

City of
SACRAMENTO

Front Street Animal Shelter

**2127 Front Street
Sacramento, CA 95818**



DOGS AND PUPPIES
Foster Handbook

The Front Street Animal Shelter Thanks YOU!

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a puppy or dog in need.

Whether you foster a puppy that needs some time to grow, or an adult dog that needs a little extra TLC, YOU make it possible for us to provide the very best care for all our residents at The Front Street Shelter. Fostering is messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly couldn't do it without valuable foster homes like yours!

From all our dogs and puppies ...

THANK YOU!!



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What is Foster Care?

Foster care is opening your heart and home to a dog in need. Several times a week, the Front Street Animal Shelter receives animals that require extra care. These can be a litter of pups that are too young for adoption, an injured or sick dog in need of a quiet place to recuperate. Other dogs that should have foster homes could be those that need behavior modification and socialization in order to be good candidates for adoption. The shelter is not the ideal place for any of these dogs in need. We look for foster families to provide the care and love these special-needs animals so desperately want and deserve. Foster families may also provide care for animals that have been at the shelter for an extended period and need some time out of the shelter environment, so they can remain happy, healthy and well adjusted.

Some animals may only need a foster home for a few days, while others may need weeks of care. By offering your time, energy and home to a foster dog, you prepare an animal for adoption into a permanent home - and help reduce overcrowding at the shelter.

Foster candidates are matched with a Foster Care Provider (FCP) on a first come-first served basis, and according to the needs of the animal and the capabilities of the foster parent. Whether you work full time or are at home full time, there may be a foster placement just right for you!

How Does Foster Care Work?

Each week, as foster-care animals are identified, the Foster Care Coordinator (FCC) will email FCPs with a list of animals in need of fostering. This email goes out to everyone, even if you already have a foster. Selection is based on a first come-first served basis, as long as the home environment is ideal for that particular animal. You choose the animals you wish to foster – you are not obligated, just because you receive an email.

Prior to entering a foster home each animal will

- Have a physical examination with information noted in medical records
- Will be vaccinated and dewormed with a booster schedule set up
- Will be treated for fleas
- Will provide a collar, ID tag, and leash

Nursing puppies and their moms will be evaluated for the program based upon their health, physical condition, and temperament. Puppies between 4 and 8 weeks will be considered for foster homes. Ideally, they go with their mothers, (if possible), but often orphaned puppies need foster care.

If you are chosen as the foster home, the FCC will make an appointment with you to pick up the animal and any needed supplies. The shelter will provide food, carrier or kennel (if needed), and any needed medication. Prior to your arrival to pick up your new foster animal, you will sign Foster Forms electronically and receive any special instructions for that animal. The foster family will receive a copy of the kennel card with the animal ID # to be used as a reference when communicating with the FCC about that animal. The medical record and any behavior information the shelter may have.

It should be noted that any animal placed in foster care remains the property of the shelter until the time of adoption!

The goal for fostering is to help the animal find their forever home! When the time comes for a foster animal to go up for adoption, you will send the FCC a better photo of your foster, and a bio about his or her personality. Your foster may have the opportunity to go to our Petco Adoption center if he or she is behaviorally and medically sound. For those fosters who chose to adopt out their fosters personally will be added to our adoption program called Adopets.

Foster Volunteer Job Description and Responsibilities

Major Objective: Provide a nurturing environment in your home for animals so they may mature, heal, socialize, and become available for adoption.

Duties: Feed, socialize, groom, introduce basic training, and medicate shelter animals in need of foster care.

- Ensure the safety of your foster animal and respond to the needs of the animal.
- Observe and report any problems with the animal to the Foster Care Coordinator so the dog can be treated as quickly as possible.
- Return the animal to the Front Street Animal Shelter upon request for prevention and other medical needs.
- Comply with the Front Street Animal Shelter's philosophies and policies and act as a representative of the Front Street Animal Shelter.
- Take the foster dog or puppy to adoption events to go through the standard adoption process - including meet and greets with children and other pets.
- Participate when we transport dogs to other "No Kill" shelters out of state

Training Requirement: Attend dog foster training class,

Recommended: Adoption Counseling Class

Foster profile: We are looking for a dedicated individual or family with a satisfactory living arrangement willing to house an individual animal or animals that require extra time or attention to help them thrive and become available for adoption. Volunteer must be accepting of emotional challenges when faced with adoption, illness, death, or euthanasia of a foster animal. Foster Care is ideal for people who are unable to commit to a pet of their own due to extensive travel or lease agreement.

Foster Benefits:

Foster volunteers receive unconditional love and companionship from foster animals -

Choose the type of animal you are comfortable inviting into your home -

Personal triumph when a foster animal finds a home -

Flexible volunteer position tailored just for you

Supervision: Foster Care Coordinator.

Being Part of our Volunteer Team

As a Foster Volunteer for the Front Street Animal Shelter, you are an important part of our volunteer team. Even if you never come to the shelter to do anything other than pick up your foster babies, you are still part of Team Front Street! As a valued volunteer, we ask that you be part of our volunteer system. **We will need you to complete an online volunteer profile and log your hours.** We also ask that you attend a regular volunteer orientation and shelter basics class, if you have not already done so, so that you are familiar with the volunteer program and the shelter itself – even if you choose not to volunteer on-site.

We ask that you regularly log your foster hours on your volunteer profile. You are such an important part of our team – your hard work should be counted and celebrated. If you have any questions about the volunteer program or the online volunteer system, please contact The Volunteer Program Manager, directly at 916-808-8166 or frontstreetvolunteers@cityofsacramento.org

Online Volunteer System

The Front Street Animal Shelter uses the MyVolunteerPage program. **As an FSAS volunteer, you are expected to use the scheduling, training, and hours log appropriately.**

To register as a foster volunteer:

- Go to our website www.sacpetsearch.com
- Click on the Foster tab on the left
- Click on Become A Foster Volunteer
- Click on Sign Up
- Create a user name & password
- Complete your volunteer profile
- **Be sure to send an email to the Volunteer Program Manager at frontstreetvolunteers@cityofsacramento.org to let them know you are a foster volunteer so that your volunteer profile will be activated.**

To access the volunteer system:

- Go to our website www..frontstreetshelter.org
- Click on the Volunteer tab on the left
- Click on “Registered Volunteers Sign In Here”
- Click on Log In and use the username and password you created when you completed your online application. If you forget your username or password, please email me at frontstreetvolunteers@cityofsacramento.org and I will send you the information. DO NOT create an additional profile!

