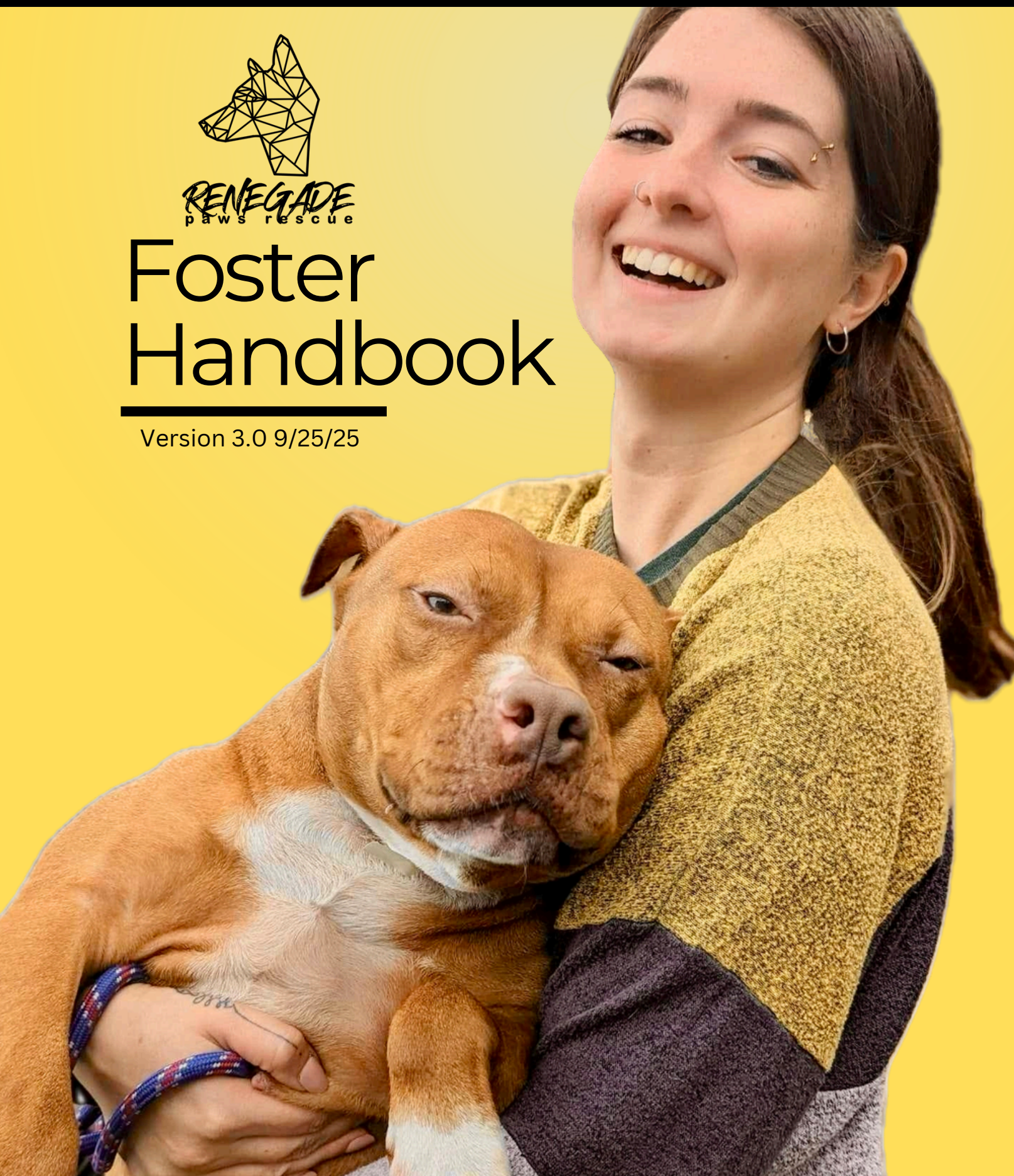




Foster Handbook

Version 3.0 9/25/25



Welcome

First of all, **THANK YOU** for choosing to foster. Fostering is a selfless commitment to save a life. It can be messy and challenging, but it is always worth it.

Please use this handbook as your guide. We've compiled information from some very experienced fosters to help you along the way! We're so glad you've joined us.



Keyla TeAnn Photography

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A Note from the Director

First of all, let me start by saying thank you. Fostering a dog is a truly selfless act that directly saves a life. In the south, we are facing a horrific animal overpopulation problem that is beyond anything we have ever experienced.

Perfect dogs are dying every day because there are simply more animals than resources to save them. It is easy to feel down about this; I've shed many tears for dogs I couldn't save. But people like you give me hope.

If everyone in our community fostered just one dog per year, we could save them all. You stepped up to the plate and decided that the life of an animal was worth it. And I am forever grateful.

I won't lie to you, fostering can be hard. It can be messy and frustrating. You may get pee on your favorite rug or slobber on your couch. Your shoes may get chewed - or even eaten. Sometimes dogs poop in the kitchen. It isn't always easy, but it is worth it.

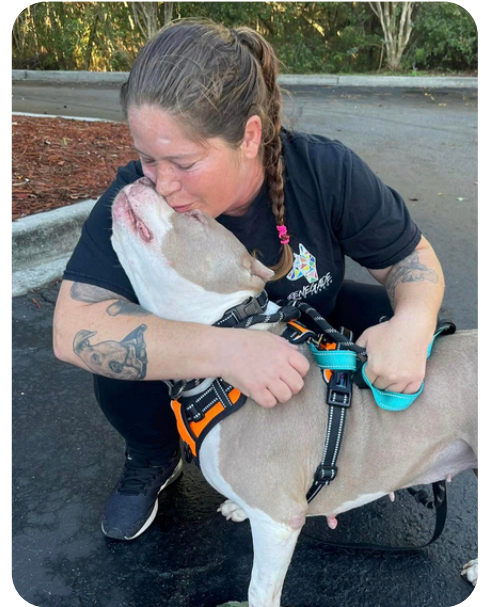
You are potentially saving more than the life of a dog. While you're at it, you may be saving a human as well. My dogs saved me.

I grew up in the foster system and then fell quickly into an abusive marriage. My dogs taught me unconditional love. They taught me that I was worth more.

Rescue dogs got me to the other side. I'm standing here today, thanking you because you have the potential to give that gift - maybe in another way - to someone else.

Welcome to the Renegade Revolution.

Jennifer Taylor



Jennifer Taylor

Communication

Group Chat

Each foster is added to a Facebook messenger group chat upon scooping their pooch. If you don't have Facebook, we will create a text chat. This will be your main line of communication with the leadership team.

Facebook

Facebook is our main method of communication. Our Facebook page is called [Renegade Paws Foster Parents](#). We have a strong community with hundreds of fosters. It's a great place to reach out if you need advice on a particular issue or if you just need support. The social media team will pull photos from Facebook to post on the main social media sites and to use for promotions, so be sure to post quality pictures of your foster often! The apps team will also use information gathered from Facebook to match potential adopters with the perfect dog. **Many fosters who do not have a personal Facebook page will create one for the dog in their care to use during their foster experience.**

Foster Coordinators

Shelynne Snyder - shelynne@renegadepawsrescue.org

Rebbicca Jones - rebbicca@renegadepawsrescue.org

Garrett Shuler -

Eve Sampson - eve@renegadepawsrescue.org

Adoption Application Team

Kristina Bart - panicatymoms@gmail.com

Ruth Arnone - rarnone8@gmail.com

Shelynne Snyder - shelynne@renegadepawsrescue.org

Rachel Kowalczyk - rachelk@renegadepawsrescue.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Britton - Mary@renegadepawsrescue.org



Appointments

If your foster needs anything or you need to schedule a meet and greet, we ask you schedule through the foster portal on our website. Choose the Office Hours option. The password is:

decompression24.

If you have any questions about office hours appointments, contact

Andrea Walters.

andrea@renegadepawsrescue.org.



Scan to book

Emergencies

JENNIFER TAYLOR
PHONE: (912) 665-6046
EMAIL: JENT@RENEGADEPAWSRESCUE.ORG

SHELYNNE SNYDER
PHONE: (912) 677-2521
EMAIL: SHELYNNE@RENEGADEPAWSRESCUE.ORG

REBBICCA JONES
PHONE: (843) 9298736
EMAIL: REBBICCA@RENEGADEPAWSRESCUE.ORG

EVE SAMPSON
PHONE: (352) 317-3647
EMAIL: EVE@RENEGADEPAWSRESCUE.ORG

**TEXT
FIRST!**

EMERGENCY - CALL IMMEDIATELY

- ANY CHANGES to puppies UNDER 8 WEEKS: appetite / weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, etc.
- Lost foster
- Bites that break the skin
- Unresponsive / severely lethargic
- Difficulty breathing
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones / sudden swelling
- Eye injuries
- Severe lacerations
- Seizures
- Toxic plant or substance ingestion
- Vomiting blood or repeated attempts to vomit unsuccessfully

URGENT - TEXT FOR A QUICK RESPONSE

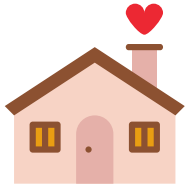
- Severe, leaking diarrhea
- Bloody stool
- Vomiting more than twice
- Not eating
- Limping
- Minor injuries (minimal bleeding)

LESS URGENT - TEXT FOR A RESPONSE WITHIN 24 HOURS

- Congestion
- Weepy / swollen eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Hair loss
- skin issues
- itchiness
- Happy tail
- Fleas
- Intestinal parasites
- Vomiting 1-2 times

The Basics

Transitioning your dog into your life



At Home

Decompression – Dogs need time to adjust to their new surroundings. We use the **3-3-3 rule** to describe this adjustment. Often, it takes three days for initial decompression, three weeks to learn the routines of your household, and three months to start to feel relaxed and at home. Don't be discouraged if your dog takes longer. Many dogs follow more of a **7-7-7** rule or even longer. See [Decompression Tips](#) for more information.

Any dog you bring into your household has had their whole world turned upside down, probably not for the first time in their lives. Every dog and every situation is different - some dogs take more time, others take less. Although your first instinct may be to smother them with love and affection, the best course of action is to give them some space and let them come to you.

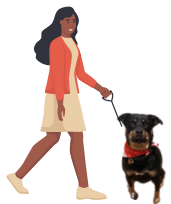
Your foster should eat and sleep in their crate. Allow them time settling into their crate learn the routines of your home before introducing your foster to your personal dog(s).

Monthly Preventatives - Every month on the same day your foster dog should be given heart-worm and flea prevention. You will pick these up from the office monthly.

Heartworm infection is a serious disease that can result in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in pets. It is caused by a parasitic worm called *Dirofilaria immitis*. The worms are spread through the bite of a mosquito. *It is essential that you give your foster dog monthly preventatives.*

Food/Crates/Toys - Renegade will supply all of these items for you. Fosters will pick food up from the office and let us know if there is anything else you need. *High value toys and bones should only be given in the crate to avoid potential conflict.*

Adult Dog Vaccines - Adults dogs with uncertain vaccine statuses will receive 2 DAPPv vaccines 3 weeks apart. They will also receive a rabies shot when they get spayed or neutered, or at the office prior to spay/neuter if a veterinarian is in house at the time. We will give you a schedule of shots when we prepare you to take your foster home with you. Adult dogs must be up-to-date on vaccines and altered to be in public.



In Public

Events— These are posted on our Facebook page and website and are the best way to expose your foster pup to adopters. People will show up to events to meet dogs that are advertised to attend. We have “Adopt Me” RPR bandanas, sweaters, etc to make your foster look fabulous! These are located in the “Adopt Me Gear” bin in the foster supply room. We ask that you return them when no longer needed.

Dogs must be up to date on all vaccines to attend events (DHPP, Rabies and Bordetella).

Puppies must have had at least 2 DHPP to attend in a play pen. Rabies exceptions are made for puppies that will go in play pens. If you are bringing a puppy that has not had all of their DHPP vaccines, make sure there will be a puppy pen or be prepared to hold your puppy during the time you spend at the event.

The Basics

Page 2

Key Rules:

- **Use a crate when your foster is unattended.**
- **Never leave your foster unattended with children or other dogs.** All interactions should be supervised.
- **Your foster should always wear a collar with an RPR tag** unless they are a small puppy in a crate or pen.
- **Do not take your foster to dog parks where other dogs are present.** This is a liability issue for us. If you want your dog to play with other dogs, we can coordinate that with other RPR fosters.
- **If your foster bites a person or a dog, notify leadership right away.** The best way to do this is through your group chat. Please get photos of the bite and fill out a report [here](#).
- **Always work with leadership to schedule meet and greets for potential adoptions.** This will ensure proper protocol is followed. Never facilitate these things on your own. Keep reading for an explanation of our adoption process.
- **Respect other volunteers and leadership.** Most are unpaid and doing this with full-time jobs, families, etc. We all want to help dogs and we are all doing the very best we can with what we have.

Common Concerns:

- **Separation anxiety** – keep in mind that most dogs don't like when their people leave and will often bark/cry for about 30 minutes. True separation anxiety is if a dog is harming themselves to get out of their crate or barking/howling for hours at a time.
- **Leash Pulling** – We have many different harnesses and head halters to help manage leash pullers. Speak with us in your group chat for tips.
- **Jumping** - Ignore the behaviors you don't like reward the behaviors that you do want. Remember that ignoring means: no touching/pushing off, no talking, no asking the dog to get off of you, and no eye contact. Even yelling "no" can be rewarding for a dog. Instead, turn your back. If jumping continues, walk into another room and shut the door. If the dog sits or has all 4 paws on the floor, reward them!
- **Mouthiness** - When you feel teeth on your skin, calmly walk and grab an enrichment toy such as a puzzle toy or stuffed Kong. Lure your foster into their crate and leave them in there for a short period (30 minutes to an hour).

Tips from seasoned pros:

- **Follow a regular routine** to help your foster feel safe by creating predictable situations.
- **Stay calm when you are getting ready to leave your foster alone and when arriving back home.** This can help mitigate separation anxiety.
- **Use food toys** such as stuffed Kongs, snuffle mats and slow feeders as outlets for energy and enrichment.
- **Take it slow.** Allow your foster to decompress before introducing new people, situations and dogs.
- Use play time, walks and training sessions to **socialize with your foster and create a bond.**
- **Ensure your foster gets plenty of exercise** to alleviate potential stress and boredom.
- Use humane training methods including **positive reinforcement and lots of treats.** Take it at their pace, as overwhelming them with commands can cause stress and lead to behavioral issues.



How to...

Get More Supplies/Food or Preventatives for my Foster

Make a quick appointment using the foster portal. The foster portal is located at www.renegadepawsrescue.org/fosterresources and the password is **decompression24**. Be sure to sign the log if you grab food! The log is located on a clipboard attached to the food room door.

Schedule a Meet and Greet

After you have contacted an approved applicant (see adoption steps page), you can schedule a meet and greet (45 minutes) using the [foster portal](#).

Get Training Help

First, let your foster coordinators know what is going on in the group chat. Some issues (like potty training) can be solved without a trainer. If the leadership team deems the issue a priority, fill out a training request form linked on the foster portal. Our training team will prioritize and reach out to requests. We also have lots of great handouts on our website under “Foster resources.”

Go to Events

Check our website and foster Facebook page for upcoming events posted by our events team. Adult dogs must be fully vaccinated and altered to attend most events. See Puppy Protocol for dogs under 4 months. Our events team will often ask for a “roll call” ahead of the event to see who is coming so they can market dogs on social media but you do not have to “RSVP” for most events. If you can show up at the last minute, do it!

Find Playmates for my Foster

Once your dog is spayed/neutered and vaccinated, let your group chat know you are interested in organizing a play group. Next, post on the foster page, including where you want to meet (preferably a yard) and information about your dog’s play style. We also have lots of fosters who love to meet up for dog-friendly drinks and walks around Savannah.

Get Medical Help (Non-Emergent)

Post in your group chat ASAP. If it needs veterinary assistance, we will either schedule you at one of our partner veterinary offices OR ask you to schedule an in-house appointment with Dr. Bear using the foster portal. We may also ask that you come to the office for treatment, testing, and/or medications.

Cat-Test my Foster Dog

We have lots of fosters with cats who can help you! Please post on the foster page and include your location so foster parents can see if they are nearby.

Decompression Tips for New Fosters

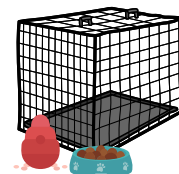
STEP 1: CHILL OUT TIME



AT LEAST 3 days, UP TO 2 weeks depending on the dog.

Shelters are stressful, overstimulating environments full of strange noises and smells. Your new foster will need quiet time in your house before anything else. Basically, the dog needs to CHILL OUT, which we call "decompression time." Skipping this step is a sure-fire way to run into problems.

- Set up a quiet, crated area for your new foster to decompress. Crates are not a form of punishment! You can cover the crate with a sheet or blanket.
- Provide lots of mental stimulation with things like Kongs with frozen peanut butter, interactive toy games, food releasing toys, etc.
- Play music in the room 24/7. Specifically, try classical music to slow down racing heartbeats if they are stressed.
- Feed your foster breakfast/dinner in the crate. No feeding with other animals in the home.



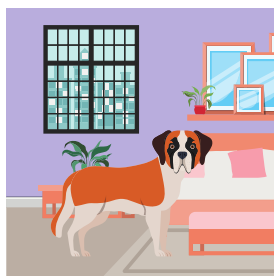
Stressed dogs destroy crates and act out. Calm dogs do not.

This period of time is referred to as 'crate and rotate'. This means that while your personal animals are OUT, your foster is CRATED. While your foster is OUT, your personal dogs are CRATED (or in a separate room).

STEP 2: Smell Before See. See Before Touch. Repeat.

Dogs learn a lot about the world through their most powerful sense - smell!

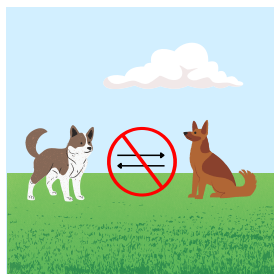
Allowing the dog to explore your house with his nose while other pets and children are away lets him learn about your home without the stress of a face-to-face meeting where body language might be misunderstood.



Smell Before See. GOAL: New dog smell = GOOD.

Foster explores the house (supervised) while personal pets are outside.

- Using 'crate and rotate', allow your personal pets to sniff the new fosters' area (while the new foster is outside or in another room)
- Switch to allow the new foster to explore your house and sniff your personal dogs areas (while your personal dogs are outside or in another room)



See Before Touch. GOAL: Sight of new dog = GOOD.

- Using 'crate and rotate', allow your personal pets and new foster to SEE each other from a distance while the foster is safely crated
- Don't let them sit in one spot and stare at each other
- Take turns treating your personal pet and new foster so they associate the sight of one another with a positive experience

Intros to Home & Personal Pets

Setting everyone up for success: preventing fights, bites, and resource guarding.

STEP 3: OUTDOOR INTRODUCTIONS

Pack Walks & 6-foot Walks

When you're ready for introductions, you have to think like a dog if you want a good interaction. Humans like to stand in one spot, make eye contact, and talk. Dogs like to run around and move, they avoid too much direct eye contact, and they'd rather smell than talk.

STRUCTURED PACK WALKS

Start with a 'structured pack walk'. With one handler/dog out in front and the other handler/dog behind. After a few minutes, take a wide circle around and switch who is leading the pack. This allows each dog to get a chance to sniff the other while having a chance to feel confident in the front of the pack and at the end of the pack.



6-FOOT (PARALLEL) WALKS



- Keep everyone moving forward, dogs/handlers walking parallel to each other, 6-feet apart
- Remember the 5-second rule about eye contact: Nothing good ever comes from more than 5 seconds of two new dogs locking eyes.
- Watch them, count silently in your head, and around the 3 to 5 second mark, take the lead and redirect the dogs BEFORE any negative body language, growls, or snaps happen.
- Reward them positively for the good, short interaction.
- Then repeat. And repeat. Always short interactions, always ending on a positive note.

INDOOR INTRODUCTIONS (monitor closely)



When first introducing the dogs in the home, use a sturdy, tall baby gate to separate them. Observe how they interact through the gate. Reinforce positive behavior by providing high-value treats to the dogs for positive interactions.

- No toys, food or treats should be left around the home that the dogs could potentially fight over.
- Be aware of situations that could lead to conflict—for example, when the dogs get overly excited.
- Closely monitor the dogs when they are together, rewarding them with treats, until you are 100% confident they are comfortable and safe with each other.



DO NOT feed your foster and personal pets together!

To prevent resource guarding fights from breaking out, and to also help with crate training, please only feed your new foster in their crate.



Crate your new foster when you leave the house

This will avoid any fights from breaking out with your foster and personal pets when you're not home and keep everyone safe.



Make sure your foster is wearing a Renegade tag

That way if they ever get out, the finder will immediately know who to call! It happens more often than you would think.

Common Toxins & Hazards

This is not a comprehensive list, but here are a few common foods that are bad for dogs. Like anything, the size of the dog and the amount ingested matters, but you can always check with us to be safe if you are worried your dog has ingested something they should not have.

