feline URI prevented?

Feline URI cannot be totally prevented in the shelter environment; many cats will enter the shelter already infected, and the stress of being sheltered will lead to a full-blown outbreak and spread of the infection to other cats and kittens. The Rockwall Animal Adoption Center's goal is to limit the disease as much as possible, and to strengthen the health of all our sheltered cats so that infections are mild and short-lived. Sanitation programs, health evaluations, isolation of sick and injured animals, and preventive health care (vaccinations and deworming) all play a part in the control of feline URI.

SYMPTOMS OF PAIN AND ILLNESS IN ANIMALS

Many dog and cat owners who recognize the early signs and symptoms of illness or pain in their animals may be able to save an expensive trip to the veterinarian. Not only is it important to recognize these signs early to relieve pain and suffering but it is much more effective and less expensive to treat an illness when it is detected early. This also applies to fostering. The foster parent should keep an accurate and detailed account of their animal's symptoms to help our veterinarian correctly diagnose and effectively treat the dog's or cat's illness or condition. Most illnesses are detected through a combination of various signs and symptoms:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Sleepiness
- Trembling
- Falling/Stumbling

If your animal shows any of these signs, it should be kept under close observation for a few hours, or perhaps even a few days. Continue the observation until more positive signs develop or

the animal has returned to normal. Do not try to exercise the dog or put it in stressful situations. Most veterinarians will want you to keep track of when the symptoms first appeared and whether they get better or worse. They may also want to know whether the symptoms are intermittent, continuous, or if they increase in frequency.

Other signs that your animal may be sick:

- Ears: discharge, debris, odor, scratching, crusted tips, twitching or shaking.
- Eyes: redness, swelling or discharge.
- Nose: runny, thickened or colored discharge, crusty.
- Coughing, sneezing, vomiting or gagging.
- Shortness of breath, irregular breathing or prolonged/heavy panting.
- Evidence of parasites in the dog's stool, strange color, blood in stool, or lack of a bowel movement (constipation).
- Loss of appetite or not drinking as much water as normally would.
- Weight loss.
- Strange color of urine, small amount of urine, straining, dribbling, or not going as frequently as normal.
- Unpleasant odor coming from mouth, ears, or skin.
- Hair loss, wounds, tumors, dander, or change of skin's color.
- Signs of insect bites, parasites, scratching, or licking the skin frequently.

If any of these symptoms occur over a prolonged period of time, please call the Foster Coordinator Juan Hernandez (972) 771-7750.

WEEKLY PET HEALTH CHECKLIST

Detecting potential health problems before they become serious can save your pet unnecessary suffering and save you great worry and expense. Once a week, please see whether you can answer true to all of the statements below. If a statement is *false*, call the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible.

All pet owners and foster parents should be constantly aware of any changes in their pets health. Using this checklist every week will help ensure that your pet's basic health is being monitored and alert you to any "out of the ordinary" conditions.

This information is for general guidance only. Should you have any concerns on any health issue relating to your foster pet, you should contact the Foster Coordinator at (972) 771-7750.

My Pet...

- Is acting normally and is in good sprits
- Doesn't tire easily from moderate exercise
- Has a normal appetite
- Has not lost or gained much weight
- Has not vomited
- Produces normal stools
- Produces normal urine
- Doesn't drag bottom or chew on tail excessively

- Has a full coat with no missing hair or mats
- Doesn't scratch, lick, or chew themselves excessively
- Has healthy skin with no dry flakes, greasy feel, or bad odor
- Doesn't have fleas or ticks
- Doesn't have any lumps or bumps on its body
- Has clean ears with no debris or odor
- Doesn't shake its head or scratch at ears excessively
- Has bright eyes that are free of matter
- Has normal hearing and reacts as usual to environment
- Moves and walks without stiffness or pain
- Has healthy feet and short nails
- Breathes without straining or coughing
- Has normal thirst and drinks plenty of water
- Urinates without straining
- Has a moist nose that's free of discharge
- Has pink gums with no redness
- Doesn't sneeze more than 2-3 times a day

FIRST AID

BE PREPARED WITH A PET FIRST AID KIT!

Emergencies can happen at any place or time. Being prepared is one of the best things that you can do for your pet. A first-aid kit will help to reduce everyone's anxiety if an emergency does occur. Keep your kit ready and continue to refill all of the items in the kit. Always make sure nothing has expired. First aid kits should be kept in properly labeled containers. A small plastic toolbox, tackle box, cosmetic box, or sewing box should suffice to hold all of the necessary equipment.

