

Canine Foster Care Manual



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[Welcome to Foster Parenting!](#)

Foster parents provide temporary care for kittens, puppies, dogs, cats and sometimes other companion animals. Some may only need a few weeks of care while others may stay with you for a more extended period of time. By providing your time, energy, and home to an animal in need, you are helping to prepare the animal(s) for adoption into a permanent home as well as assisting us mitigate inevitable cases of shelter overcrowding.

The Office of Animal Services' Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) is here to help ensure your enjoyment and success in being a foster parent. MCASAC will provide training, all necessary supplies, and our fully trained staff are just an email away. The staff at MCASAC would like to take this opportunity to thank you for opening up your hearts and home to an animal in need, giving them (and the animal who took his/her space at the shelter) a second chance. We could not do this without you!

About this Manual

Please do not feel overwhelmed! We want your foster experience to be fun for you and your family. This manual on dog and puppy care has been created for your use as a reference during your fostering experience. We realize that you will have a lot of questions along the way and that is okay!

We recommend you take the time early on in your foster journey to become familiar with this manual. Please be sure to refer to the *Foster Policy Manual* for questions regarding policies and procedures, as this manual will focus specifically on dog and puppy care.

We appreciate your attention to this manual as we have limited staff. While we make every effort to respond to all emails in a timely manner, we have a lot of other tasks to perform at the shelter. Please take the time to refer to this manual prior to emailing your questions to staff.

Contact Information

Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center
7315 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD 20855
Phone: 240-773-5900
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices

Hours of Operation

M/T/Th/F	12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	CLOSED

MCASAC is closed for most State Observed Holidays.

Closings due to inclement weather will be announced on the MCASAC Foster/Volunteer Facebook Page as well as the shelter's website.

Email is the preferred method of communication to all non-urgent questions.

Foster Team: fostermcasac@montgomerycountymd.gov

Veterinary Team: FosterVet@mcgov.onmicrosoft.com

All emails are generally answered within 24-hours (48-hours at most). If you do not receive a response, please resubmit your email as it may not have reached us. We appreciate your patience!

Never hesitate to email us should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure to notify us immediately should your foster(s) display any medical or behavioral issues. The earlier we learn of an issue, the better we can work on resolving it.

Please include the following in your email correspondence:

- Your full name
- Your foster's MCASAC name (please do not use any names you may have given the animal(s)) and Animal Identification number (A#)

Emergency Information

What Constitutes an Emergency?

- Labored/open-mouth breathing that is not associated with an upper respiratory infection (URI)
- Animal is unable to walk
- Reopening of spay/neuter/surgical incisions
- Profound lethargy (i.e., animal cannot lift head, unable to move/keeling over)
- Attempting to urinate but unable to (could indicate a blockage)
- Fever exceeding 104° F
- Animal appears to be in severe pain
- Profuse bleeding
- Possible fracture/sudden injury/trauma
- An animal getting into a potentially toxic substance

Non-Emergency:

- URI signs (sneezing, coughing, watery eyes/nose)
- Mild redness/irritation of spay/neuter/surgery incision (place an e-collar on the animal immediately, if you have one)
- General vomiting/bowel or bladder movements
- Partial anorexia (animal is still eating some)
- Complete anorexia (not eating anything) for two consecutive meals

For these and other non-emergencies requiring your foster(s) receive a veterinary examination, please schedule a veterinary appointment via our online appointment scheduler as soon as possible.

Emergencies between the hours of 9:00am and 6:00pm

If you experience an emergency between these hours, please call our Intake Desk at 240-773-5665 or 240-773-5666, and ask to speak to the Foster and Rescue Coordinator or an Animal Care Supervisor. Explain the situation so that staff can direct you to the correct person.

