



## WELCOME

Lucky Chance Rescue's Foster Program enables us to take in more animals each year that are in shelters, abandoned, strays or surrendered by their owners. Because of your dedication and commitment as a foster parent, we can give homeless animals the second chance at life they deserve.

*We value your dedication and appreciate your willingness to make this life-saving commitment*



## **How long are dogs in foster homes?**

It depends on the dog and the situation. The average stay in a foster home is about 3 weeks for puppies, 2 months for adults. Puppies must have a minimum 2 distemper and 1 bordetella before being adopted. Much of our timeframe depends on the age of the puppies, veterinary visits and when puppies can have their vaccinations. Others, recovering from an injury, certain breeds and senior dogs, may stay much longer. Special animals like neonates, moms and babies need up to 10-12 weeks.

## **Can my foster puppies go to dog parks or public places?**

No. If you are fostering a puppy, please keep your puppy confined to your home. Once your puppy has 2 rounds of vaccinations you can take them outside in your yard to go potty. Dog parks and public places may inadvertently expose your foster puppy to deadly illnesses. You are not allowed to take any foster dog from the Lucky Chance Rescue to an off-leash dog park. While these parks can be fun for some dogs, there are far too many unknowns for it to be a safe and healthy experience for a foster dog. Diseases are easily transmitted, and the temperaments of visiting dogs are unknown, thus creating a huge liability to the Lucky Chance Rescue.

## **Do I have to provide basic training for my foster dog?**

We do ask that you work on basic commands like, "sit, stay, down, off, leave it, drop it", A well trained dog is much easier to find an adopter for. If you have any questions about training techniques please contact your foster coordinator. Puppy Pad training, crate training and potty training outside are important to help get your foster pups ready for adoption. We use positive reinforcement training methods. No aversive training techniques or tools may be used on foster dogs. Aversive includes prong collars, choke chain collars, electronic collars, spray bottles, physical reprimands including alpha rolls, hitting, or using the crate as punishments.

## **Am I required to take my foster dog to the Veterinarian?**

Yes. We will create a vet care plan with the information you need to schedule appointments at the veterinarian closest to you. Both you and the vet will receive the vet care plan in an email so everyone will know what is pre-authorized and what the puppy will need at each appointment. You will make all appointments around your schedule to make it easier for you to get your foster pup to the vet. If for some reason you cannot make it on the day of the appointment, please give the vet 24 hour notice to reschedule or let us know and we can help find a volunteer to get your foster to the appointment. Veterinarians bill the rescue directly so there is no cost to foster parents. If you visit a vet that is not on the list, you will not be reimbursed for the cost. If your foster dog gets sick, Please text, email or Facebook message your foster coordinator to authorize a vet visit, or advise you otherwise. Once a veterinary visit has been authorized, you can make an appointment with your assigned veterinarian.

### How can I help my foster dog become more adoptable?

Supply great photos and a bio so we can post on social media, the website, Petfinder, adopt a pet and other pet networking websites. Telling friends and family about them, especially through social media, will help create a “network effect” and will speed up the process of finding a forever home. Providing a foster dog with basic training, manners and socializing with others will increase their adoptability.

### What is the adoption process?

We believe there is no better person to place a dog in a forever home than their foster parents. You know the animal best and we trust that you will want the best life for them once they leave your home. Once we receive an application, we will forward it to you and you will contact the adopter to let them know you received their application. We recommend texting first since many people do not answer the phone from unknown numbers. Include a picture with your text as they may have contacted several rescues about different dogs and may not know the dog you are fostering by name. Many times, a foster parent will find a perfect match through their own network of friends, family and colleagues. Lucky Chance Rescue greatly welcomes these referrals.

- Potential adopters **are required** to submit an adoption application for review before they can physically meet a foster dog.
- You will contact their veterinarian to ensure their current dog(s) sees the vet regularly, is up to date with vaccinations, altered and taking heartworm prevention monthly.
- References should be called to get more information about the family and if they are responsible, good pet owners.
- Once references and vet check is done and all are great, you will set up a meet and greet at the potential adopter's home. This will serve as a required home visit to make sure the dog is a good fit not just with the family, but in the home. We want to ensure the home is clean, tidy, all dangerous items are out of reach, there is enough space in the home, the yard is fenced (if required), and the dog(s) in the home, if there is one, gets along with your foster dog.
- After the meet and greet and if the applicant is still interested in the dog, the foster can go through the adoption contact, ensure contract is signed by foster and adopter, and adopter pays adoption fees to Lucky Chance Rescue and finalize the adoption. Adopters will get a gallon ziplock bag of food, a special blanket or toy and all other supplies are returned to Lucky Chance Rescue.
- If the foster dog is not spayed or neutered prior to adoption, a spay/ neuter agreement is required. Foster will complete the written agreement with the adopter and set spay neuter date within 30 days of adoption. This will be extended if the dog is a large or giant breed, or if the veterinarian closest to them is booked during the timeframe required.