Label It:

A properly labeled box includes:

- Your name, address and telephone number on the outside of the box in case you lose it.
- The telephone number of your veterinarian and a local veterinary emergency facility.

Place It:

The more complete your first aid kit is, the better you can deal with emergencies as they come up. The best time to assemble a kit is now. Waiting until an emergency happens is too late. Keep the box in an easily accessible location, and make sure that everyone knows where it is. The best first aid kit in the world will not help you if no one can find it. However, it should be stored out of the reach of very young children and pets. In general, a first aid kit should be kept in your home, office, or car.

Discuss It:

Before you leave on a trip, be sure to tell your pet-sitter everything they should know about your pet. Make sure they understand what constitutes an emergency, how to contact you and the name and phone number of a secondary contact person that you trust. That person may have to make decisions for you if you cannot be reached. Make sure everyone knows where to take your pet in

case of an emergency and make sure that your veterinarian's office knows what to do in your absence.

Make It:

It is always a good idea to have separate information sheets for each pet. These should include a photo of each pet with its name, age, breed, sex, other identification, and a list of any health problems. This can be helpful if your pet is lost or if someone new must care for your pet.

First Aid Items for Dogs:

- Pet Swabs for cleaning eyes, ears, teeth and minor wounds
- Cotton Balls
- Gauze Pads
- 3M Vetrap 2" x 5 yd
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Scissors
- Miller Forge Curved Grooming Scissors with blunt tips to ensure grooming safety and cut hair away from the wound
- Eyewash
- Silver Nitrate
- Tweezers
- Syringes
- Electrolyte Fluid
- Baby Food- meat flavors
- Large Towel
- Exam Gloves
- 1 inch White Tape
- Rolls of Elastic Wrap
- Emergency Ice Pack
- Instant Hot and Cold Compresses
- Thermometer
- Lubricating Jelly- for the thermometer
- Splints
- Numbers for the Animal Poison Hotline & Poison Control for Pets

First Aid Items for Cats:

- Pet Swabs for cleaning eyes, ears, teeth, and minor wounds
- Cotton Balls
- Gauze Pads
- 3M Vetrap 2" x 5 Yd.
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Scissors
- Millers Forge Curved Grooming Scissors with blunt tips to ensure grooming safety and cut hair away from the wound
- Eyewash
- Tweezers

- Syringes
- Silver Nitrate
- Electrolyte Fluid
- Baby Food- meat flavors
- Large towels
- Exam Gloves
- 1 Inch White Tape
- Rolls of Elastic Wrap
- Splints
- Emergency Ice Pack
- Instant Hot and Cold Compresses
- Thermometer
- Lubricating Jelly- for the thermometer
- Numbers for the Animal Poison Hotline & Poison Control for pets

First Aid for Pets

Sometimes our pets need first aid just like we do. Remember that calling your veterinarian is often the best kind of first aid. Keep your vet's phone number on the refrigerator or another visible place in your house. Here are some suggestions for very minor first aid problems.

- **Bleeding:** Apply direct pressure to the bleeding area with a clean cloth. Never use tourniquets, as they are dangerous and may create complications.
- **Bite Wounds:** Wash the wound well with soap and water. Monitor the bite and if it is deep or becomes infected (swells, changes color, etc.), contact your veterinarian.
- **Induce Vomiting:** If your pet swallowed a foreign object or ate something toxic, check with your veterinarian and they may advise you to administer hydrogen peroxide until it vomits. Some materials should not be vomited so always check first with your veterinary professional.
- **Hypothermia:** Check your pet's temperature. If it is below 100 degrees, warm your pet in blankets. Put hot water bottles inside towels near your pet's body and under the blankets. Don't use heating pads or electric blankets, as they can easily burn.
- **Hyperthermia:** Check your pet's temperature. If it is above 106 degrees, apply rubbing alcohol to its paws, ears, and other less hairy areas of the body. Wrap a cold towel around the trunk of the animal and monitor its temperature. Remove the towel when its temperature is below 105 degrees.
- **Muzzle:** An animal in pain may bite. Make a muzzle out of nylon stocking. Tie it around the muzzle as far back as possible and firmly pull it tight. Loop it under your pet's chin and then bring the ends back behind the ears and tie a bow knot.
- **Vomiting:** Do not feed your pet for 24 hours. After this time period only feed minimal amounts. Contact your veterinarian if the vomiting does not stop.
- **Diarrhea:** Put the animal on a strict liquid diet for 24 hours. Contact your veterinarian if the diarrhea does not stop. Remember to never give your pet aspirin, Tylenol, chocolate, or alcoholic beverages since they can be toxic to animals. Do not give your pet bones, especially pork or chicken bones, because they can choke animals.