Foods

- **Grapes and raisins** (notify us immediately if your dog has ingested these)
- **Xylitol** (artificial sweetener found in many candies, gum and some peanut butters - always check)
- Alcohol or caffeinated drinks
- Mushrooms, garlic, rhubarb, onions, cherries, macadamia nuts, chives
- Chocolate
- Uncooked yeast

Common Hazards

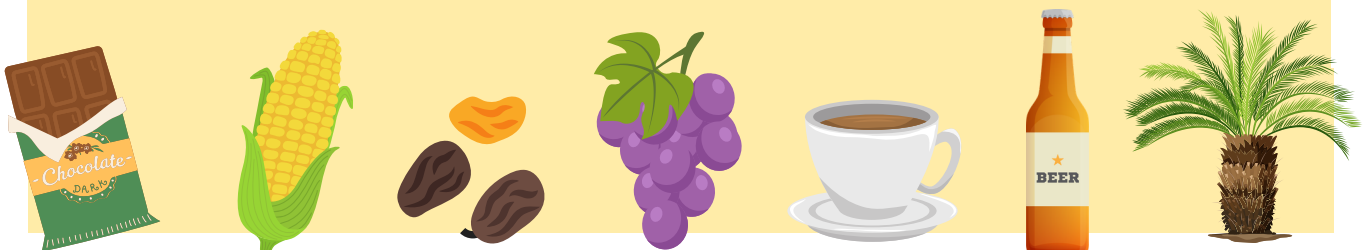
- Avocado pits
- Corn cobs
- Bones

Common Household Toxins

- **Human medicines** such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen and naproxen (Advil, Aleve)
- **Plants** including **Sago palms** (extremely toxic in small amounts for all dogs), tulips, daffodils, azaleas and rhododendrons. The ASPCA has a great guide to pet-safe plants here: <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>
- Rodenticides
- Insecticides and lawn products

Please notify your foster coordination team as soon as you suspect your dog has ingested anything they should not have.

Time is of the essence. Sometimes we can induce vomiting to prevent a hospital stay. Sometimes a hospital stay is necessary.



Foster Supply Checklist

You will pick up all basic supplies for your foster at our facility. Renegade will supply basic necessities and items for play and enrichment as we have them.

Adults

- ☐ Crate
- ☐ Dry food (Hill's Science Diet)
- ☐ Food and water bowl
- ☐ Collar, leash, and harness
- ☐ RPR tag for collar
- ☐ Enrichment items (Benebones, Kongs, slow feeder, puzzle toys)
- ☐ Toys (squeaker toys, tug toys, balls)
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Poop Bags
- ☐ Medications (flea prevention, heartworm prevention, dewormer, and any other applicable medication).

Puppies

- ☐ Crate
- ☐ Puppy Pen
- ☐ Wet food (Hill's Science Diet)
- ☐ Dry puppy food
- ☐ Puppy pads
- ☐ Food and water bowl
- ☐ Collar, leash, and harness
- ☐ RPR tag for collar
- ☐ Enrichment items (puppy Kongs, puppy Benebones)
- ☐ Toys (squeaker toys, tug toys, balls)
- ☐ Blankets, towels, and sheets
- ☐ Poop Bags
- ☐ Medications (flea prevention, heartworm prevention, dewormer, and any other applicable medication)



Flight Risk Dogs

1

Transporting

Keep your foster in a crate for transportation if possible. Open only inside a secured location. If that's not possible, we recommend clipping them into the vehicle with a dog seatbelt and also having their leash attached and secured by another person in the vehicle or wrapped around a headrest.

2

Make It Hard For Them To Escape The House

Never open an exterior door unless your foster is behind a closed interior door or in their crate with the door secure. **Keep a leash on your dog for at least the first two weeks.** Make it clear to everyone in the house that this is the most necessary thing to keep your foster safe. When guests come over, secure the dog until everyone is inside and before anyone leaves.

3

Make It Hard For Them To Escape The Yard

Check your fence perimeter frequently for loose boards, openings, or holes they've started digging. Fix problem areas quickly. Check for places they can squeeze under or behind and block access. Never leave them outside unattended and they should be on leash (yes, even in a fenced in yard) until they are comfortable (minimum of 3 days, but longer if necessary).

4

Make It Hard For Them To Run Away While Walking

Double leash flight risk dogs when walking. Some fosters prefer a martingale collar with a regular leash and then a slip lead as the second leash. You can also do a collar/leash and harness/leash combo. The first few days, walking may consist of nothing more than walking to the front yard or backyard on a double leash to do their business. No long walks around the neighborhood for your nervous foster until they are more comfortable.

5

Help Them Feel More Comfortable With Scary Things

Trazadone or CBD peanut butter, Thundershirts, calming music, or white noise can all be useful tools to help a nervous dog feel more at ease. During the first three days to a week try to give them space to learn their new environment without pressure of having to meet the other pets or new people. Provide a quiet place to decompress. Gentle movements and gentle voices.

6

Meet Them Where They Are

Don't force your nervous fosters to interact with you or anyone. Talk in soothing tones to them while you feed them, treat them, or take them outside, but don't force petting or cuddling. Don't force them to take treats from your hand. Place treats on a surface for them to take when they are comfortable or drop treats as you walk by with no interaction. This will create a positive association with you and others in the household. They will slowly begin to request interaction. Some dogs take a few days, others take longer.

New environments can cause regression and your foster may become a flight risk. If a Renegade dog in your care escapes, reach out to staff immediately, regardless of when it happens. Note which direction the dog headed in and the time. Do not call or chase the dog.

Spay & Neuter

All dogs must be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Spaying is the removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female animal. Neutering is the removal of the testes in a male animal.

There are many benefits to spaying and neutering that can include decreased aggression and decreased incidence of health problems such as mammary, uterine, ovarian and testicular cancer later in life. It also prevents pyometra in female dogs. Based on [ASPCA recommendations](#), we perform pediatric spay and neuters except in giant breed dogs such as Great Danes.

[A University of Georgia study](#) found that the life expectancy of neutered male dogs was 13.8% longer and that of spayed female dogs was 26.3% longer. The average age of death of intact dogs was 7.9 years versus 9.4 years for altered dogs.

Your foster coordination team will schedule your foster's surgery at one of our partner veterinarian offices. You will be responsible for transporting your foster dog to and from surgery. If you are unable to do so, please let your foster team know ASAP so we can make a plan to transport from the office.

Partner Veterinary Offices

Faulkville Animal Hospital

3036 US-80

Bloomington, GA 31302

 Drop Off: 7:00 AM / Pick Up: 4:00 PM

National Spay Alliance (NSA)*

11 Gateway Blvd South

Savannah, GA 31419

 Drop Off: 7:30 AM / Pick Up: 3:00 PM

**You will need to pick pain meds and cone up from office or may purchase at your own cost from NSA. Late fee of \$35 and no-show fee of \$85 charged to the rescue, so please notify ASAP if you are not able to make your appointment.*

Animal Hospital at Rice Hope

7512 GA-21

Port Wentworth, GA 31407

 Drop Off: 8:00AM morning of OR 5-6PM night before / Pick Up: 5:30 PM

Case Veterinary Office

111 Eisenhower Drive

Savannah GA 31406

 Drop Off: 7:30 AM / Pick Up: 5:30 PM
Dogs must be minimum 5 months of age.

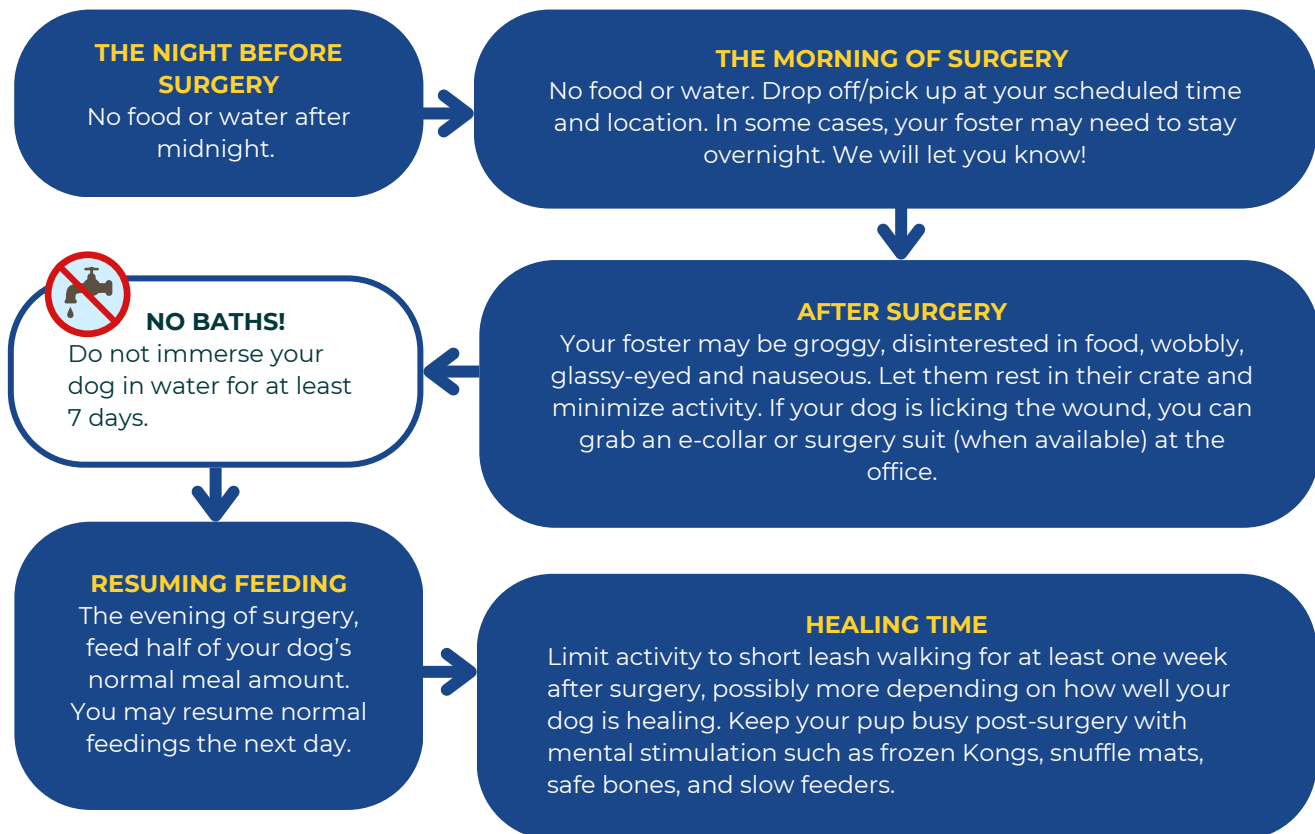
Spay/Neuter Scheduling

Shelynne Snyder - shelynne@renegadepawsrescue.org

Spay & Neuter

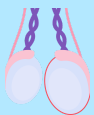
Page 2

What to Expect



You may notice an episode of diarrhea, vomiting, or loss of appetite. These are all usually secondary to the anesthesia and should improve over the next 24 hours. **Please contact us if these signs are intense or persistent.**

Usually, dissolvable sutures are used and do not require a follow-up visit for removal. Occasionally in overweight females, removable sutures or staples may be used. Office staff can remove these in 10 days.



Neuters heal fairly quickly, but your dog's scrotal sac may be swollen for a few days. Let your foster team know (and include photos) if the scrotal sac is grossly enlarged, hot to touch or oozing puss. Icing for 15 minutes at a time can help reduce swelling.



Spay surgeries can be a little more intensive. It is normal for the incision site to be slightly raised and red for a few days. If the incision site has puss, is hot to the touch, is abnormally swollen, or is bleeding, let your foster team know.

Canine Diseases

Rabies

Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, often via a bite. Rabies is always fatal and there is no cure for humans or animals.

Do not interact with wild animals or animals with unknown vaccination history. Canine rabies vaccines are typically given around 16 weeks of age and is a legal requirement in the state of Georgia.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is an incredibly contagious and often fatal disease spread between dogs by direct contact with infected dogs, contact with feces from infected dogs, or contact with virus-contaminated surfaces. The virus is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods. Even trace amounts of feces from an infected dog can contain the virus and infect other dogs.

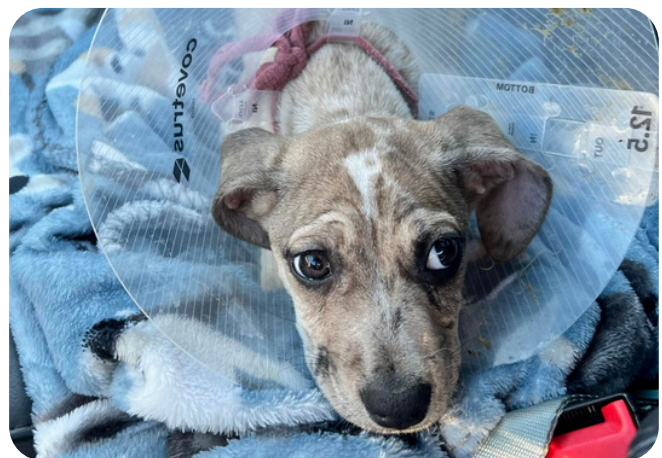
Parvovirus is one of the most deadly preventable diseases we see dogs die of frequently in our area. Parvo is especially rampant in Georgia and we must take extra precautions to keep our dogs safe.

Puppies are especially susceptible and do not often have the immune system to fight off the disease. This is why we do not allow puppies without the requisite number of shots to touch the ground. Symptoms of parvovirus include liquid, bloody stool with a distinct metallic smell, lethargy, failure to eat or drink, and nausea and vomiting. Dogs suffering from parvovirus essentially starve and dehydrate themselves to death. Renegade has treated cases of parvovirus using supportive in-home care and with hospitalization.

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI/Kennel Cough)

Upper respiratory infections, commonly referred to as **“kennel cough”** encompass a variety of “colds” dogs can be susceptible to, especially in a kennel environment. We have vaccines available for more commonly involved organisms which include Bordetella bronchiseptica, canine parainfluenza virus and canine adenovirus type 2, but we cannot vaccinate for every strain of upper respiratory infection.

Symptoms of URI include coughing (hacking), sneezing, ocular/nasal discharge, fever, and loss of appetite. It's very important to keep puppies hydrated and warm while they recover from an upper respiratory infection. URIs are contagious and you should be extra careful to sanitize between handling your sick animals and any healthy ones, as well as the supplies they use, especially food/water dishes. Historically it was not recommended to treat URIs with antibiotics until symptoms were present for 10 days, but due to a recent rise in severe upper respiratory illness, our vets have lowered the threshold for antibiotic use.



Canine Diseases

Demodectic Mange

Demodectic mange is caused by a Demodex mite that lives in the hair follicles of dogs. All normal dogs have a few of these mites on their skin. We see this in puppies a lot because a poor or immature immune system allows the mites to rapidly increase. Its also often seen in dogs that are neglected because their immune system weakens.

The main symptoms of demodectic mange are hair loss and dry skin. Demodectic mange is diagnosed through skin scraping and microscopy. Treatment includes treating the dog for at least two months with an isoxazoline such as Nexgard or Bravecto, medicated baths, and possibly antibiotics to treat secondary skin infections. It is not contagious to people or other animals and there are no isolation requirements.

Sarcoptic Mange

Sarcoptic mange is caused by a Sarcoptes mite. It is also referred to as "scabies". The mites live in the outer layer of the skin. They are very contagious dog to dog and they are spread by direct contact and contact with contaminated environments. Older dogs and dogs with other illness or weakened immune systems are more susceptible to becoming infested.

Dogs have an intense reaction to the mite and its feces which results in extreme itchiness. The areas most commonly affected on dogs are the margins of the ears, elbows, and ankles. The skin often becomes red, with crusts and hair loss. Sarcoptic mange is diagnosed through skin scraping and microscopy. Treatment consists of at least two months of an isoxazoline medication such as Nexgard or Bravecto, medicated

baths, medication to treat the itch, and possibly antibiotics to treat secondary skin infections. Sarcoptes mites are able to affect humans however, humans are not the mites' preferred host and most human cases result in only a small area of red bumps before the mites die.

There is presently no research establishing time of mite death after administration of treatment, however experts believe the mites are killed quickly after treatment and recommend dogs may resume normal activities 3-5 days after treatment including being placed in a foster home or adopted.

Distemper

Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs. Symptoms include watery to pus-like discharge from eyes, fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, and vomiting.

As the virus attacks the nervous system, infected dogs develop circling behavior, head tilt, muscle twitches, convulsions with jaw chewing movements and salivation, seizures, and partial or complete paralysis. The virus may also cause the footpads to thicken and harden. Distemper is often fatal, and dogs that survive usually have permanent, irreparable nervous system damage.



Canine Diseases

Parasites

The majority of puppies are born with worms. A large percentage of the dogs we intake will have worms. We de-worm every dog upon intake, including pregnant or nursing moms, starting at 2 weeks of age. Pick up dog poop every single time to prevent infestation in your yard or public grounds, and to prevent infection to other animals. If your dog eats feces they can contract intestinal parasites via ingestion.

- **Tapeworms** - Look like rice segments and come from your foster eating a flea. Treatment is typically Praziquantel.
- **Roundworms** - These are long worms that look like spaghetti noodles. Don't be alarmed if you see these during deworming, it is a good thing because the deworming is doing its job. Treatment is Pyrantel or Panacur.
- **Whipworms** – Extremely hard to see with the naked eye, typically discovered microscopically. Treatment is Panacur.
- **Hookworms** – Live in the dog's digestive tract and the ova live in the soil. These are particularly bad for puppies because they suck the animal's blood causing anemia and death. Treatment is Panacur.
- **Coccidia** – Non-worm parasites that are typically passed from mom dog to puppy. *Common disinfectants are ineffective* so thorough mechanical cleaning necessary. Bathing after bowel movements may also help. Treatment is Albon or Ponazuril.
- **Fleas** – Most common external parasite found in dogs. Very treatable with flea control. A bath with Dawn dish soap is recommended for puppies too young to be treated with flea preventatives.

During Intake, we will give your foster a 30 day heartworm preventative, 30 day flea preventative, and instant flea killer (if needed). We will also send you home with dewormer medication that may need to be repeated.

Parasites

Page 2



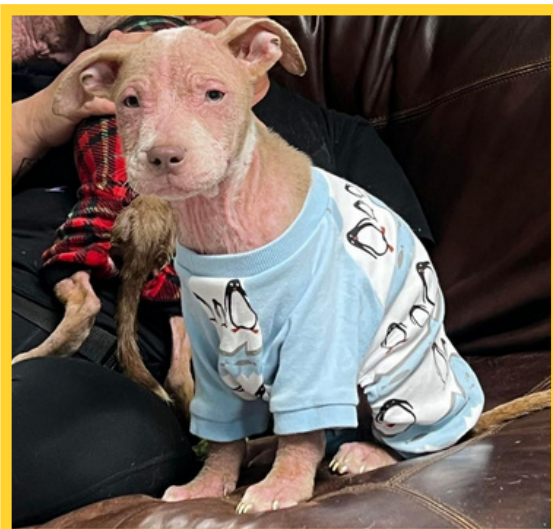
Roundworms

Spaghetti like appearance



Tapeworms

Rice-like appearance



Severe Demodectic Mange



**Typical presentation of flea
allergy dermatitis**

Vaccine and Deworming Protocols

▶ DAPPv (Distemper/Parvo)

Administer starting at *4-6 weeks of age*. Administer booster every *2-4 weeks* until *18-20 weeks* of age. For dogs *>20 weeks* of age with an unknown vaccination history, administer a booster in *2-3 weeks*. The next vaccine is administered *one year* after the initial series and then *every 3 years*.

▶ Bordetella (Kennel Cough)

Administer starting at *3 weeks of age* unless born in care in a foster home. Then, bordetella can be given starting at *6 weeks* and boosted *every 6 months* or *yearly*.

▶ Rabies Vaccine

Rabies vaccine can be administered by a licensed veterinarian starting at *12 weeks of age*. Some vet clinic will wait until *16 weeks of age* for maximum efficacy. Administer booster in *one year* and then administer *every 3 years*.

▶ Deworming

All dogs *>2 weeks* of age will receive *Pyrantel 1mg/10lb* upon intake. Dogs *>12 weeks* will receive a repeat dose *2-4 weeks* after initial dose. Puppies will receive repeat dose *every 2 weeks* until *12 weeks* of age.

Panacur 1ml/4lbs daily for *3-5 days* may be used if Giardia or whipworms are suspected or diagnosed in a dog *>6 weeks* of age.

▶ Heartworm Testing

Dogs will receive a heartworm test yearly starting at *7 months* of age.



Sources:

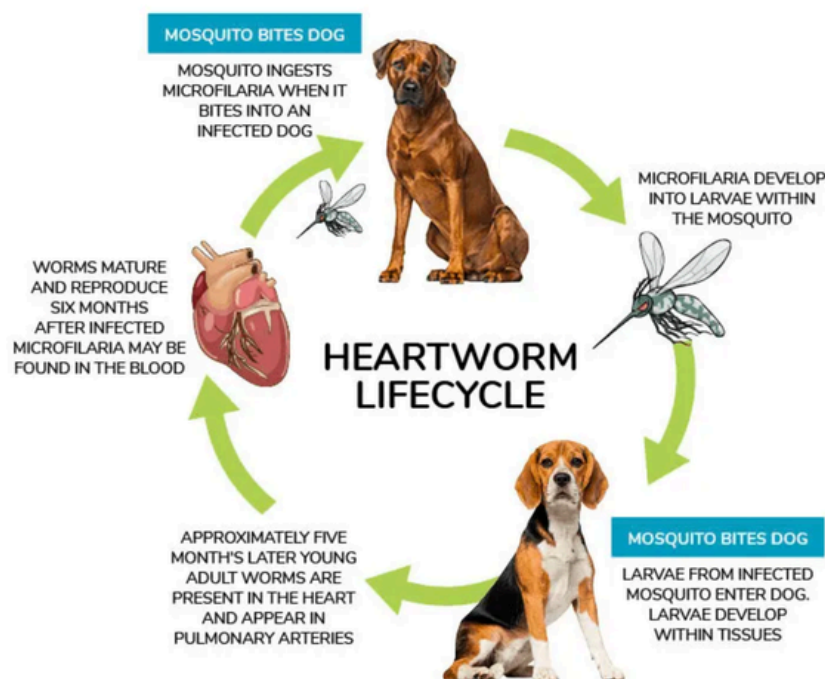
[American Animal Hospital Association \(AAHA\)](#), [Koret Shelter Medicine](#), [Best Friends Animal Society](#), [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

Heartworms

What is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and fatal (if untreated) disease caused by long worms that live in the heart. Heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states but it is especially prevalent in warm areas. Dogs can harbor hundreds of foot-long worms in their heart that cause heart failure, excess fluid in the abdomen, sudden arterial blockages and other deadly complications

How are Heartworms Spread?