## FAQ's

### **Are there special requirements for adopters?**

Yes. If they have pets, they must be spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations. Anyone who has not taken their pet to a veterinarian for over a year is a red flag. It tells us that they would not take a dog they adopt to the veterinary annually. Puppies do much better in a home with other dogs, as they learn so much from them that humans cannot teach them. While we do not require another dog in the home, if they don't have one, we would prefer to have someone home during the day to be with the puppy. Puppies left alone all day may have behavior problems as they get older, such as separation anxiety, destructive behavior, reactivity to other dogs and humans as they are under-socialized.

### **Can I adopt my foster dog?**

YES, As long as foster parents meet the requirements necessary for adoption, foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster dog. You must notify Lucky Chance Rescue within 2 weeks if you intend on adopting. On some occasions, we may deny fosters from adopting if their home is not the best fit as a forever home. For example, Huskies, Shepherds, Pits, Labs, Hounds and other high energy dogs are fine in a foster home without a fence because they can't go outside. However, as they get older and bigger they do require fences to keep them safe and confined. It is easy to fall in love with your foster, but always remember, our goal is always to find the best fit for the dog and their forever family.

### **Does the rescue continue covering costs for veterinary care after adoption?**

We do cover the cost for spay/neuter at a Lucky Chance Rescue Veterinarian, pain medication after surgery and all services needed during surgery. We also cover cost for microchip and microchip registration. The adopter will be required to purchase an E-Collar (Cone) as they will need this for the dog after surgery. They can either get one at the vet at time of surgery or purchase their own at a store or online. They must make sure it's the right size to fit their dog.

We do not pay for any veterinary care after adoption. Once the puppy is adopted, it is the responsibility of their new family to continue providing required vaccinations, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention and any other veterinary care required. This is outlined in our adoption contract and on the veterinary plan of care. Be sure to let adopters know the dog is now theirs and they will be responsible for continued veterinary care.



# FOSTERING YOUR PUPPIES

Although fostering puppies is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. You will help puppies grow from helpless little beings to confident, well-adjusted family pets.

## GUIDE TO FOSTERING PUPPIES

**PUPPIES MAY NOT HAVE PAWS ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD AT LEAST 2 ROUNDS OF DISTEMPER / PARVO VACCINATIONS**

Puppies have not yet developed immunity to a variety of potentially fatal canine diseases. While you might be anxious to play with the puppies in your yard, the park, take them to friends and neighbors' homes to show them off, the puppies must not walk on any surfaces (such as grass or sidewalks), or in another person's home, in a public building. Even if it appears clean it may still be harboring contagious diseases. It is imperative for puppies to stay in your home until they have been vaccinated.



### Handling

Handle the puppy ALL THE TIME all over his body, play with his feet, brush him, hug him and give him treats/food while you do it so he learns to love it.

### Sights & Sounds

Puppies are cataloguing other things in their environment besides people and animals. Make sure they see and hear common household things like vacuum cleaners, TV's, etc . Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they have positive associations with these experiences.

### Socialization

Between the ages of 3–16 weeks, puppies are forming bonds towards people, dogs and other animals which will last them a lifetime. Puppies who are not exposed to and/or do not have good experiences with people or other animals during this period can end up with anxiety, reactivity, fear and aggression problems later in life. As much as possible (keeping the puppies' safety in mind), get the puppies around all kinds of people, and other animals including children, men, and women; cats, etc.. Make sure they have good experiences (play, petting and treats)

## FOSTERING YOUR PUPPIES

Someone must teach a dog what is acceptable behavior and what is not. A dog that hasn't been given any instructions, training or boundaries can't possibly know what you expect of him. By teaching your dog how you want him to behave, you'll not only have a saner household, but a healthier and happier dog as well.

### DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING

It's normal for puppies to chew on objects as they explore the world. Chewing accomplishes a few things like teething, lack of exercise or mental stimulation. Chewing also combats boredom and can relieve mild anxiety or frustration. Dogs need to learn what is okay to chew and what is not. They need to be taught in a gentle, humane manner.

