

## The Foster to Train Initiative: Bridging the Gap from Kennel to Couch

One of the greatest challenges in animal welfare isn't a lack of love—it's a lack of information. For many potential adopters, the "behavioral history" of an adult shelter dog is a giant question mark. This uncertainty often leads families to choose puppies, leaving incredible adult dogs waiting indefinitely for a home.

The **Animal-Angels Foundation** is changing that narrative through the **Foster to Train Initiative**. This strategic collaboration between our foundation, local shelters, and professional trainers is designed to elevate adoptability and ensure every dog has the "resume" they need to find their forever family.

### Solving the "History" Hurdle

Many adult dogs in shelters are "diamonds in the rough"—loving, loyal, and capable—but they lack the formal training that helps them shine in a home environment. The Foster to Train Initiative removes this barrier through a focused, expert-led process:

- **The 7-Day Intensive:** A professional trainer brings a shelter dog into their own home for an intensive one-week period. During this time, they establish foundational obedience like sitting, staying, and leash walking.
- **Tailored Care:** If a dog is found to have specialized behavioral needs, the training period is extended. We don't rush the process; we ensure the dog is truly "home-ready" before they move on.
- **A Certified Profile:** When the dog returns to the shelter, they come with a **Certified Training Profile**. This document provides total transparency, showing potential adopters exactly what the dog has mastered and what their personality is like in a home setting.

### Lifetime Support for a Lifetime Bond

At Animal-Angels Foundation, our commitment to **Support** doesn't end when the adoption papers are signed. We want to ensure the transition is as stress-free as possible for both the pet and the owner.

To foster long-term success, we provide:

1. **Three Complimentary Sessions:** Every adoption of a Foster to Train graduate includes three free training sessions within the first 90 days. This helps the new owner and dog learn to communicate in their new environment.
2. **Preferred Partner Rates:** If you need further help down the road, our network of partner trainers remains available to you at discounted rates. We are committed to your pet's education for the long haul.

### Benefits Beyond the Leash

The Foster to Train Initiative is a vital part of our **Prevention, Support, and Community** mission. By turning overlooked shelter dogs into well-behaved companions, we see a direct:

- **Increase in Adult Adoptions:** Giving families confidence to choose older dogs.
- **Decrease in Returns:** Training creates a stable foundation that prevents "buyer's remorse" or behavioral frustration.
- **Lower Shelter Costs:** Every day a dog spends in a home instead of a kennel saves **taxpayer dollars** and frees up space for other animals in need.

**Ask your local shelter today if they are a Foster to Train Initiative partner.**  
Together, we are turning "homeless" into "home-ready."