To sign up for shifts/training opportunities:

- Log in to your volunteer profile
- Click on the Sign-Up tab
- Click on the activity or training opportunity you are interested in
- Check the box next to the date you would like to attend
- Click SAVE!
- Only opportunities that you are qualified to participate in will be available for you to sign up
- We ask that you sign up for the shifts that you want to work so we will know who is coming in when

To update your profile:

- Log in to your volunteer profile.
- Click on the My Profile tab.
- Click on the Qualifications tab.
- Update the trainings you have taken
- Update other information as needed – basic info, additional info, interests, availability, and goals

To log your hours:

- Log in to your volunteer profile
- Click on the Hours Log tab
- Select the appropriate activity
- Select the appropriate date
- Enter the hours you worked on that activity
- Enter your accomplishments as indicated
- Please use this formula to determine the number of hours to log for foster care:

1-2 Dogs/Puppies: 1.5 hour per day per dog/puppy

3+ Dogs/Puppies: 4.5 hours per day total

Bottle babies: 6 hours per day total

To access the MyVolunteerPage system on your smart phone, go to MyVolunteerPage.mobi.

Ways to Become a Successful Foster Parent

1. **Learn as much as you can about pet care.** Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for that animal. Study the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs veterinary care. Read about training and behavior.
2. **Make your home “Pet Friendly”.** Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you “pet proof” your home and yard. Remove poisonous plants and protect furnishings. Make sure there are no dangerous things for little teeth to chew on. Also take steps to ensure that your home is escape proof.
3. **Make sure your own pets are spayed or neutered, up to date on their vaccinations and licensed.** All animals should be current on the vaccinations that protect them from diseases. *Make sure they are vaccinated for Bordetella (kennel cough).* All our dogs will get kennel cough at some point and will most likely bring it to your home. Before you bring home a foster animal consult your veterinarian to make sure your pets have received the preventative treatments they need. We take full responsibility for our shelter pets: *however, we do not cover any costs to owned animals.* It is imperative that your owned pet is protected.
4. **Recognize your limits.** Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy-both emotional and physical. Don't overextend yourself by fostering too frequently; you may exhaust yourself. If you decide to adopt an animal you are fostering, go through shelter's normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt the animal you are fostering, that person must also go through the shelter's adoption process.
5. **Understand that not all foster animals will survive.** Many animals that arrive at the shelter come from unknown backgrounds. Despite your best efforts, the animals you foster may develop a severe illness that cannot be treated. Behavioral issues may develop with time and those issues may make an animal unsuitable for placement. Do your best to help the animal but accept that you are not going to be able to save them all.
6. **Enjoy being a foster parent!** Although fostering takes a great deal of time and commitment, it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. You are temporarily providing a needy animal with a loving home environment and helping that animal become more suitable for adoption into a responsible, lifelong home.
7. **If you have a medical condition!** Discuss with your health care provider about fostering and having animals in your home.
8. **If your resident animal has a medical condition!** Discuss with your veterinarian if fostering stray animals is in the best interest of your resident pet.

Supplies Needed



The shelter will supply your foster animal with collar and ID tag. These should remain on the animal at all times.

Recommended Supplies

- Collar, Tag, Leash
- Food
- Puppy pads (if needed)
- Crate/ Travel Carrier (if needed)
- Toys
- Bottles (if needed)
- Formulas (if needed)
- Treats
- Medication (if needed)

Supplies provided by the foster care providers are gratefully appreciated by the shelter. If this is not possible, the shelter will supply or supplement supplies. Please make an appointment with the Foster Placement Team.

Animal Proofing Your Home for Foster Animals:

Dogs and puppies are curious creatures. Many are capable of jumping onto high surfaces or squeezing into the smallest of spaces.

Keep foster dogs/puppies separate from your own pets for at least 10 days to make sure that they do not come down with a disease or illness that could be transmitted to your healthy pet.

To protect foster animals in a new environment and to safeguard your belongings, it is necessary to animal proof your house:

Kitchens/Bath/Utility Rooms

- Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets.
- Keep medications, cleaners, chemicals, and laundry supplies on high shelves.
- Keep trashcans covered or inside a latched cabinet.
- Check for and block any small spaces, nooks, or holes inside cabinetry or behind washer/dryer units.
- Check inside the dryer before you turn it on.
- Keep foods out of reach (even if the food isn't harmful, the wrapper could be).
- Keep toilet lids closed to prevent drowning.
- Keep washing machine and clothes dryer door closed.

Living/Family Room

- Place dangling wires from lamps, VCRs, PCs, TVs, stereos, and phones out of reach.
- Keep children's toys put away.
- Put away knickknacks.
- Block all those spaces where your vacuum cleaner doesn't fit, but a foster animal could.
- Remove dangerous items, like string and pins.
- Move houseplants – some of which can be poisonous - out of reach, including hanging plants that can be jumped onto from other nearby surfaces.
- Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread.
- Secure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, to keep them safe.
- Make sure all heating and air vents have a cover.
- Keep doors to outside closed.
- Keep cabinet doors closed.
- Close folding chairs.

Garage

- Most garages usually contain too many dangerous chemicals and unsafe items to be an acceptable foster care site.
- Move all chemicals to high shelves or behind secure doors.
- Clean up all antifreeze from the floor and driveway, as **one taste can be lethal to an animal.**
- Remove Deacon rodent bait.

Bedrooms

- Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors (drawstrings and loose buttons can cause major problems).
- Keep any medications, lotions or cosmetics off accessible surfaces (like the bedside table).
- Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing.
- Keep closet and bedroom doors closed.

Items that are most attractive to animals are often the very things that are most dangerous. “Puppy proof” your home by checking for: string, ribbon, yarn, rubber bands, plastic milk jug rings, paper clips, pins and needles, or anything else that could be chewed or ingested.

Common Medical Problems Seen in Foster Animals

Diarrhea

Diarrhea is a common ailment among juvenile animals. Young animals are more severely affected by diarrhea than adults. They should be closely observed because their condition could quickly become life threatening.

Diarrhea left unchecked can kill a young animal very quickly.

Watch your foster juveniles carefully. Check for recurrent bouts of diarrhea, blood or mucus in the feces, foreign material in the feces and frequency of defecation.

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough; also known as Upper Respiratory Infection; is very common in a shelter environment, every dog or puppy that comes to our shelter will get it. They most likely will contract it in the shelter but not show symptoms until they are in your home. Treatment begins once physical symptoms occur. It is very treatable, and it is also very contagious. It is like a cold in humans.

Mange

The shelter sees a lot of this! There are two types of mange. Demodex (not contagious to humans or other animals, and Sarcoptic (is contagious to humans and other animals). The most common is Demodex; it is very treatable and requires bi-weekly bathing and oral medication. Mange causes hair loss in dogs and sometimes they can be completely bald.

