




THE BUFORD PROJECT

FOSTERING GUIDELINES

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With Us**

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FOSTERING WITH THE BUFORD PROJECT RESCUE

www.thebufordproject.org

Welcome to our rescue family as a foster! The Buford Project Rescue is a charitable organization that is attempting to provide charity care to meet a significant community need. Our dogs come to us from a variety of situations; they could have been roaming the streets, pulled from a local shelter, rehomed by a family who can no longer care for them, or possibly just changing fosters due to extended placement. By opening your home up to foster dogs and partnering with The Buford Project Rescue, you are helping save lives and providing individual attention and love that these dogs so desperately need. This manual provides important information concerning the program. Once you have completed your Foster Application, a foster coordinator will be in touch to go over this manual and answer any questions you may have about the process or program.

WHY FOSTER?

When you foster a dog, you are freeing up a spot so a shelter or rescue can take in another dog in need, and you are giving a foster dog the time he/she needs to be ready for adoption.

WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A FOSTER?

The dogs in our rescue simply need to be loved on and be in a home where they feel safe and secure. Some dogs have been surrendered by their family, some dogs have been found roaming the streets after being abandoned and some dogs have been found roaming the streets after being lost. While they all have a different story in how they have arrived in our rescue, they have one thing in common; they all need to be loved until they can find their forever home. Some dogs know their basic commands and some do not, some are crate trained and some are not, some are potty trained and some are not, some walk great on a leash and some do not.

Your role is to love on them and help them become a well-adjusted family pet so when someone does adopt them, we are assured it will be their forever family.

Your feedback becomes important to us as a rescue because you will know the dog you are fostering better than we do and it will help us find the perfect family match for the dog you are fostering.

WHAT TYPE OF DOG SHOULD I FOSTER?

We have dogs in need of foster homes of all ages, shapes and sizes. Before making a placement of a dog into a foster home, we feel it is important to speak with you about your home and what you think would be the best fit. Some people love to foster puppies, and some people love to foster older dogs. Some good things for you to think about before fostering:

1. Do you want a dog that is high energy or more relaxed?
2. If you have a dog in your home now, is your dog an alpha (dominant) or a beta (passive)?
3. What personality of other dogs does your current dog(s) get along with best?
4. Would you be willing to care for a puppy that needs potty trained and crate trained?

These are just a few of the things we will discuss with you before placing a dog with you to be fostered.

WHAT WILL THE BUFORD PROJECT RESCUE DO WHILE I AM FOSTERING AND HOW WILL THEY SUPPORT ME?

1. When we bring your new foster dog to your home, we will spend time with you and your foster dog to help the transition into your home.
2. We pay all medical expenses for our rescue dogs until they are adopted.
3. We highly value our foster homes and work with them regularly to ensure the dog is doing well.
4. We keep in contact with you regularly to help you navigate fostering and encourage our fosters to reach out at any time to ask questions or talk through the fostering process as questions arise.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN BRINGING A FOSTER DOG HOME?

Once your new companion is home it may take him or her a few days to settle in and adjust. Usually, it takes at least several days for their true personalities to shine through. It is possible your foster dog has never seen stairs before, hardwood floors, carpet, etc. or even experienced

a loving home. Keep this in mind as you introduce your dog to new people and new things. We suggest you allow your dog to take the first week to adjust to you and get to know your family. Try not to overwhelm them with a lot of new people and new situations the first few days. We provide potential fosters with as much information as we may have available about the dog in need of fostering. However, sometimes we have very little information about the dog. We do not accept dogs into our rescue that are known by use to be aggressive or not socialized. However, we do take in dogs that may not be familiar with proper manners in a home and may have reasons to be shy and certainly some that are simply afraid. That's where you come in. A lot of love and sometimes a gentle "NO" are key to establishing the relationship between you and the dog. With love they learn trust, and with corrections they learn boundaries.

WHAT KIND OF FOOD SHOULD I FEED MY FOSTER DOG?

We will supply food at your request. We have found that most fosters have their own dogs and prefer to just feed what everyone else is being fed.

SHOULD I USE A CRATE?

The Buford Project Rescue strongly encourages foster homes to crate all puppies under one year of age (this helps with house training and saves personal items from being chewed or soiled). For older dogs please use your discretion based on your home set up. We recommend you crate or limit the area where your foster dog has access during nighttime and if you are leaving your house. Your foster dog needs time to adjust to your home. The first week should be spent observing your foster dog and determine if they are able to be left alone not crated.

IS MY FOSTER DOG HOUSETRAINED?

All dogs entering a new home need to know where they should have their bathroom break. Training treats are key! The first few days, we recommend keeping the dog in a crate, so they know not to use your home as the bathroom. The first day, every two to three hours, take the dog outside on leash using the same door each time. Then take the dog to the same spot where you prefer that he/she does their business. When they go to the bathroom, give them a treat. On the second day, expand the time to every three to four hours. In two to three days, this practice usually creates a house-trained dog.

MAY I CHANGE THE NAME OF MY FOSTER DOG?

Please DO NOT change the name of your foster dog. For posting purposes and record keeping we need to keep the name as it is.

