

## **NEW FOSTER INFORMATION**

First and foremost, THANK YOU for fostering with Houston Pets Alive. This packet should answer most of the questions that you have in regards to being a foster parent. If you have additional questions or concerns, please email [dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org)

When you applied to foster you agreed to several things that are integral in making your fostering experience a success for you and your foster pup. Since you were as excited as we were when we first got started, you may not remember all of those things. That's ok! We have included the foster agreement below with additional information that you will need.

### **Pet's Health and Disposition**

Houston Pets Alive! cannot guarantee the health or disposition of any foster animal. We do not have past records for these animals and there are some risks associated with taking in foster animals. Family pets must be current on all shots and foster pets will be kept separate from family pets, for a minimum of 7 days for the protection of all animals.

I agree to be fully responsible for the safety and well being of the foster pet. I will provide a safe, loving, humane environment with adequate food, water, and shelter at all times. I will not declaw, crop ears, or crop the tail of a fostered pet. I will adhere to all state and local animal laws and all foster animals will wear a collar with identification. I will promptly notify Houston Pets Alive! of any signs of illness, behavioral issues, or concerns, an inability to continue to foster, if the pet becomes lost, and/or if the pet bites someone.

As mentioned above we can not guarantee the disposition of any foster dog. We share the notes that we receive from other shelters but we of course cannot guarantee the accuracy of that information. This means that your foster dog should never be off-leash except in the security of your home and fenced yard. Your foster dog should not be taken to public events outside of HPA sanctioned events where strangers may attempt to pet the dog. Your foster dog should not be introduced to dogs outside of your personally owned dogs (This includes dogs that belong to other rescue organizations). If the guidelines above are not followed, you do assume all legal liability in case of injury or damage to person or property done by your foster dog.

The email for all behavioral concerns is [behavior@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:behavior@houstonpetsalive.org)

### **Veterinary Services**

HPA! covers all approved veterinary services at our facility at 2800 Antoine St. This includes vaccines, microchips, spay/neuter surgery, and treatment for heartworm disease or other illnesses. In the event that you choose to use your preferred vet for treatment we are not able to reimburse any medical expenses outside of our facility. We will also need you to send the medical records for us to add to their official HPA record.

**All animals require monthly preventatives which can be picked up at our Antoine location. Or for your convenience, HPA's dog team attempts to provide these at the HPA adoption center events. If your dog is not fixed and has been in your care for at least 2 weeks, we can provide these at Foster Fest on Sunday. You don't need to bring your foster animal but we do require an up to date weight. This is CRITICAL to the health and well-being of our pet population.**

Here is the link for Foster Fest:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/30e0e4ca9a92da0fe3-foster65>

If at any time you have questions about routine medical needs, please email [dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org)

Surgery scheduling is done by our dog team. You will receive a email from [laura.berg@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:laura.berg@houstonpetsalive.org) when your dog's surgery is scheduled. PLEASE make every effort to make your surgery spot and you MUST be on time for surgery. The drop off window is from 7-8. That ensures that all dogs are checked in, meds are prepared, and we can start surgery at 9am. Our vet does surgery on about 20-30 animals a day. If you are worried about being late, then please contact us to make arrangements for drop off the night before. If you have to cancel, please notify us as soon as possible so we can fill that spot.

If you have a medical concern that is NOT an emergency, please email [dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org).

In case of a medical emergency with your foster, please call the emergency line: 281-215-5146

### **Adoption Events**

Your foster dog will be eligible to attend adoption events the Saturday following their alteration surgery. The adoption events are currently held at Houston Pets Alive Adoption Center on Saturdays from 10-6pm. We make a post in the Facebook group and send out a weekly email with specific information. Your foster dog MUST attend these adoption events.

As a reminder, if you'd like to adopt your unaltered foster, you MUST alert our adoptions team by 6pm the Sunday before surgery and complete the Adoption Hold/ payment within 24 hours. The official contract to be sent within 48 hours of completing surgery. For already altered dogs, the alert, contract, AND payment MUST be received by 6pm the Wednesday before the event. If the adoptions team was not alerted nor are the contract/payment received in time, the dog MUST attend the event on Saturday - no exceptions. You will have the opportunity to adopt the dog and will be handled like the public requiring drop off and at designated time and sign in to the wait list. if s/he is not adopted during the event.