Mastitis

Mastitis is inflammation involving one or more of the mother dog's mammary glands (teats). Mastitis usually presents 6 weeks after giving birth if it is going to present at all.

Symptoms of mastitis include fever, listlessness, loss of appetite, and neglect of the young. Affected mammary glands are usually swollen, hot and painful to the touch. You can feel firm nodules within the tissue of the teat.

The cause can be from a bacterial infection in the mammary gland and may require antibiotic treatment. If the dog will tolerate it, hot packing the affected glands will encourage drainage.

Symptoms of Health Problems

It is important that foster care providers be able to interpret changes in an animal's appearance, bodily functions and behavior in order to detect signs of illness.

Give the **Foster Care Coordinator** a call if you notice any health issues. Home care instructions can often be given, or an appointment made to have the animal visit the shelter veterinarian.

The following are some symptoms that require immediate attention:

1. Labored breathing, excessive panting or incessant coughing
2. Vomiting of blood or bile
3. Severe diarrhea, especially when accompanied by vomiting
4. Pronounced limping or paralysis
5. Unconsciousness, seizures, uneven pupil dilation or fainting
6. Marked behavioral changes

Listed below are some symptoms of illness:

Eyes

- Discharge or tears from eyes
- White film or cloudiness over eye
- Yellowing on white part of eye
- Red or blinking eyes

Ears

- Dark, flaky debris, especially in cats
- Dark, waxy discharge with yeasty smell
- Yeasty smell with no discharge
- Animal exhibits pain when ear is rubbed or cleaned
- Frequent scratching at ear

Nose

- Yellow or green discharge
- Scabs or skin loss
- Bleeding from the nose
- Excessive sneezing
- Nose can be wet or dry. This is not necessarily an indication of illness.



Mouth

- Loss of appetite (*in adult animals for more than two days, in juvenile animals for more than one day*)
- Increased appetite for over a week
- Vomiting, usually more than three times
- Trouble eating or chewing, painful gums or teeth
- **Bright red gums**
- **Pale gums**
- Ulcers or lacerations on gums, lips, or roof of mouth
- Excessive salivation, especially a change in the amount of salivation
- Labored breathing during rest, coughing

Labored breathing with pale or bluish gums = very serious. Call Foster Care Coordinator immediately.

Panting, with red skin and/or gums – animal is too hot. Cool by taking indoors or to shady area and giving slightly salted water or electrolyte solution, like Gatorade®.

Skin

- Redness
- Lacerations
- Lumps
- Hair loss
- Scabs
- Frequent scratching
- Dry coat
- **Dehydration - a dangerous condition for an animal to develop, and it will need immediate attention.**
 - Dehydration is indicated by dry skin, lack of skin elasticity, dry mucus membranes or darker, yellow-colored urine. To detect dehydration, use the following steps:
 - Gently grasp the loose skin above the animal's shoulders or along its rib cage, lift the skin and let it drop back into place. If the skin drops back slowly or remains bunched up, the animal may be dehydrated. (Not always accurate in infant animals.)
 - Check gums. Dry, sticky and/or pale gums could indicate dehydration.

Anal/Genital Area

- Diarrhea
- No bowel movement for more than 48 hours
- No urination for more than 24 hours
- **Discoloration/changes in feces**

Gait

- Sudden lameness or limping that doesn't improve with rest within 24 hours.
- Animal experiences pain upon walking or handling.
- Decreased activity, limpness, and crying for more than 15 minutes can be signs of hypothermia or hypoglycemia.

Temperature

- Rectal temperature below 99.5 F or higher than 102.5 F at rest

Behavior

- Lethargic
- Poor appetite
- Increased appetite with weight loss
- Excessive drinking
- Increased urination or accidents in the house
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Frequent scratching at ears or skin
- Crying, whining, growling
- Head shaking

Seizure or convulsions call Foster Care Coordinator immediately for approval of emergency medical care.



If a Foster Animal Becomes Sick

Be attentive. Familiarize yourself with the animal's habits so that you will recognize any unusual changes in its behavior.

CALL! The Foster Care Coordinator (916-709-7991) during normal business hours Monday-Friday from 9-6. If you have medical concerns for your foster dog, email veterinaryservices@cityofsacramento.org. If your concerns are urgent on the weekends, you can call the supervisor on duty at 916-215-4254. Staff will want to know details, such as the color and consistency of feces, changes in eating habits or energy level.

Be ready to state when a problem began, how often it occurs and whether the condition tends to happen at specific times, (e.g., mealtime, bedtime, after exercise).

Watch the clock. If mild symptoms do not disappear in 24 hours, call the Foster Care Coordinator.

Use caution when tending to a sick or injured animal. Do not allow children or other animals to interact with a sick or injured animal.

Shelter animals are frequently exposed to diseases that are contagious to canines. Canine illnesses can include kennel cough, mites, intestinal parasites, distemper, and Canine Parvo virus.

The immune system of the infected animals may be compromised because of any of these illnesses. While fostering ill animals, a volunteer will likely be asked to administer daily medication, provide a special diet, and ensure regular visits to the shelter for veterinary checkups.

Facilities Needed: An easy to clean area is needed. The area should be completely isolated from your own companion animals, such as a spare bathroom, bedroom, den or heated basement.

Food

The Shelter will provide special diets when necessary.

As Needed Duties

- Be aware of possible checkup appointments
- Medicate as directed by veterinary staff.
- Observe signs of improvement or deterioration.
- Contact Foster Care Coordinator immediately if problems occur.

Administering Medication

It may be necessary to get the help of an assistant.

Small dogs and puppies may be wrapped securely in a towel to help administer any medication.

It is essential that medications be given for the full amount of time prescribed, even if the animal begins to look and act better.

Administering Pills to Dogs:

Most dogs will gladly accept a pill that is hidden in a meatball of wet food or peanut butter. If the dog is unwilling to eat a hidden pill, gently place pressure on both sides of the dog's jaw with your left hand. As the dog's lower jaw opens downward, quickly place the meatball in the back of the throat with the right hand. The mouth should be held shut until the dog has swallowed the pill.

1 cc of water can be given by syringe, immediately following the pill placement.

Animals are given liquid medication if possible.

Administering Pastes

The easiest way to administer a paste is to place the appropriate amount as a ribbon on your finger, open the animal's mouth, and smear the paste on the roof of the mouth. If the paste is pre-measured in a syringe, it may be placed on the dog's tongue.

An alternate method is to place the paste on the animal's front leg, where it will be licked off. This alternate method is not as accurate a dose as giving the paste directly. Use the alternate method only for medications that do not have to be measured accurately.