My Dog Tested Positive for Heartworms. What Now?

While many heartworm positive dogs don't show signs of disease, some may have a persistent cough, lethargy or weight loss. We do a quick blood test to indicate the presence of heartworms in your dog.

If they are heartworm positive, don't panic! Heartworms are not contagious to humans or other animals and they are usually extremely treatable. Dogs that are treated for heartworms can go on to live long, full lives after treatment. Renegade covers the cost associated with heartworm treatment at our facility for all dogs in care and for dogs adopted out with heartworm. If a dog tests positive for heartworms within 6 months of adoption, Renegade will cover the cost of treatment at our facility. Heartworms should not be a barrier to adoption in most cases.

Before treatment, you may need to limit exercise for your dog. Light walks and play are typically fine. You may notice that your dog gets short of breath much sooner than normal. They may also cough if they've had too much activity.

Heartworms

Page 2

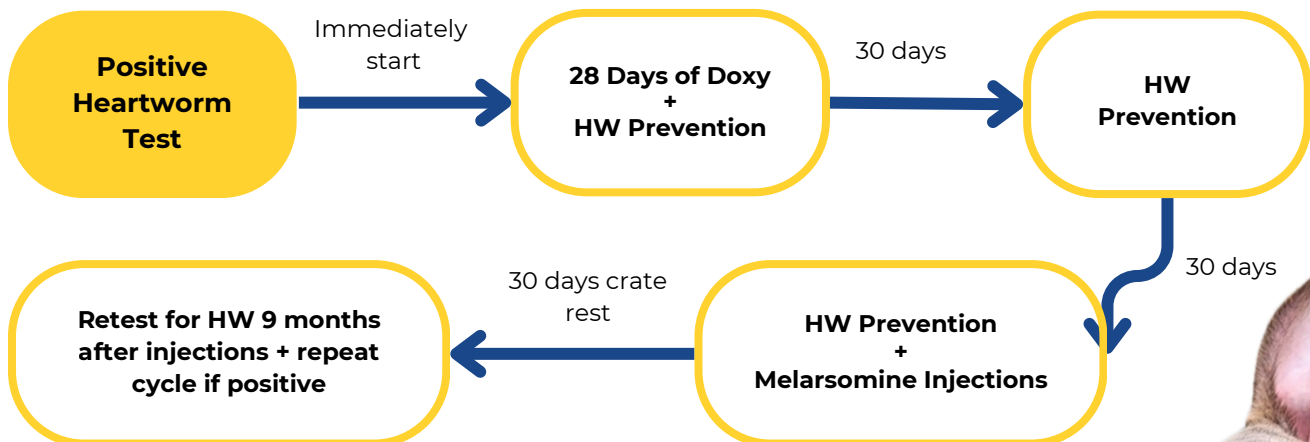
What Does Heartworm Treatment Look Like?

► Pre-Treatment Protocol

Our goal for heartworm-positive dogs is to have a negative test result within 9 months.

Before treatment, your dog will go home with 28 days of doxycycline which should be given with a dose of heartworm prevention. Studies show that a course of doxycycline reduces the severity of pulmonary thromboembolisms associated with heartworm treatment. It also decreases the number of microfilaria (baby heartworms) present in the bloodstream.

Doxycycline has also been shown to eliminate the *Wolbachia* bacteria which is thought to allow heartworms to grow to their adult stage. Depending on clinical signs we may need to obtain a chest x-ray and/or administer a course of steroids (prednisone taper). Four weeks after completion of the doxycycline, your dog will receive another dose of heartworm prevention. Ideally the dog will be treated with melarsomine (the series of 2 injections) 4 weeks after the completion of the doxycycline, however if necessary can be done immediately after completion of doxycycline. It's better to wait the 4 weeks if circumstances allow. Heartworm treatment may be completed up to 1 year after the administration of doxycycline



It's important that your dog continues to receive heartworm prevention throughout the pre-treatment process and for the rest of their life! We do not stop administering heartworm prevention - ever.



Heartworms

Page 3

▶ Treatment Protocol

Jennifer Taylor or Andrea Walters will coordinate with you a date for the actual “treatment” where your dog will receive the injection of medicine that kills the heartworm (Diroban - *melarsomine*.) We do treatment at our office with an in-house vet. You must attend both days!

On the day of treatment your dog will receive an injection of melarsomine in their back, near their spine. This is the injection that targets the adult heartworms. The same thing will happen on night 2, however your foster will be sore and exhausted from the night before.

You will receive pain medication (gabapentin) that you can give your foster to help with any aches. You will also receive a tapering course of prednisone. Prednisone is a steroid that helps reduce inflammation in the lungs and heart caused by the heartworms in their dying phases as well as reducing the risks of clots that can cause sudden death.

Follow the prednisone directions very carefully. If you have any questions please reach out in your group chat.

You will be instructed to give your dog strict crate rest for the following week - with extremely limited activity for the next month. It's very important to keep your dog from having an elevation in heartrate. This will reduce the risk of life-threatening parasitic embolisms caused by the worms dying. In 9 months, your foster can be re-tested for heartworm disease, but by then they will hopefully be adopted! Following this protocol we have had a 98% success rate with the first round of treatment. If in the unfortunate scenario the dog is positive on their repeat heartworm test, they will go through another cycle of treatment.

Heartworms and Adoption

Heartworm-postive dogs CAN go to homes with adopters who are informed about and agree to our treatment plan. We have a heartworm addendum that adopters will sign during adoption counseling at a meet and greet. We have many successful heartworm-positive adoptions!



There is a Renegade Facebook group called “Heartworms Suck”. We ask that you join this group if you are fostering a heartworm positive dog. If your heartworm positive dog went on a sleepover or is adopted, please have their new parents join. Click Here or scan the Qr code to access the Heartworms Suck group.



Babysitting

I need to go out of town, now what?

Our fosters use a wide range of options when they leave town. Some fosters choose to use their own dog-sitters, others find friends or family to help. If you find someone who is not already a foster, please notify your support group. That person will need to fill out foster paperwork so that we have accountability of the dog. If you need help finding a babysitter, please do the following:

1

Notify your support chat and post a babysitting request on the Facebook Foster page with your foster's name(s), a photo, the dates you need, whether they are crate trained, potty trained, dog-/cat-/kid-friendly and any other information a babysitter may need. Please also tag Samantha Fadeley to help coordinate. Many babysitters need dogs to be crate-trained which is another reason we stress crating your foster. Post early and often. **We ask for at least two weeks notice** to find a babysitter, but we understand that emergencies happen. We will always do our best to help.

2



*Babysitting
Request Form*

Fill out a babysitting request using the QR code or by visiting renegadepawsrescue.org/babysitting.



Foster Moves

What if I Need to Move My Foster?



Rescue is not a magical place with endless kennels and foster homes. Everyone in the organization works hard to save lives and we can only do that with committed fosters. The dogs are counting on all of us to make a commitment to them.

That said, there are times when a dog will not work out in your home. We understand and we want you, your family and the dog to be safe and

happy. We will work hard to move your dog as we are able. Once a dog has been in your home for more than 2 weeks, their spot at the building has been given to another dog in need. Many of the dogs who come to Renegade are from county shelters and are at risk for euthanasia.

Once we place a dog into a committed foster home, the team then prepares to intake dogs from partner animal control agencies and shelters that are open intake or that do not have the resources necessary to provide adequate medical care or long term placement of dogs. Open intake means when they're full, they are still required to intake strays and owner surrenders, placing wonderful dogs at risk of euthanasia through no fault of their own.

In addition to trying to pull as many at-risk dogs as possible, we also have a list of our own dogs in foster care who, for various reasons, need a new foster or to return to boarding. Each kennel space represents a life saved, and for this reason, we ask that you give us grace when requesting a foster move or return

Foster Moves

Page 2

Returning/Moving Your Foster

Communicate with your support chat about why you would like to move the dog.



We often hear that a foster “needs someone patient who can give the dog training, time and more support.” Unfortunately, these people do not often exist. **Most of our fosters work full time and do the best they can with the time they have.** We can often help you find ways to help you manage your foster’s energy and activity. A perfect foster home is the one you have available in many cases. ***As soon as you feel like problems are starting to arise, let us know via your group chat and allow us to offer resources and advice. Please do not wait until it feels like the only option is for your foster to leave your home.*** Try suggestions and techniques offered by your support chat. In many cases, small adjustments can make a big difference.

Post on foster Facebook page asking for a new foster.

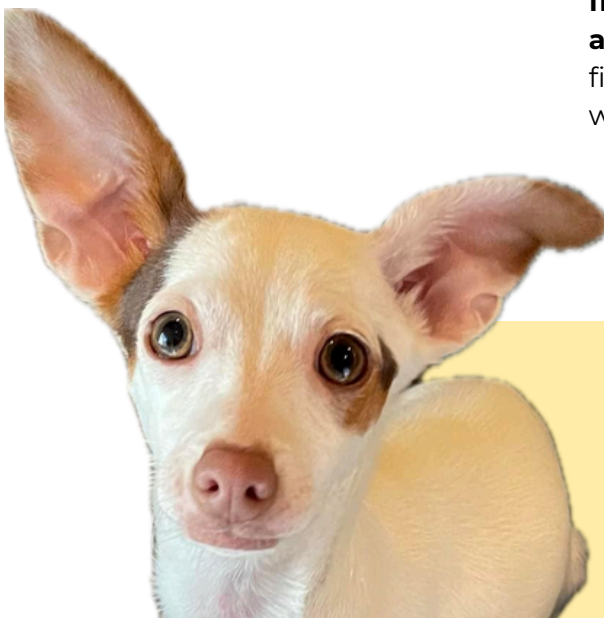


Some people may be willing to switch foster dogs for a better fit. **Posting your frustration about the dog (i.e. saying “he is a psycho” will not help you find another foster home).**

Fill out a move request on the [foster resources](#) portion of the Renegade Paws Rescue website.



We need a minimum of two weeks notice to move a foster. We will be in touch if a new foster is found. If a new foster is not found, you will be contacted about bringing your foster dog to our shelter when we have available space. **We will not move dogs of people who have signed the finder/foster paperwork, as per the contract, unless they are willing to switch for a dog of similar size.** We accept finder/foster dogs only with a commitment that the foster will house the dog until adoption.



We understand that emergencies arise and we will do our best to accommodate with the resources we have.

Adoption Process

1 Potential adopters will fill out an application. The apps team will then complete required vet checks to make sure any animals in the home are altered and up-to-date on vaccines and preventatives.

2 If the application passes, the team will send it to the foster family.

If you do not like the application, you must let the applications team know within 24 hours so we can pass it to another foster family. While the foster parent does get to decide who adopts their dog, we ask you to keep an open mind. Some great adopters are not always the people we would choose as friends. Sharing political beliefs or social circles with an adopter does not necessarily mean a successful dog pairing and vice versa.

3 The foster family will then call/text the applicant to help determine if the dog is a good fit and set up a meet and greet if both parties are in agreement. There is no “roadmap” for that initial call/text. Some foster parents like to ask questions like “What made you interested in Fido?” or “What does a typical day look like with your dog?”

4 Schedule a meet and greet on the Renegade website under [Foster Resources](#). All meet and greets must be at the office unless explicit permission has been given by leadership to have a meet and greet elsewhere. We do this as a final “safety” measure to make sure the applicants are a good fit and to check the foster’s medical records/microchip status prior to adoption.

All humans and dogs in a potential adoptive home must be present for the meet and greet unless granted permission otherwise by leadership. A leadership team member will be present to help facilitate.



Foster Resources



Adoption Process

Page 2

- 5 After the meet and greet, the dog can go on a sleepover with a filled out sleepover form. Sleepover durations will vary, but we ask for a minimum of one week before an adoption can occur. Once the adoption link is sent, there is no need for the dog to come back if all vaccines are complete. When the dog goes on a sleepover they will be given an trial size bag of Hill's Science Diet food. These are located in the food room.
- 6 Foster parents will stay in contact with the potential adopter for the duration of the sleepover. Sleepovers may be extended at the discretion of the foster parent and Renegade leadership should the potential adopter need more time to decide. At the end of the sleepover period, if the potential adopter is ready to adopt and the foster parent approves, the foster parent will request for the foster coordinators to send a digital adoption link. If the potential adopter or foster parent decides the dog not a good fit, the dog will be returned to the foster.

Notes

- Adult dogs must be altered and up to date on vaccines before sleepovers.
- Puppies must be altered before adoption unless the foster coordination team grants an exemption.
- Friends, family members, neighbors - MUST have an approved application and meet and greet before taking dogs for sleepovers.
- We do not adopt out dogs as gifts.
- We do not ship dogs.
- See the "[adoption](#)" tab on our website for more information.



Adoption Process



Littermate Syndrome

Littermate Syndrome is a term used behavioral issues that can arise between two puppies who are raised together, especially if they are from the same litter.

Some symptoms of littermate syndrome can include:

- Extreme separation anxiety when away from the other puppy
- Fear aggression
- reactivity on a leash
- intense fighting when they reach sexual maturity (around 6 months)
- Aggression and dominance in one puppy; anxiety and withdrawal in the other puppy

After puppies have had their fourth shot, if not adopted, a discussion should be had with leadership to determine if puppies need to be moved to new foster homes to prevent littermate issues.

We do not allow two puppies of similar age who are raised together OR from the same litter to be adopted by the same family.

Renegade Paws Rescue does not adopt littermates or two puppies or young dogs of the same or similar age into the same home. We also do not adopt two dogs under approximately 18 months old together. If you already have a puppy or young dog at home, we ask that they reach maturity — approximately 18 months of age — before adding another puppy or young dog. For instance, we will not adopt a seven-month puppy into a home with a 12-month-old puppy.

This policy gives each dog the opportunity to develop independently, build confidence, establish healthy social skills and create a solid training foundation. Raising two young dogs at the same developmental stage can make that process more difficult and may contribute to behavioral challenges as they mature.

Foster Failing

So you want to adopt your foster - now what?

A foster fail is when you love your foster dog so much you can't bear to part with them. While we foster so that other dogs can be saved, we understand that sometimes you meet that special someone - and then it's time to celebrate!

- ▶ **Submit an adoption application** and let us know via your group chat or reach out directly to a member of the leadership team. Our adoptions team will complete a vet check and housing breed restrictions check like they would for any other adopter. As long as things check out, the adoption coordinators will contact you to set up the adoption and sign/acknowledge that you have read this Standard Operating Policy (SOP). You will sign the agreement (next page).
- ▶ The adoption fee is \$150 for seniors (7+ years old), \$325 for adults and \$350 for puppies under six months, starting November 1, 2025. While we would LOVE to have discounts for our fosters, this fee barely covers the costs of care which include spay/neuter, medical care, and vaccination. **We cannot afford to sustain operations with a discount.**
- ▶ **Foster fail adoptions must be finalized within 2 weeks of notification.** If the foster is a no-show, a one-week extension may be offered. If the foster is unable to pay the adoption donation in the 2 week period, the foster will be offered a 2 week extension period. If still unable to pay the donation, the dog will be put live on the website. You may consult with the leadership team for an additional extension, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- ▶ **The leadership team will review fee reductions and waivers on a case-by-case basis** for dogs who have been in care for an extended amount of time, dogs who are dog-selective, dogs in hospice care, and dogs with other mitigating circumstances.
- ▶ **There will be no exchanges of goods or services in lieu of adoption fees.** If a dog is undergoing extended Renegade-sponsored medical care, the leadership team will work with the foster to decide an appropriate adoption timeline.



Foster Fail Agreement



Effective January 17, 2023

I, _____ agree to pay the adoption fee of _____
due for _____(Renegade foster name).

I understand that failure to finalize the foster fail and pay the adoption fee by _____ (date) may result in the foster going live on Renegade's website for adoption by another applicant.

I understand that by adopting my foster that it is now my responsibility to provide any and all veterinarian care, preventatives, and training unless otherwise stated in the adoption contract.

If I continue to foster other dogs after foster failing, I am still responsible for providing for my foster fail because it has become my personal dog.

Adopter Signature: _____ Date: _____

RPR Signature: _____ Date: _____

info@renegadepawsrescue.org

renegadepawsrescue.org

Found Pet Protocol

So you found a dog - now what?

1 See if the dog has an owner

Scan for a chip at Renegade or any local vet office. If chipped, attempt to contact the owner.

2 Report the dog as “found”

Legally, no rescue can accept found dogs without a “stray hold,” which varies by county. To start a stray hold, you must report the dog to your local animal control. If you live in Chatham County, you can do this at [Chatham90.org](https://www.chatham90.org). We also encourage you to post on local social media lost and found pages.

3 Submit a surrender request

If no owner is found, you can submit a [surrender request](#) on our website, including a photo. Unfortunately our community is overwhelmed with stray and homeless dogs and we receive dozens of surrender requests each day. We have over 500 dogs in care at any given time and only around 300 foster families. This means that if you are not able to foster the dog until adoption (or find someone who is able to), it is unlikely that we will be able to accept the dog into our program. There are simply more dogs that we can accommodate. If you are unable to foster and Renegade is not able to accept the dog, you can take it to your local animal control authority.

4

If you ARE willing to foster

If you are willing to foster a dog you found, we will accept it into our program with a signed “Foster Finder Agreement.” The agreement states that you will foster the dog and abide by Renegade rules until the dog is adopted, and if at any point you choose to stop fostering the dog, Renegade has the authority to remove the dog from our program and it will be exclusively your responsibility.

If you are NOT willing to foster

If you are unable to foster, we recommend reaching out to your network via Facebook, Instagram, etc. to try to find a willing foster. We ask that you do not post in our Foster Facebook unless given explicit permission from leadership. Unfortunately, we do not always have the space or resources to move dogs brought into the program by finders. Please see the Foster Finder Agreement on the following pages.

A Note About “Kill Shelters”

Many people seek out “no kill” shelters, but what does that mean? The “no kill” designation means that shelters euthanize less than a certain percentage of animals who come into their care. Many organizations use a **90% save-rate** as a benchmark. We are a limited-admission organization, meaning we can choose the animals we accept based on space and temperament. This allows us to never euthanize for space. If we are full, we simply stop accepting dogs. Open- admissions shelters, like Chatham County Animal Control, are required by law to take in every single animal that comes through their doors, regardless if they are full. This means they have to make heartbreaking decisions about euthanasia for space and health. “Kill shelters” are not the enemy - they are in a horrifically difficult position to care for the animals the rest of the community has neglected and they need our support.



Hill's Science Diet



In 2024, Renegade was accepted into Hill's Food, Shelter & Love program which allows us to feed our foster dogs high-quality food at a fraction of the typical cost. The Hill's program is the most widely used food program by shelters, and we are fortunate to be a part of this. This enables Renegade to have a consistent supply of excellent food for the animals in our care at a significantly reduced cost. No more abrupt switching of food brands based on what is available to us.

As part of our contract, we will exclusively feed our fosters the Hill's brand of food. However, if for some reason your foster has a food intolerance or sensitivity, or other medical reasons that require a specialized diet, please work with the shelter staff to identify the appropriate food. We can also work with our veterinarian partners on a recommendation.

- ▶ **Please use the sign out sheet when you get food from the office.** This helps staff manage inventory, know what food to reorder, and gives us a better understanding of food consumption. As you can imagine, with over 500 animals in our care it is a lot to manage.
- ▶ We can continue to accept food donations from the public. Any non-Hill's branded food will be placed into our community food pantry.
- ▶ We have sample size bags of Hill's food that are to be utilized for adoption purposes only. If you anticipate completing the adoption via the mobile app (vs. meeting back with the adopters in person) you can send the Hill's adoption pack during the sleepover with the understanding that it will be returned to Renegade along with other items if the adoption does not move forward
- ▶ After a pet is adopted, they will receive an email from Hill's to join their New Pet Parent Program but do have the option to unsubscribe.

Hill's Science Diet

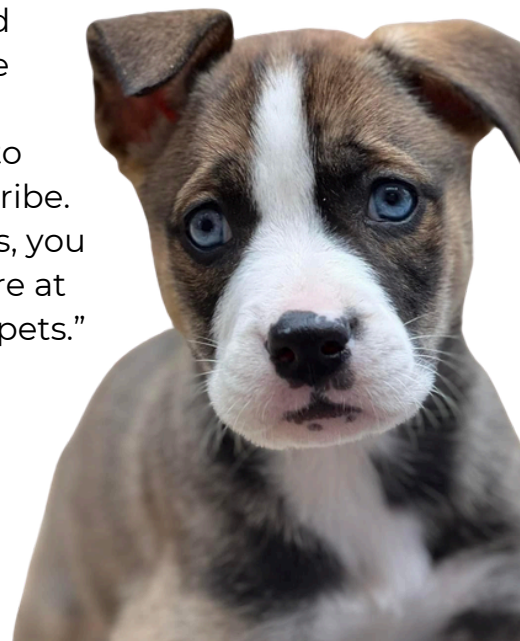
Page 2

The following script is provided by Hill's to talk about Hill's Science Diet food during adoption

"At Renegade Paws Rescue, we are proud to be part of the Hill's Food, Shelter, & Love program and we feed all our pets Hill's brand pet foods.

