

## **EPAWA FOSTER**

### *Guidebook*

#### **Board Members & Contact Numbers    email..... epawaburlington@gmail.com**

Terrill Bartels – President – Cat Coordinator	719-340-0644
Shelby Seymore – Vice President	719-342-1684
Danile Baker – Secretary – Cat Coordinator	843-224-3924
Cindy Stewart – Treasurer – Dog Coordinator	719-340-1105
Megin Jenkins – Member at Large	719-343-5863

#### **What do I do when I first get my Foster animal home?**

- A) Dogs... Take them for a walk around the block. If they get out, it helps them find home.
- B) Slowly introduce them to other dogs in the house. DO NOT throw them together at first.
- C) Give them food and water – they have had a long day and will likely be hungry.
- D) Keep their collar on and be careful not to let them outside unattended, remember this is a new place. The last thing you want is to have your foster escape. Make sure it has an EPAWA ID tag on.
- E) Help them establish routines, going outside too much at first is better than not enough.
- F) Love them and treat them as your own. It's about time for them to receive a little TLC.
- G) Give them a bath if needed.
- H) It's common for new dogs to try an escape your home until they know you, so WATCH the Door! If you have your door open for any reason, put them on a leash. They CAN & WILL run.

#### **Foster Timeline**

Day 1-2	Get your foster comfortable
Day 2	Work with the foster coordinator to schedule any vet visits that may be needed.
Day 3	Work on Bio information and get some photos and email them to EPAWA.
Anytime	Call the Foster coordinator with any questions, concerns, information they may need.

#### **Some things that may happen:**

- A. Your foster dog may not eat for a couple days. This can be part of the transition, just watch them and keep the foster coordinator informed. You can add a small amount of wet food or cheese to the food to entice them.
- B. Your foster dog may mark things inside and outside. Marking outside is harmless so allow that. For inside marking, be diligent in watching them for the first day or so when they are in your home. They may have never been in a home before and you can show them the difference.
- C. Your foster may be scared of stairs, mirrors, blow-dryers, home appliances, etc. This is also normal as many of them have not been in a true home environment. Just be patient with them as they normally catch on quickly. Routine helps.

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- D. Your foster may bark when you're gone or hate a kennel. These may be signs of separation anxiety. You can try placing them in an area with a baby gate and placing their bed, some toys and water in the area. You can even leave a shirt that smells like you to comfort them. Try leaving and coming back and not making too much of a big deal about it.
- E. They may not get along with your animals. Having your pet and the foster ignore each other is ok, having them play rough is ok, but vicious fighting is not ok. If you are having issues with your foster, contact the foster coordinator immediately.

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL HELP, CALL THE FOSTER COORDINATOR**

#### **How can I help my foster get adopted?**

- A. Post your foster pup on your Facebook, Twitter or social media page. Share a couple photos or a video and tell people about them. Ask for help in finding the dog a home. Encourage your friends and family to share your fosters information too.
- B. Send your Bio information to [epawaburlington@gmail.com](mailto:epawaburlington@gmail.com)
- C. Take photos and feel free to send updated photos to [epawaburlington@gmail.com](mailto:epawaburlington@gmail.com) or text the information to the foster coordinator. Share your pups information with everyone you can think of. Take your pup with you to public places and tell people they are up for adoption.

#### **A couple of rules – because what fun is anything without rules?**

- A. Do not take your dog to a dog park before they are vaccinated. For male dogs, they also should not visit the dog park for two weeks after being neutered, as they are fertile for 2 weeks. Always contact the foster coordinator at the first sign of a problem or issue.
- B. All vet visits and purchases must be pre-approved if you would like reimbursement on them.