In addition: as a foster, please keep in mind if you choose to adopt your foster before surgery, you are adopting "as-is". We do not often know all pertinent medical information before surgery and the vet exam. Our normal process would ensure that all information is known prior to making a dog available for adoption. Since you are adopting before the dog is actually available, we will not know all of the information that we would normally know. While we make this option available to fosters, we do need you to understand it's a change to standard protocol and with that sometimes comes the unexpected.

In order to make the adoption process fair for all potential adopters, all dogs must attend the first event one they are available in order to be adopted. Meet and greets can only happen after the first event. All puppies MUST attend the adoption event in order to be adopted. We know you all have friends wanting to adopt puppies, trust me, we have friends that want puppies too, however, we don't want to have people think HPA is showing favoritism in puppy adoptions. Therefore, everyone who isn't the foster is required to come to the adoption events to adopt puppies.

Please do not do meet and greets with puppies or promise your friends a puppy. If you post them on your social media, we highly recommend including the disclaimer posted below.

\*Puppies are only available at the Saturday HPA adoption event. We cannot reserve puppies. We cannot accept deposits. We cannot guarantee a certain puppy will be available. We cannot give a specific time to arrive but we suggest adopters come early to the event. The adoption fee is \$150 and includes the cost of altering the puppies and vaccinating them. They must be approved adopters before they will be allowed inside to see the puppies.

If you have questions about adoption events, you can email [dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org), [laura.berg@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:laura.berg@houstonpetsalive.org) or [shelteradoption@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:shelteradoption@houstonpetsalive.org)

We often get questions from fosters about adopting their foster dogs or what if a friend wants to adopt their foster. If your foster has already attended at least one adoption event, these requests can be sent to [adopt@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:adopt@houstonpetsalive.org)

Another important part of getting your foster dog adopted is having good pictures and a good online bio. You can send those things to [bios@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:bios@houstonpetsalive.org)

### **Out of State Transport**

We sometimes partner up with out of state rescues to help move more dogs into their forever homes as well as help create more space to save more lives here in Houston. Shelters up north often times have more adopters than dogs and need our help to fill those adoptive homes with loving doggies. If your dog is tagged for transport, we will notify you as soon as the rescue confirms with us. Once confirmed you will be notified of a date and time for a vet check and a date and time for drop off. Dogs tagged for transport MUST go on transport, unless you reply within 48 hours of transport notification from HPA! stating you would like to adopt and have completed the online adoption application.

### **Transfer of Animals**

Animals cannot be transferred to the custody of another person, shelter, humane society, SPCA, or other entity without prior consent and permission of Houston Pets Alive! I agree to not place this pet in another home without the written or verbal authorization from HPA, whether it be temporary or permanent.

If you are going on vacation and plan to have someone else watch your foster dog, that person will need to complete a new foster application and be approved by HPA. You can email [newfoster@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:newfoster@houstonpetsalive.org) if you have any questions about this procedure.

### **Return of Animals**

All the pets in the Houston Pets Alive! foster program are the property of Houston Pets Alive! and must be returned within 24 hours of request. I agree that I am fostering this pet for Houston Pets Alive! and that I do not have any right of ownership over my foster animal. I further agree that Houston Pets Alive!'s rights in and to my foster pet are superior to mine. I agree to provide the Authorized Representative, or his/her designate access to my home and property to check on my foster pet, at any time while I am in possession of my foster pet.

### **Personal or Property Damage and/or Injury**

I agree that accidental animal bites or other injuries to humans and other animals do occur, and agree to hold harmless and indemnify, and protect Houston Pets Alive! from any claim or suit filed by someone as a result of such incident.

In addition, Houston Pets Alive! will not be responsible if an animal should damage or destroy property belonging to the foster, foster's household, or others, or if the animal shall transfer any disease, internal or external parasites to other animals and people in the foster's household.

As mentioned before, all behavioral concerns should be directed to [behavior@houstonpetsalive.org](mailto:behavior@houstonpetsalive.org)