Hill's is the US Veterinarians' #1 recommended brand of pet food. Hill's Science Diet provides science-led nutrition to support pets' ever-changing needs. Their portfolio also includes specialized nutrition for pets' weight, skin, stomach and more. We suggest that you continue to feed your adopted pet the same food they have been eating while under our care. To assist you with that, we are providing you with a sample bag of the food they have been eating while they were here. Keeping their food consistent during this time of transition can help avoid one additional change.

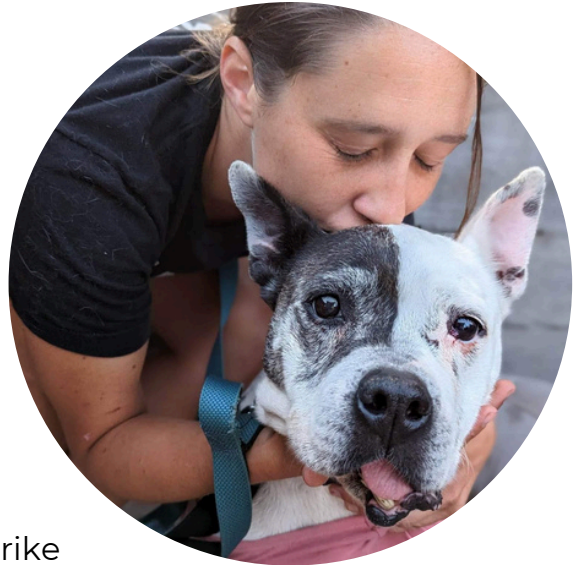
On the front of the bag is a booklet that contains a \$5 coupon you can use to purchase a larger bag of food along with a website offering additional savings and a variety of educational articles. We offer all adopters the opportunity to join the Hill's New Pet Parent program, and information will be included in your adoption toolkit. If you sign up you will receive emails giving you access to exclusive pet parent resources and coupon offers. If at any time you wish to no longer receive emails from Hill's you may unsubscribe. When you buy Hill's brand pet foods to feed your pets, you help make it possible for Hill's to feed the animals here at our rescue. Feeding Hill's at home helps feed shelter pets."



Hospice

Renegade sometimes accepts dogs who are suffering from terminal diseases or otherwise near the end of their life.

It is an honor for us to provide the best end-of-life care and comfort to our foster pups as they are transitioning. While we may be sad that they are departing this world, we are happy that we can help them leave surrounded by love.



Each hospice case is different and we try to strike a balance between doing everything we can to save a dog and making their time with us as happy and comfortable as possible.

We absolutely do not believe in making animals suffer because we are sad about them leaving us.

When we have a dog who may be nearing the end of their life, the foster coordination team will maintain close contact with the foster parent, the director and a veterinary liaison to minimize suffering. We will provide palliative care and medication and help the foster parent monitor the dog's happiness based on their interest in activities they love.

In some cases, we will help create a "bucket list" for the foster pup. This can include trips to the park, a photoshoot, a steak dinner - almost anything!

When the time comes to say goodbye, the Renegade team has a myriad of options for humane euthanasia. In some cases, a veterinary setting will be most comfortable for the foster dog. In other cases, we may be able to schedule euthanasia in-home or at the Renegade facility.

Hospice fostering can be incredibly joyous and meaningful. While the death of any pet is heartbreaking, we have been able to provide some of the most beautiful, love-filled deaths for the foster dogs in our care.

Hospice

JennaGirl's Story

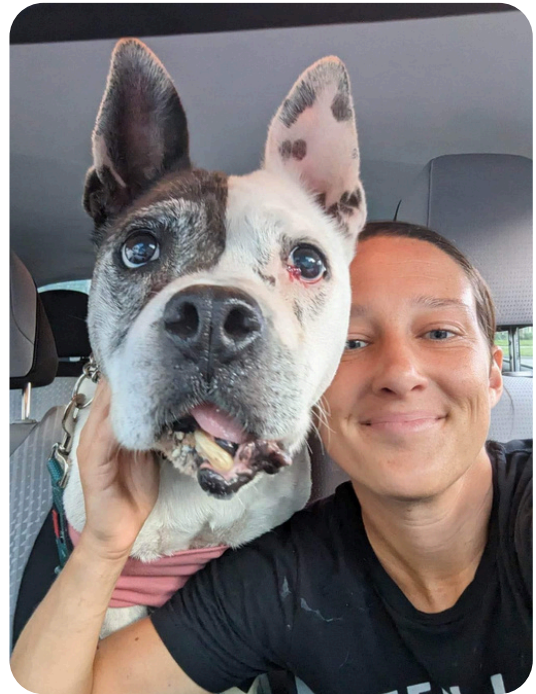


"We pulled JennaGirl from Chatham County Animal Control as an old lady with a broken jaw. A trip the vet told us that she had advanced heartworm disease, fluid in her lungs and that she was aspirating when she ate.

We decided to give her the best week of her life and let her go.

We went to a fancy restaurant, ate take-out in bed and watched a movie and when it was time, we spent the day at Renegade so everyone could give her kisses and say goodbye.

When she came home with me, it was like she could finally relax for the first time in her life. She started actively dying before we even brought a vet to help her on her way. She had the most beautiful death, surrounded by dozens of people who had just met her but dearly loved her."



JennaGirl and her hospice foster, Eve

"Fostering JennaGirl was sad, but it was also one of the most amazing, meaningful foster experiences I've had."

Euthanasia

Euthanasia is the humane and deliberate act of ending a pet's life without suffering.

There are multiple incidences where the Renegade team, in collaboration with the foster parent, may consider humane euthanasia for a foster dog. Renegade may consider euthanasia if a dog has a terminal illness where suffering has increased beyond the point of a happy life. Euthanasia may also be considered when a dog has been deemed behaviorally unsafe, in collaboration with the training team. Neither of these decisions are made quickly or lightly.



Renegade leadership will provide support and counseling during the process of any decision-making.

Euthanasia drugs are administered by a veterinary professional either in-home or at a veterinary office. A leadership team member will always be present with the foster parent during the procedure.

Many times, the vet will administer a sedative first if the dog is frightened or cannot relax. The euthanasia drug most commonly used is pentobarbital given intravenously. Euthanasia is rapid and peaceful. Pets generally simply go to sleep.

Within seconds of administration, the drug will cause the heart to slow and then stop, and any circulation in the body will cease. As the heart stops and the blood pressure decreases and breathing stops.

Once a dog has died, you may observe involuntary muscle contractions or respiratory gasps about one or two minutes after the loss of consciousness and circulation. This does not indicate pain or consciousness. It is merely a physiological process. Some pets may lose bladder or bowel control, which is totally normal and painless.

After euthanasia, a Renegade team member will ensure your foster dog is given a dignified cremation and the ashes will be returned to you if you choose.

Every leadership team member has been present for multiple euthanasias and has experience understanding and guiding foster parents through the emotions that come with the experience. You will never be alone or without support during the process.

Department of Agriculture

All rescues and shelters in Georgia are regulated by the GA Department of Agriculture. This means we are subject to frequent no-notice inspections of our facilities and records. We are required to maintain licensure and records to operate as a rescue. It is imperative that we know where all dogs are at all times.

We track dog locations using software called ShelterLuv, and we assign your foster profile to a dog in our care. This allows us to record a history of dogs that have been in your care throughout your tenure as a foster parent or babysitter.

Once you take home a foster, you will receive an email from a member of our DOA compliance team asking you to digitally sign DOA paperwork and submit photos of where the dog is housed. You do not need to worry about your home being clean or spotless. The DOA cares about if a home environment has running water, climate control and is at the standard of or better than a kennel environment.



Other Ways to be Involved

The Renegade Revolution does not stop at fostering. It takes an entire community to help the dogs we care for. Other ways to get involved include:

-  **Volunteering at our shelter** by doing laundry, dishes, cleaning and learning to do kennels.
-  **Advocating** for a dog in boarding - take them out on adventures, walks around town and share them on social media. Ask about our Boarding Buddies Program for more information.
-  **Fundraising** - we simply cannot sustain our operations without the funds to house, feed and care for the dogs we love. We are ALWAYS in need of monetary donations to survive. Check out the "[donate](#)" page on our website for more information about ways to donate.
-  **Sharing information** - Share our posts on social media and talk to your friends about Renegade and the greater rescue community. It just takes the right person to see a post about a dog to get them adopted.
-  **Assisting with Events** - volunteers are needed for year-round event planning as well as October and event weekend shifts. Tasks may include picking up raffle prizes, running the registration booth, packing sponsor bags, talking to the public about Renegade and more.
-  **Educating** - education is key! Many people have no idea that our community struggles with such a difficult overpopulation crisis. Teaching people about rescue, busting stigmas about breed legislation and sharing ways to support are very important parts of rescue.

Volunteers who demonstrate commitment to the organization by fostering, volunteering and advocating may be asked if they want to volunteer in other capacities such as leading events or joining one of many organizational teams.

Wag-O-Ween



[Wag-O-Ween](#) is a long-standing Savannah community event that invites animal lovers to 'trick or treat' at local businesses with their dog (or cat or pig or goat etc!) throughout downtown and the Starland district. The area's largest animal rescue fundraiser, this event is unique in that while it is run by Renegade volunteers, it invites and financially supports a dozen rescues and shelters annually.

This event also funds the Sara Portman Community Program which focuses on spaying and neutering community pets.

Volunteers are essential to making Wag-O-Ween a success and planning is a year-long endeavor. Please check out the [WoW volunteer page](#) to learn more about volunteering opportunities with WoW.



WoW
Volunteer
Page



Teams

Renegade is a massive volunteer-based organization. Many key volunteers and leadership team members have full time jobs and families. Due to the collaborative nature of the organization, a lot of these teams overlap. If you have any questions related to these teams, please ask your foster support chat to identify a point of contact.

Our teams are always growing and changing. Here is a basic list of the teams working at any given time.

- **Foster Coordination** - See "[Communication](#)." This team oversees foster parent communications and coordinates with other teams for the well-being of the dogs in foster homes and at the shelter. This team pairs foster dogs with potential foster homes.
- **Adoption Applications (apps team)** - See "[Communication](#)." This team receives adoption applications, conducts initial checks and then passes the applications to foster parents.
- **Events** - If you have an idea about an event, please fill out an event request form on the RPR website. If you have events-related questions, please email contact@renegadepawsrescue.org
- **Volunteer Coordination** - See "[Communication](#)." Volunteer applications can be submitted on the [RPR website](#).
- **Training/Underdog Uprising** - Fields all inquiries through the foster coordination team. If necessary, the foster team will elevate to our training staff/team. To join the Underdog Uprising team, please fill out a volunteer application and select "Underdog Uprising."
- **Kennel Operations** - This is Renegade's most massive operation, which includes boarding scheduling, food ordering, employee management, building maintenance, building planning and more.
- **Financial/Legal** - Includes grants and donor management. Please email info@renegadepawsrescue.org for financial or legal queries.
- **Medical** - All medical queries should be first sent through your foster coordination team. If necessary, the team will elevate these issues as appropriate.
- **Intakes/Owner Surrender** - All requests for intake need to come in the form of an owner surrender request accompanied by a photo. A small team balances these requests with the hundreds of dogs at risk of euthanasia each day in local shelters. Do not post dogs on the private foster Facebook looking for a foster before getting permission from the director. Additional questions can be directed to info@renegadepawsrescue.org.

Teams

- **Renegade Community Program (CAN)** - Renegade provides limited food and veterinary services for community members in need. Our goal is to keep families and pets together. Renegade is not typically able to pay for large surgeries or expensive treatments. We provide free spay/neuter services and we can provide vaccines during days when our vet is available at the office. Please send inquiries to Jennifer Taylor at jent@renegadepawsrescue.org.
- **Wishlist Management** - Amazon, Chewy and any other wishlist requests can be fielded through your foster coordination team. Cecilia N. manages our wishlists.
- **Merchandise** - All merchandise is vetted through a team to maintain Renegade's "brand." Please field any merchandise questions through Louise Limbach.
- **Social Media** - Facebook, Instagram and TikTok are managed by a team of volunteers. You can message any of the platforms for social media queries OR contact your foster coordination team with questions.
- **Wag 'O Ween** - Renegade's largest fundraiser; please check out wagoween.org for volunteer opportunities and information.
- **Heartworm Treatment** - See "[Heartworms](#)." If your foster has heartworms, you will be added to a "[Heartworms Suck](#)" Facebook page and you will be in touch with Jennifer Taylor and Andrea Roberts.
- **Operations and Information** - Handles large-scale and future planning endeavors in conjunction with the director and other teams.
- **Communications** - Handles interaction between businesses, events, general public and other inquiries. Email info@renegadepawsrescue.org or contact@renegadepawsrescue.org for information.
- **Department of Agriculture Compliance** - A team of volunteers ensures that we meet the Department of Agriculture standards of care and record-keeping. You will receive an email from compliance@renegadepawsrescue.org to submit required documents.
- **Website** - Maintains Renegade's website and Wag 'O Ween pages. Please send any inquiries about the website to info@renegadepawsrescue.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

▶ **What is the best way to communicate about my foster?**

You'll be invited to a Facebook group chat with various members of leadership when beginning your foster journey. If you don't have a group chat, please send an email to info@renegadepawsrescue.org. We can answer most of your questions in the chat or direct you to the proper channels; however, we strongly recommend posting in the Foster Parents Facebook group for general advice or support. Our community is knowledgeable, supportive and wants you to succeed.

▶ **Am I responsible for food and supplies?**

Renegade will pay for food and necessary supplies including a leash, collar, crate, food, medicine, etc. We appreciate any donations to help cover the cost of our supplies.

▶ **I want to purchase my own dog food for my foster.**

All RPR dogs in care are to be fed Hill's Science Diet food unless otherwise directed by one of our veterinarians. If you choose to purchase this food on your own, no reimbursement of any kind will be provided unless you have received prior approval from RPR leadership.

▶ **I just brought a foster dog home and he's not eating. What should I do?**

It is not uncommon for dogs to have little appetite their first few days in a new home due to stress. If not accompanied by other symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting, or diarrhea, there is little cause for concern. You may try to entice your dog to eat by using a wet-food topper or plain chicken.

▶ **When is my foster's heartworm and flea prevention due?**

Heartworm and flea prevention is typically given every 30 days. There are some exceptions; for example, Bravecto is given every 3 months. If you aren't sure when your prevention is due, please reach out via your group chat and we will assist. Renegade provides all prevention for fosters.

▶ **How do I find out when my foster is due for vaccines?**

Upon picking up your foster, you should be provided dates for upcoming boosters. If you have any questions about when your foster is due for vaccines, please reach out via your group chat and we will assist.

Frequently Asked Questions

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▶ How do I introduce my dog to my personal dog?

We recommend introducing dogs slowly. Ideally, you will bring your personal dog with you when you come to meet potential foster dogs and staff will assist with the initial introduction. At home, we recommend introducing them on leash and on neutral territory, such as outside. Tandem walks are a great way to let dogs get used to being in each other's presence. Start off 6 feet apart, then gradually get closer as the dogs appear more comfortable. Progress to parallel walking with the dogs on the outside of each person, then move the dogs to the inside so they are walking next to each other. Avoid nose-to-nose meetings and opt for butt-sniffs. Keep interactions short and redirect your dog before it has a chance to escalate to a negative behavior. See the *Introducing Dogs to Other Dogs* and *Decompression* sections of this handbook for more information.

▶ This foster is not a good fit for me. Can I return it?

Please send your request via your group chat, then submit a move request form (found on the foster area of our website) and post in the Foster Parents Facebook group that you are looking for a new foster. We recommend you highlight your foster's positive traits while also being open about what kind of home they would thrive in. Be sure to mention if your foster is dog friendly, kid friendly, cat friendly, crate trained or potty-trained. These are the most common questions asked when looking to bring a new foster into a home. Please see the *Foster Moves* section of this handbook for more in-depth information.

▶ My dog has diarrhea. What do I do?

Your foster dog will probably have diarrhea at some point in time. Generally this is not a cause for concern and is self-resolving. Do not hesitate to reach out to your foster team if you are concerned. **If it is persistent or accompanied by blood or other symptoms please inform your team ASAP.** We will likely ask for pictures. Common causes of diarrhea are intestinal parasites, stress, food sensitivities, anxiety, upper respiratory infections, change in diet, and treats. Less common causes are parvovirus and foreign body obstructions. Things we may suggest include a bland chicken and rice diet for 3 days, de-worming, anti-nausea injection (if accompanied by vomiting, or metronidazole (if bloody diarrhea). Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis so please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Page 3

▶ **My dog just pooped out worms! What do I do?**

Worms are very common in all dogs, but even more-so in dogs who have been neglected, living outside, or not receiving regular medical care. All our dogs are dewormed upon intake, however due to the lifecycle of worms, it may take several rounds of de-worming to completely eradicate them. It is common to see worms after administering de-wormer to your foster. This means the de-wormer is working. Please see the [Parasites](#) section of this handbook for more information and reach out via your group chat if you have additional questions.

▶ **My foster dog is coughing. What do I do?**

Please reach out to your Foster group chat. Due to the nature of being in a shelter-environment, many foster dogs will develop mild kennel cough. This is typically not contagious to your personal pets provided they are up to date on their Bordetella vaccine; however, it is a possibility.

We recommend you isolate your foster dog for the first few days, if possible. We will likely advise you to monitor for worsening symptoms. Generally, kennel cough is self-limiting and viral, meaning that antibiotics are ineffective. Check with us about administering Robitussin and/or Benadryl for symptom control.

Steam showers are also great for opening up the airways and loosening up mucous. You can run hot water in your shower and let your dog sit in the bathroom for about 15 minutes at a time. We sometimes squirt a few drops of saline into the dogs nose to help loosen up mucous.

Dogs with an upper respiratory infection are likely to show a decreased appetite. This is commonly due to not being able to smell their food. Try using wet, stinky foods such as canned tuna or chicken to entice your dog to eat. It may also help to feed them directly after a steam shower. **If you notice worsening symptoms such as yellow or green mucous, increased lethargy, or any difficulty breathing, please let us know. We will consult with a veterinarian to determine if antibiotics are appropriate.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Page 3

▶ **My foster needs medical treatment. What is the process for seeing a vet?**

Your first step is to reach out in your foster group chat to describe the issue and include photos, if possible, so we can determine whether to monitor, bring the dog to the office, schedule an appointment with our in-house vet or refer you to a partner vet. Many common medical issues can be treated in-house. We have a variety of medication on hand and are able to do basic diagnostics, including lab-work. **Please DO NOT take your foster to a veterinarian or administer any medications without our prior approval. You will not be reimbursed for unapproved vet visits.** Renegade partners with several veterinary offices in the area, and if deemed necessary, we will schedule an appointment or drop-off visit at a location that works best for you. All appointments must be made by Renegade and we ask that you do not call the vet's office to schedule appointments. Please keep in mind that we have limited resources and over 500 dogs in care at any given time and must triage concerns based on severity.

▶ **Can I feed my foster a homemade, raw or grain-free diet?**

Please do not feed your foster one of these diets unless it is a recipe written by a veterinarian and approved by leadership. A [study conducted in 2013 by UC Davis](#) found that just 10 of 200 homemade recipes provided the minimum essential nutrients, and most lacked more than one. Raw diets present risks of illness not only to your foster, but to elderly, young, and otherwise immunocompromised humans. Grain-free diets typically replace the grain with a legume (peas/lentils) which are associated with heart failure. Symptoms may present after just one year on a grain-free diet.

The [FDA](#) received 515 reports of dilated cardiomyopathy (heart failure) in dogs between January 1, 2014, and April 30, 2019, and found that 90% were on a grain-free food and 93% were on diets that contained peas and/or lentils. The foods were tested for minerals, metals and amino acids and no significant abnormalities were found. For more information about feeding your dog, refer to the The World Small Animal Veterinary Association's (WSAVA) [Global Nutrition Guidelines](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

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▶ How do I get my fosters bio updated?

Please post your foster's bio in the Foster Parents Facebook group and tag Julia Weatherford, Kathleen Swanner, or Sam Fadeley to add it to their profile. Include bright, clear photos to be added as well. We recommend checking your foster's profile on our website after it's updated and on occasion to ensure the descriptions are still accurate. Please see the Marketing Your Foster and Creating a Great Bio sections of this handbook for more information.

▶ When Can My Foster "Go Live"?

"Going live" refers to making your foster dog available for adoption via our website. **For puppies**, our general guidelines are they must have received a minimum of 2 DAPPv vaccinations and be scheduled for spay/neuter. In the event they have an applicant prior to spay/neuter, they may go on a sleepover **ONLY IF** the potential adopter agrees to bring them to their spay/neuter appointment. The adoption will not be finalized until after spay/neuter is complete. **For adult dogs**, they may go live when they have been medically and behaviorally cleared and have been scheduled for spay/neuter. As above, the potential adopters must agree to bring them to the spay/neuter appointment and the adoption will not be finalized until after spay/neuter is complete. If you have any questions regarding whether or not your dog is ready to go live, please check in with us via your group chat.

▶ When can I take my foster to events?

All animals must be up to date on all vaccines to attend events (DAPPv, Rabies, and Bordetella). **Puppies are different than adult dogs and each situation must be handled differently. Please consult your foster chat to see if it is safe for your puppy to be at events.** Rabies exceptions are made for puppies that will go in play pens to be kept safe. A tarp and puppy pen are REQUIRED and permission must be granted by Renegade Paws Rescue leadership. Events are always posted on the Facebook page and are an excellent way to get your foster exposure to potential adopters. We encourage all of our fosters to come to as many events as possible. If you cannot bring your foster to an event, you may post in the Foster Parents Facebook page or Renegade Volunteers page to ask if anyone would like to volunteer to bring you foster to event. We have many people who are not able to foster who enjoy helping out in other ways.

