

GUIDE FOR DOG FOSTER HOMES

Contra Costa Animal Services

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Guide for Dog Foster Homes

Table of Contents

What is Fostering?	2
Benefits of Fostering	2
How to Foster.....	3
Top Tips for Foster Parents	3
Proper Housing and Care Requirements.....	4
Health and Wellness.....	4
Behavior.....	9
Showcasing Your Foster	11
Getting to Adoption.....	12
Foster Agreement (previously provided and agreed)	14

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

What is Fostering?

- ♥ Fostering is first and foremost being an Adoption Ambassador. You will serve a key role in helping the dog to be exposed and adopted. You will also be providing a temporary home for a homeless pet, who for whatever reason, needs to be housed outside of the shelter. Fostering is truly lifesaving.
- ♥ Foster commitments range from just a few days to several months, so you can choose foster options that fit with your lifestyle.
- ♥ Foster families should be compassionate, caring and patient. You will be informed of your foster animal's known history, medical and behavioral health before they are placed in your care, and our foster Mentors will help answer questions and provide resources and information.
- ♥ All animals in foster care are the property of Contra Costa Animal Services and are subject to all applicable CCAS policies, rules and restrictions. All medical care shall be provided by CCAS medical staff or approved outside hospitals only and must be approved by your Mentor in advance. No care for your household animals is provided. Fosters assume all risks associated with fostering.
- ♥ CCAS will provide foster care providers with certain supplies
 - Food (10 lb starter bag, plus formula or specialty diet as needed)
 - Collars and tags (must be worn at all times)
 - Any medications or supplements that have been prescribed by our staff
- ♥ In order to be a successful foster parent to a dog in need you must be emotionally invested; you have to genuinely care about your foster pet's progress and well being. That said, you need to realize that there may be tears when you ultimately relinquish your foster dog to move onto a permanent home. Try to focus on the positives. Focus on how you've helped find a home for an homeless dog. Focus on the feel good emotions that come with doing a good deed, discovering and nurturing potential, and look forward to the opportunity to continue to change lives for the better by fostering another dog in need. Fosters always have first right to adopt their foster dog, but keep the big picture in mind, as we'd love you to continue to foster more dogs in need.

Benefits of Fostering

- ♥ Each animal fostered in a home opens up a cage or kennel space for us to save another animal! Getting a homeless pet ready for adoption by giving your love, time, and friendship is such a rewarding feeling.
- ♥ The addition of a (foster) dog brings immeasurable richness and joy to the household. Foster dogs will repay you for your patience and love by giving back ten times more love of their own. And when the dog goes off to a loving new home for life, your heart will swell with joy. What could possibly be more gratifying than to save a life and create a "happy ever after" ending? (source: Maddie's Fund)

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

- ♥ Expenses associated with fostering may be tax-deductible, though check with your tax professional.
- ♥ Make new friends by fostering! It's a great way to meet new people who care about animals.
- ♥ Fostering can also provide individual attention that certain special needs animals require.

How to Foster

- ♥ Fostering through CCAS requires you to be a Volunteer in good standing. All fosters must attend orientation and training as recommended by behavior staff.
- ♥ Dogs will be matched to fosters by Staff and Mentors for appropriate placement.
- ♥ Fosters will be assigned a volunteer Mentor who will be your primary point of contact. See "Your Foster Dog" form for contact information.
- ♥ Some dogs will have an enrichment plan you'll be required to implement. Some dogs will be required to attend group training sessions at the shelter.
- ♥ Fostering is a time commitment and we assume and expect you'll be working to expose your foster dog, follow behavioral or medical plans and attend meetings or adoption events as arranged.