Administering Liquids

Tilt the animal's head back, open the mouth and slowly dribble the liquid from a syringe or dropper onto the back of the tongue (always administer liquid medication from the side of the mouth). If the animal coughs or sputters, decrease the amount of head tilt. If the medication is bitter tasting, the animal may foam at the mouth.

Eye Drops and Ointment

Drops – Tilt the head back slightly, gently holding the eyelid open. Bring the bottle of drops over the eye and drop in the prescribed amount.

Ointment – Tilt the head back slightly, gently holding the eyelid open. Squeeze a small amount of ointment inside the lower eyelid. Close the eye to distribute the ointment evenly over the eye surface.

Ear Drops and Ointment

Grasp the tip of the ear with one hand and hold the earflap perpendicular. With the other hand, drop in the prescribed number of drops or the amount of ointment. Continue to hold the ear firmly (to prevent head shaking) and massage the base of the ear to work the medication down inside the ear canal.

Spay or Neuter Surgery

Policy: The State Law and the Front Street Animal Shelter require that all animals that are adopted be spayed or neutered. The Foster Care Coordinator may ask that you have a foster animal spayed or neutered at the shelter's veterinary clinic during the foster stay and have the animal recover in your care.

Food and Water: The night before surgery, puppies and dogs should not have any food or water after midnight the night before surgery.

**Drop off time at the Shelter is between 8 and 8:30 AM on the day of surgery.
Dogs and puppies must be on leash.**

The animal can be picked up from the shelter between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on the same afternoon as its surgery. If you cannot pick up the foster animal during these times, please make arrangements with the Medical team for a later pick up.

If you are unable to keep a foster surgical appointment, please notify the Foster Care Coordinator ASAP, so your slot may be used for another animal requiring surgery.

Post-Surgical Care

Rest and Quiet: Foster animals should be kept as quiet as possible after surgery, with rest away from other animals and active children. To avoid injury, keep the animal quiet and in a warm room the first evening.

- **If your female foster animal was in heat (estrus) when she was spayed, the heat scent will persist for several days after spaying. It is essential that she be protected from the attentions of any male animals. Severe injury may result if an attempt is made at breeding.**
- **Some animals may have a decreased appetite for 1 - 3 days following surgery.**
- **Feed small amount of water. If kept down give more 2 hours later. Resume normal feeding schedule the next day.**

Incision: The incision should be kept dry for 2 weeks.

- Check the incision daily and watch for excessive swelling, blood, pus, reddening, painfulness, or anything unusual.
- Do not allow the animal to lick or chew at the incisions, as this could lead to infections or other serious complications. You may need an E-collar, which will be provided to you by the shelter if needed.

Recommended Diet and Feeding Techniques

The Shelter currently uses Diamond brand dog food for the shelter animals. The shelter feeds both dry food as well as canned food twice daily. It is important to keep fosters eating the same food as they ate in the shelter. Changing an animal's diet can cause tummy upset & diarrhea!

Food

The Shelter will provide canine milk-replacement formula (Esbilac) for puppies in need of bottle-feeding.

Food and feeding instructions for juvenile puppies:

Monitor puppies when eating to assure all are fed. Feed puppies 1/2-3/4 cups dried kibble until they eat only the dry food- important for tooth development. For mild upset stomach, feed cottage cheese and boiled white rice for a few meals. WATCH CAREFULLY. Puppies can become easily dehydrated and may need increased care. Contact Foster Care Coordinator if any of the pups has diarrhea.

Water

Keep fresh, clean water available in a low-sided ceramic dish. Make certain it is not deep enough to drown in. Leave water out all the time- except- it helps with middle of the night wake-up calls of nature if you take the water up no more than 2-3 hours before bedtime.

Fostering Moms with Puppies

- **MOM DOES A LOT OF THE WORK:** Many foster caregivers consider mom and litters to be one of the easiest foster situations as mom will do most of the work (i.e., feeding, cleaning, and keeping warm, training).
- **KEEP AN EYE ON THE SITUATION:** If for some reason, mom is not doing these things, please let us know right away, especially if fostering newborns. Tiny babies are very fragile and can go downhill quickly, so your monitoring is important.
- **MONITORING THE HEALTH OF MOM:** It is not unusual for moms to experience diarrhea while nursing. If the diarrhea lasts for more than a few days, please let us know.
- **HOUSING:** It is wise to keep mom and babies in a single, small room like an extra bedroom. Keeping them in one, smaller room that is quiet and cozy.
- **FEEDING MOM:** The mother animal needs extra nutrition to feed the babies. She should be eating puppy food the entire time she is nursing.
- **SOCIALIZING THE PUPPIES:** Spending time cuddling, talking to, and playing with puppies is important for them. It makes them friendlier and well adjusted, preparing them for adoption.
- **HOW LONG DO THEY NEED TO BE WITH MOM?** While puppies physically only **NEED** to stay with mom until they are fully weaned (eating solid food on their own), there are many important developmental reasons to keep them with mom for 8 weeks. Mom teaches the babies many important life skills. The best-adjusted puppies get plenty of time with their mom and plenty of attention and affection from people.
- **AS TIME PASSES:** It is not unusual for mom to become grumpy towards or even growl at the puppies once they are old enough to eat on their own. This is mom's way of helping the weaning process along. Moms will also use growls or snaps to correct misbehavior in a pup. This is part of the normal teaching process, but if mom becomes aggressive towards them or is too much to handle, please contact us right away so we can assess the situation.

Fostering Puppies without Mom

Puppies under 2 weeks old require feeding every 2-3 hours (every 4-6 hours is sufficient after 2 weeks of age, and every 6-8 hours after 3 weeks, until weaning).