Frequently Asked Questions

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▶ What do I do if I need to go out of town?

Notify us in your group chat, make a post in the Foster Parents Facebook page requesting a babysitter **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Except in cases of emergency, we typically need two weeks to find a babysitter. She works really hard to find babysitters for all our fosters. If a foster is not found, the dog will come to boarding. Make sure you include details about your foster in your post such as if they're dog friendly, kid friendly, cat friendly, potty-trained, and crate trained. For more information about this process, see the [*Babysitting*](#) section of this handbook.

▶ I found a dog. What do I do?

[Chatham 90](#) is a great resource for lost and found pets. Always try to locate the owner first. Take the dog or cat to get scanned for a microchip at a veterinarian's office or at the Renegade office. If you can't immediately locate the owner, you must contact your local animal control services to report the animal as found. After they are reported, they must undergo a stray hold. The found animal must be reported in the county in which it was found. You may keep them at your home or with your local animal control center for the duration of the stray hold. Even if you choose to do the hold in your home, you **MUST** report them. Different counties require different lengths of time for their stray hold. You can reach out to Renegade Paws Rescue at any point during this process for assistance. **Please see the [*Found Pet Protocol*](#) section of this handbook for more information.**

▶ I want to bring a dog into the program. What do I do?

First, the dog must have a committed foster. Without a committed foster, we likely cannot accept it. The first step is to have the owner of the dog submit an [owner/finder surrender](#) request via our website. The person who agrees to foster must submit a [foster application](#) via the website. A member of the foster coordinator team will reach out to both parties to discuss further details.

Frequently Asked Questions

Page 6

▶ **Where do the foster dogs come from?**

Renegade works closely with local animal control agencies to increase life saving in southeast Georgia. Many of our dogs in care are pulled from Chatham County animal Control (CCAS) and Bryan County Animal Control (BCAC). We also accept on a case-by case basis owner surrenders and strays. Some of our dogs are returned adoptions. When a dog enters our program, it is a lifetime commitment for us, and we will always take them back.

▶ **How long will the dog be in foster care?**

Ideally until adoption which can vary widely based on a number of factors. Some dogs are adopted quickly and some stay in foster care for a year or longer. Our boarding capabilities are extremely limited and we rely on committed foster homes to continue our lifesaving efforts.

Puppies

Fading Puppy Syndrome (Neonatal Puppies)

Fading puppy syndrome is a life-threatening emergency in which a puppy, sometimes one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade away

Symptoms

- Low body temperature - the puppy feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding to touching/petting
- Gasping for breath - whimpering/crying out

Causes

- Hypothermia - being too cold
- Hypoglycemia - blood sugar is too low

When this happens, it is vital that you take the following steps immediately!

Step 1: Get them warm

- Create a “burrito” towel. Immediately wrap the puppy up in a towel like a burrito leaving only their face exposed (their whole body, tail, ears, and paws should be in the towel, only nose and mouth out). Do not take the puppy out of the towel to adjust them, check on them, etc. Every time you take them out, you will risk making them cold again, even if it is only for a second.
- Wrap a heating pad turned on low around the burrito towel, to avoid burns, as an extra source of heat. Secure it around the towel so it stays in place.

Step 2: Get their blood sugar up

- Get a bowl and put a few tablespoons of sugar in hot water. Stir so that the sugar dissolves- you want the mixture to be thick but still runny. In a pinch Karo syrup can also be used as a substitute.
- Use a syringe or your finger to give 3 drops of the mixture every 3 minutes into the mouth. If they are not swallowing, try not to get it down their throat. Aim for their gums or the tongue.
- Set a timer to make sure that you are doing this at least every 3 minutes. Every 5 to 10 minutes is too long and they will continue to crash.

Step 3: Notify your foster team

- Notify your team via your group chat. There will be no extra advice for you. This is the most that can be done, but we do need to be made aware of what is going on. We do not send neonates to veterinarian's offices because these offices are kept cold and the staff does not have the ability to feed them as described above.
- If you have to leave while a puppy is crashing, please let us know so we can make other arrangements.

It can take hours for puppies in this condition to improve. Once they have shown marked improvement they can return to their normal activities. You should continue to monitor them for any recurrences.

Keep in mind that even with love, attention, and treatment, some puppies will still not make it. Try not to blame yourself during this difficult time. Any foster puppy that you have cared for was given a second chance at life BECAUSE OF YOU. Their chances at survival are much higher with you, than if they are left at the shelter. The foster team knows that you did everything you could for every puppy in your care.

Puppies

Common Medications

Medication should only be given at the discretion of the RPR foster team or their medical staff.

Giving Liquid Oral Medication

We will typically have your oral medications dosed out in syringes for you so that you don't have to worry about drawing up the correct amounts. Hold the puppy in your non-dominant hand and hold the syringe in your dominant hand. Placing them on a table or counter may be easier than holding them in your lap. Having two people (one holding the pup and one plunging the syringe) will always make things go a little more smoothly as well.

Place the syringe into the side of the puppy's mouth and angle the syringe toward the throat - be careful not to choke or gag them. Depress the syringe slowly to feed the medication into the mouth. Try not to draw the process out but be sure to not go so quickly that you overwhelm, choke, or have them spit out the medication, causing a missed dose.

When giving doxycycline, follow the medication with the same amount of water in a syringe. Doxycycline can irritate and burn the throat and esophagus and it's important to chase the medication with water to prevent damage.

Panacur

Panacur is an oral dewormer that treats roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms. It is typically given daily for 3-5 days and may be repeated in 2.4 weeks.. Panacur can be given starting at 6 weeks of age.

Pyrantel/Strongid

Pyrantel is an oral dewormer that treats roundworms and hookworms. It is given as a one time dose that may be repeated in 2-4 weeks. Pyrantel can be given starting at 2 weeks of age.

Ponazuril/Albon

Ponazuril and Albon are oral dewormers that treat coccidia. It is typically given daily for 3 days however this may extend up to 28 days. Ponazuril and Albon can be given starting at 2 weeks of age.

Lime-Sulfur Dip

Lime-sulfur dip is a topical bath that is used to treat ringworm.

Antibiotics

Doxycycline, Clavamox (amoxicillin and clavulanate potassium), Baytril (enrofloxacin), and azithromycin are commonly used antibiotics in puppies to treat upper respiratory infections.

Fortiflora

Fortiflora is a probiotic that improves gut health and can help with diarrhea.

Cerenia

Cerenia is available as an oral medication and a subcutaneous injection. It is used to treat nausea and vomiting and may be given every 24 hours.

Puppies

Recommended Supplies

These are some of the supplies that we recommend you have when fostering puppies. We will do our best to provide all necessary supplies.



Bottle Babies 0-5 Weeks

- Bottle
- Syringe
- Nipple
- Puppy formula
- Blender bottle
- Heating pad
- Digital Scale (must weigh in grams)
- Baby Wipes
- Thermometer and lubricant
- Top open cat carrier/tub with no lid



Gruel Babies 5-7 Weeks

- Canned puppy food
- Hard puppy food
- Puppy formula
- Kennel or playpen
- Puppy pads
- Digital scale (must weight in grams)
- Harness/leash to begin introducing
- Safe toys and chews



Puppies 8+ Weeks

- Canned puppy food
- Hard Puppy food
- We recommend early basic training to begin at this stage
- Harness/leash
- Large kennel/playpen to safely contain
- Safe toys and chew toys



Pregnant/Nursing Mom

- Canned puppy food
- Hard puppy food
- Puppy formula
- Carrier for transportation (for babies)
- Heating pad
- Baby wipes
- Digital scale (must weigh in grams)
- Empty room/large kennel to isolate mom and babies
- A whelping box that mom can get in and out of easily but babies cannot

Puppies

Getting Started With Puppies: Setting Up Your Room

Puppies 0-4 weeks

Puppies 4 weeks and under should be kept strictly in a tub without a lid or a carrier. You should have a heat source such as a heating pad (without the auto off function). Place a blanket between the puppies and the heat source. The heat source should not cover the entire space, so that the puppy can move towards and away from the heat as necessary. Without external heat your puppy will fail to thrive.



Puppies 5-7 weeks

Puppies 5-7 weeks of age should be kept in their own space but can be moved from their previous carrier or tub to a larger area like a dog kennel or playpen. They're still too young to have free roam of a room all day and need to be monitored regularly. You'll also want to have pee pads or sheets down now that the puppies are moving onto gruel. It's best to still provide a heat source for them during this stage.



Puppies 8+ weeks

Puppies 8 weeks should still be kept in a kennel or playpen any time they are unsupervised. Not only are they not housetrained, they will eat anything and everything on the ground; from your house to dropped medications. Keeping them kenneled is keeping them and your home safe from any accidents.

Puppies

The Puppy Timeline

Puppies should eat 8 MLs per ounce of body weight (Ex: a 4 ounce puppy should eat 32 MLs of formula). This is a guide, not a rule. If a puppy is struggling with eating, maintaining attempts every hour is important rather than extending the time between feedings. Once on track, maintain the normal 2-3 hour feedings.

Puppies are vaccinated every 3 weeks starting at 4 weeks of age until 18-20 weeks of age. Below is a guide but keep in mind your schedule may be skewed depending on when your puppy came in to care. If you have any questions please reach out to your foster team via your group chat.

WEEKS



0-1
Neonatal

Feeding

Bottle feed formula every 2-3 hours. If there is a mom dog, make sure all her puppies are nursing. Puppies can nurse from mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of crying or activity could indicate a problem with mom's milk supply.

Development

Puppies will weigh about 90-100 grams at birth. Puppies will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the rest of the time. Handle the puppies minimally. Newborns are deaf and blind and are unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep puppies warm. Umbilical cord will continue to dry and fall off on its own.



1-2
Neonatal

Feeding

Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until full but not bloated

Development

Puppies should have doubled their birth weight. Ear canals open between 5-8 days. Eyes open between 8-14 days. Healthy puppies will be round and warm and have pink skin. Healthy puppies seldom cry. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep puppies warm.



2-3

Feeding

Bottle feed every 3-4 hours.

Development

Puppies will begin to crawl and stand between 18-21 days old. Their weight will depend on their breed. They begin to play with each other at this age. Increase handling of puppies to get them used to human contact. Ensure that all interactions are gentle and positive. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature. Keep warm.

Puppies

The Puppy Timeline

Page 2

WEEKS



3-4

Feeding

Bottle feed every 3-4 hours.

Development

Puppies begin to see well at this age. They may start cleaning themselves but will still need help for serious cleaning. Teeth begin to erupt. Litter box training may begin at 4 weeks of age. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature.



4-5

Feeding

Feed every 4-5 hours, if they are not interested in weaning, continue to bottle feed. Weaning of puppies may begin gradually. Remember it is better to feed more often than not enough.

Development

Beginning of key socialization period. Puppies may begin to bark and wag their tail. Are able to pee and poo on their own. Puppies are able to regulate their body temperature.



5-6

Feeding

Weaning should be easier now. Feed gruel 4 times a day. Introduce dry food and water as well. You may experiment with plain meat baby food to help with the transition.

Development

Puppies can start to wander around the room, under supervision. Play with your puppies often! Puppies have an entire set of baby teeth.



6-7

Feeding

Feed canned food at least 3 times daily and have dry food available at all times. If any puppies are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so everyone gets fed.

Development

Puppies will start to act like real dogs; playing and grooming themselves. Be sure to show them the puppy pad or take them outside after meals, play sessions, and naps. Chewing on inappropriate items should be corrected by giving the puppy an appropriate object to play with and chew up.



7-9

Feeding

Feed canned food at least 2 times daily. If any puppies are territorial with food, provide a second bowl so that everyone is being fed. Leave dry food out at all times.

Development

Puppies are maturing and growing more. They will be active and exploring like toddlers.

Puppies

Page 1

Step By Step Bottle Feeding

1 Preparing Your Formula and Bottle

Never give a neonate anything other than puppy formula. NO COWS MILK! Puppy's digestive systems are fragile and they should only be on the recommended formula/food unless told otherwise. No treats or table food. If you start them on a specific brand of formula, it is best to stick with that type. Switching formulas can cause discomfort, gas, diarrhea, and intestinal issues.

When preparing your formula be sure to follow the mixing instructions. Mixed formula can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. After that, it must be disposed of. Unmixed powdered formula can be stored in the refrigerator for four months and in the freezer for six months once opened. Always make sure that your formula is completely mixed and there are no clumps. We recommend using a blender bottle to ensure this. Only use clean nipples, bottles, and blender bottles when feeding.

After mixing your formula and filling the bottle or syringe, place hot water in a cup and let the bottle/syringe with formula rest inside to bring the milk to the temperature of your skin. A bottle warmer works great as well. Gently swirl the formula to mix it well after heating. Discard any unused formula from each feeding. DO NOT REHEAT.



2 Stimulate Your Puppy

Helping your puppy to eliminate before feeding will ensure that they can eat the entire amount that they need as it will prevent the puppy from feeling full too early. They are too young to eliminate regularly on their own. To stimulate, take a warm washcloth, cotton ball, tissue, or baby wipe and gently rub the genitals and rectum until the puppy stops peeing and pooping. They should urinate at every feeding. Neonates may start out pooping once a day but the frequency should continue to increase regularly. Normal neonate stool colors will be brown with a slight yellow cast. Stool should come out easily, it should be soft but retain its shape. Diarrhea and constipation are both dangerous in neonates.

*If you think your puppy is constipated, you can massage their abdomen in a warm bath or add a tiny drop of olive oil/mineral oil to one of their feedings to loosen things up. If your puppy has diarrhea you can slightly decrease the amount of water in the formula to help the puppy firm up.

Puppies

Page 2

Step By Step Bottle Feeding

3 Weigh Your Puppy

Always weigh your puppy before feeding them. An easy way to calculate how much the pup ate, instead of trying to decipher those tiny lines on the syringe or bottle, is to weigh them after they eat and subtract the two numbers. Final weight - initial weight = amount eaten. It's easiest to weigh your puppy by placing a bowl on your scale, hitting the tare button so that your scale forgets the weight of the bowl and then placing your puppy inside the bowl so that they can't squirm or crawl off the scale while you're waiting for their weight to register.

Record your initial weight at each feeding.

4 Feeding Your Puppy

Feed babies one at a time. Place them on a counter top/lap and allow them to feed with four paws down with a level head up. This simulates how they would nurse from mom. Some neonates may knead and try to grab your hand or bottle. This is normal. Allow them to nurse as they are comfortable. NEVER feed a neonate on their back. This can cause the formula to go down the wrong tube and lead to aspiration.



Puppies 0-1 weeks should feed from a syringe and then transition to a bottle as milk from a bottle comes out a bit quicker. Some foster parents prefer to continue with using oral syringes, which is fine. Change syringes often as they will begin to stick and can cause frustration.

You can gently open the puppy's mouth with your finger and place the nipple into its mouth directly on its tongue if necessary. Pull lightly on the bottle/syringe to promote strong sucking. It's important to tilt the bottle to prevent them from swallowing air. You should never squeeze the bottle, a latched puppy will suckle at a rate they can handle. Squeezing can cause aspiration which can lead to further complications. A latched puppy's ears will wiggle, their tongue will form a u-shape and you'll hear tell-tell suckling from them. Be cautious about your puppy overeating. They should look like little pears but not appear bloated. 10-15MLs each feeding is the most they should consume at a time. Be sure to log how much your pup ate after each meal. After feeding, stroke the pup's back to help them burp. Using a toothbrush works great and stimulates a mom's tongue!

Puppies should eat roughly 5MLs per 100 grams of body weight.

If milk comes out of a puppy's nose, it is aspirating. Pups are pretty good at clearing milk from their longs on their own most of the time. Set the puppy down and allow it to begin breathing normally, which should take a few seconds.

Always sanitize the area and your feeding tools before and after feeding.

Puppies

Page 3

Step By Step Bottle Feeding

Other Tips, Tricks and Things to Keep In Mind

- If your puppy is acting ravenous, decrease the time in between feedings until this behavior subsides. Ravenous behaviors can cause them to choke, inhale formula, or become uncomfortably bloated.
- If your puppy does not seem interested in eating, give them a short break and try again after a few minutes to an hour. Continue trying often until they eat. Be sure to log these habits.
- Some puppies do not know how to nurse off a bottle and can take a few rounds before they get the hang of it. That's okay and normal. Frustration happens, but always remember to stay patient.
- If the pup isn't latching, make sure you are checking the temperature of the formula and the puppy itself. Formula must be body temperature or slightly warmer and if a pup is too hot or cold themselves, they may not eat. Adjust accordingly.
- Research shows that a puppy's suckling reflexes are strongest when they first wake up. That's the best time to comfort and feed. Especially if you have a fussy eater.
- If your puppy does not seem to be getting enough formula and appears distressed, you can make the hole in the nipple *slightly* larger. The formula should drip slowly when held upside down.
- If your puppy is on medication, give it after they have eaten, unless told otherwise, to prevent upsetting the stomach. Some medications can be mixed with formula as its vehicle.
- Keep your formula container in the freezer to help with longevity and help prevent clumps.
- Some puppies feel secure, focused, and may nurse better when they are slightly swaddled in a blanket or towel, especially if they are flailing their arms around a bit.
- Rubbing the puppy's face with a washcloth or toothbrush mimics a mother's tongue and may help prepare them for meal times.
- Always wipe any leftover milk from their face. This will help keep their fur soft and clean around the face to prevent any hair loss or irritation from old dried milk.
- NEVER feed a puppy who is unresponsive, lethargic, or unable to swallow.
- Feeding puppies inside of their comfy and warm beds is always ideal as well, or a warm countertop versus an unnatural cold surface or your lap.
- Puppies can be competitive and will latch and nurse better when their siblings are around. It's their instinct to fight for survival and food.

Puppies

Weaning Bottle Babies to Gruel

Puppies will begin weaning at about 4-5 weeks of age when the majority of their teeth begin erupting. You may notice that your puppy is ready to wean because they are biting at the nipple on their bottle and seem hungrier than ever. This is a sensitive stage because you may see your pup nibbling on wet or dry food - this does not mean they are eating enough. They should eat 5% of their body weight at each feeding.

Give pups a shallow dish with warmed gruel at each feeding and let them discover it. Some may take to it right away - some may not. Be patient with them. If they do not begin eating the gruel on their own, see the section about syringe feeding gruel. When leaving gruel in their kennel be sure to use water instead of formula to create the gruel as using formula can go bad when left out. During this stage you will also begin leaving out dry food so that they can independently make the transition when they are ready. This stage is one of the messiest - be sure to wipe gruel from the puppy's coat to prevent irritated skin and loss of hair.

Making Gruel

Gruel is made with either formula or water and canned puppy food. Formula can help ease the weaning process as puppies are used to the taste and smell of it by now. You will mix either liquid and the canned food until it reaches an applesauce-like consistency. This consistency is important because it ensures the babies are staying hydrated during the weaning process. A good starting ratio is 2 cans of food to 1 can of water or formula for multiples or 1 can of food to 1/2 a can of water or a single pup.

- It is often easiest to mix the gruel in a blender to ensure the right consistency throughout.
- Always store gruel in a covered container in the refrigerator - bacteria can quickly grow when left out.
- Reduce the amount of water gradually until puppies are on pure canned food.

Teaching Puppies About Gruel

Weaned pups need to be fed every 4-5 hours to ensure their blood sugar stays up. They can go 6-8 hours overnight but not during the day.

- Continue to weigh weaning puppies before each feeding to ensure they are eating enough.
- Be sure to feed gruel in a shallow dish that puppies can easily reach into.
- Always give them a chance to discover gruel on their own - if they are simply not eating read on about syringe feeding gruel.

Syringe Feeding Gruel

Gruel made for syringe feedings should have a consistency that better resembles a milkshake and may require less water than gruel being eaten from a dish. This is also where you may try making gruel with meat baby food so that it will flow through the syringe easier. Make sure that gruel is warmed when feeding but not hot.

- Like you would when bottle feeding, make sure the puppy is belly down and you have a loose grip around their head and shoulders. Insert the syringe into the mouth at a 45 degree angle from the side. Feeding from the front can cause choking.
- Slowly plunge the syringe to feed gruel into the puppy's mouth, removing the syringe every few seconds to allow them to swallow.

For puppies weaning from mom, give them access to wet food several times a day in a shallow dish for them to explore. They will naturally wean themselves when they and mom are ready.

Puppies

Getting Started with Moms and Babies

Setting Up Their Space

Nursing moms should have their own room where they can be isolated with their babies. There should be some sort of whelping box in this room where babies can be confined but mom can get in and out easily - for early stages, a plastic wading pool works great. You may provide a heating pad on low setting, underneath the blanket, to help keep pups warm for times when mom needs space. Mom will need free access to dry food and water at all times and should have wet food supplemented to make sure she produces enough milk and has enough calories to keep caring for the babies.

The first few days you have mom home, if she has not given birth yet, make sure her room/area is set up for the puppies arrival. It's important that she knows this is her space and she is safe and comfortable. You may still take her out for walks and some play time, but once the babies arrive, this will be somewhat limited.

The first few days after she gives birth, try to disturb mom and puppies as little as possible. Come in a couple times a day to weigh each puppy, give them a quick look over, replenish mom's needs, take her out on a short walk, look her over as well and then return her back to her babies.

The length of pregnancy in dogs is roughly 60 days.

Birthing Checklist

- Clean bedding and towels
- A pair of clean scissors or blade
- Rubbing alcohol
- Unflavored dental floss or sturdy thread
- Lubricant
- Baby's bulb syringe

The string and blade are to tie off and cut the placenta if mom does not do so after 5-10 minutes (you will cut about 1/4 - 1/2 inch away from the puppy's body). This does not need to be urgently done right away. Also use the blade to carefully cut the baby out of the sac if mom has not after 1-2 minutes. These items are just for **IN CASE** you should need them. Dogs have been doing this for millions of years without our intervention - always give mom the opportunity to do it first. Her maternal instincts should kick in and you should try your best not to intervene.