Top Tips for Foster Parents

- ♥ Check in regularly with your Foster Mentor.
- ♥ Ask for advice if your puppy/dog has stopped eating. If your dog seems sick, check immediately for hydration – she should be drinking water, urinating, have elastic skin tone and a moist mouth.
- ♥ Wash your hands and change your shirt after handling sick animals to prevent spread of illness.
- ♥ Never let your dog run loose outside; guard against escapes.
- ♥ Dog park visits are never allowed for any CCAS foster dog/puppy.
- ♥ Don't leave your foster dog unattended with any resident animals or any children under 18.
- ♥ Feed your foster dog separately from other pets in your home.
- ♥ Any, and all, vet care must be approved by CCAS staff. CCAS will not reimburse for any unauthorized veterinary visits.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

Proper Housing and Care Requirements

- ♥ Foster care providers are expected to follow and abide by all guidelines and protocols regarding proper care of foster animals, including giving them proper food, access to water at all times, daylight, socialization, health care, etc. Foster animals must be kept in climate controlled homes with the temperature kept between 60 and 80° F.
- ♥ Dogs can go outside for supervised play time/exercise. When outdoors, foster dogs must be kept on leash or in a securely fenced yard. Some dogs can jump/climb over or dig under fences surprisingly fast, so please be cautious when leaving foster dogs unsupervised.
- ♥ You are prohibited from taking foster dogs to off leash dog parks or other off leash areas. Dogs must be on leash, under your control, at all times. You are prohibited from having your foster dog socialize with other dogs, except those in your home (following all/any guidelines set form by your Mentor).
- ♥ You agree to notify Mentor of any travel with your foster dog. You agree to assume all responsibility and liability. Prior to departure, you will research nearest veterinary hospital in case needed. No airplane travel is permitted. Any out of state travel must be approved by CCAS staff in advance.
- ♥ If your foster pet gets loose, contact your foster Mentor or program coordinator immediately.
- ♥ You agree to notify your Mentor if anyone other than yourself/your family will be caring for your foster i.e. pet sitter, day care, neighbor, etc. Prior approval may be required.
- ♥ CCAS Services staff and/or volunteers reserve the right to perform home checks in order to ensure that foster animals are being adequately and appropriately cared for.
- ♥ Foster care providers must notify the foster coordinator immediately if a foster animal bites a person or animal and the bite breaks the skin.
- ♥ Children under the age of 18 should not be left unsupervised with any foster animals.
- ♥ CCAS will provide all needed equipment for foster dogs and may include leash, collar, crate, harness or other training equipment. No aversive equipment is allowed to be used on any foster dog including pinch collars, shock collars, bark collars, etc. Retractable leashes are never allowed.

Health and Wellness

Veterinary Visits

Contra Costa Animal Services will provide and/or authorize all and any veterinary care for fosters. CCAS will not provide care for any animals other than CCAS fosters. Fosters must follow all instruction given by CCAS medical staff, and staff have authority for all medical decisions. Remember, puppies under 4 months shall not

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

be walked off your premises or visit any park, dog park or other public place until the full puppy vaccine series is completed. Ask your Mentor if you have any questions about this.

Authorization to foster parents for vet visits can be given for any of the following:

Puppies under 12 weeks of age:

Diarrhea that lasts for more than a day
Vomiting and diarrhea for more than 6 hours
Vomiting more than once in an hour
Not eating for more than 12-24 hours
Lethargy without fever for more than 12 hours
Lethargy with fever

Dogs older than 12 weeks of age:

Diarrhea that lasts for more than 1-2 days
Diarrhea and occasional vomiting for more than a day
Vomiting more than 2-3 times in an hour
Not eating for more than 24 hours
Lethargy without fever for more than a day
Lethargy with fever

Your foster dog may not display any signs of illness until quite ill. Therefore, it's up to you to observe your dog closely each day. Call your Foster Mentor if you see:

- Unusual discharges from the eyes, nose or other body openings
- Abnormal lumps
- Limping
- Difficulty getting up or down
- Loss of appetite
- Abnormal waste elimination
- Other abnormal behavior

Diarrhea

Diarrhea can be caused by several factors, including stress, change of diet, poor diet, eating garbage, parasites and viruses. If your foster dog has diarrhea and has no other symptoms, rule out change of diet by fasting (no food for 6 hours) your foster until you can reach your Mentor or medical staff as you then may be instructed to feed cooked rice mixed with low-fat cottage cheese or boiled chicken (no skin or bones) and/or rice for a day or two, and then reintroduce dry kibble.