After Hours (6:00pm until 9:00am) Emergencies

After hours emergency vet visits to MEAC are very costly. ***Emergency vet care must be approved by the on-call veterinarian prior to any visit to MEAC.*** If you experience an emergency before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm, please contact the on-call veterinarian at 240-383-5900. You must take the animal(s) to the following emergency clinic:

Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic (MEAC)
11503 Rockville Pike, Suite A
Rockville, MD 20852

General Medical Care & Vaccines

Foster's Responsibilities

If you have veterinary questions or concerns and are unsure if you need to schedule an appointment, please email FosterVet@mcgov.onmicrosoft.com

You are responsible for bringing your foster animal(s) to MCASAC, by appointment, for vaccinations, spay/neuter, and to treat any illness symptoms you may see. You will receive medical records following each visit to the shelter listing due dates for routine follow-up visits. Spay/neuter surgeries are scheduled via email, directly between the Foster and Foster and Rescue Coordinator. Spay/neuter surgeries are scheduled once the animal reaches 1.75 lbs. It is the foster's responsibility to let the Foster and Rescue Coordinator know that their animal has reached the 1.75 mark so that the animal can be added to the surgery schedule on the next available date.

Routinely check your fosters from head to toe to ensure that nothing is visibly wrong with them. You should be keeping a close eye on your foster animal(s) and immediately make an appointment if you notice any symptoms of illness.

If you do not bring your animal(s) back for follow-up care, MCASAC reserves the right to terminate the Foster Contract and have the foster return the animal(s) to the shelter.

Do not use non-prescribed medications or attempt to treat any illness on your own. MCASAC veterinary staff will need to see and treat any medical issues.

Common Symptoms

You should be keeping a close eye on your foster animal(s) and immediately make an appointment or email FosterVet@mcgov.onmicrosoft.com if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Vomiting (more than once)
- Sneezing, runny eyes or nose, coughing (potential signs of upper respirator infections)
- Fever
- Spots of missing hair (a potential sign of ringworm or mange)
- Excessive scratching
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Major behavioral change
- Change in coat (greasy, clumping hair)
- Bloated belly
- Mothers abandoning/avoiding/separating themselves from offspring
- Offspring separating self from mom or siblings

- Ear discharge
- Increased/decreased thirst and/or urination
- Any obvious signs of discomfort
- Dehydration

Vaccinations

Vaccinations at MCASAC begin when the animal is 4 weeks old and weighs at least one pound. All adult animals are vaccinated upon intake, but additional vaccines may be required. The vaccination schedule for any animal may be delayed due to a medical reason (e.g. fever, is on some type of medication, etc.). You will receive automated emails reminding you of vaccination due dates.

Of note:

- Boosters vaccines cannot be given even one day early.
- Not all parasites are treated with the basic de-wormer. Please schedule a vet visit if you see anything suspicious such as worms or soft stool.
- Do not permit more than 3 weeks to lapse from the due date of a vaccination as it will render the vaccine less effective.
- Litters of puppies may NOT be combined without the consent of MCASAC veterinary staff.

Keeping Track

It is good to have all your documents in one place for each animal you are fostering. Keeping track of vet visits, vaccinations, and medications can seem like a lot but organization is key!

Keep track of due dates for vaccines needed by reviewing the copy of medical records you received at pick up. Although you will receive automated vaccine reminders, it is always a good idea to keep track in the case of an error.

It is also expected that you keep an accurate record of their weights. If your foster animal is losing weight, please schedule a veterinary examination immediately.

Foster Vaccination/Treatment Schedule

Age	Treatment	Frequency
2-4 weeks	De-worm: Pyrantel Pamoate (1 mL/10 lbs)	Repeat every 2 weeks until 8 weeks' old
4 – 16 weeks	Distemper Combo (distemper, adenovirus type 2, parvovirus, parainfluenza)	Booster every 2-3 weeks until 16 weeks' old. Administer single booster in 1 year.
16 + weeks	Distemper Combo (distemper, adenovirus type 2, parvovirus, parainfluenza)	Booster 2-3 weeks and then again in 1 year
4 + weeks	Bordetella/Parainfluenza	Booster annually
8 + weeks	Advantage Multi	Monthly
12 weeks/3 lbs	Rabies Vaccine	Repeat in 1 year, then booster every 1-3 years
6 + months	Heartworm Test	Re-test annually

Spay/Neuter Information

Spay and neuters should be scheduled as soon as the animal is of age and weight and in good health.

Puppies: 8 weeks, 1.75+ pounds (must be both)

Nursing Moms: shortly after their offspring have been weaned.

****Make sure animals just reaching 1.75 pounds are of weight at the time of surgery, as their weights can fluctuate around the 6-week mark. ****

For instructions on scheduling your foster animal(s) spay or neuter, please review the Foster Policy Manual.