"dog-proof" your house. Keep shoes and clothing in a closed closet, dirty laundry in a hamper and books on shelves.

provide your dog with plenty of his own toys and chew bones. Introduce something new or rotate your dog's chew toys every couple of days so that he doesn't get bored with the same old toys.

if you see him licking or chewing an item he shouldn't, say "drop it" remove the item, and insert something that he can chew. Then praise him happily.

Provide your dog with plenty of physical exercise and mental stimulation. Include daily walks and outings, fetch games, training, and feeding meals in food puzzle toys.

**Do not** show your dog the damage he did and spank, scold or punish him after the fact. He cannot connect your punishment with some behavior he did hours or even minutes ago.

Have realistic expectations. At some point your foster dog may inevitably chew up something you valued; this is often part of the transition to a new home. Your dog needs time to learn the house rules and you need to remember to take precautions and keep things out of their reach.

### PUPPY NIPPING & ROUGH PLAY

In play, dogs bite each other continuously! They communicate with one another by yelping and stopping the play if the bites become too much. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite when playing with other dogs. If a puppy is never allowed to mouth, she will grow up to have a rude/hard mouth. When puppies are playing rough with each other and biting each other, don't intervene! They are learning how strong their bite is and when it hurts. You will see the pups retreat from play when the bite is too hard. They are learning and we want them to learn bite inhibition.

Mouthing is natural and a way dogs have learned to communicate, but mouthing should never be painful probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth.

The best technique for hard bites is to remove the thing the puppy wants most "human interaction" until a dog or puppy is effectively taught to inhibit their bites, all play session must start with a collar and leash. When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp "ouch". If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, praise and continue the play.

If they do not immediately stop the hard mouthing, say "uh ah" then quickly take hold of the end of the leash, extend your arm, holding the leash (and puppy) away from you, turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Wait until they are calm and ready to play again.

# TRAINING YOUR PUPPIES

**Puppies rely on their littermates the first 8-12+ weeks of their lives to teach them how to be dogs, how to play, about bite inhibition, social hierarchy, sharing, and so much more. Because of this, we NEVER separate puppies from their litter mates until they are at least 10-12 weeks old.**

A couple of weeks may not seem to be a long enough time to help acclimate a puppy to the ways of the world, but it is certainly enough time to help a puppy get started on the road to becoming a well-rounded dog!

## ATTENTION & PLAYTIME

Human handling is especially important for the healthy development of puppies and rescue dogs. Be sure to give your foster dog several minutes of playtime periodically through the day.

As a rule, children should not be left alone and unsupervised with any dog, but specifically a foster dog.

Teach children to leave a dog alone when he is eating, chewing and sleeping. Never allow a child to remove a toy or any other “prized” possession from a dog. A child will not differentiate between a foster dog and a dog they have grown up with, so you must make sure to keep everyone safe.

If you’re fostering puppies, make sure they have lots of new experiences, so they are well socialized and will be adaptable as an adult. Expose them to men and children as much as possible. Have friends over and invite children over to play. Take your foster puppy in car rides (crate them for safety) to get used to the car.

## SOCIALIZING YOUR FOSTER DOG

If possible, it’s always important to introduce your foster puppy to different people, sights, sounds and surfaces. This will help them becoming a well rounded and well socialized dog!

Men, Men with Beards

Teenagers

Children standing, running, playing

Toddlers walking and playing with toys

Infants (crawling)

People wearing hats/helmets

People wearing hoodies

People wearing backpacks

People wearing uniforms (fire/police, veterinarians)

Dogs barking

Doorbell ringing

Vacuum cleaner

Cars/Traffic

Garbage Trucks

Grass / Wet Grass

Mud

Tile floors

Cats

Other Dogs, (Big Dogs and small)

Chickens/Farm Animals

Ensure the pups have positive experiences. Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they have positive associations with these experiences.

# TRAINING YOUR PUPPIES

## CRATE TRAINING PUPPIES

### Crate \Duration rules of thumb

8–10 week old puppies: one hour at a time in crate

11-12 week two hours at a time in crate max

13-16 week old puppies: three hours at a time in crate

Crate training the puppies to enjoy being in a snug, comfy crate by putting them in for naps and keeping the crate close to you so they don't associate it with abandonment. Keep the crate door open with access to puppy pads inside their pen. Puppies can only hold their bladder for 1 hour per month old. Do not leave puppy in crate too long as this will force him to soil it and may result in a ruining of his tendency to want to keep it clean. Puppies should never be enclosed in a crate overnight.



## BASIC TRAINING

We adhere to positive, rewards-based training for dogs. Increasing your foster dog's obedience skills has many benefits. Not only will the future adopter appreciate these skills, but your foster dog will “show” better when visiting with potential adopters and you will have a much happier fostering experience. Some basic obedience cues that your foster dog should learn are sit, down, come, crate/ bed, stay, heel, leave it, off, drop it. These are very helpful in managing any dog.

