



GRAND STRAND HUMANE SOCIETY

A Guide For

Dog Foster Parents

About this manual

This manual is designed to provide foster parents with a comprehensive overview of the Grand Strand Humane Society Foster Parenting Program. This manual is meant to be a helpful resource for foster parents and should answer many of the questions that may arise before and during foster care. Throughout this manual, the use of the word “Dog” is in reference to dogs of all ages, including puppies. If something is specific to puppies, then the word “puppy” is used. Furthermore, animals are either referred to neutrally, or using the male gender (he/his) in this guide, but only for convenience and consistency and is interchangeable with she/hers. Foster parents should always consult with the Shelters Operations Director and the volunteer Foster Care Coordinator for specific help and assistance. All information is subject to change without written notice.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Thank you for opening your heart and home to one of our shelter's orphaned animals. Your generosity will provide young and old, injured and sick, abused and under socialized animals a chance to grow or heal before finding their permanent home with a loving family. Grand Strand Humane Society is broadening its foster program in hopes of saving additional animals' lives.

How the program works

Grand Strand Humane Society Staff will determine which animals are most in need of foster care. As an approved foster parent, you'll receive e-mails from the volunteer Foster Care Coordinator providing a brief description of those animals needing foster homes. When you see an animal that might be a good match for your household and lifestyle, you simply respond by e-mail. The Foster Care Coordinator will contact you to provide more information and along with the Grand Strand Humane Society staff determine if the animal is a good match. The Foster Care Coordinator will arrange a meeting between you (and your own dog if applicable) and the foster dog. The meeting will be held at Grand Strand Humane Society. Grand Strand Humane Society will provide any medical needs the animal may have and the Foster Care Coordinator will be available to address any questions or concerns.

Reasons to foster

Fostering is a wonderful experience for you and your family – you can feel wonderful knowing you have helped save an animal's life. Even more so, you have created space in the shelter to accommodate other homeless animals. Foster animals provide companionship and purpose – your act of kindness is repaid in rewards that are beyond words.

Animals needing foster homes

- Any Adult Dog when the Shelter becomes over crowded
- Young puppies too young for spay/neuter surgeries
- Puppies & young dogs that need more socialization than available at the shelter
- Older or senior dogs that will be more comfortable in a home environment
- Dogs finishing a course of treatment, i.e. heartworm treatment or recovering from surgery
- Sick Animals needing specific care
- Neglected or abused dogs that need additional tender love and care
- Dogs suffering from "shelter stress" in need of a calming home environment
- Abandoned mothers with litters of puppies

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long are animals in foster homes?

It completely depends on the animal and the situation. The average stay in a foster home is about 2 months. However, most puppies and some dogs with great photos and stories on the web and Facebook may stay only a few weeks.

2. Can I adopt my foster animal?

ABSOLUTELY! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements necessary for adoption, foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster animal.

3. How are foster animals promoted?

Photos are posted on Grand Strand Humane Society's website, Facebook, and Petfinder.com. and at the shelter where the public can view them. Foster animals are also promoted at special events throughout the year. Foster parents are required to participate in various shelter events to increase the visibility of their foster animals to potential adopters.

Foster parents are also asked to promote their foster to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public through a variety of means including flyers, emails, personal facebook page and website. Just walking your foster dog in local neighborhoods will help promote adoption.

4. What is the process for someone adopting a foster animal?

- Foster parent will receive an inquiry from potential adopters.
- Foster parent will schedule a date and time to meet the potential adopters at the shelter to introduce the foster animal.
 - Should the foster parent not be available for this meet & greet, the Foster Care Coordinator will pick up the foster animal and meet the potential adopters at the shelter.
- Should the potential adopters decide to adopt the Grand Strand Humane Society staff will take over the adoption procedure.
 - Potential adopters will submit an adoption application;
 - Should potential adopters have a dog of their own, they will be required to bring the dog in for a meet & greet with the foster animal;
 - If the application is approved by Grand Strand Humane Society, the animal will be scheduled for spay/neuter (unless already spayed or neutered);
 - The adoptive parents will be allowed to pick up their new family member the afternoon of surgery.

5. If I have my own animals, can I foster dogs?

Yes, but keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young.

If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before fostering since working or living with animals exposes humans to a group of diseases called zoonoses. A zoonotic disease (there are about 200) is defined as a disease transmitted from animals to humans and also from humans to animals. To find out more about zoonoses, talk to your doctor and/or veterinarian. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of these illnesses can reduce the risk of disease.

6. What supplies are needed to foster?

Foster parents provide space, food, basic training, exercise and love for the animal. The shelter will provide medical care and medicine.

7. Do I have to crate-train my foster?

No, but it is one of the most efficient and effective ways to house train a puppy or re-train an adult dog. Some dogs do not like crates, and most dogs need to be transitioned or “trained” to use a crate, so it is up to the foster parent to decide whether to crate or not. Putting the dog in a crate while you are gone will give you peace of mind knowing that they are in a safe place, away from harm, and not doing any damage to your belongings or themselves. For many dogs, a crate can also represent a safe and comfortable place to call their own and provides them with a sense of security. Dogs actually like having a “den” to cuddle up in. Crating should NEVER be used as punishment.

8. Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster animal so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian’s instructions if fostering a sick or injured pet.

9. What if my foster becomes sick?

If the animal becomes sick during shelter business hours, you must bring the animal to the shelter for care. If the animal becomes sick during non-business hours, you will need to call Rita Rhodes, Grand Strand Humane Society’s Operations Director at 843-251-8233.

10. How much time each day is needed to foster?

Commitment and responsibilities depend on the individual dog. It’s essential that foster parents understand that shelter animals may be stressed and moving the animal from the shelter to the foster home is also very stressful and emotional. Foster parents must be willing to be patient and commit to the dog because our goal is to keep them in a stable and consistent environment.

Many of the dogs at the shelter are “adolescent” dogs between the age of 6 months and 2 years. They typically have a lot of energy and require vigorous daily exercise. This means at least a 30-45 minute brisk walk/run in the morning and again in the

afternoon, with plenty of play time in between. Older dogs may only need a morning and evening stroll.

11. Can I take my foster dog to an off-leash dog park for exercise and socialization?

No. You are not allowed to take any foster dog from Grand Strand Humane Society 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 Grand Strand Humane Society shelter. Also, taking a leashed dog to a dog park can create barrier frustration and aggression in dogs.

12. How can I help my foster dog become more adoptable?

There are two ways to make a foster dog more adoptable. First and foremost is marketing. If no one knows about your foster dog, or how wonderful it is, then it will be next to impossible to find them a permanent home. In addition to supplying great photos and a bio and updating these regularly, giving a foster dog additional exposure by telling friends and family about them will help create a "network effect" and will speed up the process of finding a loving family and permanent home. Simple steps like taking a foster dog on walks in local parks, outdoor shopping areas and other high-traffic areas will help find potential adopters.

Secondly, our orphaned dogs benefit greatly from the exercise (with the exception of those with some medical conditions), basic training, special love and attention you give them. While marketing provides you with applicants, it is always the dog that "closes the deal". Providing a foster dog with basic training and manners will increase adoptability. Shy dogs will benefit from your patience, routine and slowly exposing them to new people to build their confidence. Rambunctious adolescents who learn good manners will help show off their trainability and long-term potential. And while puppies are adorable, they need a lot of love, attention and hand-holding from humans to develop properly and feel secure.

13. Am I responsible for finding my foster dog its permanent home?

No, but we do need your help. You will be asked to provide your contact information for promotional flyers, Grand Strand Humane Society's website and Facebook so potential adoptive parents can contact you. Once the meet & greet appointment is scheduled you will be required to transport the animal to Grand Strand Humane Society for the meet & greet. If your schedule does not allow you to transport the animal to the meet & greet you will need to contact the Foster Care Coordinator. The Foster Care Coordinator will need your address to pick up the foster and transport to the meet & greet. You will be asked to have the dog available for adopt-a-thons and special events.

14. Can I return my foster animal to the shelter if I am unable to foster any longer?

We prefer that foster parents continue to foster until we find a permanent home or a new foster home for their foster animal. It is extremely stressful for an animal to be returned to the shelter environment. However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary to discontinue fostering an animal. We request that a foster parent provide Grand Strand Humane Society at least a week's notice so arrangements can be made. Of course, in an emergency a foster parent can always bring their foster back to the shelter.

15. What if I go on vacation or have a business trip?

We ask that foster parents prepare for their foster animal just as they would their own personal animal. Grand Strand Humane Society will need to approve any boarding facility.

16. Are foster animals ever euthanized?

Much love, energy, time and vet care is devoted to our foster animals, and the shelter is committed to finding homes for ALL adoptable animals within its care. Some animals are in foster care because they are seriously ill or injured. If, after medical attention, these animals are too young or too weak to heal and are suffering, then the shelter staff will humanely euthanize these animals. Fortunately, most animals in foster care heal beautifully. On rare occasions a dog in foster care may start to exhibit dangerous behavior that was unknown or suppressed when the dog was at the shelter. The shelter may determine that this dog is too dangerous and will humanely euthanize the animal or seek an alternative facility for its care. Your safety is our #1 priority. You must always inform the shelter staff and your Foster Care Coordinator if your foster dog exhibits any aggressive behavior.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FOSTER PARENTS

In order to become a foster parent for Grand Strand Humane Society, you will need to:

- Complete a Foster Care Application
- Provide three personal references and contact information
- Allow a home inspection
- Allow a background check
- Attend the Foster Orientation and Foster Animal Training session. The orientation and training session will be at the shelter.
- Agree to sign the Foster Animal Agreement
- Agree to provide contact information and allow prospective adoptive parents to contact you to discuss foster animal and agree to transport foster animal to the shelter for an adoption meet & greet. If foster parent's schedule cannot accommodate, foster parent will allow Foster Care Coordinator to pickup and transport the animal to the shelter for a meet & greet.

- Agree to bring foster to Grand Strand Humane Society hosted adoption and special events

Grand Strand Humane Society and the Foster Care Coordinator will approve all foster parent applications. The shelter staff may also remove a foster from a foster home for any reason they deem necessary.

