

FOSTER CARER WELCOME PACK





ABOUT HOPE4PAWS

Hope4Paws Animal Rescue Inc is a registered not-for-profit organisation that is run by volunteers and relies entirely on foster carers, donations, and fundraising initiatives to keep saving lives.

The rescue was founded by two animal lovers who have spent years in various rescue roles that share a passion and commitment for animal welfare with a dedication to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming dogs who have been displaced through no fault of their own.

With a no kill philosophy, we do not discriminate against age, breed or size and are committed to dogs that are without family, love, or representation.

ABN 63 294 273 664
Hope4Paws Animal Rescue Inc | PO Box 5041, Cairnlea VIC 3023
Phone Number: 0410 188 197 | 0401 314 602
hello@hope4pawsanimalrescue.org.au | www.hope4pawsanimalrescue.org.au



Dear Foster Carer,

Thank you for embarking on this special journey with us. We are very excited to have you as part of the Hope4Paws family. Foster carers are essential for rescues like us. We couldn't continue to do the work that we do or save the lives of countless dogs waiting to be rescued from many pounds around Victoria.

So, we welcome you and hope you enjoy this adventure with your new foster dog. Contact us if you have any concerns or questions. Dog rescue can be an emotional and difficult process. We are here to support you and your foster dog for anything that you may need.

Please take some time to read through the information pack that we've provided for you. We've included general training tips that can be practiced with your foster dog during their stay with you.

All food, bedding, toys, and other supplies will be provided for you while the foster dog is in your care. If you find that you are low on supplies or have run out, please let us know and we will do our best to provide the necessary items.

We ask that while your foster dog is in your care, you treat them as if they are a part of your loving family. Dogs need time to adjust to their surroundings, so please allow them the space to thrive and come out of their shell, so they can start experiencing life as a happy dog again.

We have setup a private Facebook group just for our Foster Carers. The link to become a member of the group has been sent to you via email. We encourage you to share photos, updates, and progress of your foster dog, including any resourceful information that you would like to share with other foster carers.

Welcome to the furry tribe!

The Hope4Paws Team



WELCOMING YOUR FOSTER DOG

We've included some tips below to prepare your home for your foster dog:



The same as you would prepare your home when you adopt an animal, preparing your home for your furry foster dog is essential. Most times, they are coming into your home from an environment that has not been friendly to them. They'll be insecure and frightened, from past history of abuse or trauma, or from the quick journey to your front door.

Creating a warm and cosy area for them where they can retreat and relax undisturbed is a great idea. This will help them ease into their new surroundings.



BE PATIENT

You've set up your foster dog's cosy area, so be prepared if they don't leave their bed for a while. Foster animals will require more patience than your usual furry friend. Be mindful that with lots of love, patience, and time, they will eventually come out of their shell and move onto a happier stage in their life. When they're ready for human contact they will let you know. This is your opportunity to reinforce their trust.



SOCIALISATION AND EXERCISE

When exercising or walking your foster dog off your property, please ensure it is always on leash. Try to establish boundaries and do not approach other dogs and their owners. Always carry treats with you so that you can get your foster dog's attention at any time and if you need to diffuse a difficult situation.

We ask that if the general public asks about your foster dog that you direct them to us so that they can contact us for any information they need. Your foster dog is in the process of evaluation and while we get them ready for adoption, anyone enquiring about your foster dog needs to go through the proper channels.

Provide daily exercise for your foster dog. If you cannot walk the dog on a particular day, you can spend time with them at home and have play time, so they receive physical activity for that day as well as mental stimulation.

Monitor your foster dog's energy levels, food and water intake, including their physical condition (any injuries) and demeanor. If you notice anything unusual, please contact us immediately.



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ENRICHMENT AND MENTAL STIMULATION

All dogs need mental stimulation, especially when they are alone at home. This will occupy them throughout the day and keep them productive. Enrichment can include hiding treats around the house (kind of like hide n seek for dogs), rolling treats in a towel/sock or using a snuffle mat to hide treats for them. Our coordinator will discuss enrichment tips with you on the day your foster dog arrives.

TOILET TRAINING

It is likely that your foster dog is already toilet trained, but as they're coming into an unknown environment, make sure you let them outside often and expect that they may have an accident. Things to remember:

- Do not punish your foster dog if they toilet inside. If the dog has an accident, clean it up and take them outside regularly.
- Dogs are most likely to go to the toilet as they have woken up, eaten or been playing.

FEEDING

We will provide you with the appropriate food for your foster dog. Dogs should be fed twice a day and always always have water available to them. If you're using treats for training purposes, please take this into account and adjust food quantities accordingly.

Please see the following page for additional information regarding foods your foster dog must not be fed.

If you find that your foster dog is not eating, please contact us.