Using positive training methods can in fact, increase the likelihood of your dog wanting to respond correctly, increase your dog's motivation to work, and they are fun for you and the dog!

## TRAINING TIPS

1. short 5 minute training sessions 4-6 times a day is more effective than one long session.
2. dogs need and respond to positive rewards when learning new behaviors. Remember, most behaviors that we want are boring to a dog, so it's important to make it more interesting to them. A positive reward is a tasty treat, or verbal praise.
3. Be consistent with your terminology and routine. Your foster dog will become confused if you let them steal your socks sometimes, but not others.
4. start small and easy and slowly build from there. Most people jump too quickly into advanced environments (outside on a walk, etc.), so make sure you start inside in a safe and quiet location.
5. Use ah-ah instead of the word “no.” No can mean “no” to too many things.
6. Be patient and calm. Dogs respond to your tone of voice and facial expressions as well as your emotions.
7. Never lose your temper with a foster dog or strike him- ever. We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.



# TRAINING YOUR PUPPIES

## PUPPY PAD TRAINING

Put the puppies on the pee pads as soon as they wake up, right after eating and at last once an hour to start. Reward him with enthusiastic praise every time he urinates or defecates on the pad.

Do not put puppy pads all over the house. Keep pads consistently in the same place. Put a pad in the pen across from the area where they sleep, away from the door to the pen so they don't run thru it when they greet you. Put one outside their pen and lastly, put puppy pads near the door where they will be going outside. They will learn to go to the door when it is time. Try not to move it while your puppy is still learning. If you confuse your puppy, he will have more accidents and take longer to train. Do not put puppy pads where they had an accident. The key is to teach them where they should go and not give them opportunities to go anywhere they want.

Pick up feces and flush. Allow puppies to urinate more than once on a pad before throwing it away. Puppies will smell where they went and learn that is

### **Transitioning your puppy from pads to outside**

Now that your puppy has 2 rounds of distemper vaccinations, he/she can start venturing outside to go potty.

We highly recommend using bells on your door to teach your foster dog to come to the door when they hear the bells ring, touch the bell with her nose and then go outside to potty. Remember this is a new experience for them so it will be hard for them to concentrate on the task at hand.

**Teaching your dog to ring a potty bell to let you know when she needs to go outside is simple and can eliminate accidents.**

## BELL TRAINING

### **Start With Touch Training**

Say the command "touch" and show your dog the bell, holding it a couple inches away from her nose. As soon as your dog's nose hits the bell, say "yes!" And give her a treat right away. Saying "yes" serves as a marker to tell the dog she's done the right thing, and the treat is her reward. Repeat these first two steps until your dog is reliably touching the bell every time you say "touch."

### **Put The Doggy Bell Next to the Door**

Hang your dog potty bells from the doorknob of the door you will use to take your pup outside. Take it in your hand and say "Touch," As soon as your dog touches the bell with her nose, say "yes!" and give her a treat reward. Repeat this step until your dog touches the bell right away when you say "touch." After your dog has mastered touching the bell when you hold it in your hands, you can transition to simply pointing at the bell and saying "touch."

### **Potty time is the only time to ring the bell.**

As you approach the door with your dog, say "touch," and point to the bell. As soon as your dog touches the bell with her nose, say "yes!" And give her a treat reward. Then say "Outside". Take your puppy outside on a leash to the same spot every single time. They will smell the urine/feces in the ground and know that is where they are supposed to go potty. Once they go potty, give them lots of excited praise and treat, remove the leash and let them have free play in the yard. This will help make the connection between ringing the bell, going outside, and eliminating in the appropriate place earns praise, treats and free play.

**The first time your dog rings the bell on her own, throw a party: praise her enthusiastically, give her a treat, and take out outside right away.**

# TRAINING YOUR PUPPIES

**Recall:** The recall ensures that your dog will come running when you call in any and every situation.

**Look:** Teach him the look command so that no matter what distractions are present, you can always get your dog to focus on you.

**With Me:** With me is the dog training command used to keep your dog from pulling on the leash. A loose leash makes walking your dog much more fun and makes it more likely you'll get your dog out for the exercise and socialization he needs.

**Leave It:** Use this command to tell your dog not to pick up something he's approaching. It can prevent him from eating something harmful or help you to save your favorite pair of shoes from being chewed.