IMPORTANT RULES & REMINDERS REGARDING YOUR FOSTER

- No off-leash park visits.
- Foster dogs must be on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in your own secured fenced yard.
- Any aggressive behavior must be immediately communicated to the shelter staff.
- Foster parents must respond within 24 hours to communications from shelter staff, Foster Care Coordinator and potential adopters.

GETTING READY TO FOSTER

After being approved by the shelter staff as a qualified foster home, but before you bring a foster home, we suggest you prepare yourself, your family and your home for a new family member.

Be physically and mentally prepared

Fostering is a family affair, so please make sure that everyone in your household is ready, willing and able to provide a loving home for an orphaned animal. Many adults and children have a difficult time adjusting to a new schedule or routine, and also have a difficult time “giving up” an animal to its forever home. Make sure everyone is ready for this new, albeit temporary, addition to your family.

Be realistic about your time commitment to foster. Many people believe that a shelter is a terrible place and a foster is always better off in a home. While the shelter can be a stressful environment for many animals, they do receive excellent care during their stay. In addition to a clean, warm and dry kennel, with plenty of fresh water, food and vet care, shelter animals receive a lot of love and attention by staff and volunteers.

Don't over-extend yourself when starting out. You may want to begin foster sitting. And even if you have experience with big adolescent dogs, starting with an older dog, a small dog or even a puppy is a great way to build your foster dog parenting experience.

Where to keep your foster dog

Planning where you will keep your dog BEFORE you bring your dog home will make the entire process easier for everyone. When you first bring a foster dog home, you'll want to confine them to a single room, such as a kitchen or family room. This room should not be an isolated room, but a room where you spend a large part of your day or evening, as dogs are pack animals and want to be with you. This room is especially important when you're at work or away from the house, as it will be a new environment in which they need time to become familiar and comfortable.

Use a baby gate to block off the entrances to other rooms. By keeping the dog in one room, you are helping prevent "accidents" that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your routine. (Even a house-trained dog might have an accident or two during this adjustment period.) For dogs that are not housetrained, keeping them confined to one room will help start this important training as you must be able to monitor their activities. The shelter recommends you also use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house.

The Doggy Do's

- Do keep your foster dog indoors in a location with a crate available.
- Do keep your foster dog in a warm/cool (depending on the season) and dry location.
- Do keep your foster dog on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in your secured fenced yard. When in a secured yard, you must supervise him at all times. It is very common for a shelter dog to try and escape so ALWAYS supervise your shelter dog.
- Do keep your puppy indoors in a kitchen, bathroom, mudroom or laundry room (you may want to use baby gates to limit access to other parts of your home.) Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.

The Doggy Don'ts

- Do not place your foster dog around other strange dogs as we often do not know the dog's past history. Foster dogs should not be put in a position of possibly fighting with a strange dog, reducing their chances for adoption and increasing their chances of euthanasia.
- Do not allow your foster dogs outdoors unless supervised by an adult.
- Never take your foster dog to an off-leash park. This is a liability to the shelter.
Taking a foster dog to an off-leash park will result in the removal of the foster dog and end your role as a foster parent.

How to dog-proof a room

Walk into the room in which you plan to confine your foster dog, and ask yourself:

- Is there room for the crate (dog's safe place)?
- Is there quick access to the outside for bathroom breaks?
- Is there anything that can be chewed, such as drapes, a couch or rugs?
- Are there exposed electrical wires?
- Is there anywhere the dog can hide? Will you be able to get the dog out if hidden?

- Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked off by a wagging tail?
- Are there plants in the room?
- 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 train your foster dog that it is his bed?

Items you may need

- Food and bowls.
- Crate – you can check with the shelter, should they have one to loan they will be happy to do so.
- Bedding – a clean, old blanket or towel or a dog bed that is washable.
- Odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle); 50/50 solution of vinegar & water will also work. If you clean mistakes with soap and water, your dog will still smell urine and go to the bathroom in that spot repeatedly.
- Comb/brush.
- Toys such as: hard rubber balls, Kongs (they love these) fleece toys, rope toys or nylabones. DO NOT give your foster dog hooves, rawhide, pigs' ears or vinyl toys that can cause diarrhea or choke the dog.
- Flat buckle collar.
- Leash.
- Training treats such as string cheese, squeeze cheese, lunchmeat, small dog biscuits or raw carrots.
- Baby gate(s).
- Bitter Apple (to spray on leashes, woodwork, drapery – anything you don't want chewed).

Transporting your foster dog

The safest way to transport your dog from the shelter to your home or anywhere else, is in a secure crate in the back of a SUV or large vehicle. The crate should be secured so that it doesn't tip over or move around. Another option is to use a grill between the back of the vehicle and back seat. If you can't fit a crate into your vehicle, your dog is safest in the back seat. Use either a special harness for your dog that hooks on to the seatbelt, or a leash that attaches to the seat belt. Avoid letting your dog ride in the passenger seat next to you. Not only can your view be obstructed, but if you brake suddenly your dog could get injured by hitting the windshield or by the air bag.

Selecting an Appropriate Shelter Dog to Foster

Now that you are ready to foster, it is time to find an appropriate shelter dog to bring home. After being approved by the shelter and the Foster Care Coordinator as a qualified foster home, you will start receiving a foster request e-mail. This email will describe dogs in need of foster homes based on priority. If you see one that looks like a good match, reply to the e-mail address and the shelter staff and Foster Care Coordinator will decide if this is a good match for you and your lifestyle.

