# Dog Foster Program Guide

***Thank you for joining us in saving lives!*** *This is a basic reference guide about our dog foster program from start to finish.*

We know this is a stressful time! Please give everyone the benefit of the doubt and try to keep a calm, professional, and positive attitude, as our clinic is handling a high volume of pet care.

**All adults and resident dogs in the home must meet the potential foster dog** before we can place them into your care.

---

## COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT: We're Here for You!

**Dog Foster Availability Form:** In order to help us match you with an appropriate dog, please fill out our Dog Foster Interest Survey when you're available to foster a dog (see resource page).

**Facebook Group:** Philly PAWS Fosters - Sign up to get answers to lots of common questions! Check out the FILES tab and announcements at the top of the page for additional useful information.

**Foster Resources**: phillypaws.org/foster-resources - your one-stop shop for all your foster needs, whether you need a blank adoption contract, a surgery form, or tips on pet care or behavioral issues!

**Foster Vaccine Appointments:** Request via Vaccine Appt Form

**Medication & Prescription Diet Refill Requests:** Email foster@phillypaws.org with 2+ days' notice.

**Supplies:** We can lend you an assortment of enrichment items, toys, crates, leashes, collars, and bedding! We can also provide you with food, including a large bag of Hill's Science Diet dry food. Please email us to let us know what supplies you may need so that we have some time to prepare them.

**Foster Walk-in Vet Clinic Hours:**
Mon-Fri: 9:30-11:00 am; Sat-Sun 9:30-12:00 pm

**Foster Office & Clinic Location**:
2900 Grays Ferry Ave. Phila PA 19146

**Foster Office Hours:**
9am-5pm every day (foster pick-up by appt only)

**Foster Office Number:** 215-298-9680 ext. 16
*The fastest way to contact us is by email!*

**Table of Contents:**


- **Role & Responsibilities:** see page 2
- **Dog Care Tips:** see page 3
- **Medical Care:** see pages 4, 5, & 6
- **Adoption Process:** see page 7
- **Foster Agreement Reminders:** see page 8


| | |
|---|---|
| **Foster Email:** foster@phillypaws.org<br>- *Email is the best way to reach us!*<br>- Use subject line: "URGENT" for urgent medical issues<br>- Use subject line: "Time Sensitive" for timely issues | **Emergency Phone:** *for true* emergencies only!<br>- Emergency phone: 215-650-7281<br>- Before calling, ask yourself, "If this pet were a person, would I call 911?"<br>- See more about emergencies on page 4<br>- For active fosters only! |

## Your Important ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES as a Foster Parent!

*Fostering is a rewarding experience, and we're so thankful for your help! It can also be a lot of hard work.* ***As a foster parent, you are committing to:***

- **Caring** for your foster pet - including providing food, water, shelter, socialization, walks, enrichment, grooming, basic behavior management & training, and, when necessary, medicating.
- **Transporting** your foster to the clinic for medical care to ensure that your foster is up-to-date on vaccines and all medical treatments needed.
- **Promoting** your foster pet for adoption to find them a loving home in a timely manner. ***Plan to submit photos and a personality bio for your foster dog as soon as they're cleared for adoption.***
- **Communicating is crucial for a successful foster process!** The expectation is that you will be in touch with foster staff with progress updates (including medical or behavioral concerns, personality info, and happy updates) and you will reply to emails/calls within 48-72 hours, if not sooner.
- **Using your pet's "A#" when corresponding with PAWS** to streamline things & eliminate confusion.
- **Monitor the dog's health** by ensuring they are eating, drinking, urinating, defecating, and maintaining a normal energy level. Keep a close eye out for signs of contagious diseases like kennel cough and parasites.
- **Ensuring all medical and behavioral issues have been addressed and disclosed** to both our team and the adopter, before the adoption is finalized!