**Drop It:** Training a dog to drop it ensures that he'll let go of anything he's picked up in his mouth.

**Sit:** The sit command is usually the first command people teach their dogs. It seems pretty basic, but it can play an important role in managing unwanted behaviors.

**Down (Lie Down):** The lie down command is important for several reasons. First, just like the sit command, it's incompatible with certain unwanted behaviors. A dog can't jump up and surf counters while he's lying down. By teaching him to lie down on command, you have a tool to manage a number of common behavior problems.

**Stay:** The stay command is useful in a number of situations. It can keep your dog out from under your feet, or it can save his life by preventing him from running into dangerous situations.

**Come:** The come command can save you from a lot of aggravation and frustration. You can use it to get your dog to: come if he slips out of his leash, to get him to come quickly inside from the yard, or to come over for some cuddle or play time.

**Wait:** When you give your dog the wait command, it tells him that he can't move until you give him the okay.

## LEASH TRAINING

Loose leash walking means that your dog is walking by your side and not pulling on the leash at any time during your walk.

### **Start training indoors!**

This gives your dog the opportunity to practice walking on a leash with minimal distractions. And get them ready for the great outdoors! Fill your pocket (or treat pouch) with kibble mixed with a high-value treats. Using a 6-foot **non-retractable** leash, start walking forward with your dog. As soon as the leash tightens, freeze in place. Wait. Ignore your dog until the moment your dog makes any movement that causes the leash to loosen, even slightly. Praise in a happy voice "yes! Good girl (boy)" and take another step forward. Do not move forward unless the leash is loose.

Each time your dog checks-in with you (check-in = turns to give you eye contact), offer a treat and verbal praise. Dogs that are paying close attention to their handlers are less likely to pull out in front of them. Talk to your dog to encourage check-ins.

## VETERINARY CARE

**Lucky Chance Rescue is legally obligated to ensure all dogs adopted from the rescue follow our veterinary plan of care registered with our veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture.**

Please let your foster coordinator or a Lucky Chance Rescue Director know if your foster dog has any health issues that may be concerning. This can include; skin irritations, fur loss, fleas/mites, ear infection (shaking head, scratching ear, noticeable dirty ears), vomiting, lethargy, not eating or drinking, coughing, runny irritated eyes. All the noted health issues will be included in the initial vet care plan so the veterinarian is aware of potential illness and Lucky Chance Rescue can authorize diagnosis and treatment.

All veterinary care will be outlined in the initial vet care plan and will be emailed to the foster and veterinarian closest to foster, or best suited to meet the foster dog's needs. Fosters will call to make an appointment at the vet listed on your vet care plan based on your schedule and dates listed on the plan.

**If a foster dog becomes sick, foster parents are required text, call or Facebook message the foster coordinator and/or director. Our veterinarians require pre-authorization before treating any of our rescue dogs. Therefore, it is important to communicate with us when you notice your pup is not feeling well. We will contact our veterinarian and authorize office visit, diagnosis and treatment, prior to an appointment.**

### HEALTH CHECK

Look over your foster pet every day for any changes or potential medical concerns. It is crucial that you monitor your foster appearance every day. This can include things like:

Check over their body and fur for fleas/ mites

Watch for weight gain/loss

Energy level changes

Eating habits

Scratching/skin irritation

Diarrhea/vomiting

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SEEKING VET VISITS

Diarrhea that lasts for more than a day that has blood or mucous present. This could be giardia or coccidia and may need specific medication for treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours

Vomiting more than once in an hour

Not eating for more than 12-24 hours

Not drinking

Lethargy

Persistent cough

Sudden fur loss/lesions or sores on skin

Urinary issues that are not related to potty training

Respiratory Distress/Abnormal breathing (dogs do breath faster and heavier when in REM sleep and this is normal)

Exposure to toxins (plants, berries, mushrooms, house cleaners, etc.)

Injury or Trauma

### VET CARE AT INTAKE

Depending on the age of your foster pup(s) and previous vet history, They will receive the following at intake:

Wormer (round, hook, whip and tape worms)

Distemper Vaccination

Bordetella Vaccination

Heartworm Prevention + Flea/Tick Prevention

## SIGNS OF A SICK PUPPY

Fosters must observe and understand signs of common dog illnesses and make sure their fosters get the proper health treatment. If your foster dog shows symptoms of any of the health issues listed below, a veterinary appointment will be authorized to assess the situation and treat as necessary.

