



## Non-Equine Foster Home Checklist

**Below is a checklist for foster homes to have at their fingertips in order to comply with the fostering policy and the Minimum Standards of Care.**

### BE PATIENT

Part of fostering is about taking a risk – an exciting one – and you can't always know everything about your incoming foster animal before they arrive. Stay patient and understanding when learning about your foster animal's personality and behaviors; this will be a big help to Storybook Rescues and to the animal's future adopter!

### WORK ON TRAINING

Many animals are treat-motivated and respond well to positive reinforcement. Remember: consistency is key!

**SLOWLY AND SAFELY EXPOSE THE ANIMAL TO NEW EXPERIENCES!** It's ok to take your animals to new places, like to work or to introduce to kids and other animal species. In fact it helps the animal better fit in wherever he or she might go.

### GET GOOD PHOTOS

High quality pictures of foster can help it stand out among the thousands of other animals looking for homes online. You don't have to be a professional photographer to take a good picture.

**HELP STORYBOOK RESCUES INC. PROMOTE THE ANIMAL!!**

The best way to get exposure for your foster is by having the animal wear brightly colored "Adopt Me" paraphernalia whenever you leave the house.

Sharing pictures and short descriptions of your foster on your social media profiles (e.g., Facebook, Instagram) can get your extended networks interested in possibly adopting your foster. Some fosters might be adopted quickly, but some might require a little more work and promotion. Keep your messaging positive!

### Upon arrival of a new animal the foster home shall:

- Maintain the animal on a de-worming schedule. This includes heart worm preventative for dogs
- Ensure that the animal has had routine veterinary procedures performed in accordance with the Standard Veterinary Care Policy
- Evaluate the animal's level of training to the best of his/her ability
- Complete an ID form within one week and submit a copy of that form to the records manager which includes front, back, left, and right view photos and complete description
- The foster home will report by email, postal mail, or the telephone the condition, health, etc. of the fostered animal(s) once a month to the records manager or foster home coordinator.
- The foster home will review Storybook Rescues web profile page monthly and provide updates to the web coordinator as needed.
- The foster home caring for any animal with a body condition score of 4 or less **shall submit a weight tape reading to the records manager or foster home coordinator every thirty (30) days**, along with the current feeding program (to include feed brand, amount fed and number of feeding per day, type and quantity)

The Board of Directors may remove a foster home's "approved" status if the foster home:

- Neglects or abuses an animal
- Fails to comply with inspections
- Fails to make the animal available to approved adopters

- Fails to complete and submit the animal ID form and photographs with a reasonable amount of time
- Fails to comply with the Minimum Standards of Care Policy
- Moves a fostered animal without approval of the foster home coordinator or an officer
- When a foster home's "approved" status is removed, Storybook Rescues will remove any current fostered animal from the foster home's care

## Minimum Standards of Care include:

### Feeding

- Nutritious feed with appropriate nutritive value
- Diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, breed/type, condition, size, work level and quantity of animal(s)
- Animal(s) with a body condition of less than 4 are expected to improve at the rate of 1 body condition score every month, with a 30-day grace period.
- The foster home caring for any foster with a body condition score of 4 or less **shall submit a weight tape reading to the records manager or foster home coordinator every thirty (30) days**, along with the current feeding program (to include feed brand, amount fed and number of feedings per day, type and quantity)
- Animals with a BC over a 6 should be put on a diet to help them lose weight. Within **three months**, the animal should show significant weight loss and progress towards his/her ideal weight.
- All feed shall be kept clean and free from contaminants, such as feces, mold, mildew, insects, etc.
- If animals are fed in a group setting, the foster home will be responsible to ensure that each animal receives quality nutrition in sufficient quantity.

Foster home will contact the Foster Home Coordinator, or another officer, if an animal seems to be suffering from any of the below to obtain approval to obtain veterinary care.

1. Shock
2. Vomiting or diarrhea
3. Trouble Breathing
4. Trembling or the ability to stand or walk
5. Broken Bone
6. Deep Tissue Wound
7. Inability or unwillingness to eat or drink
8. Partial or total paralysis
9. Abnormal discharge
10. Severe bleeding
11. Continued symptoms of heavy intestinal parasite load despite adequate worming
12. Weight Loss
13. Abnormal skin condition
14. Hair loss
15. Temperature fluctuation
16. Soreness of any limb

### Standard Care

- Parasites kept under control through either a monthly deworming and or flea products or as directed by a veterinarian.
- Annual veterinary procedures as outlined in the standard veterinary procedures shall be performed.
- Access to clean water at all times
- Safe and comfortable shelter to get out of heat, cold or rain
- Regular exercise according to specific needs of the animal

My signature below means that I have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement and agree to abide by them.

Foster Home Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Return with foster agreement to [storybookrescues@outlook.com](mailto:storybookrescues@outlook.com) or Storybook Rescues, 2001 Cat Spring Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933