

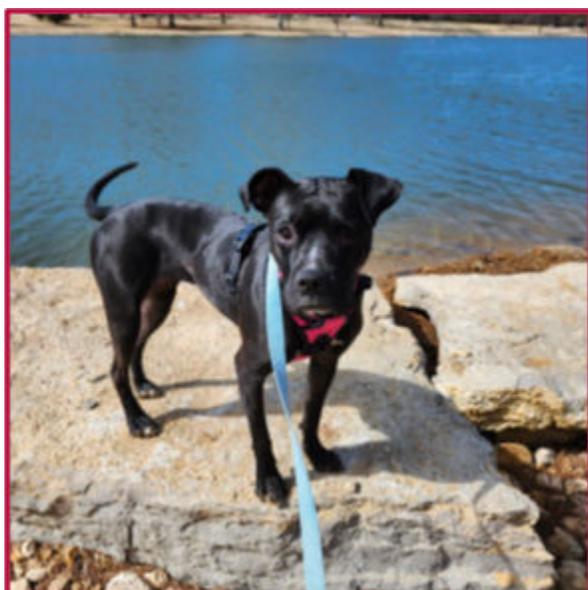
# **FAAS Canine Foster Manual**

**Five Acres Animal Shelter  
1099 Pralle Lane  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
(636) 949-9918**

**[www.fiveacresanimalshelter.org](http://www.fiveacresanimalshelter.org)**

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# Contact Information

## General Contacts:

Erin Moore- Foster Coordinator

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E: [foster@fiveacresanimalshelter.org](mailto:foster@fiveacresanimalshelter.org)

Emma Entner- Animal Care Manager

P: (636) 949-9918 ext. 1001

E: [emma@fiveacresanimalshelter.org](mailto:emma@fiveacresanimalshelter.org)

Elizabeth Mann- Behavior and Training Manager

P: (636) 949-9918 ext. 1012

E: [elizabeth@fiveacresanimalshelter.org](mailto:elizabeth@fiveacresanimalshelter.org)



## Medical Needs:

Dr. Kathryn Kettenbach, DVM- Staff Veterinarian

E: [medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org](mailto:medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org)

PLEASE DO NOT take our dogs to your personal vet. Five Acres Animal Shelter is responsible for all medical care of the dogs in our custody. Fosters are not reimbursed for medical care not coordinated through Five Acres. **Scan the QR code on page 8 to schedule an appointment with our veterinarian.**

### **After Hours Emergencies:**

Please email [medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org](mailto:medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org) ASAP with your medical urgency/emergency. If it is in the red emergency category and you do not hear back within 10 minutes, then you can proceed to call our executive director, Jeana Roth, at 207-776-8548 if it is between the hours of 6pm-8am.

## **Five Acres Ownership Statement**

Five Acres Animal Shelter (FAAS) maintains ownership of all animals in foster care at all times. FAAS reserves the right to reclaim an animal from foster volunteers at any time during the fostering period. Foster volunteers will be informed of the reason(s) why the animal(s) need to be returned and asked to bring them to the shelter as quickly as possible. In extenuating circumstances, FAAS staff will retrieve animal(s) directly from a foster home for return to the shelter.

# Bringing Home Your New Foster

## Introduction to the Home

Going to a foster home can be a confusing time for a pet as they adjust to new people, a new environment, and a new schedule. There are some basic steps foster homes can take to ease this transition:

### Designate a “safe place” that is “animal proofed:”

- This space should be separate from current household pets. Having a secure and safe area to keep your foster pet when you're not supervising will help protect your home as well as the pet.
- This can be a room that is able to be baby gated off securely, or that has a door that can be closed. Offices, spare bedrooms, bathrooms, and other similar rooms are all great options.

### Set a schedule:

- To help your foster adjust, set a regular schedule for feeding, potty breaks, walks, etc. Kittens like to eat on schedule and have a clean box.

### Be understanding:

This can be a very confusing time for a pet. Your new foster may take a couple of days to warm up and feel comfortable and may need some space to adjust and observe. Advise children not to force interaction on fosters and be respectful of boundaries.

## Preparing for Your Canine Foster

Dogs are curious creatures, and can get into more trouble than we sometimes think capable. Think of it as bringing home a toddler, you must be one step ahead of them!