The Foster Care Coordinator will contact you directly to schedule a meet & greet with the potential foster dog. The Foster Care Coordinator may also recommend a different dog based on your lifestyle, experience or situation. After meeting the dog in person, you and the shelter staff and Foster Care Coordinator will decide if it is a good match.

Introducing your Foster Dog to Your Dogs

The Foster Care Coordinator and shelter staff will assist you with introducing your dog to a foster dog. You should bring your dog to the shelter for a meet & greet before you bring a foster dog home. Typically dogs of the opposite sex do better together. And even if your dog has many different canine playmates, you should still bring your dog to the shelter to meet a potential foster dog. Dogs are like people, and sometimes a dog may not like another dog for no apparent reason.

What to do once you are home with your foster dog

- Do be alert and make the reintroductions gradually and calmly. Even if they got along great at the shelter, your dog may be extremely territorial in the home.
- If possible, go for a walk around your neighborhood with both dogs and two handlers. Walk the dogs side-by-side on leashes and allow them to sniff one another and become familiar with each other.
- Do give your own dog LOTS of love and praise.
- Do leave leashes on the dogs when you are in the home, so that you can get immediate control if needed. You may only need to do this for a short time.
- Do talk normally. Letting the dogs know that you are fine; they are fine; everything is fine!
- Be patient and go slowly with your foster dog as they may have been through a stressful surgery, abusive situation or a lot of recent changes.
- Don't leave your foster dog unattended with your dog. Even if they seem to get along well in your presence, you should separate the dogs when you leave your house. After a week, you may determine that this is no longer necessary, but be sure to always remove all toys, food, chews and start slowly.
- If you are fostering a juvenile or adult pit bull, NEVER leave your dog unattended with this breed and always crate your pit bull, or isolate them in a secure room when you leave the house.

Some Common Mistakes

- Holding the leash too tensely as dogs may react with defensiveness.
- Leaving toys and chews around the house. This can cause resource guarding which can escalate very quickly. Remove all toys and chews before you arrive home with your foster dog.
- Feeding your foster dog with your resident dog. It is best to separate them initially, and to supervise always.
- Over-stimulating your foster dog with introductions to many people or your neighbors' dogs.

Introducing Your Cats to Foster Dogs

Before you introduce your foster dog to your cat, you may wish to wait a few days until you have confirmed or instilled basic obedience in your foster dog. You will need to have your foster dog under control and know which behaviors are appropriate when interacting with a cat.

Allow your foster dog to settle down and get to know your surroundings first before you start introductions to unfamiliar animals. Introducing a cat to a dog is similar to introducing dogs to one another. Take your time and create a stress-free environment.

Begin by keeping your cat in a different room. Allow the dog to become comfortable in his own room. Once the dog is comfortable, let him explore the rest of the house for short periods each day while the cat is in another room. This will allow them to pick up each other's scent.

After a few days, allow the two to meet but keep the dog on a leash. Observe their interactions- a dog that is showing overt aggression, such as snarling, growling, baring teeth, etc. will probably never accept a cat. The cat and dog should be separated by baby gates or kept in separate rooms.

If all is reasonably calm so far, walk the dog around the room on leash, but don't let go of the leash in case the dog decides to chase the cat. On leash interactions give the cat the opportunity to approach the dog if they choose, or to find a route to escape.

During the first few meetings, the cat and dog will probably not interact face-to-face. A dog is a predatory animal. It is a natural instinct for a dog to want to chase a cat. Assume the dog will chase the cat so you are prepared. Never allow the dog to intimidate the cat by barking or chasing.

Each time the dog acts inappropriately (barking), let him know these behaviors are unacceptable; try using a quick sharp tone, like "Aah-Aah" to get their attention and redirect their energy. On the other hand, if the cat bops the dog on the nose as a warning, that's a good sign and should not be discouraged. When they set up boundaries between themselves, they are beginning to establish a working relationship.

Let them interact with the dog on leash for about 30 minutes, then return the cat back to its safe haven and bring the dog to its dog crate or bed. Give the dog a treat and lots of praise.

Increase the amount of time they are together a little each visit. It is important to be patient and encouraging in their interactions. If you are relaxed, they will be more at ease. Always praise friendly behavior profusely. Don't rush the introduction or force them to interact more than either is willing. Pressing them to accept each other will only slow down the adjustment process. When the cat and dog seem to be getting used to each other, let the dog go, but keep his leash attached to his collar. Let him drag it around the house as he wanders, that way you can control him at any time. The cat will probably hide first. You should use your best judgment as to when they can begin supervised sessions with the dog off-leash.

