

LIFE-SAVING ADULT DOG

FOSTER CARE

GUIDE



DEAR FOSTER FAMILY,

First and foremost, THANK YOU! You are about to embark on a life-saving adventure that you'll never forget and become a hero to your foster animal! Our foster program exists to give young animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick, or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal. Since the program's inception, our foster families have saved thousands of dogs and cats that would otherwise have been euthanized without this amazing resource.

In this manual, you will find guidance and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal's stay.

Types of Animals That Need Foster Homes

- Puppies or kittens too young to be adopted
- Abused dogs or cats that need socialization and love
- Injured dogs or cats recovering from surgery
- Sick dogs or cats
- An abandoned mother with a litter of kittens or puppies
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded

If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help you find a foster situation that will work best for you!

Sincerely,

*Souris Valley Animal
Shelter Foster Team*



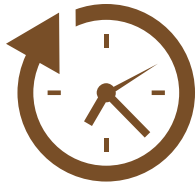
TABLE OF CONTENTS



Get Ready	
Preparing the Room	3
Get Set	
Basic Supplies.....	4
Foster Dog's Home.....	5
Homeward Bound.....	6
Body Language.....	7
Basic Training Tips	
House and Crate Training.....	8
Socialization and Positive Reinforcement.....	9
Socialization Checklist.....	10
Maintaing Foster Health	
Diarrhea, Parasites, Vomiting and Eye Discharge.....	11
Ear Mites, Fleas, Ringworm, and Mange.....	12
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection and Parvovirus.....	13
Distemper and Fading Puppies	14
Veterinary Care.....	15
Ready for Adoption.....	16
Health Cheat Sheet.....	17
Behavior and Training Information.....	18



ARE YOU A FOSTER CANDIDATE



TIME

Are you able to devote the require time daily and weekly to your foster animal (see chart below)? YES NO

Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccinations and wellness exams every 1-2 weeks? YES NO

Are you able to contact CAS or bring foster animals to the emergency care facility quickly in an emergency? YES NO

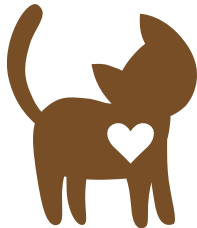


SPACE

Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets for at least two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow for proper adjustment period? YES NO

Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning / disinfecting the kittens' quarters routinely? YES NO

Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals? YES NO



CARE

Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal? YES NO

Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over? YES NO

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals / family? YES NO

Time Commitments & Responsibilities

TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Sick / Injured Cats	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Weaned Puppies	1-3 weeks	3-6 hours
Sick / Injured Dogs	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Neonate Puppies	6-8 weeks	8 hours
Mom with Puppies	2-8 weeks	3 hours



TIPS & TAILS

Use glass or metal bowls as plastic bowls are porous and not as easy to clean.

Clean linens and toys daily.

Supervise play time.

Preparing the Room

Before you bring home your foster(s), make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom often works well. The room should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A space where temperature can be controlled.
- The space has been disinfected by using a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water).
- Separate from other household pets.
- Can withstand messes: spilt water or food, vomit, urine, feces, etc.
- No breakable items.
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked.
- No small items.
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen).
- Secured appliances (toilet lids closed).
- Remove all toys/food from dog's potential reach.



Basic Supplies Provided:

- Food
- Bowls
- Puppy Pads
- Collar and Harness
- Dog Crate

Dogs

- Dogs should be kept indoors in a crate when unattended or a separate room/office.
- Dogs should be on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in a private secure fenced in area. Recommended fence height is six feet.
- Foster dog/puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks.
 - Dog parks can be extremely dangerous environments; there are no lifeguards or professionals at a dog park when conflicts arise
 - Not every dog is safe
 - While dogs are social animals, they are individuals and do not like every dog they meet
 - Dogs have a variety of play styles and these play styles can be conflicting and instigate fights
- We recommend keeping foster pets separate from resident animals for the first two weeks to wait out the incubation period for certain contagious illnesses like kennel cough and ringworm. This is also helpful for slowly and properly introducing a foster animal to your resident pets as many pets will not get along right off the bat. Bathrooms, baby gates and crates can be useful tools when working to keep animals separate.