Be Patient and Cautious With Mom

Just like we can be with our offspring, some moms can become protective over their new babies. Let mom come to you when you enter the room and make sure she can see the pups when you have to handle them. **DO NOT** introduce household animals to a new mom. This can create stress in mom, which can bring many complications, as well as potentially cause aggression. You are also putting the newborns at risk - they have **NO** immune system. Keep them separate.

Things to Look Out for

While mom should typically take care of all the pup's needs, there are some things you need to keep an eye out for. Check that mom is not smothering any of the babies and that they are getting enough to eat. Is mom ignoring a runt that seems weak? Is mom acting aggressively towards any of them? Communicate any concerns to your foster team.

Puppies

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Making it Through Labor

▶ BEFORE

- Signs of labor in moms include panting, restlessness, nesting, loss of appetite, and a drastically decreased body temperature. Below 99 degrees.

▶ DURING

- If your pregnant foster goes into active labor and hasn't had a baby after 1-2 hours, let your foster team know immediately.
- As the babies are delivered, mom will start cleaning them up. She will remove the fetal membranes and secretions from their nose and mouth. This will allow the pup to breathe freely.
- There should be one placenta for each pup born - if not, let your foster team know. **DO NOT PULL ON THE CORD WHEN THE PLACENTA IS STILL INSIDE MOM.** This can cause massive tearing and bleeding.
- **DO NOT HOVER.** Remember that mom's natural instincts will guide her. It is best to not intervene. Check on mom every hour or so just to be sure that things are moving along and going smoothly.
- Most moms will not need your help and may deliver in the middle of the night when it's quiet and she knows she will have time to herself to focus on her babies.
- If a baby is stuck in the birthing canal, call your point of contact right away.
 - There can be a 20 minute to 2 hour pause in between babies being born- this is normal. If mom is pushing and starts to seem frantic or distressed, this is not normal and you should notify us right away. Stay calm and we will walk you through whatever steps should be taken next and where to go if necessary.



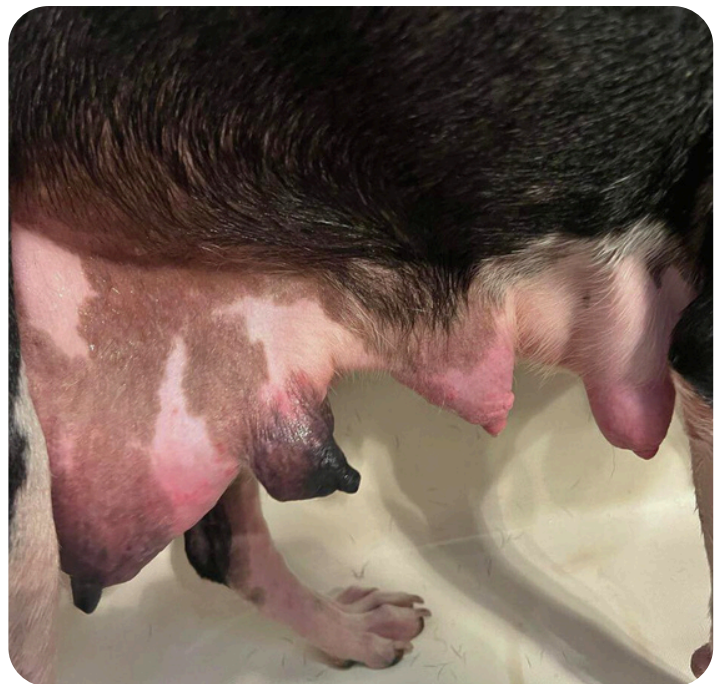
Puppies

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Making it Through Labor

AFTER

- Do NOT bathe the litter or mom for about a week after birth. Mom will keep them clean and she should not be bathed in soap, only wiped down with a wet rag of any blood/afterbirth if needed.
- Keep mom and her whelping box area secluded. This should be a room with a door that closes to keep her from roaming the house and to keep other animals away from her and the puppies.
- Mom may try to move her babies to a closet or smaller, darker, more secluded space if given the opportunity. As long as it's a safe space, this is fine.
- Some vomiting or diarrhea is normal after giving birth. Limit moms food and water intake for the first 24 hours to help with this. After 24 hours, resume free access to food and water. Avoid treats and high value food during this time as well.
- It is normal for mom to bleed for a few weeks following childbirth.
- Keep an eye out for symptoms of mastitis; inflammation of the mammary glands. Symptoms include swelling, redness, or discoloration of the teat, discoloration of milk/discharge, refusal to feed puppies, fever, depressive behavior. Plugged milk ducts are the most common cause of mastitis. Try warm compresses and manual milking to unclog. Antibiotics may be necessary.



Puppies

▶ Vaccine Protocol

DAPPv (Distemper/Parvo)

First vaccine at *4 weeks of age* and receive a *booster every 2-4 weeks* until they reach age *18-20 weeks* and then a booster is administered annually.

Bordetella

For puppies born in care, Bordetella vaccine may be administered starting at *6 weeks of age*. In the shelter, we will give starting at *3 weeks of age*. Boosters are administered annually.

Rabies Vaccine

Administered at minimum of *12 weeks*. Some vet clinics will wait until the puppy is older. Ideal age is *16 weeks* for maximum efficacy. Rabies vaccine must be administered by a veterinarian.

▶ Deworming

Pyrantel 1ml/10lbs starting at *2 weeks of age* and every *2 weeks* until *12 weeks*.

Puppies (<6 months) receive **ponazuril** by mouth (50mg/kg) once for coccidia prophylaxis at *3-4 weeks*.

Panacur 1ml/4lb may be used in lieu of pyrantel and is given for three consecutive days at *6 weeks*, and *9 weeks*.

▶ Heartworm and Flea Prevention

Heartworm and flea prevention are started at *6 weeks*. We typically use *lufenuron* for flea prevention and *Iverhart Max* for heartworm prevention.

▶ Pregnant and Nursing Moms

If in a low-risk foster home, pregnant and nursing moms will receive their vaccines when the puppies are weaned. In the shelter environment, the risks outweigh the benefit and a pregnant or nursing mom should be vaccinated per normal protocol.

Pregnant and nursing moms can receive pyrantel.

Pregnant and nursing moms should continue to receive monthly heartworm and flea prevention.

Sources:

American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), Koret Shelter Medicine, Best Friends Animal Society

Puppies

Helpful Things to Keep in Mind

- ▶ We can begin moving the puppies to new foster homes in pairs or trios when they are fully weaned to gruel, a minimum of 5 weeks old.
- ▶ Puppies may go to homes as singletons at 10 weeks of age. After 4 shots, puppies need to start being separated. Please ensure you are keeping tabs on when this is.
- ▶ Puppies may go live after 2 DAPP vaccines and are scheduled for a spay/neuter.
 - ▶ Puppies may have meet and greets and go on sleepover on a case by case basis before their spay and neuter only if the potential adopter agrees to bring the puppy to their appointment or the foster makes arrangements to bring the puppy to their appointment. Very rarely will an adoption be finalized before a spay/neuter and only with a spay/neuter addendum. Two exceptions are very small breeds and very large breeds which will have a delayed spay/neuter.
- ▶ Puppies are eligible for a spay/neuter at roughly 10 weeks of age and 2.5 lbs.
- ▶ Puppies can go into YOUR yard after 2 DAPP vaccines.
- ▶ Puppies must have had at least 4 DAPP vaccines or be over 5 months old in order to touch public ground.



Puppy Socialization

Tips for raising well socialized pups!

- ▶ Expose puppies to new sounds such as the radio, TV, cars, motorcycles, cats, fireworks,, etc. Dogs who are exposed to a variety of environments often adjust to new environments easier
- ▶ Expose puppies safely to new people. Even when your puppy cannot go out on the ground, you can carry them around in a puppy pouch or stroller. Let your puppy meet new people who come over to your home, including children. People can hold the puppies and touch them after they sanitize their hands. Exposure to sunglasses, beards and people who look different than your family can be extremely helpful in finding them a forever home.
- ▶ Expose puppies to new textures - rugs, wood floors, granite, etc. If you don't have carpet, you can put a blanket or towell on the ground. Any fuzzy clothes can help, too!



Marketing Your Foster

This section will provide information on ways to promote your foster. With over 500 dogs in care at any given time, we rely on our fosters to help promote and market their dog(s). The more information we have and the more we see your dog, the better the apps team will be able to match potential adopters.

Important Tips

1 Be Aware of Your Words

Be careful of the language used when writing about your foster, whether it be on social media or for their online bio. **We like to emphasize POSITIVE traits of the dog.** For example, instead of saying “Fido must be in a single dog home” you could say “Fido prefers to be the only apple of your eye.” When browsing through hundreds of dogs online, it’s super easy to click on to the next at the slightest hint of a red flag. Once interest is expressed by a potential adopter, you can then go over quirks in more detail. Feel free to reach out to leadership or a fellow foster if you have any questions regarding bio writing!

2 Post, Post, Post

Post every place that will let you without landing yourself in social media jails for spam, but the more sites, digital and physical, that have your foster’s photos and information, the wider the audience is to help you reach the right match. How can someone fall in love with a foster they never see or hear about?



Marketing Your Foster

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3 Be Available

The more accessible you are, the more likely a potential adopter is to remain engaged. Quick responses keep adopters from moving on to the next dog on their list.

As a general rule, the faster introduce a dog to a potential adopter, the better. **People are not always willing to work much for an animal they haven't met.** Once a potential adopter sees your foster in person, they become real and much harder to resist. Keep an open mind on all applications - just because an adopter isn't someone you would personally hang out with doesn't mean they aren't a fabulous pet parent.

4 Get Creative

Allow your creativity to shine - Don't be afraid to ask for help or try new things. You may strike gold!

Pro Advice from Our Fosters

“

I would say a good POSITIVE bio helps a lot. You can go over all the foibles on the phone or in person, but when there are words like “needs work on —”, “feral”, or a rundown of all the horrible things that have happened, esp medically, I think it's easy for people move on to the next one. I'm not saying lie- but spark interest with all the wonderful things, and be honest about any of those things after they are interested. Just my two cents.

”

“

I had a experience with this where someone told me they met a dog in person and loved him but then they went online, read a bio saying the dog “needed a lot of patience” and were turned off because they were afraid they couldn't work full time and do it. Turns out they could, but we had to undo a lot of unintentional harm from that bio

”



Marketing Your Foster

Page 3

“ I also had a RECENT experience where an applicant specified they only wanted potty trained. My foster was a happy tinkler and we did not put that in her bio. I told the adopters that they could expect accidents with any dog and it might take a while for any dog to get into a routine. They went on a two week sleepover and adopted her 10/10 would not have happened if we put that negative trait in her bio, they wouldn't have even considered her

“ Getting them to events! I've had at least 4 of my foster babies adopted after meeting their person at one of our events. Manny Scott met his person at the very first event he went to after being medically cleared! Sometimes it takes multiple events but the more we get them out there to meet people, the better the chances they find their forever. ”

Creative Examples



Lizzie Simmon's foster dog Rafiki didn't do great at events but that didn't stop her from showing him off everywhere she went. She still showed up at events sporting a Rafiki sign with a QR code to scan for more information.

Marketing Your Foster

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Puppy foster, **Heather Miller**, created this sign and attached it to her stroller full of puppies while out and about with them. She recommends QR Code Monkey to easily create your own QR codes. <https://www.qrcode-monkey.com>

And while we are talking about Heather, she also creates doggy apparel to promote your foster! These are available in the foster supply room and you are welcome to borrow whatever you want, but we do ask that you return them when no longer needed! Following are some more examples of great marketing by Renegade fosters.



Creating a Great Bio

One of the most important things we ask of you as a foster is to write a bio for your dog. As soon as you've had the dog long enough to learn about their personality and their quirks, go ahead and write a bio. If things change, bios can always be updated but it's important to have information on their profile as soon as possible. In this section, we will give you guidelines and tips for creating a great bio for your dog to maximize their chances of adoption!

Bio writing is something many fosters really struggle with because they want to be completely transparent in their foster's bio. However, putting all of the "negatives" in a bio can really sabotage a dog's chances of even meeting potential forever homes.

For instance - if you write "dog aggressive" nobody is going to want to adopt, foster OR meet that dog. BUT, if you write "his highness requires all your love be dedicated to him - don't so much as even LOOK at another royal subject," there is a MUCH higher chance someone takes a second look.

We absolutely do not want you to lie in your bio but there is a time and place for discussing issues (group chat!). Bios need to highlight the positives.

Eve's Success Story

"Rainey Bug, our last foster peed all over the house. Every single day. Just happy squirts. Everywhere. We did not include that in her bio. BUT, when she got an adoption application (that said they wanted potty trained) we let them meet her and explained about her happy pees. They met her and ended up LOVING her - and their dog loved her! They decided they wanted to make it work and she is doing amazing in her new home."



Creating a Great Bio

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Make a Connection

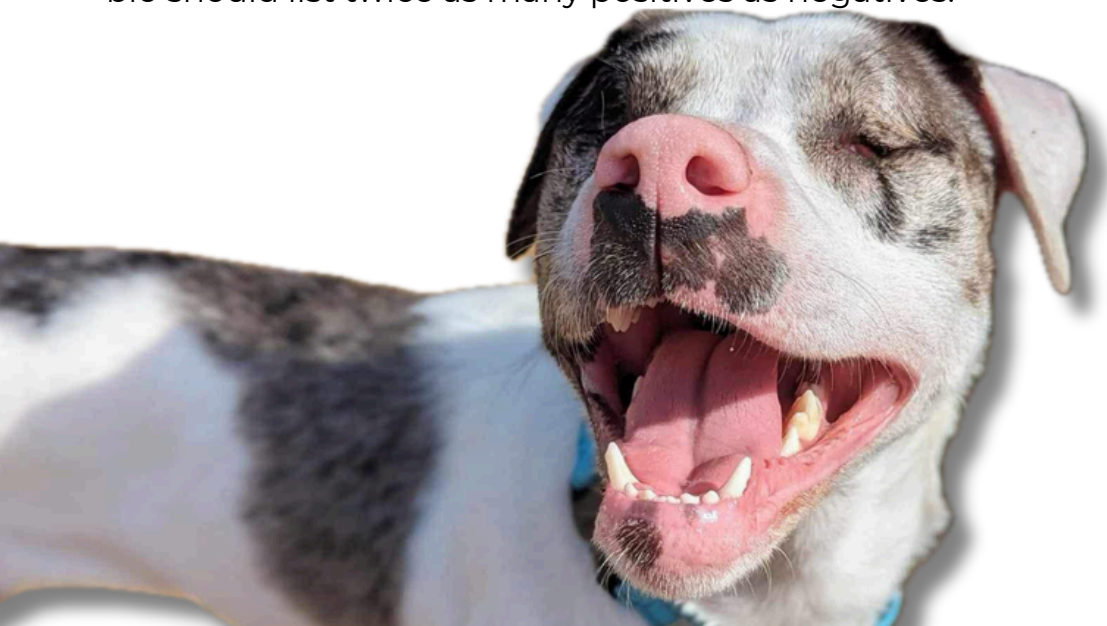
Great advice from Heartspeak.org: **“While potential adopters appreciate knowing (and should be informed of) the facts on both ends of a pet’s adoptability spectrum, they’re ultimately looking for a reason to love a pet.”**

It can be easy to focus on the pet’s needs and forget about the adopter entirely, but they’re the “audience” we need to engage by highlighting why this pet will make a great addition to their life. **An easy way to make readers feel connected: picture the ideal owner for a pet and write about them!** “Would be a great companion for someone who _____” (Loves to stay active, enjoys a cozy night with a good book, likes to stick to a routine). Or, “if you enjoy _____, you’ll love Charlie!”

Highlight the Positive

An animal’s health or behavioral issues should never be the main focus of their bio. It can be tempting to weed out less committed adopters by focusing on a pet’s limitations and negative behaviors up front, but this can make their issues seem far worse than they really are. Our goal is not to warn away the “wrong” adopters with a long list of an animal’s shortcomings, but to draw in the right adopters by describing their best qualities, what kind of home they will thrive in, and what kind of adopters will connect best with them. A frank

and detailed conversation about their needs and limits will take place with staff during the adoption process: our job is to get them in the door! A good rule of thumb: every bio should list twice as many positives as negatives.



Creating a Great Bio

Page 3



► Pay Attention to Tone & Language

The tone we use in a bio can make or break the interest an animal receives. Focusing on an animal's positive traits doesn't mean skipping over their issues entirely, but it does mean choosing your words very carefully when addressing them. **When writing about a restriction or requirement, try to sound warm, playful, and encouraging toward the reader – people should smile when they read it!** – otherwise, while trying to ward off unqualified applicants, you might scare away a qualified one by sounding unfriendly or unnecessarily intimidating.

► Remember: there's no such thing as too many positive adjectives!

Wonderful • Adorable • Sweet • Intelligent • Smart • Dignified • Laid Back
• Easygoing • Good Natured • Confident • Outgoing • Social • Curious • Loving
• Friendly • Affectionate • Snuggly • Cuddly • Gentle • Sensitive • Happy • Silly • Chatty • Bouncy • Goofy
• Playful • Exuberant • Mischievous • Adventurous • Athletic • Peppy • Fun-Loving • Spunky • Sassy
Handsome • Stunning • Gorgeous • Beautiful • Volunteer Favorite • Good Listener • Social Butterfly

► Negative words to avoid whenever possible

Hates • Dislikes • Won't • Can't • Doesn't • Shouldn't • Fearful • Defensive • Scared • Standoffish • Pushy • Aggressive

► Instead, convey the same message using positive words

"Won't be a good fit with other animals"

"Will thrive in a home where he can shine as an only pet"

"Shouldn't/can't live with small kids"

"Can join a home with adults or older teens"

"Doesn't like to be left alone"

"Is happiest when he's with his people"

Be careful with "needs" and "should": these words may not be negative but can make an animal sound too high maintenance for adopters who may be fully qualified.

Creating a Great Bio

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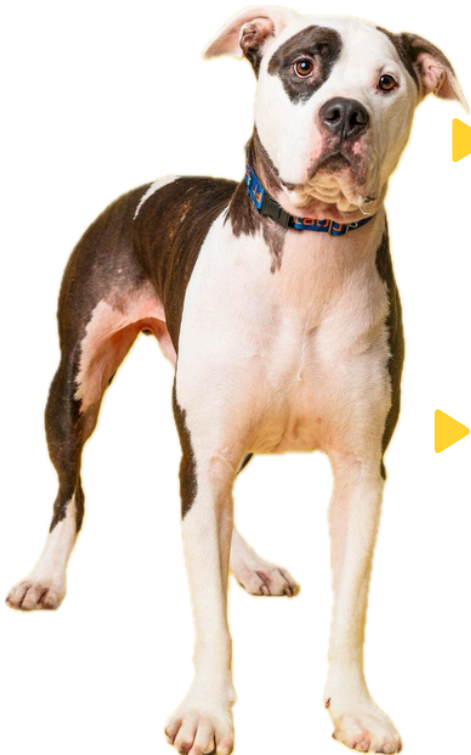
Avoid gimmicks: animals are cute, so we don't have to be!

We can be positive, playful, and warm without veering too far into overly cutesy language which can be distracting for the reader.

Use caution speaking in the first person from the animal's point of view (ex. "My name is Walso and I love laps..." can be hard to do well). A good alternative is to use the second person to encourage a connection with the reader: "You'll love Tasha's smile!" "Henry will gaze lovingly into your eyes while you pet him."

What to Include in a Bio

- 1** A **positive and engaging introductory statement** about the animal to draw people in, even if it's a generic one. Think of it as their "headline" ("This social boy is fabulous," "Gorgeous Lily would love to be your new friend!").
- 2** **At least two more positive descriptions** to draw adopters in, help them feel a connection to the dog, and learn about their personality: are they playful or a couch potato? Do they have a favorite toy or an endearing habit? Imagine the ideal adopter or home for an animal and describe it.



▶ How does this pet show affection and connect with people? What seems to make them happy/excited? What's something cute or endearing about them that makes you smile? What would their ideal day consist of? Have they started clicker training or harness training?

▶ You don't necessarily need to mention medications, heartworm positive, or other health or behavior issues (with the exception of hospice-type illnesses) – that can be discussed when the apps team or foster reaches out.

Creating a Great Bio

Page 5

3

A brief description of special behavior or training needs that adopters should be aware of. Are they still learning important training basics or working on socialization? Will they need a lot of play or exercise? Do they need a more experienced owner? Encouraging, casual language is critical for this section

- ▶ This is where we “translate” their behavior notes (“swatty – experienced owners only”) into **positive, non-intimidating descriptions** (“this spicy guy will flourish with an experienced owner who understands his signals”).
- ▶ Keep descriptions concise – **we don’t want this to feel like an intimidating list of problems!** – and mix in as many positive adjectives as possible (“this friendly boy is working on his manners,” “this wonderful girl will be happiest as the only pet!”)
- ▶ Use plain language rather than shelter jargon, which can sound more serious than it is. **Encourage adopters to see medical and behavior issues for what they are: manageable conditions.**
- ▶ If a dog is hyper or untrained, **talk about their training as something ongoing** (“he’d love to continue working on his training with you!”), **rather than something the adopter will need to figure out for themselves** (“he needs an adopter who will work on behavior training”).
- ▶ **If we know that they’re treat- or toy-motivated, be sure to mention that:** when you let adopters know what motivates a pet, you “build a bridge” between them and a potential adopter.