HOW DO I INTRODUCE MY FOSTER DOG TO MY RESIDENT DOG?

It is always best to introduce dogs on neutral territory. A good option is to take a walk down the street for the introduction and then walk back home together. Try to keep leashes loose and let the dogs approach each other from the side rather than putting them face to face pulling on a tight leash. Off leash is always better if you have a dog park close by or a fenced-in area, but we understand that is not always available. Off leash is more natural and they will choose to greet on their own. Watch for stiffening body language; a stiff body means that the dog is uncomfortable. Calmly walk them away from each other and give them some space. Loose wiggly butts are good and should be encouraged and praised.

It is usually a good idea to feed the new dog in a crate or separate room. This avoids any altercations over food with other pets. The same goes for bones, toys, and other high value items. If you have a cat, it is best to prepare your cat for the arrival of your foster dog. You should designate a safe space by putting up a baby gate. The cat can jump over and get away if needed. When letting them meet for the first time, it is best to have the dog on a leash. Do not force the cat to meet the dog; it will happen naturally. Some cats are friendly and curious, and others will retreat. If the cat is feeling threatened it may even attack the dog. All animals react differently, so be cautious.

WHAT IF MY DOG AND THE FOSTER DOG DO NOT GET ALONG?

We strive to match our foster dogs with the appropriate foster, but sometimes for unknown reasons dogs just may not like each other. It may take a few days to warm up. Do not force the situation, it will happen naturally. If after a few days, you do not feel like the placement is working please contact our team. We are here to help with any concerns along the way. We will work quickly to find an alternate home but please remember that foster homes are not always readily available, it can take a couple of days for us to find new placement.

WHAT IF MY FOSTER DOG REQUIRES MEDICAL ATTENTION?

We pay for all approved vet care for the dog. Ninety-Five percent of our dogs have had initial vetting before coming to your home, including vaccinations and spay or neuter. In the event the dog is too thin or has heart worms, sometimes spay/neuter is postponed until later. Please feel free to ask us about potential vetting schedules, and we will do the same with you. If you believe a medical visit is in order, please contact our team. We will need a brief description of your foster dog's condition and will make the appointment for you. DO NOT take your foster dog to the veterinarian yourself. The Buford Project Rescue CAN NOT cover veterinary costs at any veterinarian but ours.

DO YOU PROVIDE HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE AND FLEA/TICK PREVENTATIVE?

Yes, a member of our team or our medical liaison will be sure that your dosages are delivered monthly. This could be by mail or a convenient pick-up location.

HOW DOES THE ADOPTION PROCESS WORK?

We have an experienced team who dedicate their time and effort into finding the best home for foster dogs. We have an in-depth screening process that helps ensure each dog is placed in the very best forever home. This process starts with an application that can be found on our website <https://thebufordproject.org>. We then phone screen the applicant and call the veterinarian and personal references.

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS?

1. Once an applicant passes the phone screen and reference checks it is likely the potential adopter will want to meet the dog. We will arrange what we call a "meet-and-greet," sometimes we will pick your foster dog up and meet the potential family somewhere else. Some dogs do best to meet a potential family at their foster home so that will be discussed when we schedule the meet-and-greet.
2. Information about the personality of the dog, its ability to get along with kids/dogs/cats, food preferences, physical attributes etc. are all very helpful. It is very helpful for us to be in contact with you on a weekly basis to hear how your foster dog is doing. You will know your foster dog better than we do so your input is important to us. As you get to

know your foster dog, please send us emails from time to time about food schedule, key phrases for potty, ways your foster dog lets you know they need to go potty, key phrases for a dog to settle down or get off furniture etc.

3. It is also helpful for you to text us cute pictures of your foster dog playing and resting. Pictures from different angles help us so we can post pictures on social media for adoptions. It is also helpful for you to text us videos that are 30-45 seconds long showing the personality of your foster dog. Please text these pictures/videos to Lynn at 847 846 8134.

WHEN WILL MY FOSTER DOG GO TO A HOME?

It is difficult to estimate how long a dog will be in foster care. It can be as short as a few days or as long as several weeks or possibly months if there are unusual circumstances or special medical care is needed.

When we receive an application, we contact personal reference as well as the veterinarian of the potential adopter for a reference. Once references have been completed, we set up a phone interview with the potential adopter. If the approved, we set up a meet-and-greet where the potential adopter meets your foster dog. This can be done at your home or elsewhere depending on your wishes.

If the meet-and-greet goes well, most of the time, the potential adopter will take your foster dog home for 2 or 3 days to ensure it is a good fit for them and the dog. Most of the time the family will complete the adoption and your foster dog will remain with them. If for some reason, it ends up not being a fit for the family and your foster dog, then we will bring your foster back to you and repeat the process.

CAN I PROVIDE INPUT FOR MY FOSTER DOG' S ONLINE BIO?

Yes! As the foster family we understand that you know more about your foster dog than anyone. We welcome a written bio and certainly pictures and short videos! As they say, "pictures speak a thousand words." It is so important that we have good, clear, bright, updated photographs of your foster dog. Videos are even better because they capture the personality of your foster dog.