### **Digestive Problems Including Vomiting and Diarrhea**

While an isolated case of vomiting or diarrhea shouldn't worry you, recurrent such episodes should be supervised closely. If your dog vomits several times a day or presents diarrhea for more than a day, you should make note of any symptoms such as; Black or dark diarrhea, Loss of, appetite, Presence of blood in the vomit or stool, Lethargy. There are many causes of gastrointestinal diseases, including but not limited to, improper foods, food poisoning, swallowed objects, a bacterial infection, worms, parvo, giardia, coccidia and more.

### **Urinary Tract Infections**

Such infections can be caused by many factors and diet is one of them. Among other culprits, doctors list bacteria, fungal infections, bladder stones or immune deficiencies. Common symptoms of such a urinary tract infection are: Frequent urinations, Urination straining, Lethargy, Fever, Blood in the urine. Keep in mind that puppies can only hold their bladder for 1 hour per month old they are. Many concerns with frequent urination can be attributed to potty training and drinking too much water.

### **Kennel cough**

Kennel cough is typically a dry, hacking cough. There may be some discharge from the nose and a clear liquid that is coughed up. It's generally a mild, self-limiting illness of the trachea and bronchi encountered in all age groups of dogs, but especially in those under unusual stress, crowding or close confinement. Kennel cough exists in shelters, boarding kennels, groomers, veterinary offices, off-leash areas, etc. Because kennel cough is contagious, infected dogs should NOT be around other dogs until they're over their cough. If you have a dog at home and plan to foster a dog with kennel cough, we have found that if your own dog is healthy and has been vaccinated annually, then your dog will most likely not get sick.

### **Parvo**

Parvo attacks the intestinal tract, white blood cells and heart muscle. Signs of infection are lethargy, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, severe diarrhea, fever and sometimes kennel cough symptoms. The illness is contracted through contact with the infected feces of another dog. This is why you must NOT take your foster puppy out to public places where other dogs have been until he has completed his vaccine series against the disease. This virus can be deadly. Call your foster coordinator immediately if you believe your foster dog may have this illness and isolate him/her until we can get him to a vet for a parvo test.



### **Parasites**

Almost all dogs deal with worms. Parasites include tapeworms, round worms, hookworms, Whipworms and mange. Tapeworms will look like pieces of rice coming out of your foster dog's anus or in his stool. Round and hookworms may be vomited, and roundworms look like spaghetti (hookworms are smaller and rarely distinguishable without the aid of a microscope). Mange is an infestation of tiny mites that bite and cause intense scratching, reddened skin and loss of fur. Only rare cases of mange (sarcoptic) are contagious. If you suspect your foster dog has parasites, call your foster coordinator immediately to schedule a fecal test. Once diagnosed, parasites are easily medicated and treated.

### **Upper Respiratory Disease**

There is a relatively new respiratory disease that has been spreading to dogs. There have been no cases found in Missouri as of December 2023. That is not to say it can't show up at some point. Be aware of the following symptoms: the illness starts out as a cough that can last for several weeks, but it may not respond to typical treatment, such as antibiotics, which can leave the dog struggling to breathe and wind up with severe pneumonia. Dogs with this mystery illness usually have coughing, sneezing, eye or nose discharge, are abnormally tired, and do not test positive for any common causes of respiratory illness. If your foster dog exhibits any upper respiratory symptoms, please contact us. They will need to see one of our vets and be isolated immediately.

## ADOPTION PROCESS

**Now that you have learned all about your foster dog, including his health, personality, behaviors and needs, you are ready to start the process of getting him or her adopted!**

### TAKE GREAT PHOTOS!

We cannot stress this enough...a picture is worth a thousand words.

The picture is the first thing people see when they visit the Lucky Chance Rescue website, Petfinder, Facebook and other social media. If you want to give your dog the best chance possible, take clear, good quality pictures with adequate lighting. A good picture is often the difference between a dog who generates inquiries and one who does not.

Pictures taken outside in natural light are usually much better than those taken inside or with a flash. Lighting is very important for accurately capturing a dog's coloring and detail.

Use treats and/or a squeaky toy to capture the dog's best expression. Sometimes having two people makes this process easier.

Please do not use photos with people, body parts (arms, hands, feet, kids, sitting in your lap, etc.) as the dog is the subject of your picture. Pictures with other dogs are great as they show adopters how well they can get along with others.

Try to capture at least one "hero" shot, where the focus is on the dog's face. A full body picture is also a great way to show size and scale.

### WRITE A GREAT BIO

Accentuate the positive and let potential adopters know why they should consider your dog. A good bio is part press release, part story telling. Pull the reader into the bio so that they can start to imagine a life with your foster dog. Most bios start off with the basics - but the most appealing bios are written so that they are not just a list of facts. One intro paragraph on "who your dog is" can help a potential adopter visualize the dog. Your second paragraph might go into personality traits, and provide information about any training, tricks or cute behavior. Your final paragraph should outline the required forever-home environment.