General guidelines for bottle-feeding young puppies are as follows:

- Sterilize the bottle (5-15 minutes in boiling water) and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before feeding the puppy to avoid transferring harmful bacteria and viruses. Changing into clean clothing is also recommended, especially if you have interacted with other animals.
- Let the bottle cool down and then add enough formula for one feeding.
- Hold the bottle upside-down to check that the hole is the right size. The formula should drip slowly from the nipple hole. If the formula doesn't drip, enlarge the nipple hole slightly.
- Warm the formula to about 100°F (38°C) by placing the bottle in a bowl of hot water for a few minutes (don't use a microwave). The formula should be warm but not hot when given to the puppy.
- Feed puppies on their stomachs (rather than on their backs like human babies), as this is the way they would feed from their mother. Place a clean towel on your lap or the floor and place the puppy face-down on it for feeding.
- Use the tip of your finger to gently open the puppy's mouth and slip the nipple in. Most puppies will quickly get the hang of it and start seeking out the nipple at feeding time. If the puppy doesn't suckle, try stroking its back or forehead – this can stimulate nursing behavior. Rubbing a little Karo syrup on its lips may also help.
- Don't squeeze the bottle; forcing milk replacer into the puppy's mouth (this can cause aspiration pneumonia). Hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle and let the puppy suck the formula from the nipple on its own. Pulling very slightly on the bottle can encourage the puppy to suck.
- If feeding with a syringe or eyedropper, inject one drop of formula into the puppy's mouth at a time, leaving enough time for the puppy to swallow before adding the next drop.
- When the puppy has had enough food, bubbles will usually appear around its mouth. Older puppy's that have become accustomed to bottle feeding will turn their heads away from the nipple to signal fullness.
- At the end of the feeding, the puppy should be burped like a human baby, holding it upright against your shoulder and gently patting its back.

- Clean any spilled formula from the puppy's fur using a warm, damp washcloth or first-aid gauze pad.
- After each feeding, discard any remaining milk replacer and wash the bottle and nipple.
- Stimulate urination and defecation before and after each feeding by gently massaging the puppy's genitals with a washcloth or cotton ball moistened with warm water. Some puppies eliminate more easily before a feeding and some do better afterward, so try both times. By 3-5 weeks of age, puppies should be able to eliminate without assistance.

Common Puppy Feeding Problems

- **Formula coming out of the puppy's mouth or nose** – This is caused by the puppy being fed too quickly, usually because the feeder squeezes the bottle or uses a bottle with an overly large nipple hole.
- **Underfeeding** – An underfed puppy fails to gain weight, cries excessively, shivers, and is listless.
- **Overfeeding** – Overfeeding is a common cause of gas, bloating, vomiting, and/or diarrhea in puppies, though runny stools may also indicate other medical problems. Dehydration can quickly become life-threatening in puppies with diarrhea, so a trip to the veterinarian is necessary.
- **Choking** – This usually indicates that the puppy has inhaled some of the formula. Hold the pup upside down until the choking ceases.
- **Extreme coldness**- Puppies will not want to eat if they are too cold, put them on a warm heating blanket and then try to feed again once they are warmed up.

Fostering Juvenile Puppies (4 Weeks and Older)

One of our most common needs for foster care is for puppies between the ages of 4 - 12 weeks. Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old to be placed in the Adoption area. Placement into foster homes allows these animals to mature, socialize, and to begin their vaccination series. Puppies are usually placed into foster care with their littermates, but occasionally we will separate a large litter or have a single orphan puppy that needs care.

Facilities needed: An easy-to-clean area separated from your own companion animals, yet not isolated from normal activities. Examples are a bathroom, spare bedroom, heated laundry room or kitchen.

Puppies must be supervised whenever they are outside. Foster puppies must always travel in carriers or walk on hand-held leashes.

Start simple commands: sit, come, wait, settle, and work on “mouthiness” issues.

Weaning and Feeding Puppies

Generally, it is best to start weaning puppies at 3 to 5 weeks of age. Weaning time depends upon the size of the litter, the condition of the mother, and the availability of mother's milk. Weaning should be a gradual process.

How to Wean Begin introducing 3- to 5-week-old puppies to semi-solid "gruel", made from 1-part canned food to 3 parts hot water. Make sure to serve the food at body temperature, (98 to 100 F). In addition to nursing offer this mixture 3 to 4 times daily. Remove the gruel after 15 minutes and discard.

Mash the moistened food well with a fork or puree the mixture in a blender. Place the thick gruel in a shallow pan, (pie tins work well). Feeding puppies in the bathtub helps ease the clean-up process when weaning puppies off the bottle.

Introducing Food: The mother dog will usually show her puppies how to eat gruel and solid foods, and how to drink water. Feed the mother dog before offering gruel to her babies or she will eat it all.

Dip your finger into the gruel and let the puppy lick at it or smear a small amount on the puppy's lips or on the roof of his mouth. Be careful not to get any of the gruel in the puppy's nose.

At around 5 weeks of age, the young puppies should be reducing their intake of mother's milk and consuming more gruel. Once they are consistently eating gruel, gradually decrease the amount of water used.

All changes in amounts and consistency of food should be gradually to promote good digestion.

Always provide plenty of fresh water in clean bowls. Some puppies take longer to acclimate to supplemental feedings. It is important to always watch the litter to ensure that each individual is eating healthy amounts of food. Check tummies for fullness after they have eaten.

- **4-6 weeks** –Gruel 4 times a day.
- **6-8 weeks** – Mix canned food and moistened dry food to begin their transition to dry food. Feed this mixture 4 times a day.
- **Under 12 weeks** – Feed 4 times a day or every six hours.

Making gruel for puppies

- **HOW TO MAKE GRUEL:** Gruel is a mixture of pate style wet puppy food and milk replacer/formula. Sometimes if gruel is too thick, the puppies may become constipated. If this happens, add more water to the formula. A little canned pumpkin can also relieve constipation.
- **FREQUENCY:** Even though the puppies are older and starting to eat more solid food, they must still be fed every 3 hours or so. This is a very vulnerable stage for them as many people think they do not need to eat as often, but in fact they need to be fed frequently during this stage of rapid body growth. It is very important that they get enough to eat so that they stay healthy and grow strong. (Review feeding chart.)
- **SHOW THEM HOW TO EAT:** Sometimes puppies will need encouragement to eat by placing a bit of food from the tip of your finger on their lips, so they lick it off and taste it.
- **OVER ENTHUSIASM:** Puppies in this stage are still learning how to eat. It is not uncommon for them to bury their faces in the food and come up coughing. If this happens, quickly clean food away from their nose.
- **NO COW'S MILK:** Do not feed puppy's regular milk, it can upset their stomachs. Please use puppy milk replacement. We will provide this for you.
- **DIARRHEA:** It is not uncommon for puppies to experience diarrhea when making the switch from gruel to regular food. However, if it lasts for more than a few days or is watery, call the foster emergency number. Watch for signs of dehydration, such as listlessness. Puppies can go downhill quickly and need prompt veterinary care.
- **CHANGING OVER TO DRY FOOD:** Generally, around the 5-week mark, puppies should be ready and able to eat dry kitten or puppy food and water. You may begin to introduce them to dry food by first mixing the wet and dry together, lessening the wet as you go until you are eventually feeding only dry

Puppy Development and Socialization

A great amount of time and effort is required to properly socialize puppies between the ages of 4 to 8 weeks. Daily socialization sessions are important in shaping the foster puppy's future personality and emotional growth.