Provide plenty of fresh water since diarrhea can cause dehydration. To check for dehydration, pull the skin up over the shoulder blades. If it snaps back quickly, the dog is not dehydrated. If the skin goes down slowly, then

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

the dog is dehydrated and needs fluids. Call your Foster Mentor immediately if you suspect your foster is dehydrated.

Distemper

Distemper is an extremely contagious and often fatal viral disease. It is an airborne infection that can be transmitted with or without direct contact with an infected dog through mucus, urine and feces. Some of the symptoms include squinting, congestion of the eyes, pus from the eyes, weight loss, coughing, vomiting, nasal discharge and diarrhea.

Contact your Foster Mentor immediately if you suspect Distemper.

Fleas

To check for fleas, inspect your dog daily, including near groin, belly, tail, neck and under the chin and head. Look also for black specks of flea dirt, which is actually digested blood. Before you begin combing, get a bowl of tap water and put a few drops of dish soap in it. You can put any fleas you find in the water and they will drown. (If you don't use soap, the fleas may swim to a fluff of fur and jump out of the water.) If fleas are present, treat as soon as possible with approved flea medications (check with your Mentor). Change bedding and vacuum the floors daily. The washing machine will remove fleas, eggs and dirt.

If your foster dog had fleas, watch his stools for short pieces that look like white rice or cucumber seeds as these are tapeworms, which come from ingesting fleas. Tapeworms can cause diarrhea. If you see fleas or evidence of tapeworms, call your Mentor, who can provide you with medication or advice. Do not use any over the counter medications for fleas or worms, check with your Mentor immediately.

Injured Dogs

Injured foster dogs will have specific needs. They'll most likely be recovering from surgery and will come with veterinary orders. Generally, fracture, cast or other surgery patients may need to be confined to a crate or a small room to limit mobility.

This type of foster situation may require you to schedule follow-up appointments with the dog's veterinarian. As with all foster dogs, watch for signs of illness, since injured foster dogs are under additional stress and are more prone to illness. Lots of human contact is important for healing injured dogs. Active play should be limited, but cuddling, petting, talking, brushing and massaging are all good social activities for a recovering animal. Follow medical instructions carefully, including use of e-collar (cone).

Kennel Cough

The shelter is much like a child day care – as soon as one dog has a cold, most all the dogs in the shelter get a cold. Just like people who have colds, kennel cough develops when the dog is stressed or when the immune system is compromised.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

Kennel cough is typically a dry, hacking cough. There may be some discharge from the nose and a clear liquid that is coughed up. It's generally a mild, self-limiting illness of the trachea and bronchi encountered in all age groups of dogs, but especially in those under unusual stress.

Because kennel cough is contagious, infected dogs should not be around other dogs until they're over their cough. If you have a dog at home and plan to foster a dog with kennel cough, plan to keep your dogs separated, and foster in isolation, until foster is well.

Talk to your vet about giving your own dog the Bordetella nasal vaccination. Immunity is usually established 3-4 days after vaccination. However, this vaccine does not protect against all strains of kennel cough.

Make sure your foster dog has plenty of fresh water and healthy food. If your dog is not eating, try cooking up something special and smelly such as eggs, chicken or steak. Take short, leashed walks. Do not treat your foster with any over the counter products without prior medical staff approval. If you don't see improvement of the cough or cold after 3 days, or if the condition worsens, call your Mentor immediately.