---

## IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS!

*Keep in mind that* ***PAWS is liable for your foster pet*** *while they are in your care. These rules are in place to keep you, our dogs, and the public safe. They are enforced for all foster dogs regardless of temperament!*

- Foster dogs should remain **on leash** at all times when outside of your home.
- Do not under any circumstances take your foster dog to a **dog park.**
- **Do not introduce your foster dog to any other dogs** without written permission from PAWS staff. If there's a familiar dog you would like to introduce to your foster dog, please contact PAWS Foster Team first. **Keep foster dogs at least 4 feet from unfamiliar dogs at all times.**
- Do not take your foster dog to **high-traffic areas** like outdoor restaurants, markets, or crowded gatherings unless given written permission from PAWS staff.
- Do not have a **large gathering at your home,** and allow your foster dog to interact with guests unless given written permission from PAWS staff.
- Please let our team know if you plan to hire a **dog walker**.
- Talk to the foster team before introducing your foster dog to any young **children**!
- **Pet-sitting, Traveling, or Transferring:** Your foster dog is **your** responsibility and should remain in your care in the home listed on your application. Keep the PAWS Foster Team in the loop at all times and if you need a sitter or a transfer to a new foster, please give plenty of notice, post to the Facebook page, and ask family/friends if they can help. ***Do not travel with your foster, give your foster to someone else, or have someone else care for your foster dog without the approval from PAWS first!***

**Bites:** If your foster dog bites you, another person, or a pet, please report it via email to the foster office immediately. If the bite breaks skin, a report will be filed. If the bite is serious and requires urgent medical attention, or if you have concerns for your safety, contact the emergency phone. If this incident involves a stranger or a stranger's pet, please get their contact info so that PAWS staff can get in touch with them.

## IMPORTANT DOG CARE TIPS!

**Food & Water:** In-house dogs are given Hill's Science Diet kibble - any transition to a different food should be done slowly to avoid an upset stomach or diarrhea. We will give you a small bag of their in-house food during placement, but fosters are responsible for providing dog food beyond that. Provide access to fresh water.

**Treats:** Treats are welcome; ***avoid table scraps please!*** Finding a type/flavor of treat that a dog likes or considers "high value" is crucial when working on training and behavior modification. For pickier dogs, the tastier option, the better - small pieces of hot dog, lunch meat, or cheese are appropriate options if traditional dog treats don't cut it!

**Toys & enrichment:** Be mindful of the type of toys & enrichment you are giving your foster dog; they should not be unsupervised with items that have pieces that can be ripped apart and ingested, which could cause a medical emergency. Kongs, bully sticks, lick-mats, food puzzles, and snuffle mats are great starter enrichment activities to try to help keep your foster busy, and allow them to work their brains and engage in instinctual behaviors like licking, chewing, and sniffing!

**Walking equipment:** Foster dogs should not be walked on retractable leashes or aversive equipment like prong, choke, or shock collars. For dogs who pull on leash, we can supply you with a Freedom No-Pull harness or another appropriate harness.

**Training:** We have a certified dog trainer on staff and encourage you to reach out for additional behavior support to help with behavior challenges and to set your foster dog up for success! Support is offered over email, video, and/or in-person!

---

***Allow for Time to Adjust & Decompress:*** For most foster dogs, this is a stressful time. The transition from their life before, to the shelter, to your home can be very overwhelming (called **transitional stress**), so try your best to be patient while your foster adjusts to you and your home and decompresses. To help start off on the right foot:

- Establish a consistent routine! Help them learn when to expect potty breaks, meals, walks, quiet time, etc!
- Minimize the number of new people and places you are introducing your foster dog to for the first few days or weeks, depending on the dog.
- Maintain a slow, mindful, and attentive approach in your interactions. Remember, you are still getting to know each other!

---

***Interactions with Other Pets***

**Resident Pets:** Do not leave your foster dog unattended with your pet at any point for at least the first week, even if they have had a successful initial introduction. Baby gates are a useful tool for creating separation while both parties are adjusting to each other. Leaving your foster dog's leash on while inside during the decompression period can help with management or to interrupt an interaction if needed.

