



Foster Information Packet

07/06/2015

Thank you for your interest in fostering a homeless pet for Starfish Animal Rescue. Our foster families are a vital part of our organization, as we do not have a shelter. We are a network of foster homes and we can only save as many dogs/cats as we have foster homes to put them in. By making the decision to foster, you are literally saving a life!

Our Mission: Starfish is a no-kill, volunteer run organization. We are dedicated to saving lives and finding forever homes for stray, abandoned and surrendered pets in high-kill shelters while working to reduce the pet overpopulation problem through spay/neuter programs, education and promotion of respect for the animals we share our lives with. Our ultimate goal is to end euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals. We are a licensed rescue and are in the process of obtaining our 501(c)3 status.

When You Pick Up Your Foster: When you foster a pet, we cover all approved vet costs, we supply food (if needed), crate (if needed), collar, tag, leash, and a few toys. Before you pick up your foster, please let us know if you will be needing food and/or a crate. If you are able to incur the cost of providing food for your foster, we thank you! If you require Starfish to provide food for your foster, that's fine too! We can provide you with food at the time you pick up your foster.

Please keep in mind that these animals are coming from shelters where conditions are tough. In each foster care package, you will receive flea/tick shampoo and repellent. We recommend giving your foster a bath and

treatment when you arrive home. Or, if you prefer, you may take the animal to a groomer to be bathed however we are not able to reimburse for this.

Most foster pets will come with a name that cannot be changed while he or she is in foster care. All medical records for the animal will be under this given name and to keep track of the dogs in our care, we need everyone referring to the same pet by the same name.

Medications will be provided as part of your foster care package. It is imperative that you give your animal all medications as directed. If you have any questions relating to the medication you are required to give the animal, let us know immediately.

Medical: We do our best to treat for contagious disease in these animals upon arrival, but on occasion they are carrying an illness that could be spread to you or a resident pet. Your pet(s) should be current on vaccinations, as your veterinarian recommends, and treated with Revolution or Frontline on a monthly basis to help prevent the transmission of common skin parasites. If your pet(s) should show signs of disease, please contact your regular veterinarian as soon as possible.

The rescued animals are given dewormer upon arrival and sent home with additional medication. Between the poor quality food they have been eating in the shelter and the medications they are on, their stool may be loose. This is common. A spoonful of canned pure pumpkin with meal for a few days, along with good food, should improve their stool. Please make sure to pick up all stool, especially while your foster pup is on medication.

The number one health concern we have with puppies is the virus Parvo. This is not a risk to fully vaccinated dogs or people, but it is a serious concern if the puppy gets sick. We have seen adult dogs off of a transport develop Parvo, so it is not only something that puppies can develop although it is fairly rare in adults. It can be fatal and catching/treating it right away is extremely important. Signs of Parvo are lethargy, not wanting to eat, diarrhea or vomiting. We need to be notified immediately if your foster

displays any of these symptoms. Giving them Karo syrup or Pancake syrup can help get their sugar level up until we can get them to the vet.

It is absolutely imperative that you give your foster animal all medications provided as directed for the entire time directed. All medications are provided in consultation with our veterinarians who examine the pet. If you are uncomfortable and unwilling to give any of the medication, you must return the pet immediately. For our sister rescue, foster families deciding not to give medications cost one puppy his life and sent another to ICU.

Starfish will pay for any necessary vet care while the animal is in foster care. Please email Laura at beastarfishrescuer@gmail.com with any medical concerns. If necessary she will authorize for your foster pup to be seen at one of our local vets.

Spay/Neuter: The animals are spayed and neutered prior to adoption and we ask for your assistance in getting them to and from the vet for this procedure. If you are not able to do this, we will work to find another volunteer who can help facilitate this, perhaps to have you drop the pet off and pick up at their house or meet somewhere so they can help drive. All pets are altered prior to being placed in homes unless there is a medical issue where the alteration has to be postponed. This includes puppies over 8 weeks of age and 3 pounds and kittens over 2 pounds. If you have concerns about early age spay and neuter, we can provide you with further information on its safety or you can Google for further reading on the subject. Spay or neuter prior to placement is not negotiable, and is required by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Finding Your Foster a Forever Home: We request that all foster parents e-mail us pictures of your foster that we can put on Petfinder and Adopt-A-Pet. Additionally, please provide us with a description of your foster, information about their personality traits and what type of home you believe would be best for the pet. Remember, this is what potential adopters will be reading so make sure you highlight all of the wonderful characteristics of your animal! We need this information within 7 days. We ask that you

accommodate visits with potential adopters and give us feedback. You know your foster pet best and we value your input!

We do need to know that if we try and contact you that we will hear back from you within 24 hours. We may need to check up periodically on the foster's health, ensure they get vaccine boosters when due and be able to schedule meetings with prospective adopters.

Training: We endorse positive reinforcement training and do not condone or permit the use of shock collars, prong collars, physical punishment, etc. All of these can have serious negative repercussions especially when used on shy, fearful or unsure dogs. If you need help with problem behaviors please consult with Starfish for guidance on how to work with the dog or pup. Working with your foster animal to promote good "house manners" will help both the animal and adoptive family adjust quickly to each other!

Adoption: Adoption fees range from \$225-\$450 for dogs/puppies. This pays for the cost to bring the dog to safety, the vet exams, vaccinations, deworming, flea and tick treatment, heartworm test if over 6 months old, heartworm preventative if between the months of April and November, spay or neuter, microchip, any other necessary medications for the pet and things like collar, leash, toys and food while in foster care. Collecting these fees is what allows us to continue to save more animals!

Potential adopters fill out a pre-adoption application at www.starfishanimalrescue.com which is then reviewed by a Starfish adoption counselor. We want to know things like what sort of home they have (house, apt, condo), do they own or rent, if they rent are there weight or breed restrictions, who lives in the house - pets and people, how long will the dog be left alone on an average day, is there a fenced yard, and much more! We try to match the pet to the right family for them.

After the application is reviewed and if the family seems like a good match, a meeting is then set either in the foster home or at a nearby pet friendly location. After the initial meet and greet, please email the rescue and let us know how it went, and if you feel the potential adopters would be a good

match with your foster pup. The next step in the adoption process is the home visit. The dog stays in their new home at this time. If the potential adopter is interested in adopting the dog after the visit, they need to email starfishanimalrescuer@gmail.com. Please do not make any promises yourself, this will protect you in the event that you don't think the family is a good match!

Oftentimes, friends or family members may want to adopt your foster. If this is the case, email your foster coordinator and direct the friend or family member to fill out and submit an adoption application. Please advise them they are subject to the same process as outlined above.

****Please do not ever place your foster pet in a new home without approval of an Adoption Coordinator****

We also realize that situations may occur that require you to stop fostering before your foster pet is adopted. We ask for a notice so we can try to find alternate care for your foster pet. If you need to go out of town, we ask for as much notice as you can give us and a minimum of one week to arrange a foster pet sitter!

When you pick up your foster pup, we will be more than happy to answer any questions you have. You can also contact us by email at any time.

We Thank You!