Creating a Great Bio

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4 Whether they get along with/can live with kids and other animals. **Remember to talk about the kind of home they can join, rather than the type of home they can't join!**

▶ “No kids” makes a dog sound like it eats kids for breakfast: even people who don't have kids of their own won't want a pet that sounds like it will hurt a child. **Mention why this restriction exists without making it sound like one:** “he'll be happiest in a home with adults who can be sensitive to his age” or “he can join a home with kids over 12 who have experience with respecting a dog's space”

▶ **If they get along great with every animal and human they meet, remember to talk that up! For animals with a lot of restrictions** (no other animals, no kids), **try to work as many of them as possible into one sentence to keep it from feeling like a list of issues.** Instead of “He is not a good candidate for a home with children. He is dominant with other dogs and chases cats, so he needs to be the only pet,” try, “He'll do best in an adult home where he can shine as the only pet.”

5 **End with a positive closing statement with a call to action.** As with our opening statement, this can be generic.

“He can't wait to meet you, so visit him today!”

“Come and meet this wonderful girl: we know you'll fall in love!”

▶ Optional: How the dog came to RPR: stray, owner surrender, etc)

6 **We don't speculate or go into great detail about how hard an animal's life was before being rescued.** Negative details fuel

the misconception that all shelter animals are broken or have a dark past, and feeling sorry for an animal or angry at past owners won't get them adopted - a positive connection will! It's also not necessary to say how far they've travelled or which specific shelter they came from. The exception to this is if we participated in a special rescue effort—for instance, taking in dogs from a hoarding case.



Creating a Great Bio

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- ▶ If the pet was surrendered, we rarely share that info in the bio. If we do, **we should do so without saying or implying anything negative about the surrendering owner.** Part of RPR's mission is to support and assist struggling pet owners, so that means that we take a nonjudgmental approach. When in doubt, just avoid it.
- ▶ Exception: If we know that an animal was with the same person for many years, but that person has recently passed, that can be good info to share: **it lets adopters know that the animal has lots of experience living in a home and is in the shelter through no fault of their own.** Use sparingly and only if it is certain!
- ▶ Many of our dogs and puppies come from other shelters, including animal control agencies where their lives are in danger when too many animals come in and space runs out. These groups our partners and they work very hard to save as many animals as they can, so we do not say or imply negative things about them. **We would never say that an animal came from a “kill shelter”!**
- ▶ When you don't know an animal very well but need more positive language. Try to start with at least one positive thing the adopter can't see from looking at the picture—even if it's general. Then, it's OK to talk up their appearance just to fill out the bio a bit. You might comment on super-soft fur, stunning green eyes, sleek jet-black coat, cute button nose, a gorgeous petite lady, a handsome tuxedo with a cute smudge on his nose, etc.

Examples of Great Bios

This is **Tiger Lily**! Lily has an extremely calm temperament and gets along great with other pups. Her favorite activities are chewing on bones, pulling all the fluff out of her toys, and cuddling on the couch. Lily is 3 years old and has had one litter of pups. Her compassion as a mama shows with how much she cares for her foster brother, Dio, and how sweet she always is. Not to mention she's a dream on a leash and has never once pulled during a walk. She is crate trained and 100% potty trained. She is yet to be cat tested, but with how calm she is I assume she has lots of potential to get along with cats.

We have loved having her around and we want nothing more than to find her an amazing family! If you are looking for a gentle soul to spend your days with, apply to meet Tiger Lily!



Creating a Great Bio

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Introducing **CatTrap**, the heartthrob you've been waiting for!

Looking for a life partner to connect with? Look no further! CatTrap is ready to steal your heart with his huge personality and irresistible charm. He's not your average dog- he's a true social butterfly who loves to interact and engage with his human companion. Get ready for endless cuddles, playful banter, and unforgettable adventures together!

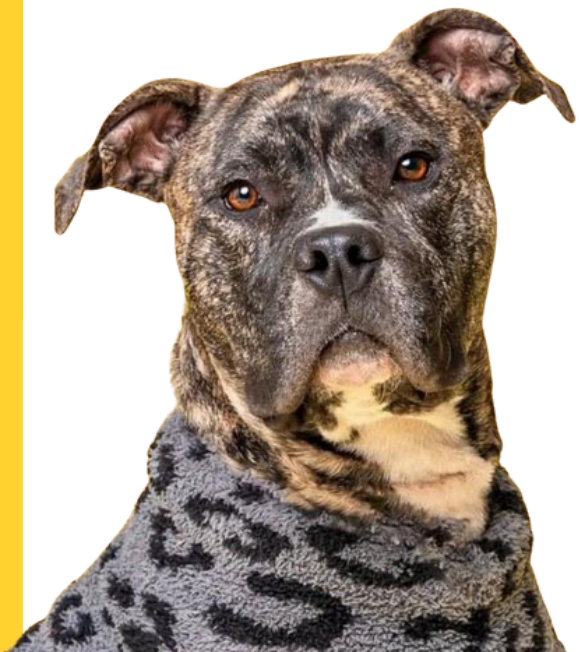
CatTrap's love languages are physical touch and quality time. He's a master at giving the most comforting snuggles and gentle paw massages. Whether it's hunkering down on the couch for a movie night or exploring the great outdoors, he's always up for some quality bonding time.

Open to polyamory? CatTrap is too! He understands the importance of finding that special someone human, but he's also open to forming deep connections with other furry friends. Just make sure they're not of the feline persuasion - cats are a big no-no for this handsome hunk!

Speaking of handsome, CatTrap is tall, dark, and oh-so-handsome. With his sleek brindle coat and mesmerizing eyes, he's sure to turn heads wherever he goes. And here's the best part - he's house- and crate-trained! No worries about any unwanted surprises in your living space.

CatTrap is panromantic and loves all genders and dog breeds equally. He believes in love without boundaries and is ready to embrace the unique qualities that make each individual special. So, if you're looking for a partner who will love you unconditionally and bring endless joy to your life, swipe right on CatTrap and let the adventure begin!

Note: CatTrap comes with a warning - he's a master at stealing hearts, so be prepared to fall head over heels in love with this charming fellow. Are you ready to be his ride or die? Let's make some memories together!



Creating a Great Bio

Page 9

Looking for a cuddly, tripod pittie mix with floppy, goofy lab ears and personality? Then **Comet** is your boy! Comet is the biggest love bug who is playful with all dogs and adores children big time. His initially reserved yet friendly and positive attitude makes him a loyal friend to all. When Comet is not carrying around his emotional support stuffy, he is truly up for anything as long as it includes his favorite human. One missing leg has not slowed him down.

Comet is crate and potty-trained, would love a spot on your couch, and has been a fast, treat-motivated learner.

Comet is unconditional love on four legs. Send us an application to meet this sweet guy.



Mango is a precious grey eyed, silky soft, a lil floofie, gorgeous lil gurl that has just the perfect mix of sweet snuggles & confident, happy. She has an easy going demeanor, goes with the flow and is just as content to stretch out on your legs or to explore her new big world.

This lil nugget is all girly and speckly and smooshy and just a pudgy lil butterball.

Although she's still just a wee one, we are already working on crate training - we rotate between her crate & her puppy play pen - she loves a good bouncy romp outside of her play pen - then tuckers out quick & wants to snug in your lap, or will easily take a snooze in her crate or puppy pen

Mango absolutely delights in loving and positive attention, sweet snugs, and enjoys immensely her balls & blankies ! She also loves to cart her bed/blankets/bowls all throughout her puppy pen.

We are already introducing basic commands - and she has the recall of "Puppy Puppy Puppy mastered - however, she is just a wee lil tot and will still need time, patience, devotion and continued puppy training as she grows !

Reach out to Renegades today to inquire about adding this adorable little one to your family!



Training

Renegade currently employs Blake Forkner as our trainer. We try to maximize her time with the help of a training team that processes training requests and schedules sessions based on urgency and need.



Our training team keeps a virtual training plan for dogs at our shelter and in foster homes that have been evaluated by Jen.

If you think you need training, first alert your foster coordination team. *Some training issues can be solved with the help of our very capable kennel staff and experienced volunteers.* **Please alert us as soon as you begin having issues.** We can help fix many problems before they drive you crazy and make fostering too difficult.

When an issue arises to the level of involving our trainer, we will ask you to **fill out a training request form**, located on the [Foster Resources](#) tab of the Renegade website.

Once we receive that, our training team will reach out to you within a week to schedule the next steps. Sometimes this involves a phone call, a Zoom session, or a meeting.



Training
Resources

Issues that We Typically Refer to Our Trainer

stranger danger - resource guarding towards humans - severe separation anxiety - severe/moderate dog reactivity - exceedingly fearful behavior - bite cases - child-related reactivity

Dog Body Language

Dogs express themselves with their bodies and learning to read their cues (speak their language) is essential to keeping everyone safe and happy.



Relaxed Body Language

- Ears in their natural position
- Eyes soft, no forehead wrinkles
- Mouth either closed without tension or open in a relaxed pant
- Tail is wagging in a wide, sweeping motion or relaxed in a scorpion position

Stressed or Nervous Body Language

- Stressed dogs will often exhibit self-calming behaviors as they try to regulate themselves and reduce tension.

These include:

- Looking or turning away from the scary thing, yawning or lip licking, slow, stiff movements, lip smacking, raising one paw or shaking their bodies (like shaking off water). They may also scratch or self-groom excessively.

Aggressive Body Language

- Eyes may be fixed on the object or scary thing with a hard, unwavering glare. May have wrinkles across the forehead
- May have raised upper lip
- Rigid, tense body with minimal movement. Hair might be raised across the dogs' back.

Appeasement Body Language

- Avoiding eye contact and squinting eyes
- Appeasement grin (exposing front teeth like a smile to show difference)
- Movement is slow and weight shifted backwards to appear less threatening
- Tail held low and tight wags

Fearful Body Language

- Ears may be pointed back or perked up
- Tail may be extended or stiffly pointed back
- Alert dogs look focused and ready

Alert Body Language

- Ears may be pointed back or perked up
- Tail may be extended or stiffly pointed back
- Alert dogs look focused and ready

It is important to take into account the situation, dog's history and their entire body when determining body language. Learning to understand dogs is like learning another language. Nobody is good at it in the beginning. But, with mutual respect, space and safeguards to keep everyone comfortable and safe, it can be a wonderful learning experience.



How Dogs Learn

Understanding how dogs learn is important when examining and fixing behaviors.

Dogs learn by building associations. For example, your dog most likely learned to sit because they got a treat or praise or affection from you. They also learn negative associations as well. For example, a dog who may have been owned by a male who abused the dog may have negative reactions to males because the dog built an association that all males are going to hurt him.

When we are trying to change a behavior, we need to think about what the cause is for the behavior. For example, we often say we want the dog to stop snapping at us, but we don't think about why the dog is snapping in the first place.

The vast majority of dogs prefer flight over fight. They don't want to hurt anyone. If we think about why they feel how they feel, then and only then can we address why something is happening and work to help the dog feel differently about it.

Dogs talk with their bodies and sometimes they need help communicating how they feel. *Helping them learn that they have better choices they can make will lead to a happier and calmer dog.*

Food is a great motivator for helping a dog build a positive association. There is a treat hierarchy handout that will help you determine what foods will work best for your dog. Any time we are asking a dog to do something we know they are not comfortable with, we need to use higher value foods.

In the unlikely event that your dog is not motivated by food, use whatever your dog responds well to, whether that is a favorite toy, praise, or affection. *Building a partnership with your dog is key.* Dogs want to work with people who treat them with love and respect.



TREAT HIERARCHY

It's important to understand your dog's hierarchy of treats so that you know which foods are most important to them and when to use these foods when working with your dogs. Using high valued food all the time will make those foods less special.



NOTE: Different dogs will place different foods at a higher value based on their tastes. This is why you should try different things before you choose which foods to use for what. As a general rule, the more difficult the task is for a dog, the higher up you go on the hierarchy. If you are asking your dog to do something you know they perceive as uncomfortable or stressful, use the highest level.



Introducing Dogs & Children

Children and foster dogs can form incredible bonds when supervised appropriately and taught to build relationships with mutual respect.



A child should never be left alone with a foster animal, even if the child is left alone with an owned pet. Only adult supervision is acceptable. Children and foster dogs cannot be left alone with older siblings under 18.

Items to discuss with children prior to bringing a dog home

1. I will not stare into my foster dog's eyes.
2. The crate is my foster dog's safe space. I will not tease or bother my foster dog when he is in the crate. I will not stick my fingers through my foster dog's crate.
3. I will not touch or play with my foster dog while he is eating.
4. I will not touch or startle my foster dog when he is sleeping.
5. I will not pull on my foster dog's ears, tail or other parts of their body. I will not hit my foster dog or squeeze them. I will not pull my foster dog by their collar.
6. I understand that while I might like hugs, I should not hug my foster dog or any other dog that I have just met.

Adults should be aware of children's behaviors that can appear threatening to a foster dog. Children should not bother dogs who are eating, playing with bones, sleeping, or in their "safe" space. Children should not pull, push, or poke the animal with fingers or other objects. They should not swing toys or other items near the animal, chase the animal, ride them or put any significant weight on them.

If you have boisterous young children, it is important to give the dog a safe space that they can always retreat to. This can be an open crate covered by a blanket or sheet that is "off limits" to children.



Introducing Dogs & Children

Page 2

From the Dog's Perspective



The foster dog has been through many changes and has had their life turned upside down. They need to trust that adults will not allow children to make them uncomfortable. They look to adults for guidance and help. If they do not receive that help, they may try to stop the behavior by reacting in ways that can hurt or scare children.

It is important to remember that any dog who will “let kids do anything” is never set up for success. Even if the dog seems to tolerate intrusive behavior for now, it can affect the dog's perception of children and can often lead to a dog “snapping” when they have eventually had enough.

Often, we expect animals to be docile creatures and we do not consider that they deserve to be comfortable and safe from intrusion where they live. We would not expect a human to take kindly to another human grabbing our arm or leg while we are resting, so we should not expect that out of animals.



Introducing Dogs & Children

Page 3



Tips on Positive Introductions

Every dog will be different and introducing a 6 week old puppy will be very different from introducing a senior dog with vision loss. Even if a dog has been around children in the past, it will take some time for the dog to build a relationship with a new child.

The first time meeting a dog, have the child standing still. Sometimes staring at dogs in the eyes can be intimidating, so have the child focus on the dog's feet.

The child can toss treats to the dog until the dog feels comfortable approaching. Do not force the child or the dog to interact if they do not want to. If the dog and child feel comfortable (and the supervising adult is confident in the interaction), the child can offer treats out of an open palm. Remind young children to remain still as rapid, jerky movements can scare the dog.

If the dog is jumping on the child or is very excited (and is scaring the child), have the child stop giving treats and turn around or walk away until the dog is calm.

When the child and dog have built some rapport, the child can gently scratch the dog under the chin. Many dogs do not like being pet over their heads.

“I tell kids to pretend like they are a tree when meeting dogs. It helps them to understand they need to stand still.” - Jennifer Deane, CPDT-KA



RESOURCE GUARDING

Dogs guarding possessions is normal behavior, passed on from their wild ancestors. However, resource guarding can sometimes be problematic for family pets expected to live in a home.

Dogs differ in their levels of resource guarding and the items they find valuable. Dogs may guard resources from other dogs, cats, or humans. Resource guarding can range from a dog running away with a toy to growling, biting, or fighting with other dogs in the home.

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

- **Food/food bowls** - this is a common resource that dogs guard. It is not reasonable to expect all dogs to freely share food. Foster dogs should always be fed meals in a crate or alone (away from other animals and humans) to prevent resource guarding incidents.
- **Bones, treats, toys** - some dogs guard every toy, others guard items they consider “high value,” such as marrow bones, etc. New foster dogs should never be expected to share treats or bones with other animals. Kongs and bones should be given in a crate or when the dog is separate from other dogs. This is the most common situation where we see dogs fight - when a resource is involved.
- **Places or furniture** - some dogs can guard a couch or bed from humans or other dogs.
- **Random objects** - such as remote controls, sticks, etc.
- **Humans** - some dogs begin guarding their preferred humans by growling or using assertive body language when animals or other humans come near. This is always something that needs to be addressed with a trainer as soon as possible.

MANAGEMENT

When introducing two dogs, ensure that no resources like bones or toys are present.

Some resource guarding can be safely managed and others require professional intervention. Dogs can guard resources from other dogs (or animals) and they can guard resources from humans. If you notice resource guarding, let your foster team know immediately.

Many foster parents and responsible dog owners live with dogs who resource guard and manage it safely using separate feeding, removing high value resources and giving dogs space.

“Both of my dogs resource guard food and toys. We feed separately - either in a crate or individual room - and we are a no-bone, no-toy household. When we eat dinner, our dogs are crated. We had to adjust but our dogs are thriving. We removed our expectations of what we thought made dogs happy and realize this: our dogs are just fine how they are.”



CHEWING

For puppies and adults

Puppies and adult dogs chew for different reasons. Understanding the “why” can help make things more manageable



All puppies go through a phase of chewing, typically lasting until they are a year old as their adult teeth come in. Providing appropriate-sized, safe chewing toys helps them relieve pain and learn what is appropriate to chew.

If puppies are chewing inappropriate objects (or human body parts), redirect them with a safe chew toy

Adult dogs chew items they are not supposed to for different reasons, including anxiety or boredom. Some adult dogs will chew inappropriate things because they have never learned what is appropriate to chew.

You can minimize destruction in the household crating your foster dog when they are not supervised and providing enough exercise/mental stimulation to relieve stress.

If you catch your dog chewing something they should not be, interrupt them with a neutral noise that gets their attention. A mild “ah ah” or “no” or a light clap of your hands will work. Then, redirect their attention by providing an appropriate chew toy.

If a dog chews on a human (even if it is not malicious), this is behavior that needs to be corrected. Any chewing that breaks skin needs to be brought up with the foster coordination team so that we can involve our trainer.

Chew toys we love:

- Appropriate-sized hard rubber Kong toys
- Nylabones
- Benebones

If you’re unsure about whether a toy is safe or not, always ask!



POTTY TRAINING ADULT DOGS

Potty training can be one of the most frustrating parts welcoming a new dog into the home. Some dogs pick up potty training very quickly and others need a lot of patience.

It is completely normal for dogs to have accidents in new environments even if they were completely potty trained. A dog who has been potty trained at a foster's home may go on a sleepover with a potential applicant and have accidents for a few days while they adjust to a new routine.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Crating your foster when you are not supervising can help reduce unwanted accidents. Dogs are often less likely to mess up their crate when they see it as a safe space.
- Take frequent potty breaks outside (more frequently than you would for a dog that is completely potty trained). Do not speak to the dog outside before they potty. Reward the behavior with a “good job!” or a treat when they go to the bathroom outside.
- When your foster is outside, give them ample time to use the restroom. Do not interrupt them when they are taking care of business.
- Having a potty-trained dog in the house can help a new foster learn the ropes.
- Do not leave your dog somewhere where an accident would cause you major distress. If you have a bedroom with white carpets that you love, do not allow a non-potty trained dog to spend time in there. Potty training can be frustrating and we want to make sure foster parents care for their emotional well-being as well.

If you are working with your adult dog and accidents are causing you distress, let your foster team know. Sometimes, we may offer a belly band to use inside for dogs who mark as long as the foster parent is still taking the dog out for frequent breaks.

If your foster dog was previously potty trained but starts having frequent accidents, let your foster team know. This can be a sign of a medical issue



CRATE TRAINING ADULT DOGS

Crate training is important for fostering. It can keep your foster dog safe and secure.

It is normal for dogs to whine or cry for 15-30 minutes after being crated. As they become more comfortable with the routine, this will likely cease.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Crate location** - some dogs want to be where the action is, other dogs need a quiet space away from the hustle and bustle. If your dog does best with a quiet space, you can place a sheet or blanket over their crate to make a “den.” The ideal place for a crate depends on your house setup and dog. You may need to try some different spots to see what works best.
- Feed your dog **meals only in their crate**. Do not let other dogs near the crate when your dog is eating.
- Crate your dog when they are not supervised (i.e. when you leave the house). Only give safe high value items like Kongs in the crate.
- If an adult dog is struggling with crating, practice with short amounts of time in the crate. Coax them into the crate with treats, praise them and then leave them for a short period of time. Repeat. You coming back each time will help them learn to trust that you will come back.
- If your dog shreds blankets or sheets, do not allow them in the crate. This can be a medical hazard if they are ingested. While it may seem uncomfortable to you, it is safest for a dog who eats blankets to stay in a bare crate.
- If the dog is barking, do not talk to them. This reinforces the behavior.

There is no “one size fits all” solution for crate training. If you are struggling, reach out and connect with your foster team. The foster team may be able to offer additional solutions based on your needs.



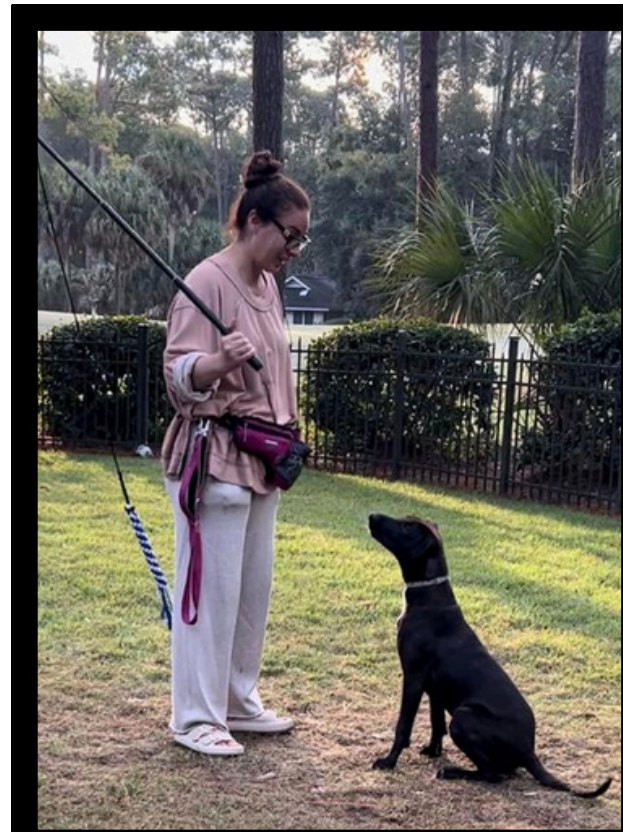
MENTAL STIMULATION

Some dogs can run miles and still not have their mental needs met. In many cases, brain games tire dogs out and enrich their lives just as much - if not more - than physical activity alone.