Food

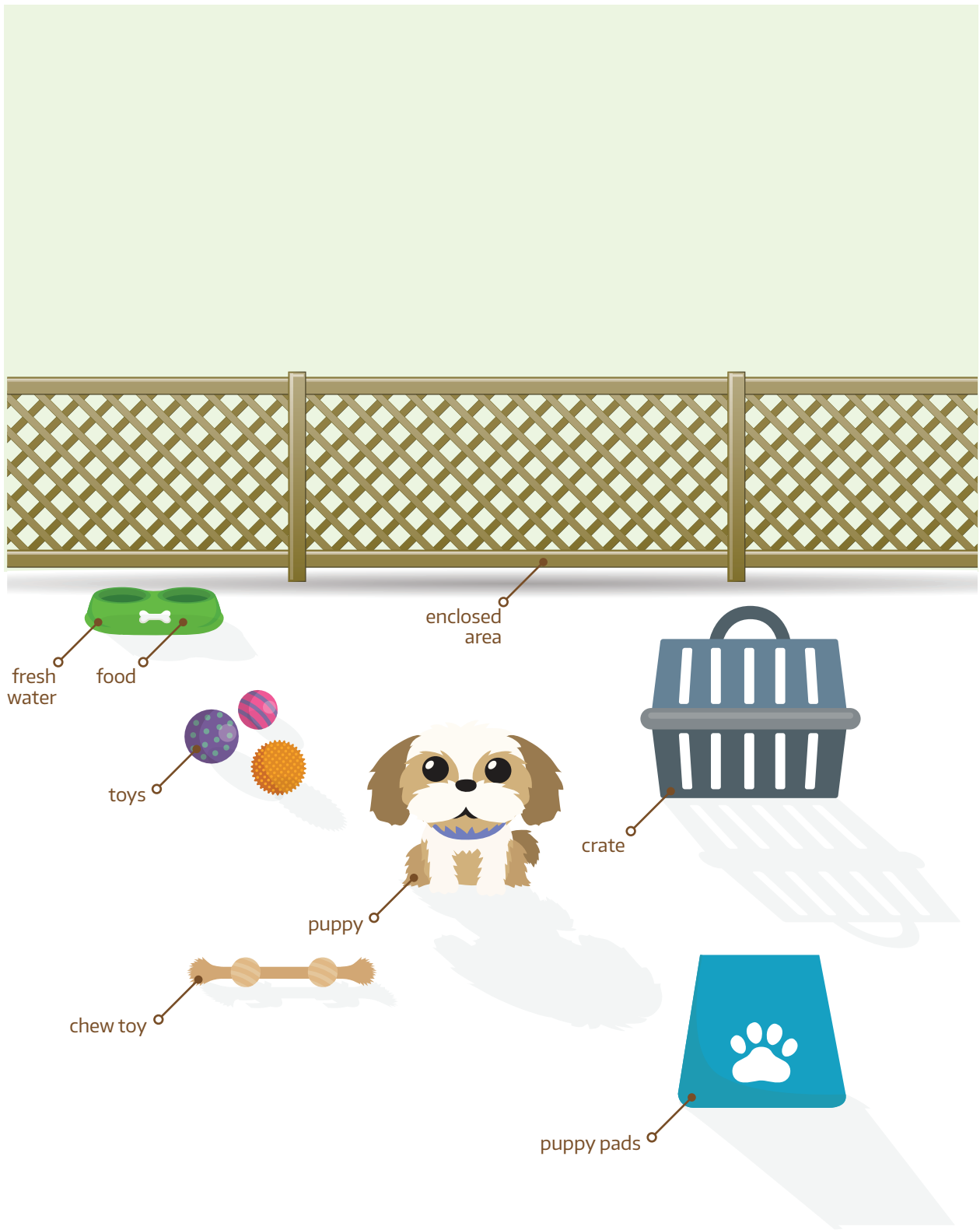
All dogs at SVAS are fed Diamond Brand Dog food. If your dog was given something other than that it will be written below.

Your Dog: _____ is currently getting _____ of _____ 2x daily.

