



BASIC CARE FOR FOSTER CAMP DOGS AND PUPPIES

Thank you for participating in Best Friends Foster Pet Camp!

Now that you've brought home your new foster camp dog or puppy, you might be thinking: Now what?

We don't always know how a foster dog will react in a new home. Look around your house and decide which room you want to keep your foster dog in.

Here are some tips for dog-proofing your home:

- Make sure that all the trash cans, including the bathroom and kitchens, are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet.
- Keep toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move houseplants out of the room.
- Make sure aquariums or cages that house small animals (such as hamsters or fish) are securely out of reach of your foster dog.
- Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from any countertops, tables or bookshelves.
- Make sure to secure all electrical and phone wires and keep them out of reach. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up and put away any clothing and shoes.
- Relocate home décor items and valuables that your foster dog could knock down.

Potty time

If you have puppies, you should have received training information from your foster camp coordinator. But there are a few important things to remember with both dogs and puppies.

- Dogs and puppies need a routine.
- First thing in the morning let them out to use the bathroom.
- You will want to take them out after they eat.
- You will need to take them out to use the bathroom around six times a day.
- Puppies will need to go more often.
- Watch for cues that your foster dog will give you: standing near the door, sniffing the ground, walking in small circles and whining.
- If your foster dog has an accident in the house don't punish her. Just clean it up and take her out more often.
- If you have puppies, you should expect accidents. Your foster coordinator should give you some puppy pads or old towels and blankets to line the floor in the area where you are keeping them.
- Praise your foster dog and puppies by saying, "Good job" in a sweet friendly voice when they finish going potty.
- Keeping dogs in a crate when you are out is a good way to help keep your dog safe while you are out. You do not want to leave a dog in a crate for more than a few hours.
- When the crate isn't in use, secure the door open and encourage the dog to go inside and relax. Put a soft bed and a toy or a treat inside.

Grooming

Some dogs love to be brushed. If your foster dog likes to be petted, let her sniff the brush and if she rubs against it, try gently brushing her. If she turns away from the brush, then leave her alone. Some dogs love having their back brushed and some do not.

Remember to start out brushing very gently. Brushing helps remove excess fur, which reduces shedding. It also helps keep your dog's fur clean and, if your foster dog has long hair, it can help minimize tangles and mats.

Feeding your foster dog

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified by the foster coordinator.

- Feed your foster dog once or twice daily. Your foster coordinator will figure out the correct amount based on the age and weight of your foster dog.
- Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water.
- You can give your foster dog treats of any kind unless, of course, the dog has known allergies.
- Remember treats are treats, so don't give your foster dog too many. If you eat too much candy you may get a stomach ache. The same goes for dogs!
- Most dogs like to chew on things, so try rawhide chews, Greenies, antlers, Nylabones or Dentabones.
- Remember that not all dogs like to share (much like brothers and sisters), so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.

ACTIVITY

Download our activity sheet on basic dog care.

CREATE

Grab an old T-shirt, pillowcase, piece of fleece or other soft material to make a **braided dog toy**. You can also **watch a video** on how to make one.

As you watch the video, you will meet some amazing dogs. Be sure to have your fabric cut out and ready to go before watching the video.

READ

Curl up with your foster dog and read her your favorite book. If your foster dog is shy, try quietly sitting in the room and softly reading your book. It might encourage her to come out and explore.

Do you want to read a new book? If you don't have time to stop by the library have your parent or guardian search the internet and see if you can access the story online.

Check your school or local library for *Buddy Unchained* by Daisy Bix.

PLAY

Fresh water race

1. Divide your friends into two teams.
2. Set up two identical courses using dog leashes, bones, dog beds and dog toys.
3. Each team will have to go over, under or around each dog item.
4. Give each team a plastic cup and a full bucket of water.
5. Each team member will fill the cup and run through the obstacle course to their empty bucket at the finish line.
6. Keep running the obstacle course until one of the teams' finish line bucket is full.
7. The first full bucket wins!

SHARE

Help teach others about caring for dogs.

With the permission of your parent or guardian, post a picture of your foster camp dog to social media. Here are some dog photo subject ideas:

- While being brushed
- While lying in a favorite sunny spot
- While looking out the window
- While eating
- While drinking out of the fresh water bowl
- While playing with a favorite toy
- While cuddling with his or her favorite person

Make sure to add a few lines in the description box. For example, if you post a photo of your foster camp dog being brushed, you can say: "Brushing your dog a couple of times a week is healthy for your dog's fur and reduces shedding."

Be sure to add **#BFFCamp #BFFamilyFun**.

Most of all, have fun and celebrate the fact that you are helping to save a life!