Fostering – The First Week

Now that you are home with your foster dog, you should start a regular routine so your dog can begin to adjust to your household. During this adjustment period, please keep stimulation to a minimum. Some recommendations include:

- Find a quiet route to walk or run your foster dog (depending on energy level) to familiarize him with his new environment. This also helps start the bonding between you and your foster dog.
- Don't introduce your foster dog to people you meet on your walk. For the first 7-14 days (could be more or less) your foster dog should lay low while he tries to figure out just what this new situation is. You may not see any unwelcome behavior initially. Eventually all will be revealed.
- Do not introduce your foster dog to other dogs (other than your own resident dog). This includes neighborhood dogs, and dogs belonging to your family or friends. Why? There is no way to tell how your foster dog will behave when introducing him to other dogs. If your foster dog bites a person or dog you are required to report it to the Foster Care Coordinator who will report it to the shelter immediately.
- Don't throw a party or have a lot of people in your home. During the first week you should try to spend quality one-on-one time with your new foster dog.
- The most important thing to do during this initial transition time is to clearly but non-confrontationally establish the household rules. As well, take care not to "indulge" your foster dog's timid, tentative or fearful behavior, we understand how tempting this may be as many of our orphans have come from less than ideal situations, but in the long run it does not benefit the dog.

Additional Information for the first week

If your dog is available for adoption, take new photos and write new bio for your foster dog. One of the many benefits of adopting a dog from foster care is that the foster parent can provide detailed, personal and anecdotal information about their foster dog. Your dog will be adopted more quickly if you update this information as soon as possible. Share this information on e-mails, website, Face Book, etc.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON FOSTERING A DOG

Expectations of behavior

Allow time for adjustment. While it usually takes about 24 hours for a dog to settle in, it will take longer for their overall adjustment to this new environment. Watch their behavior closely. Remember that it will take up to a month before your foster dog bonds with you, so keep your expectations realistic. On the average, foster parents have their dogs for about two months before they are adopted. While this amount of time will not be long enough to fully train your foster dog, it will be enough time to give him a good foundation for his new family. Begin training with some basic commands and crate training. Your foster may have been traumatized before coming to you – you will be teaching that people are good and can be trusted. You should handle and work with your foster dog every day. If he shows any

signs of aggression or fear (growling over food or toys, snapping or hiding), contact your Foster Care Coordinator and shelter staff for guidance.

FEEDING

What to feed your foster dog

The food you feed your foster dog is important because, as the saying goes, “You are what you eat”, and this applies to dogs as well as humans. It especially applies to dogs that have been sick, injured or found as strays. If the dog has lived at the shelter for a while, he should continue on the same brand.

- If you change food brand you may want to take some of the food he has been eating at the shelter and mix it with the new food in order to help transition slowly into the new food you will be providing.

Food should NOT contain:

- Meat by-products
- Fat or protein named generically (animal, poultry fat, meat meal), it should instead read beef or chicken fat or lamb meal
- Food fragments (brewer’s rice, corn gluten, etc.)
- Artificial preservatives (BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin)
- Artificial colors
- Sweeteners
- Propylene glycol
- Corn (this is rocket fuel for your dog)

Diet Change

Some dogs react to a change in diet with diarrhea. If this happens, feed them cooked rice mixed with cottage cheese (two cups rice to one cup cottage cheese) for a day or two. Then reintroduce the dry food.

Feeding schedule and quantity

Create a consistent schedule for feeding your foster dog. Feed at the same times every day. Create a separate space for your foster dog to eat so they will feel comfortable.

If you have other dogs at home, feed your foster in a separate room and close the door – this will help prevent any arguments over food. **DO NOT FEED ANY “PEOPLE” FOOD.** You do not know what adoptive family will want to do, so don’t start a habit they will have to break; and by feeding only dog food, you are also discouraging begging.

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

- Adult dogs: dry adult dog food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- Adolescent dogs (4 months to 1 year): dry puppy food, twice a day.
- Weaned puppies (6-8 weeks to 4 months): dry puppy food three to four times a day. Can be moistened with water or puppy formula.
- Nursing mothers with puppies and yet weaned puppies (4-8 weeks). The quantity of food you provide your foster dog will vary depending on weight, age and activity level. Please refer to the suggested amounts on the dog food package you are feeding your

foster dog as the amounts may change depending on the brand. Remember to reduce this amount to compensate for any treats, including chews. Obesity is an epidemic for pets in the US and can lead to health problems, exacerbate existing health issues and reduces overall quality of life. Please do not over feed your foster dog.

Exercise

Foster dogs should be exercised every day, rain or shine. Most foster dogs will need at least two 30+ minute walks a day to release excess energy. If your foster dog is an adolescent, you may need to step up the activity level with runs or hikes, etc. A dog that is exercised regularly will tend to sleep when you are not at home- and a sleeping dog cannot do undesirable things like bark or chew. Even a 10 week old puppy that plays inside or in a yard needs numerous daily walks as part of the socialization process. The exception to this is if your foster dog is recovering from an illness or injury, then they may need rest.

Leash Walking and the six foot rule

Leave at least 6 feet between your foster dog and any other dog you meet. This keeps handlers and dogs safe from possible conflicts and also reduces the transmission of disease.

Please do not use retractable leashes when walking or running your foster dog. It is impossible to have control with a retractable leash, and they can easily tangle and break.

Training

Most potential adopters are looking for dogs with basic manners. You might feel it is appropriate to let your own dog jump on people, sleep on the bed or beg for food, but please do not let your foster dog have these same indulgences. Set boundaries for your foster dog, and be consistent.

Training Tip: Building a positive relationship with your foster dog.

Establishing leadership: A leader in a dog pack is not the biggest dog, not the meanest dog and not necessarily the oldest dog. It is the one who controls the resources.