TIPS & TAILS

Household Poisonous Plants include Lilies, Sago Palms, Corn Plant, Aloe Plant, Xylitol (gum) and Asparagus Fern.

Supervise your foster animal when around children and other animals.



When You Get Home

While it is tempting to introduce your dog to your friends and extended family right away, we caution you to give your new pet some time to settle in. Going from the shelter to a home environment can be very overwhelming. Giving them time to get to know you and your home first can help with the transition.

Outside Before Inside

When you first get home, introduce your new dog to the outside of your house before bringing him inside. Let him take in all the new smells and take him for a walk around the block to burn off any extra energy. Show him where he will go potty.

Leash Them Up!

When ready, enter and introduce your dog to your house slowly. Restrict his access to one area of the home. He is going to be stressed for the first few days, so the smaller the new area is, the more comfortable he will be. Keep him on a leash for at least the first day, preferably the first 3 days. By stepping on the leash or picking up the leash, you can prevent your new dog from running away from you, getting into things, or marking (house-soiling).

"Safety Zone"

Allow your dog to get used to spending time in his "Safety Zone" while you are home. If your foster dog is hesitant to enter the space you plan on using, try tossing a toy or treat in and repeating the exercise several times. Once he willingly enters the room, you can give him a filled Kong or chew toy. Spend some time sitting in the room with him. Once he is comfortable, try leaving the room (even for only a few seconds at a time). You want the dog to understand that you may leave, but that you will always return. Your dog should be very comfortable being left alone in their Safety Zone while you are home before you attempt to leave the house. You can make the space less alienating by playing a radio or television and leaving your dog a t-shirt with your smell on it.

Dog Body Language

Since your foster dog can't use words to tell you how he's feeling, you'll need to learn to read his physical cues. Review the below infographics, and soon you'll be speaking fluent dog in no time!

The 3 Days, 3 Weeks, 3 Month Rule of Adopting a Rescue Dog

The 3-3-3 rule is a general guideline, every dog is unique and will adjust differently. Give your dog space and allow him to go at his own pace.

3D	3W	3M
<p>In the first 3 days,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling overwhelmed <input type="checkbox"/> May be scared and unsure of what is going on <input type="checkbox"/> Not comfortable enough to be "himself" <input type="checkbox"/> May not want to eat or drink <input type="checkbox"/> Shut down and want to curl up in his crate or hide under a table <input type="checkbox"/> Testing the boundaries 	<p>After 3 weeks,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starting to settle in <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling more comfortable <input type="checkbox"/> Realizing this could possibly be his forever home <input type="checkbox"/> Figured out his environment <input type="checkbox"/> Getting into a routine <input type="checkbox"/> Lets his guard down and may start showing his true personality <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior issues may start showing up 	<p>After 3 months,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finally completely comfortable in his home. <input type="checkbox"/> Building trust and a true bond <input type="checkbox"/> Gained a complete sense of security with his new family <input type="checkbox"/> Set in a routine

© Rescue Dogs 101

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"

Housetraining











We always want to set our foster pets up for success, and doing so in the house training process is essential! At first new foster pets should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 60 minutes when active (when waking up from a nap, after drinking or eating, and after a play session).

Remember these five steps to successful house training:


1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

Pee Pads: For Puppies Five Weeks and under: place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and about once an hour. Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he/she urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently, as puppies tend to chew on pee pads.

Severe Stress Signs in Dogs

FIGHT	FREEZE	FLIGHT
 BARKING	 MOVING IN SLOW MOTION	 RUNNING AWAY
 BARE TEETH	 FROZEN	 HIDING
 HACKLES	 DUCKING BEHIND LEGS	 STARTLES EASILY
 LIP LIFT		

Vet Behaviour Team
 Phone: 0432881174
 www.vetbehaviourteam.com



Crate Training

Since our eventual goal is to be able to leave your dog in a crate, set up the crate in the Safety Zone with the door propped open and frequently toss treats and toys into the crate to get your dog used to willingly entering the crate. Once he is comfortable, use the crate both when you are home and when you aren't -- your foster dog shouldn't associate the crate with your absence. Please keep in mind that some dogs have had negative experiences being crated and that even the sight of a crate can cause anxiety.

Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog.

TIPS & TAILS
Runaway Foster

If your foster escapes or runs away contact the Foster Coordinators immediately. You may also contact animal control for your area.

If your foster dog gets loose while on a walk don't chase, simply lay on the ground and calmly call their name.

If your foster cat escapes the home place a blanket that smells like the cat/home and litter box outside of the home.

Be sure to have your foster's collar and tags on at all times. If you did not receive your fosters tags at pick up, call the Foster Coordinators.

Toys

Having toys available for your dog is vital for their mental health and development. A selection of toys is best such as plush squeak toys, rope toys, stuffed Kongs, and teething toys.

Socialization

One of the most important parts of your job as a foster caregiver is to convince your foster pet(s) that humans are kind and loving. Some pets will adjust quickly to you and their new environment, while others may take much longer. Be patient and allow your foster(s) time to acclimate to neW surroundings.

Patience is the biggest kindness you can show your new foster as they adapt to home life. They don't understand who you are or what's happening and will need time to settle in. We see many failed adoptions for the simple fact that an animal wasn't given proper time and space to adapt before being introduced to new animals, people, environments, noises, etc. We call the settling in period the "decompression phase" and it often takes around two weeks before a dog feels confident and comfortable in the home. Every dog IS an individual though and will move at their own speed. Be calm. Talk quietly. Move slowly. Sit low. The more approachable you are, the more likely an animal is to come out of their social shell.

Training: Positive Reinforcement

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your animal. Souris Valley Animal Shelter only promotes training using positive reinforcement. Decades of research and scientific study concludes that Positive Reinforcement training is the most humane and effective method of training.

Do not scold or punish bad behavior.

- When an unwanted behavior is offered/performed re-direct the dog with a kissy noise or toy. Praise and reward the dog for stopping the undesired behavior and giving you attention.
- Punishment can instill fear, which can lead to aggressive behavior.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive out-come, that behavior is strengthened.

Socialization Checklist

Socializing your dog to these items/actions is as easy as touching your dog's paw and giving a treat, having a man with a hat give a treat as he walks by or saying hello and giving affection.

PEOPLE	
MEN – tall, bearded, variety of ethnicities, younger, older, men with canes/walker, men with hats, etc.	
WOMEN – tall, younger, variety of ethnicities, older, with purses, with walker/canes/crutches, etc.	
CHILDREN – behaviorally appropriate - keep puppies on the ground	
BEHAVIORS	
Laughing, talking loudly, walking, jogging, running, etc.	
ITEMS	
Vacuums (turned off), mops, brooms, bicycles, skate boards, tricycles, lawnmowers (turned off), etc.	
SURFACES	
Grass, concrete, stairs, carpet, tile, hardwood, etc.	
HEALTH & GROOMING	
Nail clippers (not used), feet being touched, ears being touched, tail being touched	



Normal Stool



Soft Stool



Diarrhea

Diarrhea

There are three types of stool: normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, overfeeding and other issues.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can lead to dehydration. If the foster is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not a concern. Feed the foster less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3-4 feedings or contains blood/parasites, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck..

Parasites

Fosters are dewormed upon intake and at every recheck. Parasites are commonly found in the stool of puppies and kittens. Tapeworms may look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit. If you notice worms, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously or accompanied with diarrhea. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call the Foster Coordinator right away.

Eye Discharge

It is normal for animals to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, swollen or closed eyes call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck. You can use a warm, damp towel to wipe the affected eye(s).

Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind their ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their head. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any these symptoms.

Fleas

Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical and oral flea prevention are given to fosters over 4 weeks of age. Flea prevention for puppies under 4 weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bedding changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the puppy in a small amount of Dawn® dish soap followed by using a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Be sure to thoroughly dry him/her following a bath. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. If you still notice signs of fleas, call Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.

