

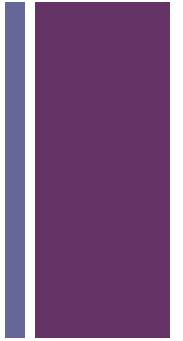


Dog Fosters





AVHS Foster Care Program



- ❖ Saves lives!!
- ❖ Increases availability of kennel space
- ❖ Gives more accurate insight in behavior of animals in the home, which in turn increases the animals adoptability
- ❖ Provides much needed socialization
- ❖ Allows for better medical care



Do you have time?

Think about time commitment....

- ❖ Length of Stay: can range from a few days to months
- ❖ Daily time commitment: can range from a few hours per day for adult dogs to around the clock care for puppies
- ❖ Being available to drive to/from BV shelter for potential meet n greets, restocking supplies, etc.

Be realistic on what you have to offer

+ A few things to note

- No Dog park or introducing your foster dog to other dogs in the home without prior approval from AVHS staff member
- No off leash time, unless in a secure fenced in yard
- Some of our dogs will have a Behavior Modification training plan, please follow this as closely as possible if so!
- We will provide all necessary supplies! If you're running low please contact AVHS staff to set up a time to come by for a restock

+ Behavior Modification

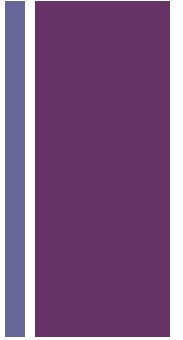


- Adults or juveniles in need of life experiences or training
- Need extra attention and patience
- Will likely have a Behavior Modification Plan created by our Behavior Lead, Jenna Geldreich.



Sick or Injured

- Needs quiet, healthy environment to recover
- Could be weeks to months, depending on illness or injury
- May need medications and veterinary visits (AVHS pays for all of this)
- May need rehabilitation, extra nursing care



Long Term Dog Residents

- “test drive” the dog in real world experiences
- Meet new people
- Take the dog into public notifying folks they are available for adoption! Instruct them to fill out an adoption application if interested (at ark-valley.org)
- Provide AVHS with feedback on the dog, pictures and videos and updates sent weekly to Heather (hmills@ark-valley.org)



Puppies



- ❖ Puppies under 10 weeks
 - Susceptible to diseases
 - Not available for adoption
 - Need socialization and active care

- ❖ Need 1-10 weeks of foster care

- ❖ Average 2-6 hours per day of care



Bottle Feeding Newborns

- If no mom is present, bottle feeding for newborns in necessary.
- Every 2-3 hours or 6-7 full feedings a day
- Will need help going to the bathroom



+ Are you able to....?

- Comfortably house
- Keep clean and fed
- Provide adequate socialization
- Ability to separate from your pets if necessary
- Easily cleaned and disinfect
 - Can you bleach it?
- Keep Safe and secure
- Free from (most) hazards
- Consider activity level





Housing



- Always keep in mind the needs of your personal animals
- Complete a yearly home visit (per PACFA regulations)
- Have no more than 8 animals in a home (except for nursing mothers with litters)



Emotional Considerations

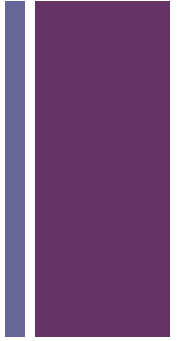
- FUN – but a lot of work!
- Not every animal thrives – some illnesses and injuries are not treatable
- Possibility of death or euthanasia is remote but sometimes a reality



Basic Supplies needed

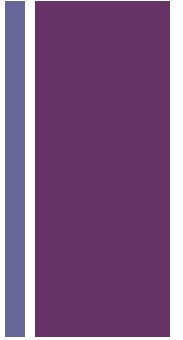


- AVHS will provide the necessary supplies for your fosters
- If you decide to supply the items yourself, your donation is considered tax deductible
- Please check with staff about appropriate supplies



Dog and Puppy Supplies

- Newspaper (for floors)
- Crates
- Towels
- Playpens/baby gates
- Water and food bowls
- Toys
- Food



Indoor Hazards

- Some plants are toxic
- Electrical cords/cables/wires
- Candles/fireplaces/woodstoves
- Rocking chairs/recliners
- Open windows/doors



Outdoor Hazards



- Gasoline, oil, paint, fertilizers, pesticides, other chemicals
- Pools, ponds, hot tubs, drain pipes
- Fire rings/barbecues/gas grills
- Broken glass, nails, other sharp objects
- Would this be fun to chew, shred or hide in?
- Use common sense and supervision!