Training: We suggest 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 foster experience.

Additional Training Tips:

- Short 5 minute training sessions 4-6 times a day is more effective than one long session.
- Dogs need and respond to positive rewards when learning new behaviors. Remember, most behaviors that we want are boring to a dog, so it is important to make it more interesting to them. A positive reward is a tasty treat, or a game of fetch, or anything that your foster dog enjoys.
- You provide the guidance and information he needs to succeed and build his confidence. Always praise your foster dog when he is doing something good.

- Be consistent with your terminology and routine. Your foster dog will become confused if you let them steal your socks sometimes, but not others.
- 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.
- Use Aak-Aak or Ah-Ah instead of the word “no”. The canine mother would use this type of sound to correct her pup. Only use “no” for very serious matters, if it is overused the canine will no longer respond.
- Be patient and calm. Dogs respond to your tone and facial expressions as well as your emotions. Dogs were once predators, and can read your body language quickly. Don’t try to fake your emotions as your foster dog will know.
- Never lose your temper with a foster dog or strike him- EVER! We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.

Housetraining:

BE PATIENT with your foster dog. Even housetrained adult dogs will make mistakes, especially if they’ve been at the shelter for a long time and have been eliminating in their kennel. If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some foster dogs may “mark” out their territory. This action should be re-directed immediately with a calm “Ah-Ah” and escort him outside where he can finish. You will then want to use some odor neutralizer (like Nature’s Miracle) on the areas where the foster dog “marked” to insure he will not smell and mark that area again.

You can begin housetraining a puppy at 8 weeks old. Even if you bring home an adult dog that is housebroken, you will want to follow these guidelines until your foster dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule.

- Determine where you want your foster dog to eliminate – it could be the backyard, side yard or an indoor substrate such as a Pup Head litter system or one you have designed.
- When you have determined where he should do his business, take him to the same place every time, and tell him to “do his business”. Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every 2 hours. Puppies should go out every 45 minutes until you learn their pattern. Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he eliminates, reward him (with treats, praise, a favorite game and your own special happy dance). If he doesn’t go in five minutes, take him back inside and try every 15 minutes until he goes. Every time he goes, make sure you reward him!
- Supervise the puppy closely while you’re inside. If he starts to sniff the floor, or even squats to go, interrupt with a calm “Ah-Ah”, scoop him up quickly and take him to the approved spot and praise when he finishes.
- If he goes in the house while you’re not paying attention, don’t correct him – it’s not his fault. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer (Like Nature’s Miracle) to get rid of the smell. NEVER put the dog’s face in his mess, or yell at him, he won’t understand, and you will only be teaching him to fear you.

Crate Training

Crates provide safe havens and dens for dogs. They calm them and can help prevent destructive chewing, barking and housetraining mistakes. Puppies should not be crated for more hours than they are months old, plus one. For example, a 4-month old should not be crated more than 5 hours. How long an adult dog can be crated will depend on many factors. For example, if your foster dog was left outside, it has never been required to hold it for any period of time. It will take time for this dog to learn to hold it and you will need to start slowly. Older dogs and dogs with some medical conditions may only be able to successfully hold it for short periods of time.

Rigorous exercise should be given before and after any long periods in the crate, and good chew toys should be in the crate at all times. You may want to crate your new foster dog for the first few nights in your bedroom – most of them feel more secure in their crate and it protects your house from accidents.

Crates should NEVER be used as a means of punishment for your foster dog. If used for punishing, the dog will learn to avoid going in the crate. Crates are not to be used for keeping puppies under 6 months out of mischief all day either. Crates should be thought of as dog play rooms – just like child play rooms, with games and toys. It should be a place dogs like to be and feel safe and secure when they are there.

Introducing the Crate

- Place crate (with a blanket inside) in a central part of your home. Introduce your foster dog to the crate after a good walk, when
- he is tired and sleepy. Keep all chew toys in the crate so that he can go in and out as he pleases, selecting toys to play with. Feed your dog in the crate with the door open. If the dog hesitates going in, place the bowl inside the door so their head is in and their body is outside.
- If your foster still refuses to go near the crate, put the smelliest, tastiest wet food (or a steak!) in the crate and shut the door. Let the dog hang outside the crate for a while, smelling the food inside. Soon he should beg you to let him in.
- Now that the dog is familiar and willing to go near the crate, throw some of his favorite treats in the crate. Let him go in and get them and come right out again. Do this exercise three or four times. Then, throw more treats in and let him go in and get them. When he is in, shut the door and give him another treat through the door. Then let him out and ignore him for 3 minutes. Then, put some more treats in the crate, let him go in, shut the door and feed him 5 bits of treats through the door, and then let him out and ignore him for 5 minutes.
- Next time, place treats, peanut butter, freeze dried liver or frozen food and honey in a Kong, so it is time-consuming to get the food out of the ball, and put the Kong in the crate. After your foster has gone in, shut the door and talk to him in a calm voice. If your dog starts to whine or cry, don't talk to him or you will reward the whining/crying/barking behavior. The foster dog must be quiet for a few minutes before you let him out.