- **Cats:** Introductions with resident cats should be done SLOWLY, over a number of days; Cat and dog relationships take time! You can start with sniffing through a closed door, then allowing a visual through a barrier, and graduating to an **on-leash** greeting. Through each step of this process, monitor both the cat's and dog's body language and facial expression. In dogs, we are looking for loose, soft, or wiggly body language to indicate that it's okay to proceed.

- **Dogs**: Closely monitor fosters and resident dogs in the presence of toys, food, and other high-value items; Even if your dog or your foster dog has no history of resource guarding, stress can be a catalyst for conflict in otherwise sociable dogs. It's always safest to feed in separate spaces!

**Unfamiliar animals:** Your foster dog should not be meeting other animals outside of your household pets unless given consent by staff. A meet and greet with a social dog that you know may be okay - be sure to ask the foster office first to ensure this is done safely. **A walk-along meet in a neutral, low-traffic, outdoor area is a great way to introduce dogs.**

## MEDICAL CARE: Routine Care, Vet Clinic, & Behavior Meds

*When you arrive, check in at the front desk at Grays Ferry and be sure to fill out the appropriate forms completely and accurately. If you have any questions, please try to email the foster office BEFORE you come in.*

**Medical History Card & Med Sheet:** Each time you bring home a new foster pets, we will review and send you home with their medical records. Read them over, noting their name, A#, gender, age, weight, and medical info, including upcoming care and due dates. If you need updated records, please email foster@phillypaws.org.

**Behavior Medications:** While in shelter, adjusting to a foster home, or transitioning to an adoptive home, it is not uncommon for a dog to need the help of medication to manage their anxiety or stress. If prescribed a behavior medication, it is important that you follow their dosing and treatment plan closely, and **do not discontinue any medication without the explicit instruction of PAWS staff**; These decisions are made as a team!

---

### ***Veterinary Care for PAWS Foster Pets***

**Foster Walk-In Vet Clinic aka FWI**, is staffed by our Veterinarian for exams, including illness, injury, urgent medical issues, and vet-requested rechecks. FWI is for things such as upper respiratory infections (URI), eye infections, ongoing bowel issues, skin issues, inappetence, dehydration, and vomiting. *FWI is not for vaccines only.*

**Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-11:00am, Sat-Sun 9:30am-12:00pm** (except holidays).
**FWI Google Form** (phillypaws.org/fwi): Fill out before arriving
and include all concerns, observations, and reasons for the visit.

- **Closures/changes** occasionally happen due to short staffing & emergencies. They are announced on the Facebook page and via email.
- **Please note there will be a wait**. Clinic is first come first serve. We appreciate your patience!
- If your foster dog is having bowel-related issues, **please bring a fresh fecal sample** with you when you come to foster walk-in or drop off the sample anytime between 9am-4:30pm.
- If you're coming to FWI for a medical issue, vaccines or other routine care can be given if due.
- Unless it's a true emergency, all health concerns will be seen during our FWI hours.
- Please do NOT bring your foster pet to FWI clinic for a general wellness check unless directed by staff.

---

### ***Vaccine Booster Schedule & Other Routine Treatments***

**Foster Vaccine Appointments** staffed by our Vet Techs for routine care, including vaccine boosters, dewormer, monthly flea treatment, and FIV/FeLV testing, should be requested via the **Foster Vaccine Appt Request Form.**

- **Adult dog (4 months+) vaccines:** Upon entering foster care, all adult dogs will be up to date on Rabies, Bordetella, and Distemper (DHPP) vaccines**.**
  - One **lepto vaccine** will be given at intake, and must be boostered **2 weeks** after the initial vaccine.
  - Some dogs will be given a combo Distemper & Lepto vaccine (DHLPP), which must be boostered 2 weeks after the initial vaccine - check your foster dog's medical records to see which they received.

