



Dog Foster Take Home Guide

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

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.

In agreeing to care for a foster animal, you agree to be fully responsible for the safety and well being of the foster pet. You will provide a safe, loving, humane environment with adequate food, water, and shelter at all times. You will not declaw, crop ears, or crop the tail of a fostered pet. You will adhere to all state and local laws and all foster animals will wear a collar with identification. Please promptly notify Houston Pets Alive! of any signs of illness, behavior 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 cannot guarantee the dispositions of any foster dog. We share the notes we receive from other shelters but we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. This means 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 also not be introduced to dogs outside of your personally owned dogs (this includes dogs that belong to other rescues organizations). If the guidelines above are not followed, you do assume all legal liability in the case of injury or damage to person or property done by your foster dog.

The email for all behavioral concerns is behavior@houstonpetsalive.org.

Veterinary Services

HPA! covers all approved veterinary services at our facility at 2800 Antoine Drive or through **approved** outside veterinary clinics. 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 expense outside of our facility or not pre-approved. We will also need you to send the medical records for us to add to their official HAP records.

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. You do not need to bring your animal to pick up preventatives but we do require an up-to-date weight. This is CRITICAL to the health and well-being of our pet population.

If at any time you have questions about routine medical needs, please email dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org.

Surgery scheduling is done by our dog team. You will receive an email when your dog's surgery is ready to be scheduled. Surgeries are done by our approved outside veterinary clinics and you must be on-time for the appointment as HPA will be charged the *full cost of surgery* for missed appointments. You will receive drop off and pickup times based on the location of the veterinary clinic. 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.

In case of a medical emergency with your foster, please call the emergency line at 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 10am-6pm. We also have various offsite adoption opportunities you may be asked to bring your foster to attend. We make a post in the Facebook group and send out weekly emails with specific information. Your foster dog MUST attend these events when requested.

If you would 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 must be returned 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 along with other potential adopters. Our policy is to process adoptions in order of receipt. If your foster receives an application before you apply, that applicant will have first priority

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 the 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 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 in which they are available in order to be adopted. Meet and Greets can only happen after the first event. All puppies MUST attend the adoption events in order to be adopted. We recognize that many fosters have friends that want puppies; however, we don't want anyone to believe that we show 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 hold Meet and Greet with puppies or promise your

friends a puppy. If you choose to help advertise your puppy on your personal Facebook pages, we ask you make a disclaimer to our adoption processes:

*Puppies are only available at the Saturday 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 age-appropriate vaccinations. They must be approved adopters before they will be allowed inside to see the puppies.

If at any time you have questions about adoption events, you can email dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org or 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.

Another important part of getting your foster dog adopted is having good pictures and a good online bio. You can send these to bios@houstonpetsalive.org.

Out of State Transport

We sometimes partner up with out of state rescues to help move more dogs into forever homes as well as help create more space to save more lives here in Houston. Shelters in other areas of the country often 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 the prior consent and permission of Houston Pets Alive! In fostering our animals, you agree to not place this pet in another home without the written or verbal authorization from HPA, whether it be for temporary or permanent.

If you are going on vacation and plan to have someone watch your foster dog, that person needs to be an approved foster with HPA. They will need to complete a new foster application and be approved by HPA if not already done. You can email dogfoster@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. In agreeing to foster with us, you agree that you are fostering for HPA and do not have any right of ownership over the foster animal. You further agree that Houston Pets Alive! rights to the foster pet are superior to yours. As a foster, you also agree to provide an authorized representative access to your home and property to check on the foster pet at any time which you are in possession of the foster animal.

Personal or Property Damage and/or Injury

As a foster for Houston Pets Alive! you agree that accidental bites or other injuries to humans and other animals do occur, and agree to hold HPA harmless, and protect Houston Pets Alive! from any claim or suit filed by someone as a result of such an incident.

In addition, Houston Pets Alive! will not be responsible if an animals 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 to other animals and people in the foster's household.

For any concerns with behavior, please contact behavior@houstonpetsalive.org or dogfoster@houstonpetsalive.org.

Supplies

Supplies can be picked up by appointment at HPA. We can regularly provide food, a kennel, leash, and collar.

Thank you again for fostering for Houston Pets Alive! and if you have any questions please email us.