Tell potential adopters what you know about your dog. Be honest while avoiding negative statements. While we will always be transparent about the needs of your foster dog, you can choose wording carefully. A dog that is not potty-trained might instead be, "working on house training." A dog that doesn't get along with other animals merely "wants to be your one and only as he/she doesn't like to share space with other dogs/cats" A dog that needs obedience training is really "looking forward to attending training classes." If you were looking to adopt a dog, what would you want to know? Help fill in the blanks for potential adopters.

**PROMOTE YOUR FOSTER DOG ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AT WORK AND WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY!**

**PHOTOS AND BIOS CAN BE EMAILED TO  
LUCKYCHANCERESCUE@GMAIL.COM; SENT  
VIA TEXT TO YOUR FOSTER COORDINATOR**

## ADOPTION PROCESS

ALL potential adopters are required to submit a **completed** adoption application. There are NO exceptions! We do not adopt out of state unless it is within 60 miles of St. Charles County and/or St. Louis County or the foster's home. Applicants are pre-approved to make sure they meet the needs of the dog, (ie, fence, kids, home, etc.), that they are within our adoption area and that they are not on the Do Not Adopt List. If the applicant has made it through preliminary approval, their application will then be emailed to the foster and to the foster coordinator for processing.

### WE HAVE APPLICATIONS, NOW WHAT?

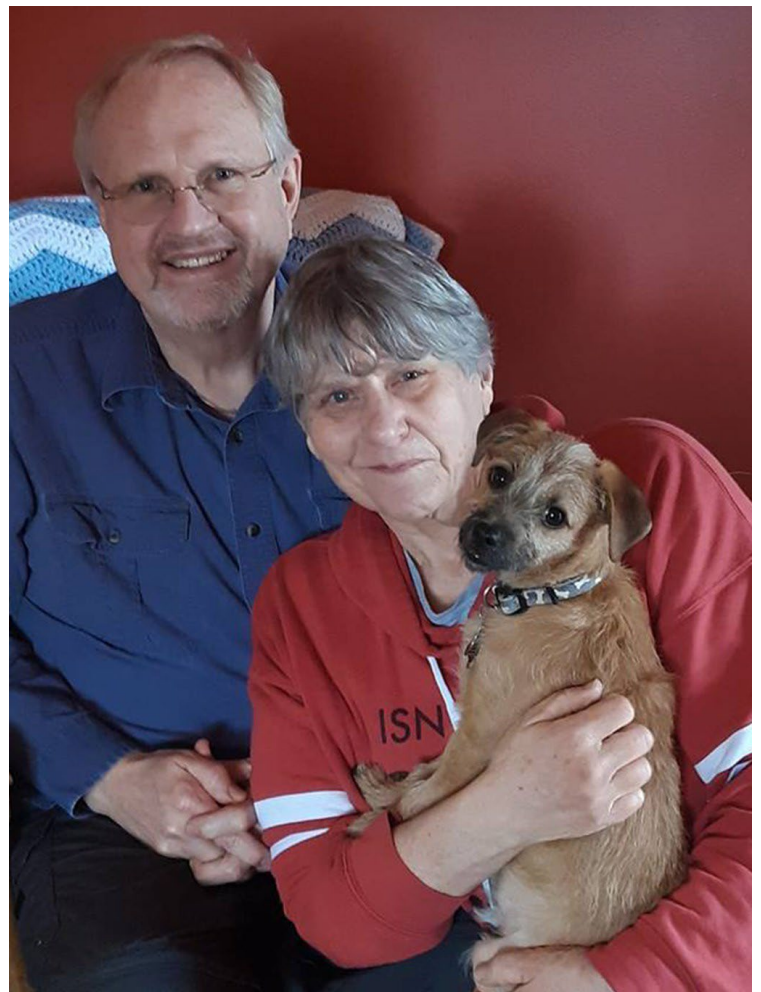
We recommend texting the applicant first since many people do not answer the phone from unknown numbers. Include a picture with your text as they may have contacted several rescues about different dogs and may not know the dog you are fostering by name or rescue. Let them know you received their application to adopt "Dog Name" and you would love to talk when they have a free moment. This way you can talk about the dog, what they are looking for in a pet. If they sound like a good match for your foster dog, then you can start processing their application. If they do not sound like a good match, let them know we have other dogs in the rescue that may be a better fit. Let your foster coordinator know so we can match them with another dog.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

If applicant lives in an apartment, or is renting, please contact the landlord to make sure they are allowed animals, that they are not over their limit and that they do not have a weight restriction that would prevent them from adoption the dog they applied for.