Post-Surgery Information and Protocols

For the safety and well-being of your foster pet(s), please abide by the following post-operative care instructions:

Anesthesia and Surgery

Your foster may still be under the effects of anesthesia when you pick them up. You may notice dilated pupils, decreased energy and appetite, an unsteady gait, and/or moodiness. These are all normal reactions for an animal coming out of anesthesia and up to 24 hours post-surgery. If any of these signs last longer than 24 hours, please schedule a veterinary exam or email FosterVet@mcgov.onmicrosoft.com

Be sure to monitor your foster(s) for any of the following signs of abnormal recovery from anesthesia/surgery:

- Bleeding
- Lethargy, weakness, and/or wobbly gait lasting greater than 24 hours
- Decreased appetite/water intake lasting greater than 24 hours
- Shivering
- Increased or decreased body temperature (cool or warm to the touch)
- Pale gums
- Rapid breathing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Food and Water

It is considered normal for your foster animal to have a decreased appetite/water intake for up to 24 hours following surgery. Please feed your foster(s) half of their normal serving of food and water when you return home with them the evening of the surgery. You can resume their normal feeding regimen the day following surgery.

If your foster vomits after eating on the night of surgery, remove their food and only permit them access to a small amount of water overnight. Return to offering a small amount of food the following morning. If the vomiting continues, schedule a veterinary appointment.

Pain Medication

Your foster may have been given a long-acting pain medication in conjunction with the spay/neuter surgery. Do not give human medication to your foster. It is dangerous and can be fatal. If you were given medication to administer to the animal at home, please give as directed.

Surgery Site

MCASAC generally uses dissolvable sutures, which do not require follow-up suture removal (unless otherwise stated). Keep the incision clean and dry for at least 7 days. Keep your foster from licking the incision and avoid swimming, bathing, or cleaning the incision during this time. If any post-surgical licking of the incision is observed while the animal is still at the shelter, an e-collar may be placed and sent home with the animal(s). This is uncommon, so your foster will most likely go home without an e-collar. If you notice your foster licking the incision, immediately place an e-collar on the animal, if available, and continue to monitor for signs of infection. If you do not have an e-collar, please come to the shelter and a staff member will provide you with one. Be sure to check the incision site daily. What you see when you pick up the animal is considered normal. Mild redness and swelling of the incision site is normal and may last for up to 2 weeks. In female animals, some bubbling under the skin is normal.

Jumping and Playing

Try to keep your foster's activity to a minimum for 7-14 days by discouraging running, jumping, and rough play. Too much activity can cause the incision to open or become swollen.

Nutrition

When you come to pick-up your foster(s), a shelter staff member will provide you with food for your new house guest! Unless you are told otherwise, foster dogs old enough to consume solid food should be fed Purina Pro Plan Savor brand food, the same brand fed to our in-house population. Bottle-fed puppies will go home with Esbilac (Puppy Milk Replacer). Special dietary requirements will be communicated to foster parents ahead of time and/or at the time of pick-up.

It is important to know if the animal(s) is eating adequately, especially with litters. Watch after food is given to make sure each animal is eating a sufficient amount and not being pushed aside by littermates. If this does happen, try feeding them separately so you can make sure each is getting enough.

Create a consistent feeding schedule. Feed at the same times each day and provide a comfortable space for your foster(s) to eat. Make sure to avoid overfeeding your foster(s); just like humans, it is easy to put the pounds on, but not take them off. For animals needing to go on a diet, please consult with Foster staff. For emaciated animals, it is recommended to feed them 3+ small meals per day of the allotted amount per their current weight. This allows their body to become re-accustomed to the nutrients being provided. Overfeeding can cause bloat and other serious medical issues.

MCASAC feeds dogs twice daily, unless otherwise noted. Please refrain from giving any rawhide – acceptable chew treats include bully sticks, antlers, and natural bones. Remember to remove them once they are small enough to pose a choking hazard and to never have treats or food out with your foster(s) and resident pet(s) at the same time. Small puppies learning to eat on their own should have canned food 3-4+ times a day.

Feeding Charts

Feeding charts are provided to ensure dogs are getting the appropriate amount of food based on size. Instructions for dogs with special dietary requirements (prescription food, feeding regimens, etc.) will be provided before sending the dog into foster.