Mange

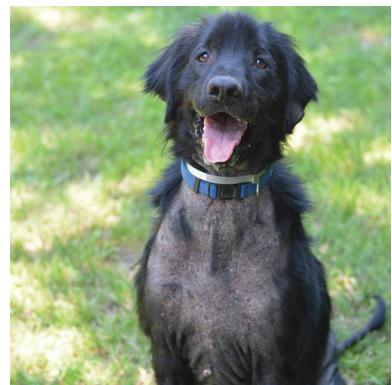
Mange is caused by parasites that infect the skin of animals. Some forms of mange are contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss and sores. If you notice these symptoms, call the Foster Coordinator for treatment.



Ear Mites



Ring Worm



Mange

Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URI)

URIs are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria. Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a deadly and contagious virus that attacks a dog's gastrointestinal tract. Once parvovirus is present in an environment it is difficult to remove. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated feces.

Signs to look for:

- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain and bloating
- Fever
- Low body temperature
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhea with or without blood

If you notice any of these signs, immediately contact the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

Distemper

Distemper is a highly contagious and fatal disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated saliva, blood, or urine.

Signs to look for:

- Severe Upper Respiratory Infection or Pneumonia
- Lethargy
- Neurological signs such as seizure activity, convulsions, and partial or complete paralysis.

Fading Puppies

Occasionally, a puppy that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and crawling. They will begin to lose weight and may cry continuously. When this happens, they fade quickly and, even with medical intervention, may not survive 48 hours.

There is not an understood cause for this condition. Occasionally, puppies die in foster care. If this should occur contact the Foster Coordinators for information concerning the disposition of remains.





TIPS & TAILS

Questions about your foster's veterinary care? Call 701-833-5729.

If after hours please call Email Sarah@SVASPets.com

Routine Veterinary Care

Routine veterinary care is by Souris Valley Animal Shelter. The foster coordinator will work directly with partnering veterinarians to manage the health and well-being of each foster pet or litter. Souris Valley Animal Shelter has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is pre-authorized by the Souris Valley Animal Shelter staff.

Scheduling Rechecks

Your foster pet(s) will be up-to-date on age appropriate vaccinations and deworming at the time that you take them in. Dogs & Puppies receive the DA2PP Vaccine (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, Bordetella, and Aelenovirus Type 2). If a rabies vaccination is needed you can make an appointment at:



SVAS Adoption Process

Potential Adopters

SVAS works off a first come first serve process for potential adopters. All potential adopters will need to apply on our website at <https://svaspets.com/adoption/>

After the application is received the Foster Coordinator will review and then email the application to the Foster Caregiver. The Foster will then contact the first person that applied to set up a meet and greet at their home or at a central location. If a central location is not available then a meeting can be set up via Zoom.

Adoption

The Foster Coordinator or a member of the shelter team will be present at every meet and greet. To schedule a meet and greet the Foster will utilize the shelter calendar at:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=19436383&appointmentType=14128039>

If the Foster Coordinator and Foster Caregiver feel that the adopter is a good fit, then the puppy will go home the same day. If the meeting is virtual, then the Foster Coordinator will schedule a time to pick up the puppy and deliver him/her to the adopter.

If the foster caregiver feels that the potential adopter is not a good fit, then they will need to contact the Foster Coordinator before moving on to the next person on the list. In the end the final decision is up to the SVAS staff member.