Contact veterinarian, if they currently have pets. Make sure their dogs are current on all vaccinations, get heartworm prevention monthly, have rabies, and regular veterinary visits. If dogs are not current, do not see the vet regularly and do not give heartworm prevention monthly, this is cause to reject the applicant. If they don't take care of their pets now, they will more than likely, not take care of the dog they adopt. Please reach out to the foster coordinator if there are concerns with vet history and how to move forward.

Contact references to ensure they are responsible and a good potential fit for a new dog in their home. If all of the above check out, contact the applicant and let them know you can move forward with their application and set up a meet and greet.



# ADOPTION PROCESS

## MEET AND GREET

Meet and greets must be done at the adopter's home. This is the best way to complete the home visit and ensure the home is a good fit and safe for the dog. We want to make sure the home is free from clutter, toxic materials, there is enough space in the home for the dog, the yard and fence are safe (if required) and lastly, that everyone in the home, along with the resident pets get along with your foster dog.

## TIPS TO HELP YOU THROUGH INITIAL PHONE CALL AND THE MEET & GREET

This should be a two-way dialog, rather than just a one-sided Q&A session. Instead of just answering a question, use this as an opportunity to learn more about the potential adopter and find out if they are a good match. For example, if they ask you how much exercise he gets, turn this around "he gets a fair amount of exercise... how do you plan on exercising him?" And probe for specifics.

Don't over-sell, or under-sell your foster dog. This should be an open and honest discussion about what the potential adopter is looking for and how this matches the needs of your foster dog. Be objective about personality traits. The best way to approach this is to ask about what they are looking for in personality before you talk about what type of personality your foster dog has (beyond what is already mentioned in the bio). This way you can find out if they really are a good match, or if they are going on appearances alone.

Ask a lot about their past experiences with dogs. Even if this is their first dog, how do their friends or family approach dog ownership? Most people are greatly influenced by those around them.

Find out how they would approach training and/or behavior problems. Again, don't tell them what you are doing, but find out how they would handle this. Better yet, find out how they handled this with previous dogs! This is where the hypothetical questioning can come in handy. "What would you do if you came home to find out she just chewed your brand new couch?"

What are the family's expectations of a rescue dog?

If the potential adopter isn't suitable for specific reasons (they are couch potatoes and your foster dog needs to run 10 miles every day, etc.) Please let us know and we can change the dog's bio to better reflect its needs and match the family with a dog that will be a better fit.

## BRING YOUR ADOPTION PACKET FOLDER WITH YOU!

Often times, at the meet and greet, you can finalize the adoption, this depends on vetting completed, if the adoptive family has supplies ready, if they are able to spend a few days with the dog before going to work/ vacation/etc. It is important not to adopt a dog to a family who will leave him/her alone the first few days for 8+ hours.

Our adoption contract is legal and binding. Be sure to review the entire document, and the spay/neuter agreement, if they are adopting an unaltered puppy.

Once the documents are signed, it's OFFICIAL! You should provide the new owner with any medication that your foster dog is taking, along with instructions and a gallon size bag of food. You may also want to give them your foster dog's favorite toy, or anything else that will help with transition. When it's time to hand over your foster dog, please be emotionally prepared. The new parents are excited and happy about finding a new companion. Please remember to rejoice and celebrate that you have helped to find a forever home for your foster pup.





## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU !

Your foster dog has been adopted! You've found him a permanent home that might even be better than yours - if that's possible! All of the supplies provided to you from Lucky Chance Rescue must be returned at your earliest convenience. This includes collars, leashes, crates, bowls, puppy pens, food, toys, etc.

The staff and volunteers at the Lucky Chance Rescue greatly appreciate your time, energy and dedication. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make fostering easier and even more rewarding. On behalf of all the volunteers and adopted dogs of Lucky Chance Rescue, we thank you!

### **GET READY FOR YOUR NEXT FOSTER DOG!!**

Dogs and puppies might leave behind germs that can jeopardize your next foster pet. For this reason, we ask that you follow specific cleaning protocol before bringing your next foster home:

Remove anything that your foster slept on or played with.

Scrub everything that your foster could have touched with diluted bleach solution.

Food and water dishes can be washed in the dishwasher or soaked in diluted bleach for 10 minutes.

Clean all toys with diluted bleach as well.

Wash all bedding in hot water

Throw away anything that cannot be bleached.

## LET US KNOW WHEN YOU ARE READY TO MEET YOUR NEXT FOSTER!