Neonates

Neonatal puppies should be pink, firm, plump and generally healthy in appearance.

Respiration - Neonates breathe 25-35 times per minute. Their heart rate is greater than 200 beats per minute until they are 2 weeks old.

Temperature - Normal rectal temperature for newborns is 96 – 97 F.

Eyes and Ears - Closed but can still hear (poorly) and respond to bright light with a blink reflex.

Muscles - Flexor muscles are stronger than the extensor muscles. Healthy puppies will curl their bodies and limbs inward.

1 to 2 weeks

Temperature - Normal rectal temperature has gradually increased to 100 F.

Eyes and ears - Open at approximately 11-15 days.

Muscles - Extensor muscles begin to develop. They can use their front legs to stand and walk shakily.

Neuromuscular - Withdrawal to pain stimuli is noticed.

What you can do - It is important that the area where the puppies are kept is warm and smooth, so that the area around their umbilical cord does not become infected. You can do gentle handling and cuddling at this point.

These sessions should be very short (1-2 minutes) and great care should be taken in the handling process.

- Briefly, rock the puppy back and forth.
- Rub the coat briskly with your hands, and gently finger the webbing in between the toes. Rub ears and muzzle.
- Invert the puppy so it is facing the ceiling and gently rock back and forth, up and down.

2to 3 weeks

Vision - Poor even after the eyes open but continue to develop until 3 to 4 weeks of age. If the eyes fail to open and the lids look sticky, the lids should be very gently wiped with dampened cotton and a little petroleum jelly smeared on them to ease their opening. The eyelids should not be pulled apart. If the eyelids have not opened by 14 days, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator.

Muscles - The rear legs can now support the body. Puppies are crawling.

Temperature - Ability to maintain body temperature within the normal range (100.5 F-102.5 F).

Teeth - Deciduous incisors erupt at 3 weeks, followed by deciduous canines

What you can do - Be careful not to startle the puppy with sudden movements or loud sounds. Do not overwhelm the puppy at this point. Place a human-scented T-shirt in the sleeping area every day. The den area should have 2 surfaces, one for sleeping and the other for a toilet (away from the sleeping and feeding area.) Provide 5 minutes of handling exercises; the purpose is to stimulate, not to scare the puppy.

- Softly pinch in between the toes and then draw the animal close to you, stroking and cuddling it so it gets use to having its feet touched
- Touch mouth.
- Grooming - Softly and gently brush the puppy's coat a few strokes, touch the ears and mouth and clip nails

3to 4 weeks

Muscles – the extensor muscles become dominant. By 21 days, puppies can walk with a steady gait. Puppies can sit and have reasonable control of toes.

Eyes and Ears - Vision and hearing normal. Blink response disappears, due to the development of accurate pupil control. The puppy is now able to use visual clues to locate and approach the mother. Ears should be completely open by 17 days.

Respiration - Slows to 15-25 breaths per minute

Teeth - Deciduous incisors and canine teeth erupt.

What you can do - Do not permanently remove the infant animal from its mother or littermates at this time. It is critical to the puppy's development that it continues with its social interaction especially between 5 to 10 weeks of age.

- Be careful not to frighten puppy - it is experiencing a shower of sensory stimulation and a frightening experience could make a life-long impression. An example would be to use a vacuum cleaner with a puppy in the same room. If frightened by the large object and loud noise that fear imprint could last a lifetime and may make the animal fearful of all loud noise.
- It is important to provide a stable home environment to balance the excess stimulation the puppy is experiencing. This would not be a good time to move the whelping box.
- The puppies will start to investigate their immediate environment. Safe, simple toys can be added for them to discover at this time.
- The puppies can be introduced to people at this time, but this should be carefully controlled and limited to family members and close friends. The interaction should be limited to 5 minutes of gentle massage and time spent cuddling.
- The main caretaker should continue grooming and handling exercises: holding, cuddling.

4to 5 weeks

Teeth - Deciduous premolars erupt

Muscular - Puppies are walking normally. Social play is prevalent.

Eyes and ears - Guided paw-placing and obstacle avoidance develop between 3 to 5 weeks. Vision is markedly improved.

5to 8 weeks

Teeth - Entire set of deciduous teeth by 5 weeks

Eyes - Eye color is determined by 6 weeks

Postural reactions - Fully developed at 6 to 8 weeks.

Adult sleep patterns - Developed by 7 to 8 weeks of age

Temperature - Normal range is 100.5 F to 102.5 F

Play - Play with objects rises markedly around 7 to 8 weeks of age

What you can do – The puppy is totally dependent on the environment you provide for stimulation and development.

- Introduce the puppy to as many different people as possible – people of different shapes, sizes, colors, sexes and ages. Also introduce the puppy to other animals.

Supervise the visits (no more than 5 minutes). These visits must be calm and pleasant.

A traumatic incident at this stage will have a lasting effect.

- Continue to add appropriate toys to the puppy's environment.
- Expose the puppy to mild sounds.
- Expose the puppy to different areas and surfaces, allowing it to investigate.
- The main caregiver continues handling and grooming exercise.

8 weeks plus

Teeth – Change from deciduous (milk) teeth to adult teeth starts at about 14 weeks.

What you can do –Protect the puppy from things that could have a lasting effect during the fear period.

- Introductions to people are extremely important, as the puppy develops the ability to form permanent relationships with humans currently. Supervise the visit but expose the puppy to as many different types of people as possible.
- The puppy's environment should develop a sense of security in the animal.
- There should be mild restrictions imposed on the puppy to help it better develop proper tolerance levels
- Introduce the puppy to new places but remember that it is not fully immunized yet.
- Introduce the puppy to a crate and begin to crate train. Puppies that are fostered with or without a mom can be crate trained earlier.
- Introduce the puppy to the car. Spend time in the car with the animal without going anywhere. It can be in a crate/carrier or on the floor. Click and treat the puppy (if you are not familiar with this method of training, please talk with the Foster Care Coordinator). Gradually drive a short distance, and then allow the puppy to leave the car.
- Introduce the puppy to louder noises gradually, such as a vacuum cleaner, washing machine and/or dishwasher. Play with the puppy as you introduce the noise in the background.
- Encourage puppies to explore, sniff, and lick these noisemakers. Exposing puppies to a variety of unusual sounds helps them become accustomed to these noises. It will also minimize fearful, nervous reactions to noises later in life.

Praise the puppy for positive reactions. Do not force the puppy to approach noisemakers and do not comfort the puppy if it shows fear.

Pre-Adolescent - 13-16 weeks

General behavior - Puppy is fully developed and needs in life and socialization experience. The puppy's mind can still be influenced. The animal's flight instinct is developing and may cause it to run from real or imagined threats.