A small amount (1-2tbsp) of wet food can be mixed with the dry food to encourage eating.

Please monitor your foster(s) to ensure they are eating and notify a foster staff member with any concerns.

Adult Dogs Regular Diet

AM Feeding		PM Feeding	
WEIGHT	QUANTITY	WEIGHT	QUANTITY
5 lbs and under	½ Cup	5 lbs and under	¼ Cup
15 lbs	1 Cup	15 lbs	½ Cup
25 lbs	1 ½ Cups	25 lbs	½ Cup
35 lbs	2 Cups	35 lbs	½-2/3 Cup
55 lbs	3 Cups	55 lbs	1- 1 1/2 Cup
75 lbs +	4 Cups	75 lbs +	1-2 Cups

Puppies- One 13oz can of food is equal to 1 cup of dry. Amount of food will vary based on the estimated size at maturity.

5 weeks to 7 weeks	Canned puppy food, start offering small amounts of dry kibble. Divide one can up into 3 feedings per day
7 weeks to 3 months	Transition to dry kibble (small amount of wet may be mixed in) Divide into 3 feedings
3-6 months	Feed three times a day (2-3 cups divided into three meals depending on puppy size)
6+ months	Feed twice a day. 2-3 cups depending on puppy size. Transition to adult food at 1 year

Adult Dogs Prescription Diets- total amount per day (split into two meals)

Weight	C/D	D/D	K/D	I/D	U/D	W/D	Z/D
5lbs	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup	½ cup
10lbs	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 cup	1 ¼ cup	1 cup
15lbs	1 ¼ cups	1 ¼ cups	1 cup	1 ¼ cup	1 cup	1 ½ cups	1 1/3 cup
20lbs	1 ½ cups	1 2/3 cup	1 ½ cup	1 2/3 cup	1 ½ cup	2 cups	1 2/3 cup
30lbs	2 cups	2 ¼ cups	2 cups	2 ¼ cups	2 cups	2 ¾ cups	2 ¼ cups
40lbs	2 2/3 cups	2 2/3 cups	2 ½ cups	2 2/3 cup	2 ½ cups	3 1/3 cups	2 ¾ cups
50lbs	3 cups	3 1/4 cups	3 cups	3 ¼ cups	3 cups	4 cups	3 ¼ cups
60lbs	3 ½ cups	3 2/3 cups	3 1/3 cups	3 2/3 cups	3 1/3 cups	4 ½ cups	3 ¾ cups
70lbs	4 cups	4 cups	3 ¾ cups	4 cups	3 ¾ cups	5 ¼ cups	4 ¼ cups
80lbs	4 1/3 cups	4 ½ cups	4 cups	4 ½ cups	4 ¼ cups	5 2/3 cups	4 2/3 cups
90lbs	4 ½ cups	5 cups	4 ½ cups	5 cups	4 ½ cups	6 cups	4 2/3 cups
100lbs	5 ¼ cups	5 1/3 cups	4 ¾ cups	5 1/3 cups	5 cups	6 ¾ cups	5 cups

Neonatal Through Weaned Puppy Care

Puppies are helpless and vulnerable during their first two weeks of life. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision is still not fully developed, and they are unable to thermoregulate. They should therefore be kept confined to a nursery area. Puppies should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets. Puppies are unable to urinate or defecate on their own during their first 1-3 weeks of life and require stimulation in the absence of their mother. Gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the puppy's anogenital area before and after feeding. Keeping puppies clean from food and feces is essential to their health. If you notice food, urine, or feces on your puppy, gently wipe them down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry your puppy well afterwards so they do not become cold!

Feeding

MCASAC will provide you with a Puppy Milk Replacer called Esbilac. Never give a puppy anything other than this formula (NO COW'S MILK!). The powder formula must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions: one-part power into two parts warm water. You can dilute the formula a little more for the first few feedings to help your puppy get accustomed to the food and minimize the chance of diarrhea. Any reconstituted powder formula can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

Computing the Formula

Puppies will generally eat about 1 oz (30 mLs) of formula for every 8 oz (1/2 lb) of body weight in a 24-hour period. Refer to the table below to divide the total amount of formula needed in a 24-hour period into the # of feedings.