- **Puppy (Under 4 months) vaccines:** Puppies under 4 months who are not fully vaccinated should not be taken on neighborhood walks or interact with dogs with unknown vaccine status.
  - **DHPP:** First given at 4 weeks, booster every 2-4 weeks until 18-20 weeks of age. Then booster yearly.
  - **Lepto:** First given at 8 weeks, one-time booster 2 weeks after initial vaccine. Then booster yearly.
  - **Bordetella:** First given at 8 weeks. Then booster yearly.
  - **Rabies:** First given at 12 weeks. Then booster yearly.

**Fleas treatment:** Any dog is susceptible to fleas if not kept up to date on regular treatment. Fleas can cause anemia and can infest your home, which we want to prevent. Thankfully, they're easy to prevent with monthly topical flea treatment, which all PAWS dogs are given when they arrive, unless they've already received it. They should continue receiving it monthly while in foster care. Please make note of the date flea treatment was first administered to ensure they stay up to date! Flea treatment can be picked up any day 9am-4:30pm. *DO NOT apply flea treatments that have not been approved by PAWS.*

## MEDICAL CARE: Emergencies, Surgeries, & Diagnostics

***TRUE EMERGENCIES ONLY:*** Before calling, ask yourself if this pet were a person, would I call 911?

- **If the answer is no, email foster@phillypaws.org, with "URGENT" in the subject line** and plan to come to FWI Clinic the next day! Contact us as early in the day as possible!
  - If the pet is still eating, drinking, and active as usual, you can email.
  - Email for loss of appetite/thirst for more than 24 hours, diarrhea, vomiting, or dehydration

- **Symptoms of a true emergency and call PAWS Foster Emergency Phone: 215-650-7281**
  - Labored, shallow, or crackling breathing, excessive panting, or incessant coughing/wheezing; not breathing, pale or blue-ish gums
  - Vomiting of blood or bile repeatedly
  - Seizures, uneven pupil dilation, fainting, or unconsciousness
  - Trauma: hit by car, dropped, stepped on, or bleeding that doesn't stop with pressure applied
  - Ingestion of toxins, foreign objects, and poisonous plants (including rodent poison, chocolate, grapes/raisins, human meds, overdosing of dog meds, antifreeze, insecticides, bones, string, pieces or entire toys, plus more).
  - *For puppies, please call immediately for:*
    - Pale gums, lethargy, weakness, limpness, or difficulty waking up
    - Cold/cool to the touch (ensure they are on a heat source)
    - Symptoms of parvo (puppies): a combination of diarrhea, vomiting, weakness/lethargy, fever, loss of appetite/thirst

---

***Scheduling Surgeries & Diagnostics:***

**Spay/Neuter Surgery Appointment:** When your foster is **healthy and not on any medication**, they are eligible for their spay/neuter surgery at either location (Grays Ferry or Grant Ave). We will let you know when your foster dog is eligible, and will help you set that up. Fill out the digital Surgery Consent Form before the day of surgery. Check off any additional services needed, such as vaccines, microchip, flea treatment, deworming, nail trims, etc.

**Speciality Surgery Appointment** (enucleations, leg amputations, mass removals, dentals): If you are informed that your foster needs special surgery, we will let you know when your foster dog is eligible. Fill out the digital Surgery Consent Form before the day of surgery.

**Diagnostics aka "All-Day Drop Off" Appointment** (for sedated X-rays, etc): If you are informed that your foster needs a diagnostics, we will let you know. For diagnostics, please fill out the Drop-off Form.

**Preparing for Appointment:**

- **Drop off**: 8-9am at the Grays Ferry clinic's front lobby. **Pick up:** 4pm at the front lobby.
- **Feeding:** No food after 10pm the night before, but water is okay
- **Post Op Care:** Your foster dog may seem "drunk" or not themselves the first night. Give them a quiet, safe place to recover, and it will wear off! Exercise restriction for 7-10 days. Avoid running, jumping, playing, or bathing. Check the incision twice daily for signs of swelling, discharge, redness, or coming apart. For dogs, an E-collar is REQUIRED for 10-14 days to prevent licking of the incision, as licking is the #1 cause of infection and opening of wounds.

