

GUIDELINES FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

By fostering you are saving a dogs life. It can be a very rewarding experience for you as well as your foster dog. It provides time to ensure the dog is healthy, to have them spayed/neutered and to provide some socialization, and find them the perfect owner. We can better place them when we know something about their personalities, their likes and dislikes.

1. Your foster dog becomes your responsibility until placed.

This may be just a short 2 or 3 weeks, or it could be much longer. If a problem develops that cannot be resolved in the foster home, then we all do our best to move the dog as soon as we are able, but it may well be that there are just simply no other foster homes "open" for him/her to go to "immediately".

2. Veterinary Care

Other than spay/neuter and a heartworm test, treatment for all medical problems or illness must be pre-approved the Board. This includes vaccinations, fecals, wormings, blood tests, baths, dentals, etc.. Quite often we have discount arrangements, or simply know the best deal in town.

In an emergency contact any board member as soon as possible.

- *Heartworm tests and treatment:*

Be sure that the dog has been heartworm tested before a spay/neuter is done or the dog is shown as being available for adoption.

- We usually require that 'owner turn-ins' be tested before we take them.
- Shelter dogs should be tested at one of our vets right away

Treatment for heartworms will be determined by the Board. We are not always financially able to treat all the heartworm positive dogs. Do not buy heartworm preventative yourself. We usually have some available.

- *Spay / Neuter appointments*

These will be made at one of the animal hospitals that gives us a discount. Be sure that the dog has been heartworm tested before a spay/neuter is done or before the dog is shown as being available for adoption.

- *Vaccinations*

Dogs must be current on their shots to enter a hospital. If you know, or suspect, that the dog is not current, call Janice Thom - who will give the shots. On this same topic - DO NOT FOSTER UNLESS YOUR OWN DOGS ARE CURRENT ON ALL THEIR VACCINATIONS.

3. Paperwork

Please make sure you complete all paperwork using KCDR's forms AND make copies for our central files. These files are subject to annual inspection by the State of Missouri, and we must be able to 'track' every dog.

- On receiving a dog, there should be a "Release of Dog" or appropriate shelter receipt.
- On adoption there should be an "Adoption Agreement" and "Adoption Application" signed by the new owners. Also a completed "Information From Foster Parents" form must go with each dog.

4. Supervise your foster dog.

By fostering you are saving a dogs life - do not jeopardize it by putting the dog in to a situation it cannot adapt to in the short time that they are with you.

- KCDR cannot be responsible for damages to your possessions or those of others.
- Do not encourage 'rough play' , 'tug'em' games or other dominance building activities. These may be "OK" in *your* home, with *your* dogs and *your* children - but it could scare away a potential adoption. Your foster dogs LIFE could depend on it.
- Exercise caution in your home. Some dogs will not get on with your children, cats, dogs, birds, husband, wife etc.. and the foster dog may have to be kept separate. This does not mean that it not adoptable. Often we do not know the dogs background and its unfair to expect them to 'fit-in' immediately.
- Exercise caution in public. You and your dog are goodwill ambassadors for KCDR - children (and adults) will run up and want to pet and poke him. Be aware of what is happening and how he is reacting. While its probably difficult - it may not be impossible to sue both us and you.
- KCDR has no choice but to euthanise a foster dog that bites. Do not let your foster dog get into a situation that leaves us no choice.