### Things to inspect / be mindful of before bringing home a dog/puppy:

- All cleaning supplies and medications should be kept out of jumping/climbing reach.
- Place small chewable items out of reach.
- Pick up all shoes/clothing items, they are tempting to chew on.
- Trash cans should be out of reach of the animal and or covered.
- Wires/blind cords should be moved out of chewing reach.
- Many houseplants are toxic to animals! Keep them out of reach at all times!
- Leash walk your foster dog outside until you know he will not jump your fence, and then continue to stay out with them.
- Stick to dog/cat safe toys ONLY. No stuffed animals with eyes!

## Cleaning Procedure Suggestions

**Hard vs. Soft Surfaces:** When housing an animal, it is important to consider all objects he or she may have contact with and disinfect them accordingly. While hard surfaces are easier to scrub and sanitize, washing and/or vacuuming can also help decrease the number of environmental pathogens. Remember

to wash laundry on hot and do not mix with your regular laundry.

**Detergents:** the mechanical action of scrubbing with a detergent is effective for many bacteria. Most disinfectants only work once the surface has been cleaned of debris.

**Soluble alcohols:** alcohol is effective against viruses and bacteria but not fungi. Remember that the surface must be scrubbed clean prior to use for alcohol to be effective.

**Bleach:**

- Recommended dilution is 1-part bleach to 32-parts water
- Recommended contact time is 10 minutes
- More is not better, and contact time is crucial!

**Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide:** most used disinfectant in animal shelters, it is sometimes referred to as Rescue or Accel. If you would like to use this product, we are happy to fill a spray bottle that you bring in from home.

**Other Things to Note:** With common household cleaners like Simple Green or Clorox wipes, it is important to read the labels. Many of these brands do not have an active disinfectant.

Parasites and their eggs are difficult to deal with because many are very resistant to cold and heat and can survive for years in the soil. The most effective way to deal with parasites in the yard or litter box is to clean up after an animal as often as possible. This should be done with all fosters regardless of whether we have determined that they have a contagion.

When using cleaning products, especially around kittens and ill animals, be aware of ventilation, and not allowing them to walk on freshly cleaned surfaces. Most of these products will irritate paws, eyes, nose and mouth.

## Introductions With Your Foster Dog

It is best to keep foster animals separate from resident animals if you are going to have your foster short term, simply to avoid stress. However there are times an introduction will be necessary.

**Dogs:**

We will typically do introductions at the shelter, for healthy animals. This is because some dogs may have certain preferences when it comes to other dogs, and because Five Acres is responsible for the well being of the animals in our care, we want to ensure there are no injuries. We ask that you do not introduce other dogs to your foster unless approved by the foster coordinator.

Additionally, foster dogs should always be fed separately from resident dogs, and ensure play is supervised when high-value toys are involved (kongs, long lasting treats, and/or anything your resident animal guards).

**Cats:**

We recommend that introductions to resident cats is not attempted until at least three days after you bring home your foster.

Use the “scent swap” process to get everyone used to each other's smells. Bring a blanket/towel/bed into the foster room that belonged to the resident animal(s), and put something from the foster animal with the resident animal(s) as well. Once you think they are ready to meet, allow the foster cat to free roam the house with resident animals put up once or twice before allowing them to see each other. Once they are confident in the house, you can proceed to introduce one resident animal at a time. Dogs should be leashed, and the cat should be allowed to free roam during the introduction.

## **Children:**

It is recommended that children are brought to the shelter to meet the foster dog before bringing them home. Since we don't always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog.

Key things to remind your children:

- Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
- Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.
- Do not tease the foster dog.
- Don't chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog; it may scare him.
- Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the kids.

Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats who cross their path.

There will be handouts at the end of this packet to help show children how to properly interact with dogs

# **Setting Your Foster Up For Success**

One of your goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. So, we ask that you help your foster dog to develop good habits and skills through the use of positive reinforcement training, which builds a bond of trust between you and your foster pet. The basic idea is to reward desirable behaviors and ignore unwanted behaviors.

You must not punish a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because punishment is ineffective at eliminating the behavior. If the dog is doing something undesirable, distract him or her before the behavior occurs. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dogs, which will help them to learn faster.

When interacting with your foster dog, refrain from wrestling or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and “play bite” on your body.

Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we are aware of at the time of their rescue. Some of these behavior challenges are separation anxiety, destruction of property, fear issues or aggression toward other animals. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her particular issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog.

If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact both your foster coordinator and Behavior and Training Manager via email.

If your foster dog bites another human and/or animal please contact the Animal Care Manager immediately.

## Puppy Fostering

Puppies will go to foster if they are not quite ready for adoption, and this is typically because they still need vetting. Five Acres will alter all puppies before making them available for adoption, and will complete all age appropriate shots.

Fostering puppies is different from fostering adult dogs for a few reasons:

- Puppies do not have a fully developed immune system, so they ARE NOT allowed to go OUTSIDE
  - Puppy fosters are sent with an exercise pen and training pads to assist with bathroom breaks
  - Diseases live on surfaces for months, especially in the grass or soil
- Puppies should not interact with resident animals who **are not** up to date on vaccines
- Puppies are sent to foster in pairs so they can keep up with socialization
  - Exceptions can be made if the puppy is older than 8 weeks and/or if there is another dog in the home at the foster coordinator’s discretion
- Puppies are sent to foster for an average of two weeks
- Puppies in foster are not ready for adoption, so no need to conduct meet and greets

Please alert your foster coordinator if you observe any of the following with your foster puppy:

- Decrease in appetite
- Lethergy
- Coughing
- Runny nose and/or eye discharge
- Loose stool or vomiting



# Other Safety Requirements

Foster dogs must live indoors, not outside. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when they are outside at all times to ensure that they do not escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals.

Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in an enclosed backyard that is completely fenced in. This means that your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash dog areas. We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to ensure that all animals are safe at all times.

Because we don't know if the other dogs they encounter are vaccinated appropriately or carry diseases, it is best if your foster dog does not meet any unknown dogs. Having recently come from a shelter setting, foster dogs can be vulnerable health-wise.

When transporting your foster dog, they must be safely secured in your vehicle. They cannot ride in the bed of trucks.

Failure to abide by these requirements will result in removal from our foster program.

## Adoption Process

Once an animal is cleared for adoption, they are placed on our website and can receive applications.

We love when our foster families find homes for their fosters! Just please make sure to check with your foster coordinator on adoption requirements for that animal before letting a friend/family member fall in love! If you do find a family for them, please have them fill out an application on our website for your foster animal [www.fiveacresanimalshelter.org](http://www.fiveacresanimalshelter.org). Please also inform them the adoption is not guaranteed. We will place each animal with the best fit family based on the needs for that animal. Our facility conducts adoptions on a first come, first serve basis.

While foster families do get preference to adopt, it is important to alert your foster coordinator before a meeting is set with an adoptive family. It can be very discouraging to adopters when they meet a foster dog, are ready to adopt, and are then told that the fosters are planning to adopt.

When your foster receives an adoption application, the foster coordinator will alert you, and coordinate a time for you to bring your foster to the shelter. Fosters are encouraged to be as involved in the meet and greet as they wish. Fosters typically have more information about how the animal does in the home than shelter staff, so fosters tend to be the best advocates!



# Medical Emergencies

Use the below table to assess what the next steps are if your foster pet is experiencing any medical issues:

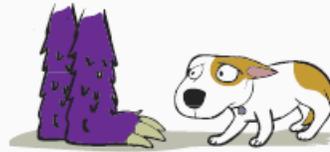
<h2 style="text-align: center;">CODE RED: EMERGENCY!</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Email <a href="mailto:medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org">medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org</a> ASAP. If no answer within 10 minutes, call 207-776-8548</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Foster</li> <li>• Unresponsive</li> <li>• Hit by Car / Seriously Injured</li> <li>• Ingested Dangerous Items</li> <li>• Major Wounds / Excessive Bleeding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having Trouble Breathing</li> <li>• Cold to the Touch</li> <li>• Injury to the Eye</li> <li>• Straining / Unable to produce urine</li> <li>• Unable to Stand or Walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizure/Unstable/Disoriented</li> <li>• Puppies not Eating, Weight Loss, Severe Diarrhea</li> <li>• White or Blue/Very Pale/Sticky Gums</li> <li>• Pregnant Animal in Distress</li> <li>• Temperature <math>\leq 97.0</math> F or <math>\geq 105.0</math> F</li> </ul>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">CODE YELLOW: URGENT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Email <a href="mailto:medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org">medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org</a> ASAP. Will respond as soon as possible but not immediately.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting Multiple Times</li> <li>• Lethargy/Not Eating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colored Nasal Discharge</li> <li>• Incident of Aggression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diarrhea Multiple Times Over 24hrs (6 weeks or older)</li> <li>• Chewed/Removed Sutures/Staples</li> <li>• Slightly Open Spay Incisions</li> </ul>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">CODE GREEN: WELLNESS CHECK NEEDED</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Email <a href="mailto:medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org">medical@fiveacresanimalshelter.org</a> ASAP. Will respond as soon as possible, likely the next day.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting Once or Twice</li> <li>• Lethargy/Low Appetite</li> <li>• Congestion/Clear Nasal Discharge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intestinal Parasites/Worms in Stool</li> <li>• Pink or bloody urine</li> <li>• Diarrhea for more than 24hrs</li> <li>• Limping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirty/Smelly Ears</li> <li>• Skin Irritation</li> </ul>

