

St. Francis Society Animal Rescue

Foster Home Guidelines for Dogs

Current as of 8/5/2003

Thank you for your interest in our foster home program. Here are a few guidelines for fostering. We ask that you treat your new foster dog with the same love and care you would give your own dog(s).

1. Dogs are to be kept in a crate when unattended. However, depending on the dog's level of socialization and non-destructive behavior, it will be up to the foster family whether to keep the dog in a crate at all times when you can not give adequate supervision.
2. St. Francis Society is not responsible for any damages that may occur as a result of the foster dog, if it is left un-crated when unattended or unsupervised. If damage occurs, it will be assumed the dog was out of the crate and not supervised.
3. All dogs are to have water, food and shade provided at all times. No dog is to be kept in a non air-conditioned, poorly ventilated enclosure from April to November. Dogs are only to be let outside in a fully fenced yard or on a hand-held leash. Dogs are not to be staked or attached to a run wire unless a foster family adult is also outside with the dog. Dogs in crates are to be walked twice a day for at least 30 minutes each time.
4. The dogs are the property of St. Francis Society and are to be surrendered to St. Francis Society at any time at the request of the Dog Care Coordinator.
5. St. Francis makes every attempt possible to furnish dog fosters with food and litter; however, it is the foster families responsibility to pick up food and litter at Petsmart on Sunday (only take packages that are inventoried as damaged by the store – do not take the IAMS brand). If there is nothing available at that time, the foster family is to provide food for the dog/kitten. There may be times when you will be asked to provide food and litter on your own due to lack of St. Francis Society funds. As a non-profit that relies SOLELY on individual donations we don't always have the proper funds to accommodate reimbursement. Please keep

receipts in the event St. Francis can reimburse or you may use them as an itemized charitable donation for your taxes. St. Francis will be happy to provide a charitable donation document in the event we can't reimburse.

6. The dog may only be adopted out to a family that is pre-approved by a St. Francis Board member. No foster person is to place a dog himself or herself without going through the proper application procedure and interview to ensure the dog has a good home. All donation funds from adoptions should be put in the Petsmart safe at the Luvapet Center. Contact Dog Care Coordinator for adoption approval.
7. The foster home is to return the dog to St. Francis Society if any problems occur.
8. A foster family may only take in a maximum of 3 adult dogs. If one of the adult dogs is a nursing mother, only two adult dogs are allowed. There may be exceptions to this rule. See Dog Care Coordinator. Any household of over 5 dogs total is strongly avoided unless space and time can be adequately provided to the animals.
9. If a foster animal becomes ill and infects your pet(s), you are responsible for the veterinary care of your own pet. St. Francis will take responsibility for the veterinary care of the foster animal (situation dependent). Keep the foster dog separated from your own pets.
10. The foster family is responsible for bringing the dog to the veterinary appointments. St. Francis will pay for the veterinary bill for all pre-approved procedures. You must contact the Dog Care Coordinator if veterinary services are needed and they will in turn send approval to the veterinarian. The foster family will be responsible for scheduling their own appointment.
11. St. Francis Society Dog Care Coordinator will administer vaccinations and deworming. The Dog Care Coordinator will also provide heartworm and flea prevention. Dogs MUST be maintained on both of these on a monthly basis.

12. The foster family is responsible for bringing the dog to a majority of the adoption events, including those held on the weekends at Petsmart. If unable to do so, contact Dog Care Coordinator so that they may be able to find a volunteer to assist. We do not want the dogs languishing in foster care due to lack of exposure at adoption events. Every effort will be made to assist but due to lack of volunteers, assistance may not be available for every event.

13. Emergency Care: Not all traumas require emergency care. However, in the event your foster animal needs Emergency care for a LIFE-THREATENING situation, contact Tampa Bay Vet Emergency Services at 265-4043 immediately. Prior to taking the animal to the vet please make every attempt to contact the Dog Care Coordinator first. Also, talk to the veterinarian at Tampa Bay Vet ER Services prior to driving to the vet, as they may be able to counsel you over the phone. If necessary to take the animal in let them know the animal is fostered through St. Francis Society.