- Gradually increase the time in the crate until the dog can spend 3-4 hours there. We recommend leaving a radio (soothing music or talk radio) or TV (mellow stations educational, art, and food) on while the dog is in the crate and alone in the house. Rotate the dog's toys from day-to-day so he doesn't become bored of them. Don't put papers in the crate – the dog will instinctively not go to the bathroom where he sleeps/lives. Instead, put a blanket in his crate to endorse the fact that this is his cozy home.
- To help your foster get accustomed to the crate, place his favorite bed inside it and place it in your bedroom. If you're fostering a puppy, you can try placing a warm hot water bottle wrapped in a towel next to him. Warmth makes puppies sleepy. Make sure the sides of the bedding are tucked in firmly so the puppies don't get lost or suffocated in a fold of the bedding. Be wary of dog crates during hot weather – a dog may want to lie on the cool floor, instead of the crate. Make sure the crate is not in direct sun.

Attention and Playtime

Lots of human contact is important for recovering, sick, injured or neglected dogs. Humane handling is especially important for the healthy development of puppies. Attention and playtime is a reward for your foster dog. Be sure to give your foster dog several minutes of playtime periodically through the day.

As a general rule, children under sixteen years old should NOT be left alone and unsupervised with any dog, but specifically a foster dog. Do not allow children to behave with the foster dog in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling. Teach children to leave a dog alone when he is eating, chewing and sleeping. Never allow a child to removed 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.

Do NOT play tug of war or wrestle with your foster dog. If you have a shy or fearful dog, do not throw the toy toward the dog, because he may think you are throwing things at him and become more fearful. After you have finished playing with a toy, put it away. You are controlling the toy and the playtime. When giving the dog a toy or treat, have him sit before giving it to him. That way he has to work to get the toy or treat – making the toy a reward.

After your foster dog has settled in and has acclimated to his new home, it is time to get him out into the world. The more you can do this, the better socialized he will be. Get him used to different people and different environments. Start slowly and don't over stimulate as many foster dogs may not have had exposure to what seems like a "normal" environment. When you are out and about, you should remain calm as this will help your foster dog key off of your behavior. But always be aware of your surroundings. Always keep a good handle on your leash and be extremely careful around busy streets, or in parks where there are squirrels or birds or other distractions. If your dog reacts to someone/something on your walk, interrupt the behavior by crossing the street or walk in a different direction.

If you're a runner/jogger, start off slow and keep an eye on your foster dog and see how they react. Many dogs pull when they are in front of you, and running can intensify this behavior. Keeping them at your side, rather than in front can help eliminate this pulling behavior. You may need to stop and start many times, but be patient. Remember, these runs should be about the dog, not your own exercise. Puppies under 6 months old should not run with you and only occasionally, for short distances after 6 months. Also, remember your foster probably is not used to running regularly, and like a person, will have to improve his conditioning and stamina over a period of time to avoid injury.

If you are fostering puppies, make sure they have lots of new experiences, so they are well socialized and will be adaptable as an adult. Since it is best not to take puppies out in public until they are fully vaccinated, bring new experiences to them. Find out from your Foster Care Coordinator if there are other puppies in foster care and schedule a puppy play date. Expose them to men and children as much as possible. Have friends over and invite children over to play. Always supervise playtime with children and dogs closely! Take your foster puppy in car rides (crate them safely) to get used to the car. Keep in mind that puppies need to go to the bathroom frequently so be sure they eliminate before you go on a car ride, and keep the ride brief, since they will have to go again soon.

NO off-leash parks – No Exceptions

All foster dogs are required to be on leash at all times if outside your secured yard. You are not allowed to bring your foster dog to an off-leash park even if you keep them on a leash as this can create leash aggression. There are no exceptions to this rule. **DO NOT** bring puppies to any public parks. Puppies are not yet fully vaccinated and can pick up viruses, particularly the Parvo virus, through contact with feces and urine in areas where other dogs congregate.

BEHAVIORAL ISSUES

Some foster dogs will have specific needs regarding behavior, training or socializing. The shelter staff and your Foster Care Coordinator will advise you if your foster dog has a behavior problem that may require your help, such as an abused or fearful dog who needs socializing or confidence-building with other dogs and people. A dominant puppy may benefit from an adult dog in your home to "show them the ropes" and appropriate behavior. A dog with an unknown/questionable history may just need to be observed in someone's home before being adopted. Many times it is the foster parent that is the first to learn about a foster dog's specific behavior so constant communication with your Foster Care Coordinator is important.

It's important to recognize that dogs are not humans with fur. Based on DNA evidence, dogs were domesticated from wolves about 15,000 years ago in East Asia. A few basic breed types have evolved gradually during the domestic dog's relationship with humans over the last 10,000 or more years, but all modern breeds are of relatively recent derivation.

Many of the behaviors that we find problematic, such as barking, whining, digging, chewing, scavenging and hunting other animals are really just normal dog behaviors and can be

explained as “dogs truly being dogs”. In many ways, modern or urban dog training is what we do to decrease normal dog behaviors and increase those behaviors we, as city dwelling humans, prefer. But we should keep in mind that these behavioral “problems” are usually only problems to us. And remember that historically these behaviors were usually bred by humans into particular breed of dog. For example, Siberian Huskies and others in Spitz breeds are descendents of sled dogs and typically pull when on a leash. The easiest way to coexist with our canine companions is to provide more appropriate (aka – Human accepted) outlets for these behaviors.