Some mental stimulation ideas include:

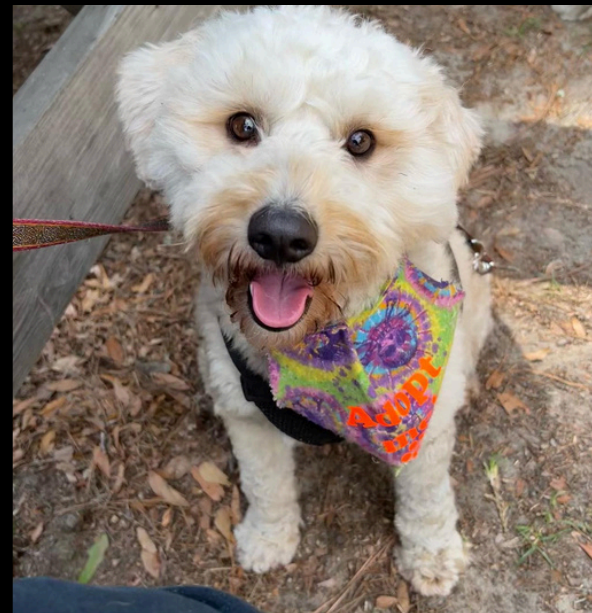
- Sniff walks - allow your dog to guide the pace and direction (within reason) of a walk. Allow them to sniff anything and everything they want without tugging them to walk faster.
- Slow feeders/Sniff mats - special bowls can make mealtime a brain workout by requiring dogs to sniff around and find their meals
- Frozen Kongs - freeze peanut butter or plain greek yogurt in Kong (or other hearty toy)
- Scatter feeding/nosework
- Fetch
- Flirt pole
- Puzzles



DECODING WARNING SIGNS

Having a dog with behavior concerns can be scary, especially if the dog has bitten or is at risk of biting a person or animal. Fortunately, there are various tools and techniques that can help prevent dog bites.

The term “aggression” means different things to different people. When describing a dog in this way, we ask that foster parents elaborate on the circumstances surrounding the behavior. If the dog’s behavior is new, let your foster team know. We may need to make an appointment to rule out medical causes. A dog who isn’t feeling well or is in pain might react with aggression.



It's important to learn to read your dog's body language. Dogs normally give warning signals before escalating to growling, lunging, or biting. Because some of this communication is subtle, you'll need to observe your dog's body language closely to learn what the signals are and what has triggered them. Warning signs leading up to a bite can include pupils dilating, hackles raising, ears going back, and lip licking. If you see any of these signs, cease interaction and try to remove the trigger, or stress factor, that is causing the dog to react in this way. Some people discipline a dog for growling, thinking that the dog is being “bad.” However, growling is your dog's way of communicating that they feel threatened by something or someone. If you punish your dog for growling, they might learn you don't want them to tell you how they feel. And the next time, they might give you less warning before a possible bite. Punishing growling does not change the underlying emotional state that causes the behavior, but it does teach your dog not to communicate with you. Frequently, when a dog bite occurs seemingly out of nowhere, that dog has a history of having warning signals ignored or punished.

REASONS A DOG MAY DISPLAY AGGRESSION

- Trigger stacking: Every dog has noises, sights, etc. that trigger a stress response. If they experience one of those triggers and are not able to decompress before experiencing another, it might lead to a bite. An example would be a reactive dog on a walk seeing multiple dogs in a row without being able to decompress. Then, a biker passes by, and they lunge out to bite them.
- Taking away their ability to warn: As stated above, most dogs will give warning signs leading up to aggression. When they have been conditioned not to give those warning signs, they might escalate right to a bite.
- Defensive aggression: This is fear-based. These dogs are asking for space with their warning signs, but if pressured they might bite to get that space.
- Offensive aggression: Dogs displaying this will go forward toward a person or animal even if given space.



Managing Reactivity

Managing reactivity prevents your dog from practicing undesirable behaviors while having great quality of life.



Managing reactivity involves getting to know your dog, helping them to be as social as possible, and supervising them when necessary — with the goal of keeping your dog comfortable and safe for life. It's about setting up the dog's environment for success.

Understanding Management

Every time your dog practices a behavior, they get better at it. If you allow your dog to continue practicing threatening behavior, you are putting yourself, the dog, and others in danger. In some cases, that behavior could ultimately cost the dog their life. Don't take that chance.

There are many ways to manage a dog and their environment, so they don't get the opportunity to behave in a way that could get them into trouble. Every dog and every home are unique, of course, so management strategies for each situation will vary.

You are your dog's best advocate and you have to be their voice to keep everyone safe. Dogs who are uncomfortable around children should not be forced to interact with them. Dogs who do not like to meet other dogs on a leash should not be forced to do so in public. Don't be afraid to tell people "no, sorry you cannot pet my dog," if it keeps your dog safe.

Some people are reluctant to consider using a muzzle, but it can be a great management tool to keep both your dog and others safe. Good dogs wear muzzles for a variety of reasons. Dogs are very good at picking up our emotional state, so if you are nervous about your dog biting, your dog will feel your anxiety and might be more likely to bite. By having your dog wear a muzzle during training, you will feel calmer, helping your dog to be calmer, which means training will progress faster.

Only introduce a muzzle with the help of a professional. If this is something you may need, please bring it up with your foster coordinators so we can alert our trainer.

Some Management Strategies

- Erect physical and visual barriers, such as doors, X-pens, and baby gates, if necessary.
- Train your dog to use a crate as their safe place.
- When you are out in public with the dog, have them wear a vest that says "Dog in training" or "do not pet," depending on the situation.
- Train the dog to wear a basket muzzle.
- Use high-value treats (things the dog finds particularly yummy) to reward appropriate behavior



Managing Reactivity

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Working with your dog

Dogs are often fearful because they have had bad experiences or a lack of experience with whatever makes them uncomfortable; there can also be a genetic factor that can make a dog more prone to fearful behaviors.

After ruling out a medical cause for the behavior, start the training by [teaching basic cue](#) using relationship-based training methods. Basic cues help build a solid foundation for working with your dog. Be a kind, gentle, patient teacher. Don't expect your dog to know what you want; you'll need to teach them to focus on and learn from you.

First, work with your dog at home, away from any distractions. Teaching your dog in your home is going to help them know what you are asking for when you need your dog to focus on you in all other situations. Once your dog has mastered basic manners, you can start working in other locations, including places that have more distractions.

In every interaction with your dog, think in terms of building a trusting relationship. Give plenty of rewards, but have the dog earn them. Ask the dog to give you a "sit" or a "down" before you give a treat. Even though training is a serious thing, learning should be fun for your dog.

If at any point during training you feel that your dog might injure you, stop! Think about what you were doing. Keep in mind that progress takes time.

Back up to a place where the dog was having fun. Check your tone and emotion. Did you become frustrated or angry? Could the dog have felt threatened? Most medically sound dogs will respond to kind, gentle training by making steady progress.

Learning and using socialization skills is a lifelong process for the dog. Keep practicing and rewarding your dog for the rest of their life. Your goal is a relaxed dog who is comfortable in the world and can enjoy a wide variety of experiences while staying safe.

Reactive dogs aren't trying give you a hard time. They are having a hard time. Reframing how you look at reactivity can help how you react.



CANINE SAFETY & HANDLING: WALKING DOGS

REMOVING THE DOG FROM THEIR KENNEL OR CRATE

When opening the kennel or crate do NOT open the door all the way. Steady your foot behind the kennel door (if it is a kennel). Have your slip lead ready to go - the trick is quick and simple leashing BEFORE you take the dog out. Grabbing a dog's collar is not a good idea. Have treats with you in the event you need to distract your dog (unless the dog is a food guarder). Be sure the slip lead is secured around the dog's neck and be sure you are keeping the dog close to you when walking through the hallways. Do not let your dog near any other crates, kennels or dogs while walking them out.

If your dog is not being cooperative with removing them from kennel/crate, leashing, or if you don't feel comfortable, stop immediately and notify a staff member. It is better to be safe than sorry.

WALKING

Double leashing before you go outside is highly recommended in the event one of the leashes malfunctions. Always pay attention when walking your dog. Please stay off your cell phone unless you are snapping a quick photo of your dog. Be aware of your surroundings and any possible triggers (things that might upset your dog). You are your dog's advocate so please try to keep them safe and within their comfort level.

If your dog growls at something or someone, that is their way of saying they are not comfortable. The best thing to do is remove your dog from whatever/whoever they are growling at. We don't ever want to punish a growl because we would rather the dog growl as opposed to lunging and trying to bite.

NOTE: If your dog has not been child tested and there are kids where you are taking your dog, please do not introduce them. Let staff take care of that.

No question is dumb. Please ask any questions and always err on the side of caution.



LEASH PULLING

Leash pulling is a very common issue for dogs and their humans. Below are some techniques to help.

The first thing to ask is why are they pulling? Is it to go towards something or away from something? Once we have answered this question, we can get to work.

PULLING TOWARD SOMETHING

If your dog is pulling toward something, we need to help them understand that pulling will not get them there faster. There are several techniques for this, but below are the two most common. Remember, different dogs respond differently to each method.

1. Red Light, Green Light

When they pull you, stop walking. Don't jerk or pull on the leash to get them to come back to you (this is called a leash correction). Just stop walking. You can put it on cue (i.e. Stop and say "red light". If they continue pulling when you are standing still you can begin to walk the opposite direction of where they are trying to go. Anytime you stop walking that is a "red light" and when you start walking again that is a "green light".

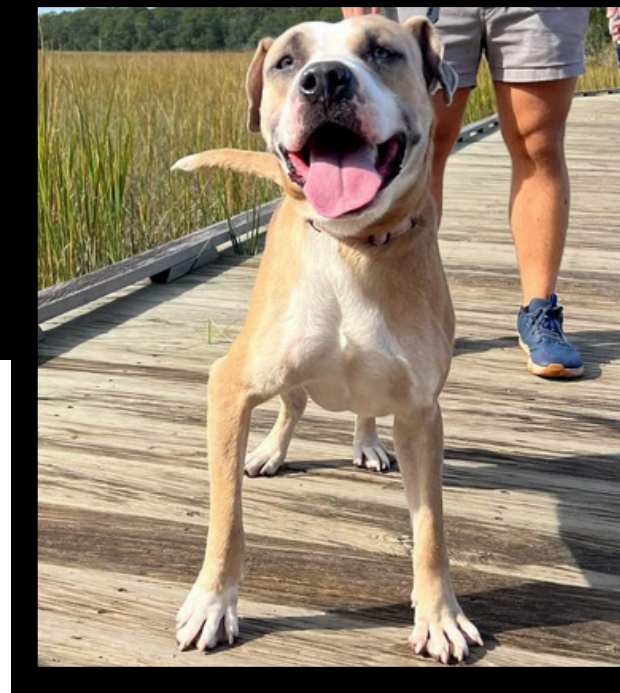
2. Treating

Incentivize your dog to walk next to you with treats. For this technique, you will need several pieces of food that your dog really likes (we call this high value). You will hold it in your hand right beside you and in front of your dog's face. As the dog walks beside you, give them a piece of food. Keep your hand there to continue to hold the dog's attention.

PULLING AWAY FROM SOMETHING

If your dog is pulling to get away from something, it is likely due to fear and the dog has built a negative association with whatever it is pulling away from.

To address this we need to build a positive association with the the trigger (the thing your dog fears). This is addressed in more detail in the Reactivity handout.



UNWANTED BEHAVIORS: JUMPING & MOUTHINESS

Mouthy and/or jumpy behaviors are very common in dogs. To correct these behaviors, consistency, repetition, and patience are key.



JUMPING

Dogs are jumping to get attention the vast majority of the time. If your dog is jumping there are a few different techniques to try.

- The first technique is to completely ignore the jumping dog. If the jumping is consistently ignored, the dog will learn that that behavior does not result in the attention the dog is craving.
- The second technique is to turn away from your dog. When your dog is sitting or has all 4 paws on the floor, give them a marker word (like "yes" or "good") then give them a treat.

It is important to be consistent with how you handle jumping behavior. Do not reinforce or encourage the jumping by giving them pets or attention while they are jumping. If these techniques are not working get in touch with us and we can give you additional techniques.

MOUTHINESS

Mouthy behavior can happen as a result of frustration or because the dog just doesn't know what is appropriate to put their mouth on and what is not.

It is important to have something with you for the dog to chew on, or a toy. If the dog starts to mouth you, give them a chew or toy to put in their mouth instead. When they are chewing on their chew or toy, give them a marker word ("yes" or "good") then treat them.

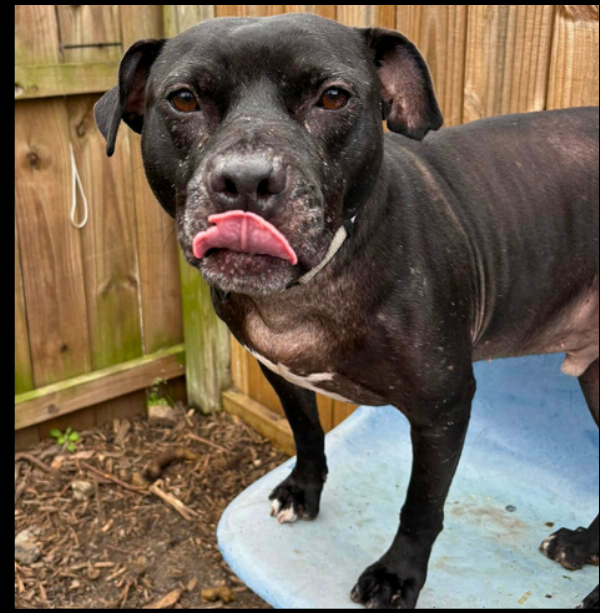
If your dog is actually biting down as opposed to putting their mouth on you, contact us and we will provide you additional guidance.

Please remember, it is important to be consistent with how you handle this behavior.



Stranger Danger

Stranger danger is a very common issue for dogs and their humans. Below are some guidelines to help.



Stranger danger is a common issue with some dogs. Lunging, growling, barking, etc. when strangers approach is a dog's way of telling you they are not comfortable. The thing to remember is that strangers are scary to the dog so we have to change the association the dog has with strangers.

To change this we use very high value foods, distance, proper management and a helpful stranger.

- If you are at home and a stranger is coming to the door, put your dog on a leash so that you can remove him/her from the situation easily if needed.
- Place a container with high value foods at the door. Have the stranger come in and remain at least 5 feet away from the stranger with your dog. The stranger should stand sideways and, using an underhand toss, throw a high value piece of food behind the dog without talking to the dog or making direct eye contact. *NOTE: If your dog is already lunging and growling, create more distance by moving your dog back. Never remove the stranger. Remove the dog.*
- Have the stranger toss a treat underhanded behind your dog and watch your dog. If your dog eats the treat and starts to come toward the stranger (not in a lunging fashion, but approaching) have the stranger toss another treat behind the dog. Repeat for a few minutes then have the dog stay on leash beside you OR put the dog in another room with something yummy to eat.

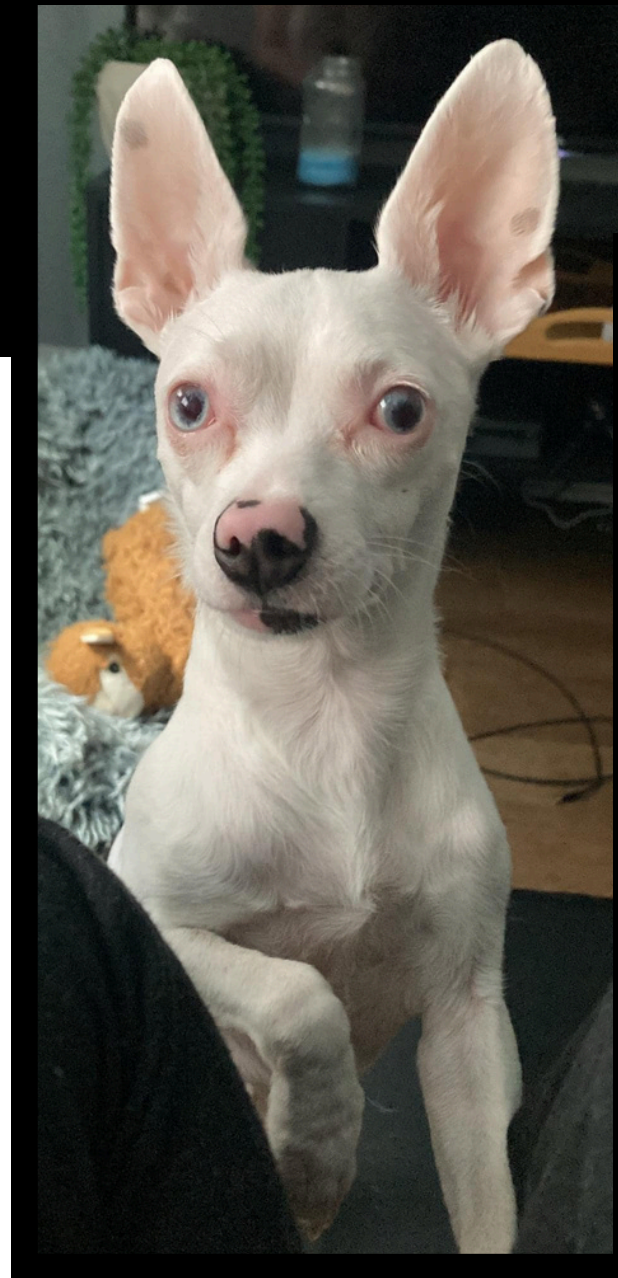
It takes time and consistency to change the association. Keep with it and things will get better. Always watch your dog. They will tell you with their body language whether they want to interact with the stranger. If they say no, that is ok. Honor what your dog is telling you.



Dog Bites

Renegade leadership must be notified anytime a foster dog bites a human. If this happens, follow these steps.

- Place the dog alone in a crate or room.
- If the bite resulted in a serious injury, assess the injury and seek medical care.
- Alert Jennifer Taylor at (912) 665-6046 . The foster team will verify the dog's rabies vaccination status and work out a plan going forward. Any dog bites will be immediately reported by Renegade leadership to our training team.
- Complete a bite report on the Renegade Paws Rescue website, including photos of the bite.



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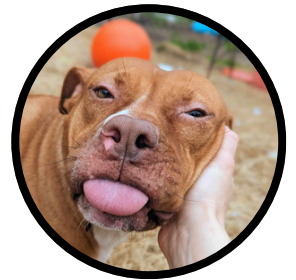
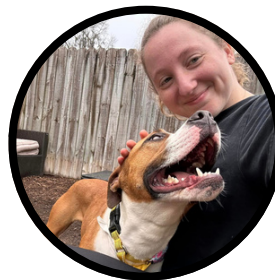


Underdog Uprising

Underdog Uprising is Renegade initiative aimed at helping dogs formerly held as live evidence from dogfighting and other criminal cases.

This program pairs a small group of hand-picked volunteers with Renegade Underdogs who have been evaluated and brought to rescue to begin the next chapter of their lives. These volunteers advocates for, socialize and train the Underdogs until they are ready to go to a foster or adoptive home. The volunteers receive special training and communication with our behaviorist, Jen Deane.

Volunteers commit to spending time with their Underdog at least once per week and working in accordance with the training schedule. Most of the time spent with the Underdogs includes going for walks, playing fetch, helping the dogs learn to relax and socializing. Becoming an advocate does not mean you must foster a dog. If you are interested in becoming part of this revolutionary group, please fill out a volunteer application and select "Underdog Uprising."



UNDERDOG FAQs

- **What is dogfighting?** Dog fighting is the illegal act of pitting dogs who have often endured a lifetime of brutalization and torture against each other for human entertainment. The injuries dogs sustain in dogfighting are often severe and fatal. Dog fighters may use electrical torture, steroids, starvation, weights and other implements to "prepare" a dog to fight.
- **What happens to the dogs after a bust?** They are typically held as live evidence in a shelter or kennel environment until the case is adjudicated or they are released by the judicial system. They are typically held in kennel environments for months to years. After they are released, most dogs are euthanized, even if there is no evidence the dog was used in fighting. It is very difficult to find trainers capable of evaluating these dogs and even harder to find rescues and shelters willing to accept them. Unfortunately a massive stigma still exists.
- **Are all dogs seized from dog fighting rings used for fighting?** No. There are multiple types of dogs seized in a bust: dogs used for breeding, puppies, dogs that live on the property but are uninvolved and dogs who have been forced to partake in fighting. Unfortunately, regardless of their role, dogs seized in these cases are all labeled and stigmatized. Many of the dogs we see are taken as small puppies and they grow up in federal holding facilities.
- **Can these dogs be safe in homes?** Yes. There is ample evidence showing that many dogs who have endured these horrors can go on to live in a home as pets. After the Michael Vick dogfighting case, Best Friends Animal Society embarked on a revolutionary project to see if these dogs could prosper. There's a link to some of their stories in the comments.