Age in Weeks	Number of Feedings
1	8
2	5
3	4
4	4

For example: A 1-week old puppy that weighs ½ pound (8 oz) will eat 30 mls of formula in 24 hours. 30 mls of formula ÷ 8 feedings = about 4 mls of formula per feeding

Bottle Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles!
- Feed puppies one at a time. Place them on a countertop and allow them to feed with four paws on the counter and with a level head. This simulates how they would nurse from a mom.
- Never feed a puppy on its back. This can cause the formula to go down the wrong way and aspirate into its lungs.
- Gently open the puppy's mouth with your finger and place the nipple on the tongue.
- Gently stroking the puppy can help encourage them to eat.
- Pull lightly on the bottle. This promotes strong sucking.
- Tilt the bottle up slightly. This prevents the puppy from inhaling too much air.
- Do not squeeze the bottle to force formula into the puppy's mouth. This can cause formula to move into the lungs.
- After feeding, gently burp your puppy by massaging its back.
- Be sure to stimulate the puppy to eliminate before and after feeding.
- Fill out the Daily Weight and Feeding Record.

Additional Feeding Considerations

The digestive systems of puppies are fragile. Only feed them the food provided by the Foster Coordinator or Shelter Staff. If puppies are fighting over food, start to feed them separately and let the Foster Coordinator know. Never take food away from a puppy that is growling. Simply remove the other puppies and wait for the food bowl to be unattended.

Transitioning to Solid Foods (Weaning)

Weaning should begin when the puppy reaches 4-5 weeks old and should be a gradual process. You will want to start the transition to solid foods by offering your puppy a slurry (mix of canned food and formula) in a shallow dish. Place the puppy next to the dish and they should start to eat; it may take a few tries for the puppy to understand. After they have accepted the slurry, gradually thicken it by adding less and less formula. You may also start to offer dry food on a free-feeding basis.

Basic Training Tips and Tricks

Mouthing

Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite (also called bite inhibition). Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing. As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouths with too much force, yelp loudly. If the puppy stops biting, then praise him/her lavishly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds or so, resume play happily.

Housetraining

We always want to set our puppies up for success and doing so in the housetraining process is essential! Puppies should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 30 – 60 minutes when active (when waking up from a nap, after drinking or eating, and after a play session). A puppy can hold his/her bladder one hour for each month of age (i.e.: 2 months = 2 hours, 3 months = 3 hours).

Five steps to successful house training:

1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

Pee Pads

For Puppies Five Weeks and under: place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and about once an hour. Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he/she urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently, as puppies tend to chew on pee pads.

Crate Training

House training and crate training go hand in hand. A crate can be a great tool to use for your puppy, but it can also be misused. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and stretch out; we will make sure you go home with the correct size, but your puppy may grow. Please let us know if you need a larger crate. Your foster puppy/dog should have a short-term confinement area, such as the crate, and a long-term confinement area, such as an x-pen or baby gated section of the house or room. If you are beginning to crate train, feed your puppy in the crate, provide stuffed chew toys only in the crate, and/or play crate games to build a positive association with the crate. Keep sessions short and fun, and have your puppy in

the crate for short periods of time when you are home. Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog. After your dog eliminates plan an extra few minutes to play with your puppy. Dogs quickly learn to hold their bladder if they immediately go inside after they relieve themselves.

Socialization

From 3 weeks to 3 months, puppies are biologically primed to learn that new sights, sounds, smells, objects, environments, and people are fun and safe. This is the most crucial and sensitive period in a puppy's life. Socialization is not simply exposing a puppy to a variety of people, places, and things, but using positive proactive socialization training. Each new person the puppy meets should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your puppy seems fearful of the new person, place, or thing.

Positive Reinforcement-Based Training

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your animal. The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center only promotes positive reinforcement training methods. Decades of research and scientific study concludes that positive reinforcement training is the most humane and effective method of training. Positive reinforcement training uses praise and/or treats as a reward for your puppy/dog doing something that you want them to do. When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive outcome, that behavior is strengthened. Because the reward makes the puppy/dog more likely to repeat the behavior, positive reinforcement is one of your most powerful tools for shaping or changing your dog's behavior.

Walking your Foster Dog – Safety First!