What you can do – Be consistent with rules, continue grooming and socialization. Continue dog's formal training using the 'click and treat' method. An excellent goal is to introduce the puppy to 20 new people by taking the dog to a shopping center, family gathering or garage sale.

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE

- Adults, all ages, sizes, ethnicities, genders
- Kids, all ages, sizes, ethnicities, genders
- Babies
- Men with beards or bald heads
- People in coats, hats, sunglasses
- People walking with crutches, walkers or unusual gait

OBJECTS THAT MOVE

- People on bikes, skateboards, etc.
- Car/truck/motorcycle/bus/train
- Motorboat
- Airplane/helicopter
- Elevator/escalator (ride them)
- Lawn mower/leaf blower
- Remote control toy
- Ceiling fan
- Garage door
- Helium balloons

DIFFERENT WALKING SURFACES

- Floor: tile, concrete, vinyl, wood
- Plastic carpet runner
- Gravel
- Wood chips
- Leaves
- Mud/puddles
- Sand

PLACES

- Shopping mall



Supermarket

School

Restaurant

Busy street

Playground

Construction site

Veterinarian's office

ENVIRONMENT

- Rain (including umbrellas)
- Snow
- Hoses
- Beach/lake/riverbank
- Swimming pools/people swimming

SOUNDS

- Car engine
- Doorbell/knocking at door
- Fireworks
- Wind and thunderstorms
- Vacuum
- Party
- Musical instruments and singing
- Gunshots
- Sirens
- Radio/television

HANDLING

- Leash/collar/harness/muzzle
- Reaching/looming over head
- Opening mouth, touching teeth
- Having ears/eyes cleaned
- Having teeth cleaned
- Having body handled
- Cutting nails
- Brushes/clippers/hair dryer
- Being picked up

OTHER ANIMALS

- Different kinds of dogs
- Farm animals
- Rabbits and small pets
- Cats
- Birds
- Reptiles

Housebreaking

For now, it is best to focus on crate training and a lot of trips outside. As the pups get a bit bigger, the crate will become your best friend as it creates a natural “den” for the pups to be in. It draws on their instinct to not soil the sleeping area. Pups will have accidents and you can only affect those accidents that you actively witness. Puppies have no memory, so you cannot return to the scene of the crime and punish for something they did earlier.

Work to minimize the opportunity for true accidents by keeping them in the crate for reasonable stretches of time, keeping pups confined to an area with an easily cleaned floor, placing newspaper or training pads down (pups will start to use these). Know that your puppy wants to please you, you need to let it know that it is doing the right thing- pee/poop outside earns a gleeful and happy “gooood puppppy- you are so smart” and some kisses.

EXPECT that your pup will need to go out upon waking and after eating. You can encourage house breaking by carrying your pup to the site they have used before. This will trigger their sense to urinate, etc. Watch them to look for signals to learn how long after eating they must go.

Even if the pups are sleeping, pick them up and set them on the grass to pee/poop right before you go to bed. Then pick them up and with much less enthusiasm than usual, return them to the crate. If they cry, and you know that their needs have been met, IGNORE THEM. A puppy who learns to make noise and you will come at any hour will grow up to be barking and demanding play.

Use play as a reward.

Suggestions for Cleaning Procedures

The most common disease organisms seen at the shelter are viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi. It is important to consider all objects with which a foster animal may come into contact and disinfect accordingly. This will help protect your companion animals and any future foster animals.

Cleaning Agents: All surfaces may not be easily cleaned, but thorough washing and/or vacuuming helps in decreasing the numbers of environmental pathogens.

To decide on the effectiveness of a particular cleaner, it is necessary to determine the active ingredients, strength and proper contact time.

Using bleach as a disinfectant: the recommended dilution is 1-part bleach to 30 parts water (1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon water). The recommended contact time is 10 minutes. Color Safe bleach does not disinfect like regular bleach.

Do consider washing animal laundry in a separate load from family laundry. Do not use fabric softeners. Use unscented dryer sheets only to cut down on static cling if desired.

Websites www.cloroxhome.com

Reading Labels: **ALWAYS** read the labels of cleaning products. Even when safe to use at home and around pets, some animals may have an allergic reaction. Use with discretion.

Cleaning to Remove Pet Odors and Stains

Has your foster dog or puppy left “scent marks” of urination and/or defecation on your floor or furniture? To successfully retrain the dog or puppy to avoid these areas and remove these smells and stains, follow these basic steps: **Find all soiled areas using your nose and eyes.** A black light will show urine stains. Turn out all lights in the room, use the black light to identify soiled areas and lightly outline the areas with chalk.

Laundering

- Machine wash as usual, adding a one-pound box of baking soda to the wash along with your regular detergent. Air dry, if possible.
- If you can still see or smell the stain, machine wash again and add an enzymatic cleaner (Nature’s Miracle or Anti Icky Poo). Follow the manufacturer’s directions carefully. Enzymatic cleaners can retail and pet supply stores.
- To discourage future accidents on bedding, cover the bed with a vinyl, flannel backed tablecloth. They are machine washable, inexpensive, and unattractive to the dog or puppy.

For carpeted areas and upholstery

- Soak up as much urine as possible with a combination of newspaper and paper towels. The fresher urine you can remove before it dries, (especially from carpet), the simpler it will be to remove the odor. Place a thick layer of paper towels on the wet spot and cover with a thick layer of newspaper. Stand on this padding for about 1 minute. Remove the padding; repeat until the area is barely damp.
- Rinse the affected zone thoroughly with CLEAN, COOL WATER. After rinsing, remove as much of the water as possible by blotting or by using a vacuum designed to pick up liquids.
- **Neutralizing (enzymatic) cleaners will not be effective on the area if you have previously used other cleaners or chemicals. You must first rinse every trace of the old cleaner from the carpet.**
- To remove all traces of an old chemical, consider renting an extractor or wet vac from a local hardware store. This machine operates much like a vacuum cleaner and is an efficient, economical rinsing method.
- Now that the area is clean, use a high-quality pet odor neutralizer available at pet supply stores (look for “enzymatic” cleaners). Test the affected surface for staining first, then read and follow the instructions carefully.
- If the area still looks stained after it is completely dry from extracting and neutralizing, try any good carpet stain remover available.
- If the urine has soaked down into the padding underneath the carpet or into wooden baseboards, cleaning will be more difficult. You may need to remove and replace that portion of your carpet padding.
- Make the appropriate bathroom area attractive to the dog and teach it where you want it to urinate and defecate. The retraining period may take a week or more. It took time to build the bad habit, and it will take time to replace that habit with a new, more acceptable one.

