



FOSTER/ADOPTIVE HOME GUIDELINES

We would like to welcome you to the wonderful world of fostering and adopting! Thank you for opening your heart and home to a dog in need. There are several, **very important** topics that we like to discuss and educate with all our foster/adoptive homes. These guidelines have been provided by a professional dog trainer. They will help ensure that your foster/adoptive dog is set up for a safe and successful transition into your home.

Remember, a new dog may be stressed, scared, nervous or overwhelmed when they arrive at your home. Everything is new and unfamiliar to them. Many of our dogs have just left their homes, spent time in a shelter, or been abandoned on the streets before finding rescue. They **need time to settle** in and **decompress** before being put into a situation that might make them uncomfortable. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to take things slow and follow these guidelines. How things are handled in the first few weeks is the key to success in keeping everyone safe, comfortable and providing the smoothest transition.

*Please enter your **INITIALS** in the lines provided next to each topic below.

-Setting your dog up for success: Limited freedom and time to decompress.

_____ A new foster/adoptive dog should only be introduced and surrounded by the people living in the home for the **first 1-2 weeks**. **Please, do NOT take the new dog on outings to stores, restaurants, events etc.** Large gatherings/parties **should also be AVOIDED** in the home when a new dog has just arrived. The first 2 weeks should be a safe and calm environment allowing the dog and family time to get to know and trust each other.

_____ Do not allow the new foster/adoptive dog to roam around freely. Every dog is different and requires a different adjustment period, but for the first 1-2 weeks the dog

should be treated as a puppy. **They should be with you at all times or in their crate (or a confined gated area if crating is an issue) whenever you are not able to watch them.**

_____ **Loose Leash** means a dog has a leash attached to its collar or harness which is loose, not being held by someone. The purpose of a loose leash is so you can easily grab the leash and gain control should you need to separate/stop any altercations that could occur between the new dog and other pets or people in the home. **Loose Leash protocol should be used for the first 1-2 weeks in a new home.**

_____ **Whenever you are away from home or not able to supervise,** keep your foster/adoptive dog in a crate or behind a gate in another room. This means even when you step into the bathroom to shower. The crate should be a safe place for your foster to relax and calm down when needed.

_____ New foster/adoptive dog should **not be left alone while interacting with other pets** for the first several weeks. Supervise and utilize the loose leash for interactions with other pets in the house. This is the slow and controlled way for everyone to get to know each other.

_____ **Always accompany your foster/adoptive when they are outside.** Even if you have a fenced in backyard, keep your new foster/adoptive on a long leash when they go outside for the first 1-2 weeks. Remember, they are in a new environment and need to learn their new boundaries. Also note: a scared dog is a motivated dog and could try to escape in the first few days.

_____ Be very cautious with swimming pools. **NEVER leave your foster/adoptive dog alone, unsupervised outside with a pool.** Not all dogs can swim, and they likely won't be able to find their way out of a pool if they fall in.

_____ Foster dogs are **NOT allowed to visit dog parks** of any kind. They are **never allowed off leash in an open, unfenced area.** Dog parks are a huge **liability issue** due to the unknown behaviors of others' dogs and lack of supervision by their owners while in a dog park. We do not want a CBR dog involved in any incident that has been known to happen at dog parks. **NO DOG PARKS!** (This means any dog that belongs to CBR and is not officially adopted by you.)

_____ **NEVER** leave the foster/adoptive dog **unattended with children. Children and dogs together should always have an adult present** and children should be taught how to treat an animal properly (no sitting or riding on the dog, no pulling ears or tail, no chasing a dog etc.).

_____ **NEVER** allow a child to reach out to a new dog while they are eating nor attempt to take food from a dog or touch their food bowls while the dog is eating.

_____ **Always feed your new foster/adoptive dog and resident dogs separately, FOREVER.** This **prevents** food guarding and dog fights. Competition over food is the number one reason that dogs fight within a household. This *includes* treats that cannot be consumed in one bite.

_____ Food bowls should be picked up after meal is consumed. It is highly recommended dogs have timed feedings 2x a day. It is best *not* to allow food to be left out all day for dogs to eat at their leisure.

_____ **All dog toys, bones, or other goodies should be put away for the first week.** Allow the dogs to get to know each before introducing high value items. Some dogs may exhibit resource guarding and be protective of such things. You may even find that *your own dog is not willing to share* with the new dog. Your CBR contact can give more tips on how to address this topic.

-Creating a sense of trust and setting boundaries.

_____ Do not grab the dog by their collar to move or restrain them. They should have a loose leash on in the first 1-2 weeks so you can avoid the collar and maintain control with the leash.

_____ No hugging or sticking your face in the new foster/adoptive dogs face for kisses. Do not bend over the dog and its best not to make direct, staring eye contact with a new dog, as some dogs can view this as a threat or challenge. **REMEMBER, they do not have a relationship with you yet and this is the time to build trust.**

_____ If the dog takes something they are not supposed to have, do not chase them or try to grab from their mouth. Instead, offer them something else in exchange, like a toy or treat or get the dogs attention onto something else like dangling keys etc. When the dog walks away from the item, you can then pick it up. **Trying to grab an item directly from a dog that you don't have relationship with could cause the dog to act defensively.**

_____ **Respect Avoidance.** If the dog is resting, hanging out away from you or hiding...let him be. Do not invade their space. Get them to come to you instead of you approaching and going to them. Use prompting with talk, praise, toys or treats etc.

_____ Do not allow your new foster dog to jump on you or others. Turn your back and ignore them when they jump up. Do not look at them, speak to them, or touch them until they stay down.

_____ When you have a guest over, we recommend that you take your foster dog outside on a leash to greet the guest or **slow introductions with new people** inside your home while on a loose leash.

_____ **Leash Walking your dog is best when using a standard leash, NOT a retractable leash.** A standard leash allows for better control of the dog. Retractable leashes have been known to cause trauma to dogs getting tangled up in the cord leash and they offer no control of your dog. *CBR typically provides a leash and martingale collar for each foster dog.*

_____ **Monthly Heartworm Preventative** is provided by CBR for all fosters **and MUST be given monthly.**

_____ Address any behavioral problems or concerns immediately. Contact your CBR coordinator for advice or training procedures.

_____ If you have any concerns or questions about a medical issue, contact your CBR coordinator for help.

Remember that all positive interactions with your new foster/adoptive dog can be considered training for their new home. They are learning from you daily, what is allowed and what is not. Both you and your foster dog will benefit from putting in the work right from the beginning.

I have read and understand all the foster/adoptive dog guidelines that have been provided to me. I know that if I have any further questions or concerns a CBR volunteer can be contacted to further assist me.

Your Name Last _____ First Name _____

Signature _____ DATE: _____

My CBR contact is: _____

MY CBR contacts phone number is: _____