---

**Private Vet Care:** If you decide to take your foster pet to a private vet without prior approval from PAWS, you will be responsible for any expenses incurred. Please send the vet records immediately after the visit so we can keep our records up-to-date. If your foster develops a condition that requires more care than PAWS can provide AND you are not able to provide private vet care, our team will work to come up with a solution or determine if humane euthanasia is the appropriate option.

## MEDICAL CARE: Common Medical Issues

*While many medical issues are diagnosed before going into foster care, we rely on foster parents to monitor for medical issues that pop up and report them to our team ASAP. Dogs with medical issues heal more quickly in less stressful environments like foster homes, and they are sent home with treatment!*

**Ringworm:** Round, bumpy, red, crusty hair loss most typically on the tail, ears, face, or feet. If your foster dog has Ringworm, we will help you through it! See our Ringworm Foster Guide for more info.

- First, come to FWI so the vet can examine the dog. If they suspect Ringworm, they'll take a culture.
- Sign up for future ringworm cultures, lime sulfur dips, ringworm medication refills, and booster vaccines using the Ringworm Appointment Request Form on the resource page.
- If the dog is confirmed to have ringworm, they must have 2 negative cultures taken 7 days apart to be considered cleared, and before being scheduled for surgery. A culture takes up to 14 days for results.

**Skin Issues:** Skin issues are common in dogs and can be treated by our medical staff. Ongoing skin issues may be caused by allergies to the environment or food.

**Parvovirus:** Parvo is a serious and contagious virus for dogs, especially puppies. Symptoms could also be many other things, but it's best to come to Foster Walk-In Vet Clinic hours asap if they have a combination of loss of appetite, diarrhea (often with blood), vomiting, lethargy, and dehydration. The DHP**P** vaccine includes Parvo.

**Diarrhea:** True diarrhea is watery. Generally, loose, unformed stool may be due to stress, a change of diet, antibiotics, or a minor parasitic infection. Common internal parasites are roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms (look like rice). You can email us a photo, drop off a fecal sample, and add a spoonful of plain canned pumpkin to food or cook a bland diet of rice & chicken to help soothe the intestinal tract.

**Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) or "Kennel Cough":** eye or nasal discharge, congestion, lethargy, sneezing (we will not start treatment for sneezing alone). Plan to come to FWI hours, but temp URI treatment at home to help make the dog more comfortable: Provide a warm, draft-free environment. Keep eyes and nose clear of discharge by using a warm, moistened cloth. Use a humidifier or steam up the shower to ease nasal congestion.

**Injuries,** including wounds and broken or fractured bones, may need specialty care or surgery.

**Dental:** Dogs need routine dental care like humans, and adopters should plan for that, but if a dog has moderate to severe dental issues or pain, we will likely provide dental care before adoption.

**Eye Infections**: may improve with medication, but if not, may require an enucleation (eye removal).

**Urinary Issues:** Urinary Tract Infection (UTI), crystals, stones, or blockages. If you're noticing issues, including straining or vocalizing while urinating or blood in urine, email us right away!

The **DHLPP vaccine** includes protection against:

- **Canine Distemper:** a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems.
- **Hepatitis:** a virus transmitted by direct contact with urine, nose, or eye discharges of infected animals.
- **Leptospirosis:** a bacterial infection that thrives in warm and wet environments, commonly spread through water contamination.
- **Parainfluenza:** a respiratory virus that is one of the common causes of kennel cough.
- **Parvovirus:** a serious and contagious virus for dogs, especially puppies.