**PLEASE DO NOT** take our dogs to your personal vet. Five Acres Animal Shelter is responsible for all medical care of the dogs in our custody. Fosters are not reimbursed for medical care not coordinated through Five Acres. **Scan the below QR code to make an appointment with our veterinarian.**



# Canine Body Language

## Body Language of Fear in Dogs



**Slight Cowering**

**Major Cowering**

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## More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



**Licking Lips**  
when no food nearby



**Panting**  
when not hot or thirsty



**Brow Furrowed, Ears to Side**



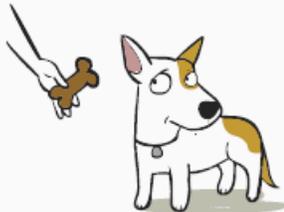
**Moving in Slow Motion**  
walking slow on floor



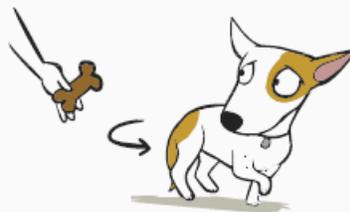
**Acting Sleepy or Yawning**  
when they shouldn't be tired



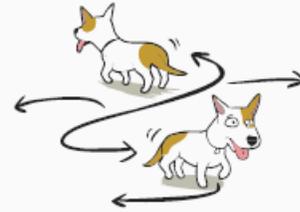
**Hypervigilant**  
looking in many directions



**Suddenly Won't Eat**  
but was hungry earlier



**Moving Away**



**Pacing**

# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



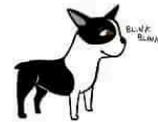
STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"

# Handouts for Children

## How Kids SHOULD Interact with Dogs

Use common sense.

Be polite and kind to pets



Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious



Play appropriate games with pets, such as:

Fetch



ROLL OVER



Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc.)

Walking and running with a dog



SMIFF  
SMIFF



Playing hide-n-seek

Always remember:

**Supervise all interactions. Accidents can happen in a split second.**



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.



For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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Support@lowstresshandling.com

# How Kids SHOULD NOT Interact with Dogs

It's common sense. Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

Avoid taking people's food



Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating

Avoid stealing other people's toys



Avoid taking a dog's bones or toys

Avoid putting your face right up to someone else's face



Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face

Avoid bothering when asleep



Avoid bothering animals when they are resting. Let sleeping dogs lie.

Avoid pestering



Avoid grabbing tail/ears

Avoid climbing on or trampling



Avoid climbing on or trampling

Avoid pinching



Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it.

Avoid screaming around



Avoid hollering and shouting. Use your "inside" voice instead.

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For additional Low Stress Handling information, posters, flyers, books, and DVDs, please visit our website at <http://DrSophiaYin.com>



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# HOW TO GREET A DOG (AND WHAT TO AVOID)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

## Human to Human INCORRECT



Avoid reaching into their safety zone.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interactions without asking.



Avoid staring at people. This is scary.



Avoid leaning over.



Avoid reaching into personal space.



Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.



Avoid touching inappropriately.

## Human to Dog INCORRECT



Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.



Avoid rushing up.



Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.



Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.



Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.



Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.



Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.



Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.

## Human to Dog CORRECT



Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.



Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).



Ask if you can interact first.



Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.



Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.



Let the dog approach at his own rate.



It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.



Pet gently.