NINE TIPS TO BECOMING A SUCESSFUL FOSTER PARENT

1. Divide your time between your foster animal and your own animals and give each plenty of attention and affection.

The animal you are fostering likely has special needs that consume time and energy. The animal may have lived a difficult life before coming to your home; your love and attention will help to heal the animal's physical and psychological wounds.

2. Learn as much as you can about pet care.

Before you bring your foster dog home, learn as much as you can about caring for that animal. Read about feeding, grooming, and training. Study the warning signs that may indicate if and when the animal needs veterinary attention.

3. Make your home pet-friendly.

Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you "pet proof" your home. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect your furnishings. Keep your foster animal's room warm and comfortable. Also, make sure that your foster pet will be unable to escape.

4. Keep your pets up to date on their vaccinations.

All animals should be current on the vaccinations that protect them from diseases. Before you bring home a foster animal, consult with your veterinarian to make sure your own animals have received the preventive treatment they need.

5. Keep foster animals away from your own pets.

A foster pet may possibly come into your home harboring contagious diseases. Even though your pets are vaccinated against many diseases, it's a good idea to keep the foster animal away from your pets as an added precaution.

6. Recognize your limits.

Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy, both emotionally and physically. Don't overextend yourself by fostering animals too frequently; you may burn yourself out.

7. Return the animals to the Animal Adoption Center on time.

The shelter depends on you to make this program successful. Be sure to return the animal to the shelter at the scheduled time. If you decide to adopt the animal that you are fostering to another person, that person must be involved in the shelter's adoption process and procedures prior to the adoption.

8. Understand that some foster animals will not survive.

Many animals that arrive at the shelter come from unknown backgrounds. Despite your best efforts, the animal you foster may develop a severe illness that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animal but accept the fact that some animals may not survive.

9. Enjoy being a foster parent.

Although fostering takes a great deal of time and commitment, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. You are temporarily providing a needy animal with a loving home and you are helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible lifelong home.

ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES

FOSTER HOME AGREEMENT

This is a Foster Home Agreement between _____ and THE CITY OF ROCKWALL and is applicable to any animal this Foster Home Volunteer is asked to foster. All animals are to be housed, fed and cared for by above-mentioned volunteer. The Foster Home Volunteer shall be personally and financially responsible for the humane care, treatment and control of animal(s) in its care until returned to the Rockwall Animal Services Center. The Rockwall Animal Services Center will retain ownership of all animals in foster care and will make all decisions regarding the adoption or euthanasia of the animals fostered.

_____ I recognize that in handling animals and performing other volunteer tasks, there exists a risk of injury including physical harm caused by the animals. On behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives, and executors, I hereby release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Rockwall, its agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims, causes of actions, or demands, of any nature of cause, including costs and attorney fees incurred by the City of Rockwall in connection with the same, based on damages or injuries which may be incurred or sustained by me in any way connected with my services for the City of Rockwall, including but not limited to animal bites, accidents, or injuries.

_____ To ensure proper and humane treatment of its foster animals, the Foster Coordinator or designee may inspect the premises where any of its animals in foster care are being kept. This inspection may only be done with reasonable advanced notice to the foster volunteer and during regular business hours. Refusal of this inspection by a foster volunteer may be cause for ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES to revoke the privilege of providing a foster home by the volunteer and the immediate return of the foster animal(s) to the ROCKWALL ANIMAL ADOPTION CENTER.

_____ I do understand that by participating in the ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES foster program I may receive an animal that has an undetected contagious medical condition. I understand that my personal pets, family members or visitors may contract illnesses passed on from the foster animal and will in no way hold the CITY OF ROCKWALL liable for any conditions my personal pet may contract. Rockwall Animal Services recommends that you keep your personal animal(s) separated from the foster animal for a minimum of 10 days as a precaution. Ensure they have their immunizations up to date based on recommendations from your personal Veterinarian.