Strenuous activity can bring on coughing episodes, so limit activity and encourage rest. Even baths can be stressful to the system and should be avoided. However bringing your foster dog into the bathroom while you're taking a shower can be beneficial as the steam can help loosen mucus. Incubation of kennel cough is 5-10 days; its course is 10-20 days with symptoms generally more marked the first week. Fever, lack of appetite and a yellow-green-brown nasal discharge can indicate secondary infections. Call your Foster Mentor if any of these symptoms occur.

Parvo

Parvo is a very serious illness in puppies and young, unvaccinated dogs and can result in death. Puppies under 4 months old are not allowed to visit any parks, dog parks, or be placed on any ground outside of your own premises until the full puppy vaccine series is complete. Parvo attacks the intestinal tract, white blood cells and heart muscle. Signs of infection are depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, severe diarrhea, fever and sometimes kennel cough symptoms. The illness is contracted through contact with the infected feces of another dog. Call your Mentor immediately if you believe your foster dog may have this illness.

♥ Learn more about parvovirus:

www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-disease-management/canine-parvovirus-timeline

Parasites

Parasites can cause diarrhea, stomach bloating or vomiting. Parasites include tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms, giardia, coccidias, whipworms and mange. If you suspect a parasite, you will be asked to bring a fresh fecal sample to the CCAS medical clinic. Tapeworms will look like pieces of rice coming out of your foster dog's anus or in his stool. Round worms and hookworms may be vomited, and roundworms look like spaghetti

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

(hookworms are smaller and rarely distinguishable without the aid of a microscope). Both round and hookworms are usually detected under a microscope.

Mange is an infestation of tiny mites that bite and can cause intense scratching, reddened skin and loss of fur. There are two types of “mange” mites, Sarcoptic and Demodectic. Sarcoptic is itchy, demodex is usually not. Sarcoptic is highly contagious (even to humans though precautions can be taken), demodex is not. It is not easy to determine the type of mange without a thorough medical exam and use of a slide and microscope. If you suspect your foster dog has any type of parasite or mange, call your Mentor immediately. Do not attempt to treat yourself.

Vaccination & Worming

Your foster dog’s vaccination and worming history are available in the shelter’s records. Your dog has most likely been vaccinated for Rabies, Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo and Bordetella. If you’re fostering a puppy, you need to return the pup to the shelter every 2 weeks, until 20 weeks for boosters. Or at minimum 3 consecutive DHPP 2 weeks apart, if over 20 weeks.

8-10 weeks: DHPP and Bordetella

11-13 weeks: DHPP

14-20 weeks: DHPP

Annual boosters recommended and a schedule will be provided for any follow up boosters.

Most likely, your foster dog had one dose of wormer upon arrival to the shelter. If you see worms in the dog’s stool, call your Foster Mentor as you may be asked to return to the shelter for more wormer. You will be instructed on the correct dosage and frequency.

♥ **These tips can help keep your home free of infection:**

www.aspcapro.org/infection-control-foster-homes

♥ **Learn about household toxins that cause seizures:**

www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-poison-control/most-common-causes-seizures-dogs

Spay/Neuter

Spay and neuter surgeries are generally done prior to going to a foster home or prior to adoption, but any time a dog has to undergo anesthesia for a procedure, he should be altered at the same time if safe to do so.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

Behavior

Housetraining

Be patient with your foster dog. Even housetrained adult dogs will make mistakes, especially if they've been at the shelter for a long time and have been eliminating in their kennel. If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some foster dogs may "mark" their territory. This action should be redirected immediately with a calm "Oops" – then escort him outside where he can finish. You will then want to use some odor neutralizer (like Nature's Miracle) on the areas where the dog "marked" to insure he will not smell and mark that area again.

You can begin to housetrain a puppy at 8 weeks of age. Even if you bring home an adult dog who is housebroken, you will want to follow these guidelines until your foster dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule.

Determine where you want your foster dog to eliminate – it could be the backyard, side yard or an indoor spot such as a Pup Head, or potty pad. Then take him there every time for elimination (mark the elimination behavior with a verbal "do your business" at the time the dog is eliminating, not before or after). Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every 2 hours. Puppies should go out every 45 minutes until you learn their pattern.

Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he eliminates, reward him (with treats, praise, a favorite game and your own special happy dance). If he doesn't go in 5 minutes, take him back inside, crate and then try every 15 minutes until he goes. Every time he goes, make sure you reward him!

Supervise the puppy closely while you're inside. If he starts to sniff the floor, or even squats to go, interrupt with a calm "Oops," scoop him up quickly and take him to the approved spot and praise when he finishes. If he eliminates in the house while you're not paying attention, don't correct him – it's not his fault. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Use an odor neutralizer to get rid of the smell. Never put the dog's face in his mess or yell at him; he won't understand you, and you will only be teaching him fear.

A good resource for housetraining, is the book, "Way to Go! How to Housetrain a Dog of Any Age," by Karen London.

Crate Training

Crates provide safe havens and dens for dogs. They calm them and can help prevent destructive chewing, barking and housetraining mistakes. Puppies should not be crated for more hours than they are months old, plus one. For example, a 4-month-old pup should not be crated longer than 5 hours. No puppy should be crated longer than 6-7 hours at a time.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

How long an adult dog can be crated will depend on many factors. For example, if your foster dog was left outside, he has never been required to hold it for any period of time. It will take time for this dog to learn to hold it, and you will need to start slowly. Older dogs and dogs with some medical conditions may only be able to successfully hold it for short periods of time. Rigorous exercise should be given before and after any long periods in the crate, and approved toys should be in the crate at all times. You may want to crate your new foster dog for the first few nights in your bedroom – most of them feel more secure in their crate and it protects your house from accidents.

Crates should never be used as a means of punishment; they're not to be used for keeping puppies under 6 months out of mischief all day either. Crates should be thought of as dog playrooms, just like child playrooms with games and toys. It should be a place dogs like to be and feel safe and secure.

Please refer to the CCAS Foster page on the website www.ccasd.org for more links and articles to crate training your puppy and dog.

Attention & Playtime

Gentle and calming human contact is important for dogs. Human handling is especially important for the healthy development of puppies. Be sure to give your foster dog several minutes of playtime periodically through the day.

Do not allow children to behave with the foster dog in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling. Teach children to leave a dog alone when he is eating, chewing and sleeping. Never allow a child to remove a toy or any other prized possession from a dog.

Do not wrestle with your foster dog. If you have a shy or fearful dog, do not throw a toy toward the dog, because he may think you are throwing things at him and become more fearful. When giving the dog a toy or treat, have him sit before giving it to him. That way he has to work to get the toy or treat – making it a reward.

Puppies must have daily human interaction, enrichment and socialization, no exceptions. See the link for [Sophia Yin's socialization checklist](#) available on the CCASD foster website page.

Behavior Issues

Many of the behaviors that we find problematic – such as barking, whining, digging, chewing, scavenging and hunting other animals – are really just normal dog behaviors and can be explained as “dogs being dogs.” The easiest way to coexist with our canine companions is to provide more appropriate outlets for these behaviors.

If your foster dog is exhibiting any behavioral issues, ask yourself the questions below:

- Is my foster dog getting enough exercise? Enrichment?
- Is he being left alone for long periods of time?
- Does he have interesting toys to keep his mind engaged and stimulated? See approved toy list on CCASD website.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

- Are you rotating toys to keep it interesting?
- Is he getting enough attention and playtime?
- Am I reinforcing bad behavior? Some examples include verbally scolding a dog when he is seeking attention or engaging the dog when he uses bad manners to get you to play.
- Does my foster dog have a safe place that is dog-proofed with appropriate chew toys, or am I leaving my own belongings within reach?
- Am I providing specific outlets based on his natural instincts and drives?

We don't expect foster parents to be miracle workers. If your foster dog requires more attention, exercise or training than you can provide, talk to your Mentor – another foster home might be best for both you and the dog. Regardless of the issue, we don't condone punishment, which will not address the cause of the behavior and in fact it may worsen behavior that's motivated by fear or anxiety.