Vaccinations



- Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus (DA2PPV)
- Bordatella (Kennel Cough)
- Pyrantel Dewormer
- Rabies
 - 12 weeks or older



Protect your resident pets

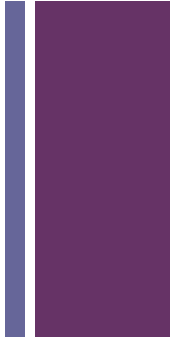
- Vaccinate your own pets — talk to your veterinarian
- Quarantine fosters —1 week recommended
 - Longer if unknown or no vaccine history
- Mothers can be particularly protective
- Adult dog fosters may require a dog meet and greet at the shelter



Disease risks for your pets

These can be vaccinated against...

- Distemper/Upper Respiratory Virus - (dogs)
- Bordatella (Kennel Cough)



Disease risks for your pets

No vaccinations for these...

- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Hookworms
- Ringworm
- Mange

But they are treatable

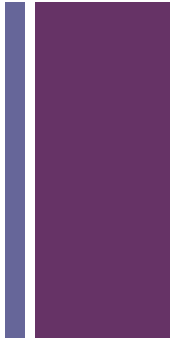
+ Zoonotic Diseases (can be transmitted from pets to people)

- Roundworms
 - Children playing in infected dirt/sand
- Tapeworms
 - Accidentally swallowing a flea
- Giardia
 - Fecal-oral route
- Toxoplasmosis
 - Contact with cat feces
- Ringworm
 - Skin fungus
- Mange
 - Self limiting skin parasite



Zoonotic Diseases

- Pregnant women, children, elderly or otherwise immune compromised use extra caution
- Practice good hygiene – wash with warm soapy water
- Keep animals out of sandboxes and gardens
- Fomites! (anything can carry a disease)
- Animals do not have to look sick to be carrying a zoonotic disease





What if my foster animal is sick?

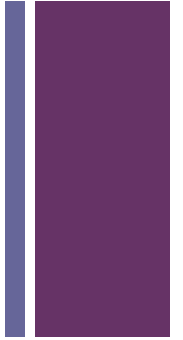


- Call your Animal Ambassador or the Buena Vista Facility 719-395-2737 and ask to speak to the Foster Care Coordinator.
- Have info ready: animal's name, your name, symptoms and duration of illness, always leave a message if the phone is not answered
- For puppies or At-Risk animals we will provide a list of contacts in case of emergency, although emergencies are very rare for foster dogs.



What is an emergency?

- Uncontrollable diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind
- Trauma – hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- Difficulty breathing
- Unconsciousness
- Very young pups/kittens – any change in behavior, energy level or appetite



What is an emergency... cont.

- When in doubt, contact staff sooner rather than later, especially during normal daytime hours
- If you choose to take an animal to a veterinarian without prior authorization, AVHS may be unable to reimburse you for any charges



What if someone wants to adopt my foster animal?



- If the animal is available for adoption (shy dogs, cats/dogs on a break from the shelter, etc)– have the person fill out an adoption application (available online- ark-valley.org or at the shelter) and give to AVHS staff for review.
- If the animal is not yet available for adoption (kittens/puppies too young, those not yet evaluated), have the person contact AVHS staff.
- Please do not make promises about the animals in your care.
- AVHS values your feedback about whether the potential home is appropriate.

+ When they are ready to come back to the shelter...

- You will coordinate with AVHS staff on where and when your foster animals will be brought back to the shelter.
- We will request any behavioral information/feedback you can provide to help us in placing the animal
- If you can provide us with cute pictures and a write-up, we appreciate the extra help.



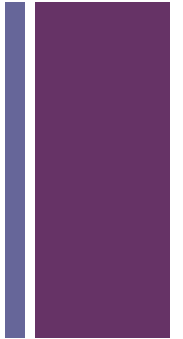
Foster Parent Readiness Checklist

- Complete Foster Orientation (check!)
- Complete two online waivers.
Confidentiality waiver must be renewed every year.
- Home inspection once per year
- Sign Foster Care Contract for each animal or litter you take home
- Obtain supplies as needed



Thank you!

- For opening your hearts and homes to animals in need
- Some foster parents end up adopting their fosters, that's okay!
- We understand your commitment to their welfare (we foster too!)
- We appreciate your feedback





We are here for you!

+

Questions?