#### **What does EPAWA pay for?**

- A. Veterinary bills at partner veterinarians. All services must be authorized
- B. Supplies: food, treats, crate, dog beds, toys, leash, collars.
- C. *If you need anything to make your foster dog comfortable, please get in touch with the foster coordinator.*

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#### **Partner Veterinarians:**

Republican Valley Vet Clinic  
429 US 36 Frontage Road  
St. Francis, KS 67759  
(785)-332-2262  
[www.republicanvalleyveterinaryclinic.com](http://www.republicanvalleyveterinaryclinic.com)

*Erin O'Donnell*

Burlington, CO 80807  
(719) 342-0145

Colby Animal Clinic  
810 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Colby, KS 67701  
(785) 460-8621

Twin Forks Vet  
325 Lincoln St.  
Burlington, Co 80807  
(719) 838-5006

#### **What basic vetting does EPAWA provide for foster dogs?**

Please work with the foster coordinator to get your foster animal in to the vet for basic vetting and as needed. Foster will get a vet exam, spayed/neutered, dewormed and UTD on all vaccines. Heart worm test and microchipped as needed.

#### **If there is an emergency, what do I do?**

If you truly believe it is a matter of life-or-death, take the dog or cat to the closest animal clinic immediately, preferably one of the partner veterinarians, if they are close. If the partner vets are not close, proceed to the nearest clinic.  
Contact Terrill or Cindy at the numbers listed.

### ***Q & A from past fosters***

#### **Is there an adoption fee for someone to adopt my foster dog or cat and if so, how much is it?**

Yes there is an adoption fee that helps offset the cost of getting the animal neutered or spayed and up to date on vaccines so they are "good to go" when they find their forever home. The adoption fee is \$200.00 for dogs 6 months and older, \$250.00 for puppies under 6 months. Cats are \$70.00 and kittens are \$75.00

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EPAWA aims to be prompt and efficient, while also ensuring the safety and health of our adoptable animals. Potential adopters can expect consistent communication.

- A. All applicants must fill out an adoption application.
- B. The adoption coordinator will review the application and call potential adopters.
- C. The foster and adoption coordinator will go to the home to do a meet and greet
- D. If everything is approved the adopter will pay the adoption fee and receive all the paperwork for the animal.

### **If I meet someone interested in adopting my foster, how do they get in touch with EPAWA**

Potential adopters can email [epawaburlington@gmail.com](mailto:epawaburlington@gmail.com) or go to our website [www.epawaburlington.com](http://www.epawaburlington.com) to get an application. They can fill it out and email it back to EPAWA. Someone will get back to them usually within 24 hours. Mailed copies should expect 7-10 days response.

### **A person has submitted an adoption application for my foster, now what?**

The adoption team will call references and talk with the potential adoptee, and give you a call to coordinate a time to meet with someone from the adoption team. We love for our foster parents to be at the meet and greet and to be part of the placement of your foster animal. You know the animal better than anyone, so we love for you to be involved. We strive to connect your foster dog with this person/family within 3 days from the time the foster application is approved.

### **I heard that those that want to adopt have a 7 day trial adoption period...what exactly is this and do I need to do anything during that trial period?**

The 7 days trial adoption is meant to allow the dog and the person/family that's wants to adopt, time to adjust and make sure that the dog and adopter are a good fit together. The person/family has this 7 day window to possibly decide if the dog is not right for them and their home. This means you should stay available to take your foster back, should this happen, though it is rare. **EPAWA policy...**We will take any animal back if it's not a good fit for both the dog and family.

### **What if I need something for my dog, like a certain play toy or more food?**

EPAWA supplies everything you and your foster dog needs. If you need additional toys or food, EPAWA will provide it. EPAWA would ask that you pick up any additional supplies from the EPAWA shed or contact Terrill or Cindy. We want to make your fostering as hassle-free and positive as possible, so we will work to support you and give you everything you need to be a successful foster.

### **I know I am going to be out of town in a few weeks for a couple nights. I still want to foster but can't take my foster with me. What options do I have?**

As soon as you know you will have a scheduling issue, please let the foster coordinator know so they can set up another foster through our volunteer network.

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### **How do most dogs find their forever homes and families?**

**EPAWA advocates and promotes your foster on our Facebook page and shares it to other websites. We also find them homes through sharing pictures and bios on social media and sometimes dogs even meet their person when they are out for a walk.**

*Thank you for fostering! We would your feedback on the experience and the process  
As we are always looking to improve! Please contact your EPAWA teammates and leadership  
Team if you have any questions!!*

*Thanks for all you do!!*