**PAWS does not test for heartworm or tick-borne diseases** and will not provide this service to potential adopters unless there is a medical indication for testing (clinical signs that correspond to clinical heartworm disease, radiographic evidence that supports heartworm disease). An adopter should plan to have a 4DX test done at their primary vet.

↪ PAWS does not pull dogs from the south, which is where heartworm disease is the most prevalent.

# ADOPTION PROCESS!

***Before Promoting For Adoption***

**Ensure all medical & behavior issues have been addressed and disclosed to PAWS.** Foster parents are responsible for clearly explaining medical and behavioral needs to potential adopters, so if you are ever unclear on what care your foster pet needs, ask us!

**If you are interested or know someone interested in adopting your foster**, notify foster staff ASAP! You must get PAWS' approval *before* the pet is posted and/or any approved adopters reach out.

---

***How to Find Adoption Matches***

**In preparation for adoption promotion,** all foster dogs must have a completed **Feedback form,** which will help staff ensure we are up to date on the behavior and personality of your foster. A bio can either be included on the form or emailed to foster@phillypaws.org, along with clear photos and video for their online profile. **Plan to send new content regularly.** *See our resource page for tips to promote your foster.*

**Weekly Adoptable Dogs Email and Online Profile:** PAWS sends out an email to approved dog adopters once a week, listing dogs currently eligible for adoption. If we do not find an adopter from the email list, we will then put them on the PAWS website. Most large dogs, seniors, and medical cases will be put directly on the website.

**Word of Mouth:** Share with your family, friends, & coworkers! **Social Media:** Create a foster Instagram, share to stories and tag @phillypaws, post on Facebook, & share in neighborhood groups to find adopters! For any social media posts (not stories) you are required to include this info per PA State Dog Law: *Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, 2900 Grays Ferry Ave, Phila, PA 19146 (by appointment only). PA Lic.# 06172.*

---

***How to Finalize Adoption***

1. **We will email you approved adoption matches and their contact info.** Meets should be prioritized by first sent, but give adopters 48 hours to reply to call & email. Our staff have discussed the dog's needs with them in detail based on your feedback, but please start a convo with the adopter via email, phone, or video chat, sharing what your foster dog is like in a home, what their day-to-day routine and needs are, and to set a meet time. If you are unclear on what care your dog needs, ask us!

2. **Most dog adoption meets** can take place at your home or in a neutral outdoor space. You are also welcome to use our Grays Ferry dog yard (for certain dogs, meets will be required to take place here). Plan to bring all of their supplies, including martingale, harness, leash, crate, paperwork & meds, but also be prepared to take your foster back home with you if the adoption isn't a good match.

3. **Ensure you have updated medical records & disclaimer,** and all medical & behavior issues have been reviewed with the adopter, plus the dog is fixed and up-to-date on shots, dewormer, and flea treatment.

4. **You have 4 weeks worth of any long-term medication or special diet** (or for pets with designated Care Packages, 3 months worth) that the pet is prescribed by our vets to send with an adopter before the adoption is finalized to avoid any gap in treatment.

5. **Once you have found an adopter and they have met the dog, have them:**
   - **Sign the adoption contract & medical disclaimer:** Fully complete the adoption contract, including the pet's PAWS A# and the adopter's complete contact information. Make sure everything is legible. Email us a clear photo of the contract and waiver the day of the adoption, and return the paper copies within 7 days. If your adopter would like to fill out a **digital contract**, email adoptions@phillypaws.org.
   - **Collect the adoption fee** via Venmo (@phillypaws), cash, or check. If paying via cash/check, drop off the contract & adoption fee to Grays Ferry within 7 days of adoption.
   - Give your adopter the **yellow copy of the adoption contract, up-to-date medical records, adoption handouts, and folder**. Make sure you remove your foster guide and old medical records first!
   - **Notify other adopters** who expressed interest and direct adopters to email us with any questions.

