

Adult Dog Foster

Quick Reference Sheet for Important Procedures

The foster program of the SPCA of Tompkins County has evolved over the years. Even if you are a veteran foster parent with us, please review the notes below regarding current foster program policies. Any exceptions to the policies will be made by shelter staff. If you have any questions, please contact the foster coordinator.

1. **Do not allow our dogs to mingle with any other shelter dogs** while they are in your care. This includes activities such as going to a dog park, local festivals or mingling your foster with foster dogs you may have for another organization.
2. **All medical care and support must be sought through the shelter.** In the event of an emergency contact the shelter or the emergency line to speak with a member of our staff. Dogs should be taken to the Cornell Companion Animal Hospital only with approval from an authorized member of the shelter staff's foster program.
3. **Do not give your foster dogs any medications or supplements unless they are prescribed or approved by a shelter veterinarian or by a shelter LVT.** This includes natural treatments, such as Rescue Remedy.
4. Foster pets may not be moved between foster homes unless coordinated with foster program staff. If you need help, please contact the shelter foster staff for assistance.
5. All foster parents must sign foster contracts for each pet in their care prior to the pet going into the foster home. Foster parents will receive a copy of the contract with the dog's information on it and a medical record.
6. Foster dogs must be brought back to the shelter for any needed medical checks, including boosters, deworming, spay/neuter, and other care. Appointments will be made in advance and we will, as staffing time allows, provide appointment reminders. Foster parents who routinely miss appointments will be removed from the foster program.
7. When the shelter requests that your foster pets be returned to the shelter, please do so within 24 hours. If this is not possible, please contact the foster coordinator.
8. When dogs have completed foster, shelter staff will determine appropriate housing in the Pet Adoption Center. **Foster parents should not take dogs to the adoption floor without approval or move them between buildings.**
9. Please be on time for spay/neuter surgery. At the height of kitten season medical staff will schedule a large volume of spays/neuters in a single day and **it is imperative that foster parents bring pets in as scheduled.**
10. When returning dogs for appointments, **please check in at the Intake Desk**, not the Pet Adoption Center, unless directed to do otherwise. Never take pets directly to the surgical suite yourself.
11. Please follow all medical and behavioral treatment plans discussed by shelter staff. If you have trouble with any exercise, treatment, or task, contact the appropriate staff member for help and we will work with you to find a safe alternative.
12. Please report any medical or behavioral concerns promptly. It is important that our staff stay aware of status changes for our dogs, and we may need to alter their treatment plans based on new info.

***** For additional, more detailed information please refer to your adult foster dog manual! *****