_____ I acknowledge that I have read, understood and will adhere to all the terms, conditions, policies and procedures of the Rockwall Animal Services Foster Home Program. I do understand that if at anytime, I cannot fulfill these terms, conditions, policies and procedures of the Rockwall Animal Services Foster Home Program I will, by mutual agreement end my tenure as a Foster Home Volunteer.

_____ I am responsible for knowing and complying with the ordinances of the city in which I reside. I will not exceed the amount of animals I am authorized to house based on adopted city ordinances.

Foster Parent Signature: _____

Foster Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES

FOSTER PROGRAM POLICES AND PROCEDURES

- 1) _____ All foster animals shall be provided with proper food, fresh water and proper shelter. The foster animal will be housed indoors and in no situation will be left outside unleashed, on a chain, in a dog house or on a porch. The animal will be treated humanely by all members and visitors of the foster household.
- 2) _____ The foster parent will not dispose of the animal in any way. The foster parent cannot give the animal away and will not abandon the animal in any way.
- 3) _____ The foster parent agrees that in the event that he/she is unable or unwilling to continue to care for the animal, the animal will be promptly returned to the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center.
- 4) _____ The foster parent agrees NOT to use this animal for any type of breeding purpose.
- 5) _____ If a representative of Rockwall Animal Services determines that the animal is not being cared for properly by the foster parent; Rockwall Animal Services has the right to take possession of the animal and cancel this agreement.
- 6) _____ The foster parent accepts any/all liability for any damage caused by this animal while it is under their care.
- 7) _____ My animals are all current on their rabies vaccinations and I can show proof.
- 8) _____ The foster parent acknowledges that if any visits to a private veterinary clinic are made, Rockwall Animal Services will not be responsible for the cost. Any costs associated with treatment received outside of the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center will be absorbed solely by the foster parent.
- 9) _____ Animal Care Coordinator Juan Hernandez will have a date that you agree to return the animal to the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center. Failure to return the animal as agreed may result in loosing privileges to foster in the future.
- 10) _____ Once an animal is adopted, I will not attempt to make contact with the new family.
- 11) _____ If I live with other people or my parents I have asked their permission to foster.

Foster Parent Signature: _____

Foster Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

ROCKWALL ANIMAL SERVICES
ANIMAL FOSTERING FORM

Fostered to: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

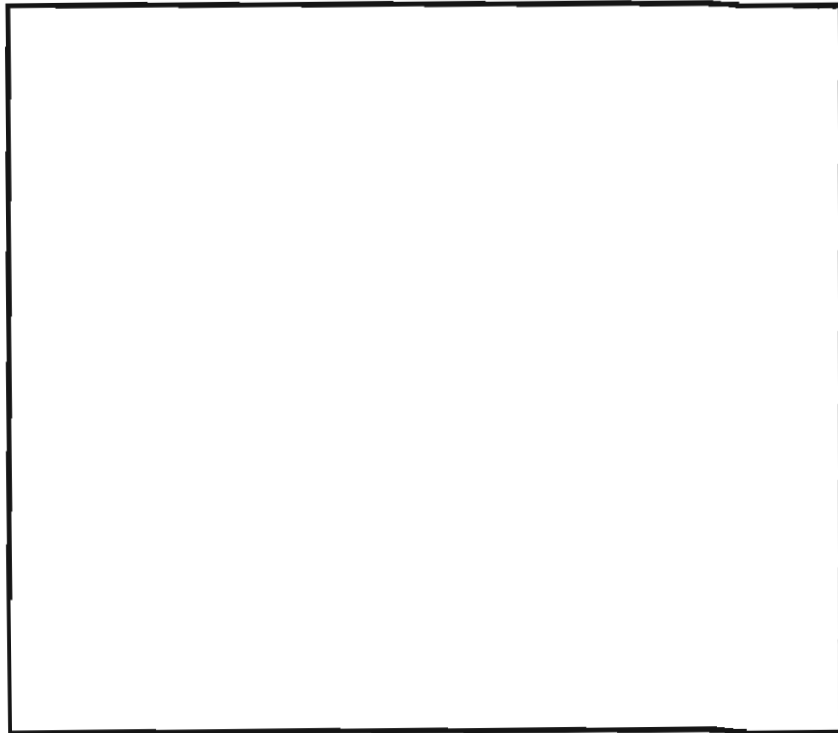
City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # Res. _____ Bus. _____

Driver's license # _____

Description of animal _____

Case ID # _____



Date Animal is to be returned to the Animal Adoption Center: _____

Foster Parent Signature: _____

Foster Coordinator Signature: _____