If your foster dog is exhibiting any behavioral issues, ask yourself the questions below:

- Is my foster dog getting enough exercise?
- Is he being left alone for long periods of time?
- Does he have interesting toys to keep his mind engaged and stimulated?
- Is he getting enough attention and playtime?
- Am I reinforcing bad behavior? Some examples include telling a fearful dog that “it’s ok”, verbally scolding a dog when they are seeking attention, etc.
- Does my foster dog have a safe place that is dog-proofed with appropriate chew toys, or am I leaving my own belongings within reach?
- Am I providing specific outlets based on its breed?

Regardless of the issue, we do not recommend punishment as this is rarely effective in resolving behavior problems.

VETERINARY AND MEDICAL CARE

The shelter has basic supplies and medications available during business hours. This includes flea and parasite treatments.

PLEASE NOTE: The shelter has a policy that it **WILL NOT** reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals if you do not receive pre-approval or bring the pet to the on-staff shelter veterinarian. Emergency/nighttime clinics are incredibly expensive and should only be used in cases of dire emergencies and only after pre-approval.

General Guidelines for Seeking Vet Visits

Puppies younger than 12 weeks must see on-staff shelter vet for the following:

- Diarrhea that lasts for more than a day
- Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours
- Vomiting more than once an hour
- Not eating for more than 12-24 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than 12 hours
- Lethargy with fever

Dogs older than 12 weeks must see on-staff shelter vet for the following:

- Diarrhea that lasts for more than 1-2 days
- Diarrhea and occasional vomiting for more than one day
- Vomiting more than 2-3 times in an hour
- Not eating for more than 24 hours
- Lethargy without fever for more than a day
- Lethargy with fever

Your foster dog's vaccination and worming history will be given to you.

ADOPTIONS

All adoptions will be approved and processed by the Grand Strand Humane Society staff.

The following help with foster adoptions is required:

- Provide your contact information for the Grand Strand Humane Society website and Facebook page
- Participate in any Grand Strand Humane Society adoption events
- Work with potential adopters, providing them information on the foster
- Meet the potential adopters at the Grand Strand Humane Society to introduce your foster dog to them. Once they make the decision to adopt turn the adoption over to the shelter staff.

PROMOTING YOUR FOSTER DOG FOR ADOPTION

Even though hundreds of people visit the shelter and the shelter website every week, the more you network your foster dog, the more quickly a forever home will be found.

Here are some simple ways to promote your dog.

- Send an e-mail of photos and a bio to your family, friends and colleagues. Let them know about your foster dog and ask them to help you spread the word and to tell their friends and colleagues.
- Post a flyer of your foster dog at your workplace or put one on your office door.
- Spread the word at your child's school, your place of worship, or other organizations that you belong.
- Record a video of your foster dog or create a slideshow with more photos and have them posted on a Facebook page and website, should you have one, and on Petfinder.
- Blog about your foster dog.
- Post your foster dog on some of the popular free online classified sites and social networking sites. There are even social networking sites especially for dogs.
- Many companies have newsletters, email lists, blogs or intranets where you might be able to post information about your foster dog.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

You have become a member of the Grand Strand Humane Society family. Our shared commitment is to find every adoptable animal a permanent home with a loving family. Together we can honor this commitment to our beloved animals and our community.

Thank you so much,

**Sandy Brown
Executive Director
Grand Strand Humane Society**

general tort liability insurance policy covers the student-not the AGENCY. The UNIVERSITY will provide worker's compensation insurance for job-related injuries that are compensable according to the law; the UNIVERSITY does not make the determination, rather, the insurance provider for the UNIVERSITY determines the claim.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY:

- a. The AGENCY agrees to submit to the UNIVERSITY a written Community Partner Data Form that outlines the duties and responsibilities of the service experience to determine the suitability for student volunteers.
- b. The AGENCY will employ qualified personnel to provide students with adequate orientation, training, and supervision, and evaluation of their duties and responsibilities in a safe workplace.
- c. The AGENCY is solely responsible for the selection of individual volunteers.
- d. The AGENCY agrees to notify the UNIVERSITY of any changes in staffing or in its services that will affect a student's volunteer experience.
- e. The AGENCY will provide the student and the UNIVERSITY with written notifications of any requirements for the student to complete a background investigation, drug test, or physical examination prior to the start of the service experience.
- f. The AGENCY is solely responsible for compliance with all local and state labor laws, as well as the federal anti-discrimination requirements outlined in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Educational of the Educational Amendments of 1972.
- g. The AGENCY is aware that unpaid service for "non-profit" charitable organizations where the student volunteers without expectation of compensation is generally permissible by the US Department of Labor.

Grand Strand Humane Society
Agency/Organization Name

Sandy Brown
Agency/Organization Supervisor Signature

Sandy Brown
Agency/Organization Supervisor Name (print)

10/1/2013
Date

CCU Civic Engagement Supervisor Signature

Jordan O. Smith
CCU Civic Engagement Supervisor Name (print)

Date

Director, Student Activities & Leadership Signature

Director, Student Activities & Leadership Name (print)

Date

Vice-President of Student Affairs Signature

Vice-President of Student Affairs Name (print)

Date