

Temporary Foster & Puppy Sitting Guidelines

Thank you for being a temporary foster home for a Paws With A Cause foster puppy.

Whether you are hosting a very young puppy before they go to their longer-term foster home, or puppy sitting an older puppy while their raiser is out of town, we have a few basic guidelines that we would appreciate you following!

Out & About

Exercise

By all means take your temporary foster puppy out for age-appropriate exercise. For a very young puppy this will probably mean no more than puppy walks on your driveway.

Puppy Class

If you wish, you may attend puppy class with the puppy you are looking after. However, don't set your expectations too high as the puppy doesn't know you, you don't know them, and it may be a different class than they normally attend!

Going Out in Public

If your temporary foster puppy is under 16 weeks of age, they will not have had all their vaccinations, and will not have a cape yet, so no outings please!

If you are hosting an older puppy for less than a month, even if they do have a cape, please do not take them out in public to the grocery store, medical appointments, church, work etc. It takes a while for a puppy to adjust to new places and faces, so other than age-appropriate exercise walks, please keep them home. We do this whenever our puppies have a change of situation. Even our trained Assistance Dogs stay home with their client for at least a month after they are placed so everyone has the chance to adjust to their new surroundings and routine!

Safety

Please keep your temporary foster puppy on leash at all times unless you are in a secure, fully enclosed area!

Training

Foster Puppy Curriculum

We ask that you follow our Foster Puppy Curriculum while you are hosting a PAWS puppy. For pre-placement puppies you will be given step-by-step guidelines on what to focus on during those first weeks home, and for older puppies, all curriculum materials can be found in the volunteer portal of our website:

www.pawswithacause.org

The password is SitStaySecure.

Training Methods

Our foster puppy curriculum and all training we do at PAWS is positive reinforcement based as we are an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accredited organization. If you haven't raised a PAWS puppy in a while, this may be an adjustment, so if you have any questions relating to this or the current foster puppy curriculum, please reach out to our Foster Puppy Trainer, Megan Ouding (mouding@pawswithacause.org).

Equipment

Please only use the equipment provided by PAWS with your temporary foster puppy. If you are hosting an older puppy and you feel additional equipment may be beneficial, please reach out to your Foster Puppy Club Leader.

As per ADI rules, under no circumstances must any aversive equipment such as shock collars, prong collars, or choke chains be used on any PAWS puppy.

Medical Issues

Prior to hosting a PAWS puppy of any age, please set up a login for our veterinary management app, Otto.

For immediate and life-threatening emergencies: Go to your nearest Emergency Veterinarian. Call ahead if possible, to let them know you are coming. Please notify PAWS of the emergency as soon as you are able through the Otto app.

For non-emergent medical issues such as:

- Sudden changes in behavior such as lethargy, not eating/ drinking, frequent urination, excessive itching, etc.
- Recurrent vomiting/diarrhea.
- Routine visits for vaccines, heartworm prevention, flea and tick prevention.
- Injuries/limping.
- Puppy eating foreign objects.
- Suspected allergies.

Please login to the Otto app and follow directions.

Other Temporary Foster Considerations

Duration of Foster Assignment

The duration of your temporary foster puppy assignment will be agreed in advance with Megan Ouding, Foster Puppy Trainer for pre-placement fosters, and with the puppy's current Foster Puppy Raiser for older puppies. At the end of your assignment, the puppy must be returned to PAWS or their current Foster Puppy Raiser.

If You Are Unable to Continue Your Assignment

If you need to hand your puppy back early, please note that we only allow PAWS Dog Volunteers to host our puppies. If you are unable to continue your foster assignment for any reason, please reach out to Megan Ouding (mouding@pawswithacause.org).

Expenses

If you are hosting an older puppy while their regular Foster Puppy Raiser is out of town, please do not ask them to reimburse you for medical or any other expenses. Temporary fostering is a volunteer opportunity with the same financial commitments as puppy raising.

In the unlikely event that you incur expenses for emergency medical treatment, please forward all invoices to PAWS for consideration.

Food

Please only feed your temporary foster puppy the food and treats provided by PAWS or their raiser. A change of environment alone can cause slight stomach upsets, particularly for the younger puppies.



Where To Go For Help

Common Puppy Woes

Please contact your local PUPPY CLUB LEADER if you are experiencing common puppy woes problems such as:

- Housebreaking, chewing, mouthing/nibbling, digging, counter surfing, barking, etc.
- Equipment changes - new leashes, capes, collars, and gentle leaders.
- Obedience skills - problem solving, additional clarification, etc.
- General behavioral troubleshooting.

More Serious Issues

For more serious issues such as:

- Aggressive behaviors towards dogs or people, bite incidents, resource guarding, etc.
- Changes in puppy housing situations.
- Concerns regarding welfare of dog within the household, as well as welfare of family members with the dog.
- Any situation where immediate intervention is warranted or required.

Please contact our Foster Puppy Trainer:

Megan Ouding
mouding@pawswithacause.org
616-877-7297 Ext 249