FOODS TO AVOID

Food	Reasons to avoid
Chocolate	Contain caffeine, theobromine, or theophylline, which can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and be toxic to the heart and nervous systems.
Onions	Contain sulfoxides and disulphides, which can damage red blood cells and cause anaemia. Can also cause <u>pancreatitis</u> .
Bones from fish and poultry, including cooked bones.	Can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system.
Pork	Can cause <u>pancreatitis</u> .
Mushrooms	Can contain toxins, which may affect multiple systems in the body and cause shock.
Grapes/Sultanas	Contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys. There have been no problems associated with grape seed extract.
Milk (human)	May develop diarrhoea if given large amounts of dairy products.
Raw eggs	Contain an enzyme called Avidin, which decreases the absorption of <u>Biotin (a B vitamin)</u> . This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may also contain Salmonella.
Cat Food	Generally, too high in protein and fats for dogs.
Macadamia Nuts	Contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscle.
Peanut Butter containing Xylitol (please check the back of the label before feeding)	Xylitol causes Hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar) in dogs, including seizures or death. If a dog does survive, it may have irreversible liver damage.
Alcohol	Dogs can experience vomiting, incoordination, and lethargy.

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FAQ's

We do not discriminate against age, breed, or size and will work as a team to ensure that every animal who comes through our rescue has a happy ending in their very own forever home.

Before we can think about forever homes though, we need foster carers to provide temporary homes for these animals so they can learn who they are and how to trust again. We're always on the lookout for new foster carers to provide temporary homes to pets prior to adoption.

Fostering is a wonderful and personal way to contribute to saving homeless animals. We supply all food and supplies required, also covering all of the animals' medical expenses. You only need to provide your home, attention, and patience to your foster animals.

How long will I have the animal for?

This will depend on many variables such as age, health and temperament. Some of the animals we rescue come to us very timid and scared and in need of help to build their confidence. Foster carers gives these animals an opportunity to learn and trust again. During the foster period, you will have access to support from us and other foster carers through our social media pages and a dedicated support person to contact any time, including urgent contacts for emergencies.

Who pays for the foster dog's vet bills?

Hope4paws Animal Rescue Inc will pay for all vet work (de-sexing, microchipping, vaccination, heartworm testing, and any other vet work) while the animal is in foster care. We also supply flea, tick and any other treatments as required.

Who pays for food and bedding?

We supply food, provide bedding, toys, leads and other supplies as required, for all animals in the foster care program.



Helpful Tips

Crate training is a great way to provide your foster with a safe and comfortable space of their own. Here are the steps to follow to crate train your foster pet:

1. Choose the right crate: Choose a crate that is the right size for your dog. It should be large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably.
2. Introduce the crate: Introduce your foster dog to the crate gradually. Place the crate in a quiet area of your home and leave the door open. Encourage your foster to explore the crate by placing treats and toys inside.
3. Feed your dog in the crate: Start feeding your dog in the crate with the door open. This will help your dog associate the crate with positive experiences.
4. Close the door: Once your foster dog is comfortable eating in the crate with the door open, start closing the door for short periods of time. Stay nearby and talk to your dog to help them feel more comfortable.
5. Increase the time: Gradually increase the amount of time your dog spends in the crate with the door closed. Start with a few minutes and work up to an hour or more.
6. Use positive reinforcement: Use positive reinforcement to encourage your dog to go into the crate. Give them treats and praise when they enter the crate on their own.
7. Don't use the crate as punishment: Never use the crate as punishment. Your foster should view the crate as a safe and comfortable space.

Remember to be patient and consistent when crate training your foster dog. With time and positive reinforcement, your dog will learn to love their crate.

Enrichment activities are a great way to keep your dog mentally stimulated and engaged. Here are some ideas for enrichment activities for dogs:

1. Puzzle toys: Puzzle toys are a great way to challenge your dog's mind. There are many different types of puzzle toys available, from treat-dispensing toys to interactive games.
2. Hide and seek: Hide treats or toys around your home or yard and encourage your dog to find them. This will help your dog use their sense of smell and keep them entertained.
3. Agility training: Agility training is a fun way to challenge your dog's physical and mental abilities. Set up an obstacle course in your yard or take your dog to an agility class.
4. Nose work: Nose work is a great way to challenge your dog's sense of smell. Hide treats or toys around your home or yard and encourage your dog to find them using their nose.
5. Training sessions: Regular training sessions can help keep your dog mentally stimulated and engaged. Teach your dog new tricks or work on obedience training.
6. Playdates: Arrange playdates with other dogs to provide your dog with socialization and playtime.
7. Nature walks: Take your dog on nature walks to provide them with new sights, sounds, and smells. This will help keep them mentally stimulated and engaged.

Remember to always supervise your dog during enrichment activities and provide them with plenty of positive reinforcement and praise.

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