For Floors and Walls

If the wood in furniture, walls, baseboard, or floor is discolored, the acid in the urine has affected the varnish or paint. The layer of varnish or paint may need to be removed.

Washable enamel paints and some washable wallpaper may respond favorably to enzymatic cleaners. Read the instructions carefully and test in a less visible area.

Grooming Foster Animals

Most dogs and puppies need an initial bath upon entering a new foster home. Use a mild dish soap or dog soap, being careful to avoid the eyes and nose when bathing.

Animals should not be bathed until 10 days after a surgery has occurred.

Regular brushing of dogs and puppies should be introduced slowly, in short 5 minutes sessions. Praise and food treats should be given liberally during this process.

Additional Grooming Care

Ears – Check foster animal’s ears at least once a month, orphans more often. Carefully clean out wax deposits with a cloth-wrapped finger or a cotton swab dipped in baby oil.

Be alert to possible trouble if the inner part of the ear is inflamed or has a foul odor. Notice if the animal persistently shakes its head, rubs it against the floor, holds it tilted to one side or scratches at its ears.

Eyes - Keep foster animals’ eyes clean of any discharge. Wipe the eyes with soft cloth, cotton or a tissue paper moistened in boric acid or mild saline solution. Work from the eye corner outward, never across the eye, as this will spread any possible infection.

If professional grooming is needed, contact the Foster Care Coordinator, we have some pet groomers who will groom our dogs free of charge.

We sometimes get free grooming services with The Clip Shop on Broadway; tell them you have a Front Street Foster dog 916-447-0393



Adoption of Foster Animals

The Adoption Process:

When your foster dog is ready to be adopted. Please send a bio about his or her personality along with a good photo to our dog foster team at dogfoster@cityofsacramento.org, or the Foster Coordinator at lrhoades@cityofsacramento.org . We will update your fosters profile and make him or her available for adoption. You can also market your foster dog on your social media accounts. We will upload info to our adoption site Adopets and link you as the foster parent. You will get emails when your foster has an application filled out. You will be able to look at the application and contact the possible adopter. If the phone conversation goes well set up a meet and greet. Once the meet and greet is done, you can recommend adoption or archive. If you recommend archive, that means you are denying the application. If you recommend adoption, we will approve the adoption.

Finalizing the Adoption:

Once you tell us you recommend the adoption (after person has meet dog and both parties agree it is a good fit), we will finalize the adoption. The adopter will get an email with next steps, those steps include, signing the adoption agreement and paying the adoption fee (fee subject to change based on type of dog/puppy up for adoption).



Privacy laws prohibit the Shelter from disclosing the names of foster animal's adopters. However, Foster Care Coordinator or shelter staff will gladly give the adopter the foster information.

Adoption Counseling

- **Have the foster dog's kennel card and information with you.**
- **During large/high volume events**, please only allow adopters to meet one dog at a time.
- **Dog limit per household:** City = 3 and County =4
- **What kind of food does the shelter use?** Science Diet
- **Have treats with you** when you are meeting with the adopter and the dog
- **Own/Rent:** If the adopter rents their home, does the landlord have breed/weight restrictions or limitation of pets? Does the homeowner's insurance have breed/weight restrictions? Many home & apartment rentals have a deposit and monthly pet charge.
- **Fenced yard?** Consider height & construction – are there any holes/gaps where an animal can escape.
- **Other dogs?** Meet & greet required. Feed them separately, keep them separated...
- **In a household with cats?** We cannot guarantee cat friendliness unless you as the foster have observed the dog gets along with your cats.
- **Adopting a puppy or young dog?** Consider the following: chewing, training, potty training, separation anxiety, lots of toys, crate training, sharp teeth/nails.
- **Be honest:** Most of us that provide dog counseling do so because we know our current adoptable dog's personality. For example: if your foster dog chews up the baseboards while you are out of the house because of separation anxiety, counsel on how to help that dog into its new family. If you are working with your foster dog on behavior modification, be sure to share that with the potential adopter and give them information on how to continue the good work you have started.
- **Please remember that not everyone will go home with an adopted dog**, so always be prepared to talk about the great things happening at the shelter – and about volunteering or fostering!

Safety and Incident Reports

California State law requires any dog or cat that bites and breaks the skin to be placed on a ten-day quarantine hold for rabies observation.

Checklist for handling a bite incident

- Clean and flush the wound immediately with soap and water.
- **Report the incident immediately to the Foster Care Coordinator or staff member.** Please state which animal was involved and the circumstances of the bite
- **See your doctor.** Receive tetanus prophylaxis and antibacterial treatment when required. It is not advised to have sutures or wound closure unless recommended by your medical provider.

During this time, the dog or puppy may be returned to the shelter and placed in a nonpublic area for the duration of the quarantine, or they may be quarantined at your residence. This will be determined based on the circumstances and by the decision of the Foster Care Coordinator.

When the quarantine period ends, the dog or puppy may be re-evaluated by the Behavior Department at the shelter.

If a bite is not reported it creates a hazard for others handling the animal and we may release a rabid animal into the community. This can result in the death of the bitten individual as well as exposure of other people, pets and children.

Please remember, injuries incurred as a foster volunteer are NOT covered under the City of Sacramento's Worker's Compensation Program.

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM CONTACT LIST

Name	Title	Office/Cell	Email
Lori Rhoades	Dog Foster & Rescue Coordinator	916-808-7823	lrhoades@cityofsacramento.org Mon-Fri 9-6
Foster Placement Team	Dog Foster Team	916-709-7991	Dogfoster@cityofsacramento.org Mon - Fri 9 - 6
Supervisor on duty	Sr. Animal Care Technician	916-215-4254	Only for emergencies during business hours
Veterinary Services	Vets at Front Street	916-200-8885 Text only when you arrive for appointments, drop offs, and pickups.	Veterinaryservices@cityofsacramento.org

Jace Huggins	Chief Animal Control Officer	916-808-5855 916-599-5377	Jhuggins@cityofsacramento.org
VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center	Emergency/After-Hours Vet Hospital 7625 Freeport Blvd Sacramento 95832	916-428-9202	PLEASE CALL ABOVE NUMBERS FIRST! Must have permission before taking your foster to the emergency vet. If you take your foster dog anywhere else, we will not be able to reimburse you.
Manager On Duty	For Emergencies only	916-808- 7828	N/A
If you want your friends to join	Visit the website		www.frontstreetshelter.org

Hours of operation

Lori Rhoades K9 Foster and Rescue Coordinator

Mon-Fri 9-6

Foster Placement Team Mon-Fri 9-6