Before the Outing/Walk

- Make sure that you have the appropriate supplies. These include: a cell phone, poop bags, a bottle of water, a collapsible bowl, and a list of emergency numbers.
- Make sure that the dog is properly fitted with a collar. If needed, a harness can be used in addition to the collar.
- The dog should have a leash properly attached to their collar, or harness. Check to be sure that all equipment is fastened, and that no equipment is frayed, worn or has stitching coming out. Flexi / retractable leashes should not be used.
- Do not wrap the leash around your hand. It would be terrible for a dog to get loose, but much worse if the dog drug you, the handler, into a dangerous traffic situation. If you feel that a dog is pulling you off your feet or that you are at risk of losing control of the dog, please contact a shelter staff member immediately for further advice.

During the Outing/Walk

- Be aware of other dogs, bicyclists, runners and walkers that might cross your path and give them the right of way. Keep your distance from other animals.
- Be visible! Wear bright colors so that you can be easily seen by oncoming traffic.
- Cross safely. Look both ways when you cross traffic and remember that the prey drive of any dog can kick in at any time. Be aware of your surroundings and do not let the dog walk far in front of you or far behind you.
- Do not use headphones or talk on a cell phone while walking the dog. Use all of your senses to ensure that you, those around you, and the dog remain safe.
- Pay attention to the dog's respiration rate and overall appearance and attitude.
- If you notice the dog acting strangely or you find yourself in a dangerous situation, please follow the instructions outlined in the Foster Animal Emergency Protocol. If there is an emergency, such as a person being bitten, call 301-279-8000 or 911 for assistance.

Additional Tips

- Use distance or distraction with small training treats to reduce aroused behavior.
- Keep two hands on leash for best control
- Let faster traffic pass on left, keep slower traffic on your right.
- Reward & praise the dog for calm behavior, easy walking or jogging, and sitting for greetings.
- Have fun!

Crate Training

Introducing the Crate- courtesy of Seattle Animal Shelter

- Place the 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's 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, 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 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.

[Leash Pulling Training Techniques](#)

(From Positively.com- Victoria Stilwell Foundation)

The Stop and Be Still Technique

Leash pulling is often successful for the dog because the person inadvertently reinforces the pulling by allowing the dog to get to where he wants to go when he pulls. But you can change this picture by changing the consequence for your dog.

Whenever he pulls, immediately stop and stand completely still until the leash relaxes because your dog either takes a step back or turns around to give you focus. When the leash is nicely relaxed, proceed on your walk. Repeat this as necessary.

The Reverse Direction Technique

When your dog pulls, issue a 'let's go' cue, turn away from him, and walk off in the other direction without jerking on the leash.

You can avoid yanking by motivating your dog to follow you with an excited voice to get his attention. When he is following you and the leash is relaxed, turn back and continue on your way.

It may take a few turns, but your vocal cues and body language will make it clear that pulling will not be reinforced with forward movement, whereas walking calmly by your side or even slightly in front of you on a loose leash will allow your dog to get to where he wants to go.

You can also reinforce your dog's decision to walk close to you by giving him a motivating reward when he is by your side.

Vary the Picture

Once your dog is listening to you, you can vary the picture even more by becoming unpredictable yourself. This requires your dog to listen to you at all times, because he never knows when you might turn or where you are going to go next.

Instead of turning away from him when you give the 'let's go' cue, reverse direction by turning toward him. You can turn in a circle or do a figure eight. Any of these variations will get your dog's attention.

Do not forget to praise him for complying, because the better you make him feel when he is walking close to you, the more he will choose to do so.

What Not to Do:

Do not yank your dog around. While it might be tempting to use your dog's leash to correct him, rely more on teaching him what to do than correcting him all the time.

[Additional Information Sources](#)

There are a lot of great resources that can be found online that can help you learn more about canine behaviors and body language, which are very important for understanding what your foster dog may be trying to tell you.

ASPCAPro Canine Communication Webinars

<https://www.aspcapro.org/training/webinar/speaking-dog-canine-communication-1-3>

ASPCAPro Canine Behavior: Dog Introductions Webinar

<https://www.aspcapro.org/webinar/20120712/canine-behavior-dog-introductions>

www.positively.com Positive Reinforcement training tips from Victoria Stilwell

We also recommend you review how kids should (and should not) interact with dogs:

<https://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/kids-and-dogs-how-kids-should-and-should-not-interact-with-dogs/>