WHAT IF I WANT TO ADOPT MY FOSTER DOG?

It is not unusual for our foster families to fall in love with their foster dog and seek to adopt. When this occurs, we DO allow our fosters to adopt from us. All potential adopters must fill out an application for adoption and go through our approval process. Please let us know immediately that you want to adopt (because once an adopter is approved by our team, it is very difficult to stop the adoption process) and fill out our online application at <https://thebufordproject.org>.

WHAT IF I NEED A BREAK OR HAVE A VACATION PLANNED?

Please notify The Buford Project Rescue team as soon as you know about your plans. If you are aware of your plans and schedule before taking in a foster, please let us know. The more advance notice we have, the better. Please give us a minimum of a couple weeks' notice so that we have time to find respite care for your foster. Of course, we also know that emergencies happen, and we will do our best to accommodate those situations.

WHAT IF SOMEONE I KNOW WANTS TO ADOPT MY FOSTER?

All potential adopters must fill out an application for adoption and go through our approval process. Please have your friend fill out our online application at <https://thebufordproject.org>. It is very important that everyone understands that applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis, and that our process ensures the dog be placed in the best home for them as soon as feasible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FOSTERS:

It may be that you end up with a foster puppy who is in his/her crucial socialization window, or you may be fostering an older dog who may not have had the best socialization when younger. Please let us know if you experience any unmanageable behavioral issues with your foster. Here is some basic information that we have found helpful.

COMMONLY KNOWN SIGNS OF STRESS:

Tucked Tail

Cowering

Shaking

Growling
Licking lips /nose
Yawning when not tired
Panting
Pinned Ears
Refusal of food

AVOIDANCE BEHAVIORS:

Turning head away
Looking away
Excessive sniffing
Inattention
Licking genitals

WATCH OUT YOU' VE GONE TOO FAR (OR ARE ABOUT TO):

Freezing
Freezing with Whale Eye (when the dog looks at you out of the corner of his eye and you can see white)
Growling with Freezing or Whale Eye

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE:

DO NOT use a retractable leash. They are easily pulled out of hands causing loud noise and will cause your dog to go into flight mode.

DO NOT remove the collar or ID of your foster dog.

DO NOT allow the dog off leash under any circumstances.

DO NOT allow the dog to be unaccompanied (even in a fenced yard) in the first 48 hours of being in your home. The first 48 hours are critical to finding out how much of a flight risk your foster dog is. It is important to spend time with them outside to see if you witness them looking for escape routes, whether that be them assessing the height of your fence, investigates holes or gaps in your fence where they could slip through or dig through. Also, remember some dogs may be diggers so take the time to watch them to see if that is the case.

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Some dogs you foster will be a “flight risk,” and given the opportunity, they will bolt on you.

ALWAYS take precautions as people come and go through your outside doors.

ALWAYS use the seatbelt attachment if you take your foster dog for a car ride.

ALWAYS wrap the leash around your hand. **NEVER** hold the loop in your fingers.

ALWAYS properly transfer the leash of your foster dog to another person to ensure the leash is not dropped.

ALWAYS expect the unexpected. For example, a Great Pyrenees was fostered overnight until another rescue could transport him to Tennessee. The foster had a dog door that is 2 feet by 18 inches, and somehow the Great Pyrenees worked himself through the dog door. Everyone was astonished that he was able to fit through such a small dog door. So, expect the unexpected so you can keep your foster dog safe.

You are our partner in rescue, and we are available to you every day, so do not hesitate to ask. We want this to be an enjoyable experience for the dog and for you too!! The Buford Project Rescue team is here to help. Please call or text Lynn at (847) 846-8134 or email us at thebufordprojectar@gmail.com with any questions, concerns or emergencies. We are your first point of contact.

AM I A GOOD CANDIDATE TO FOSTER?

Most foster dogs do best in a home where they are not alone for 8 to 10 hours a day. If that is the schedule you work under, then fostering might not be for you. Because dogs are social animals, most rescues do very well with another dog in the home, and certainly with personal attention from you.

RISKS AND WAIVER:

Dogs that The Buford Project are attempting to place for foster and adoption have typically been previously abandoned, abused and/or mistreated in some way and can be unpredictable and mistrusting of people. It is important for you to understand that dogs delivered to you for fostering are believed to be stray, abandoned or rescue animals, and have unknown backgrounds, health conditions and personality characteristics. By delivering the dogs to you

for temporary foster or for adoption, The Buford Project is attempting to provide charity care to meet a community need and there has been no professional “vetting” of the dogs for health or safety risks. Accordingly, by agreeing to foster or adopt you are agreeing to fully assume all risks that may arise in any way associated with providing foster services or adoption, including but not limited to property damage and personal injury or bodily harm to you, members of my household, visitors to my property, and/or other animals or pets in your care. You understand that as a condition of fostering or adoption, you agree to sign and consent to the terms of the applicable attached Waiver Agreement, releasing and holding harmless The Buford Project from any and all claims related to these identified risks or in any way related to the delivery of the dogs or your provision of fostering services or adoption and that you are intentionally and fully waiving any and all such claims.