

Preparing your home

It can be **2 - 3 weeks** for most dogs to feel comfortable in their new surroundings, sometimes this is named the "honeymoon period". **During these first 2 - 3 weeks** they will learn boundaries, their place in the pack, and their "personal spot" (the place you assign them to sleep and eat). **During the first 2 - 3 weeks** be sure your foster pet goes out into a secure fenced area or with a leash and strong tie if using an "invisible fence".

- **Assessing your new dog**
Stare test, touching head, face and feet, Food or treat aggression ?
- **Animal proof your room and house**
- **Dogs love** routine, food, exercise, socialization, and positive praise
- **A happy dog is** a tired dog (be sure to exercise him/her daily)
- **Introduction to CHILDREN**
Always introduce children slowly to the new animal to determine the attitude of the foster pet, not all foster pets are comfortable with children. **Be sure there is adult supervision** when your child is with the foster pet. Never leave a child alone with a pet.
- **Introduction to OTHER dogs/pets**
One at a time, for short periods, over the course of the day. Here's a great tip about "meeting and greeting": http://www.thrivingcanine.com/letting_dogs_meet_the_three_second_rule
- **Dogs will usually** follow the lead of other dogs in your family
- **Dog food:**
Short term (overnight or a week): Dry mixed with a little wet food
Long term: Dry dog food (DREAM will provide 1 bag/month)
Make sure the dog is eating and drinking.
If not, try adding chicken broth or try Gerber all meat baby food.
- **Crate train when possible**
Begin with a short time (5 - 10 min), extend time over a couple of weeks/month
Utility room or Bathroom can be used temporarily
Chewing? Electrical cords or furniture ? Keep pet busy with Kong or Nylabone or Elk antler
Prevent furniture chewing: Mix spray bottle with lavender oil & water, spritz furniture lightly

Want HELP with training your rescue ?

There are trainers in the Troy area that we can recommend, (Unleashed and SkyviewK9) please let us know if you are interested in attending a basic training course with your foster.

Rescued dogs often come to us with a lot of baggage. Some have been harassed by children, attacked by bigger dogs or kept tied up or crated all day. Some rescued dogs have been beaten, starved, or totally neglected. Even for dogs who have been pampered all their lives, sudden change in residence and family can be traumatic. It's no surprise that many rescued dogs suffer from a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder that can manifest in acting out, phobias and obsessive-compulsive behavior. Expect your rescued dog to need help in overcoming some of his/her challenges, you'll never do anything more rewarding.

Barking or Aggression

Fill a spray bottle with mixture of water, 2 Tablespoons lemon juice, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vinegar
Spritz dog as necessary to address barking or aggression while calmly saying "NO"

Diarrhea

In a healthy animal stress, overeating or parasites are the main reason diarrhea will occur. Any length of time and changes from routine can be a very stressful situation, the pet may develop diarrhea. If diarrhea occurs add a $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of plain yogurt at each feeding and reduce the amount of food intake by 25% until the diarrhea stops. If diarrhea is severe or lasts longer than 24 hours, contact the foster care coordinator. Make sure animal is eating and drinking. If your pet is not eating try plain cooked chicken (1/2 cup) or chicken broth, or some canned dog food on top of the dry food to see if it helps.

Constipation

Various factors can contribute to these conditions. Canned pumpkin (1 Tablespoon twice a day), drinking lots of water, or using a small fleet enema are a few ways to help your pet relieve him/her self. $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of canned green beans (drained and rinsed) with each meal can also help. If constipation last longer than 2 days, contact a DREAM member.

Eye problems

If you notice drainage from your dog's eyes, check the ears, they could possibly be in need of cleaning. Moisten a cotton ball or tissue with warm water and gently cleanse the eye and ear area. Contact a DREAM member if problem persists for over a week., antibiotic ointment from the vet may be required.

Upper Respiratory Problems

If you notice discharge from the nose and it is green/yellow, you should call the foster care coordinator to get the animal in to see a vet. This could be the beginning symptom of "kennel cough" which can turn in to pneumonia if untreated with antibiotics by a vet. Clear discharge is usually viral and sometimes will go away.

Other illnesses

Visit www.Petmd.com Use the search field to enter symptoms the foster pet is experiencing. If problem persists for more than 24 hours, contact the Foster Care Coordinator or the "Emergency contacts" listed below.

Emergency situation

Is the body temperature of your pet cold as he/she is laying on its side? First, put the animal on a heating pad (or layer w/blankets or towels) to try and get the animal warm. Check the following areas: Are the gums bright pink (healthy) or pale? Is your dog panting hard and fast? Try rubbing Karo syrup on the gums to see if the animal is having a blood sugar problem. Call your Foster Care Coordinator immediately to determine the next appropriate step or establish a transport plan to an emergency clinic. Cindy Hartnagel 698 - 9377, Mary Ann Eismann 667 - 4107

- **Good signs:** Upright ears, tail is relaxed and mobile (moving or swaying), face is relaxed (open mouth)
- **Bad signs:** Ears are down & back, tail is tucked down or stiff, face is stiff or lips are pulled back
- **Play bow:** front feet set far forward, ears pricked, and head held with eyes forward, mouth slightly open in a grin. Puppies will shift weight to their back legs and paw at the air. These are both ways of saying , "We're just playing, not too rough now."
- **Pictures of dogs in different play and aggressive positions**, with good descriptions <http://www.columbusdogconnection.com/Behavior.htm>
- **Animal proof your house:** crate train, utility room, bath room... watch cords!

Assess your foster pet with SAFER:

Stare test gives clues regarding the dominance and submission of an animal.

Sensitivity test assesses social skills, sensitivity levels and level of fear.

Tag test determines dominance aggression and fear aggression.

Pinch test determines sensitivity, dominance and lack of bite inhibition.

Food (or Toy) Aggression test determines food aggression

Dog-to-Dog Aggression test determines sociability with other dogs

<http://www.aspcapro.org/safer-training-and-certification>

Some RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- **Love Has No Age Limit** (Welcoming an Adopted Dog into Your Home)
by Patricia McConnell PhD and Karen London PhD
- **On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals** by Turid Rugaas
- <http://www.humanesocietydayton.org/news-a-resources/behavior-help.html>
Help from the Greater Dayton Humane Society
- Transition tips for a NEW dog <http://www.columbusdogconnection.com/Behavior.htm>
- Assessing Dog Postures <http://www.columbusdogconnection.com/Behavior.htm>
Scroll to bottom of the page noted the link to see the section "Dog Postures"
- Whole DOG journal <http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/>
- Best Friends Animal Society - YOU and YOUR PET <http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/>
<http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/petcare/dogs.cfm>
- www.Dream4pets.org/resources.html Dog breed and size chart (encyclopedia)
- <http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/slideshows/p.htm>
Scroll to section of the page with category name PET HEALTH... ..many great slideshows !