**Puppy** (<1yo): $324 (includes tax) **Small Dog** (>1yo): $297 (includes tax) **Large Dog** (>1yo)**:** $162 (includes tax)

## FOSTER AGREEMENT REMINDER

- I will comply with all local and state laws and ordinances relating to the care of domestic animals.
- I will provide a loving, temporary home and humane treatment to my foster animal(s), including a balanced diet, water, and needed veterinary care, and I agree to pay for all needed food and litter.
- I will keep the animal(s) at the property listed below, and I will be the primary caretaker. If I need to find another primary caretaker for the animal(s), I will provide PAWS with as much notice as possible, work to find alternative caretakers within PAWS' and my networks, and communicate the caretaker's contact information to PAWS **before** they assume caretaking responsibilities.
- I will not leave my foster animal(s) alone longer than eight hours. I will hire a dog walker for my foster dog if needed and notify PAWS of any additional care providers.
- I will keep my foster cats/kittens **inside only**.
- I acknowledge that PAWS has recommended that foster animal(s) be kept separate from my own pets and that there is a risk of infecting my pets with known or unknown diseases even if they are separated.
- I understand that animals in foster care sometimes require medical attention. If the animal(s) become sick, I agree to bring them to PAWS for care during scheduled clinic hours. In case of emergency, when PAWS is unable to provide care, I agree to contact PAWS' emergency number for guidance regarding obtaining care.
- I agree to fully comply with any medical treatment plan, including medications and therapies, or behavioral training plan prescribed by PAWS staff.
- I understand that, unless it has been arranged for by a PAWS staff member, I will be financially responsible for the cost of veterinary care if I choose to take my PAWS foster animal to another veterinary practice for treatment. I agree to notify PAWS before seeking care at another practice.
- In the event my foster animal has a medical condition that requires treatment beyond what PAWS is able to provide or pay for, I understand I may either return the animal to PAWS or assume financial responsibility for the treatment.
- I understand that foster cats have not been tested for FeLV/FIV unless otherwise noted in its medical record. I understand that foster dogs have not been heartworm tested.
- If my foster animal is declared a hospice case, or is otherwise medically or behaviorally unstable, I agree to abide by PAWS' decisions regarding the health and future of the animal.
- If a foster animal should die while in my care, I will immediately notify PAWS and return the body to PAWS.
- I understand that email is the primary method of communication for PAWS Foster Program and I agree to respond to emails in a timely manner, ideally within 48 hours.
- I will work to find an adopter for my foster animal(s) according to PAWS' screening process and requirements, with PAWS' support as needed. I will submit at least four high-quality photos and a thoughtful bio each month, using guidelines provided on PAWS' Foster Resource web page.
- I understand that my foster animal(s) **may not be transferred to their adoptive homes before they are spayed/neutered**, unless written permission from PAWS staff is provided. In that case, the approved adopter will pay an additional $100 surgery deposit per unfixed animal, and the animal will become part of PAWS' Pre-Adopt program.
- If I choose to adopt my foster animal myself:
    - I understand that I must first complete all approved adopter meets.
    - I will finalize the adoption contract and pay the adoption fee (based on the animal's age when taken into foster care) within two weeks of indicating I want to adopt.
- I acknowledge that dogs and cats respond to situations differently, that such responses may be unpredictable, and that PAWS makes no claims, representations, or warranty, either expressed or implied, as to the behavior or temperament of animals placed in foster care.
- If my foster animal bites (breaks skin with their teeth), I will notify the foster team by email immediately and separate the animal from other beings in my home until I receive instructions on how to proceed.
- I release, discharge, indemnify, and hold PAWS and its staff and directors harmless for any and all damage or veterinary expenses caused by a foster animal, directly or indirectly, to people, personal property or pets.
- I acknowledge that the animal(s) entrusted to me are the property of PAWS, and I will let PAWS into my home upon request to inspect and ensure that the animal(s) are being kept humanely.
- If for any reason I or PAWS decides that this foster situation is not working, or if I become incapable of caring for the animal(s), I will return the animal(s) to PAWS without conflict.