TIPS & TAILS

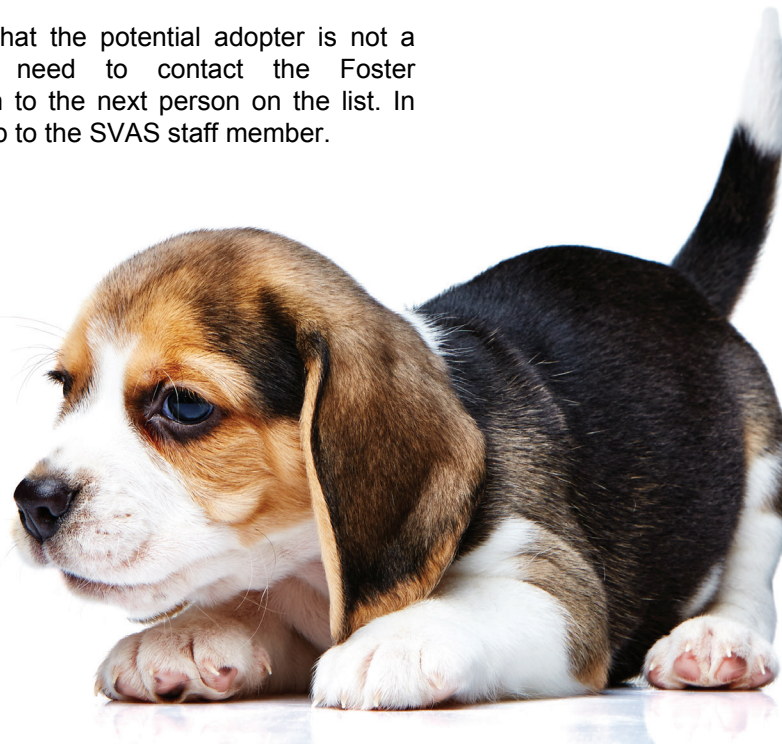
Adoption Fees

Puppy - \$195

Dog - \$150

Kitten- \$85

Cat - \$75



NON-EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
<p>Monitor First</p> <p>If worsens: Call Sarah at 701-833-5729</p> <p>Monday-Friday between 9am -5pm</p>	<p>Require Immediate Veterinary Attention</p> <p>Call : 701-833-5729</p> <p>Email: Sarah@svaspets.com</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runny discharge from the eyes or nose • Lack of appetite • Lethargy (lack of energy) • Diarrhea lasting more than 3 or 4 feedings • Vomiting • Weight loss • Coughing and sneezing • Lack of bowl movements for more than 24-36 hours or straining to urinate/defecate • Swollen eyes or eyes held closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous diarrhea longer than 24-36 hours • Continuous vomiting longer than 12 hours • Bleeding of any kind (from nose or in urine/ stool) • Any trauma (hit by a car, dropped, limping, unconscious, etc) • Difficult breathing or labored breathing • Dog or cat that is not responsive

Emergency Care

If you have questions about the health of your foster animal or if an emergency situation should arise **during regular hours of operation, please call 701-833-5729**. Our regular hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-6pm. If your foster animal has an emergency that occurs **outside of the normal hours of operation, please use the following information above to determine if it is a true emergency**. If you feel it is a true emergency and it can not wait until businesses hours and no one on staff can be reached then it is up to the Foster's best judgment to take it to an emergency vet appointment. **Souris Valley Animal Shelter must approve any and all treatments for foster pets, however if deemed a true emergency will cover the Emergency Vet bills outside of business hours.**

- If the Souris Valley Animal Shelter has not approved any or all treatments to foster pets, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- If the foster parent takes a foster pet to any other veterinary or emergency clinic than the one designated by the Foster Coordinators, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- The Souris Valley Animal Shelter has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is pre-authorized by the Souris Valley Animal Shelter staff.
- If after hours Foster will be reimbursed if deemed a true emergency.

Decompression Tips for New Foster Dogs

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/chill-out-decompression-t_b_8331986.html

Dog Body Language: Understand What Dogs Are Saying

<https://youtu.be/Ori0wndPzCM>

Common Dog Behavior Issues: Leash Reactivity

<http://careforreactivedogs.com/start-here/>

Common Dog Behavior Issues: Separation Anxiety

https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/11_7/features/Canine-Separation-Anxiety_16044-1.html

Common Dog Behavior Issues: Aggression

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/common-dog-behavior-issues/aggression>

Dog Bite Prevention

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/dog-bite-prevention>

Resource Guarding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUqt85M01UY>

Food Aggression

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i60q52Dqluc>

Kids and Dogs: How Kids Should and Should Not Interact with Dogs

<http://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/kids-and-dogs-how-kids-should-and-should-not-interact-with-dogs>

The Safety Guide to Children and Dogs

<https://positively.com/articles/dog-child-safetyguide/>

House Training

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/housetraining_puppies.html

Crate Training

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html

Training: Nothing in Life is Free

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/training_nothing_in_life_is_free.html

Petting Consent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hsOIJwMwps>

How to Introduce Dogs to Each Other

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-dogs-each-other>

How to Introduce a Dog to a Cat

<http://bestfriends.org/resources/how-introduce-dog-cat> - Option 1: Slow and steady desensitization