Punishment may also cause anxiety in dogs who aren't currently fearful. People often believe their dog makes the connection to discipline because he runs and hides or "looks guilty." But dogs display submissive postures like cowering, running away or hiding when they feel threatened by an angry tone of voice, body posture, or facial expression. Your dog doesn't know what he's done wrong; he only knows that you're upset. Punishment after the fact will not only fail to eliminate the undesirable behavior, but may provoke other undesirable behaviors, too.

♥ Try these easy enrichment ideas:

www.aspcapro.org/resource/saving-lives-behavior-enrichment/tips-canine-enrichment

Showcasing Your Foster

When fostering an animal for CCAS, you can be the animal's number one advocate! By acting as an adoption ambassador, you won't just be a foster care provider. You will be a photographer, videographer, biographer, a marketing specialist, and an adoption counselor!

Out and About

Pack up your pup in her adoption vest and really pound the pavement – with approval and guidance from your Mentor or behavior staff, you may visit outdoor festivals and cafes, parks, etc. And be sure to bring your dog's business card to share with any potential adopters. Check the foster page on the CCASD.org website for a guide to public introductions.

Another option for foster care providers seeking forever homes for the animals in their care are adoption events. These events are typically held on weekends, at various locations. Details about these events are communicated to foster families as they become available.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

♥ For more helpful tips on marketing your foster dog, see our Adoption Ambassadors section: www.aspcapro.org/ambassadors

Web Presence

If your dog's picture is already on the shelter's website, you should write a biography about his personality. A good bio makes a big difference in the number of calls the dog gets, so be descriptive! Try to include things like:

- What does the dog like to do? (play fetch, go for walks, etc.)
- Is he a cuddler?
- Does he have experience with other animals and children?
- Is he potty trained? Crate trained?
- Obedience training? Tricks?

Of course, any cute things that he does or anything you want to point out about his fur or appearance is good as well. It can be as long as you want, but the typical description is a paragraph or two.

If the dog has some bad habits, this can be discussed during the first phone conversation. The bio should generate interest, not turn people away. We don't want to mislead people; however we really try to focus on the positive. Please email the bio to your Foster Mentor for editing suggestions, posting and marketing.

Photos

If your dog's picture is not yet on the website, there are several options for getting pictures taken and posted. If you have access to a digital camera and would like to take the pictures yourself, you are welcome to do so. Please email them in .jpg format to the web site posting team with the dog's bio.

You are welcome to take your dog to the shelter during one of the regularly scheduled digital photography sessions.

Another option is to have a traveling photographer come to your home to photograph your foster dog. This is a nice option for shy dogs and those who don't travel well, or for foster parents with schedule and transportation difficulties. Please contact your Mentor to arrange this option.

Getting to Adoption

Home Sweet Home

Use your best judgment, coupled with guidelines given to you by your Mentor, in choosing a home for your foster dog. You know his needs best and can explain them to potential adopters. Once you have found a good fit, follow the shelter's procedures for completing the adoption.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

And, of course, let your Mentor know immediately when a match has been made, so that adoption and paperwork can be finalized and everyone can celebrate another life saved!

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

Foster Agreement (previously provided and agreed)

You've made the following statements and have voluntarily entered into this Foster Care Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") to provide temporary care as an Adoption Ambassador and foster caregiver for Contra Costa Animal Services (hereinafter "CCAS"). I agree to remain a volunteer in good standing with CCAS and to orientation, and other trainings (may include collared collar training) as requested and/or required.

- I have never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment. I agree to notify CCAS if I am convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment in the future.
- I agree to comply with all other federal, state and local laws that pertain to companion animals and pet ownership in the jurisdiction where I reside.
- I understand that CCAS reserves the right to check on the welfare of my foster animal, which may include a visit to my foster home. I further understand that CCAS may remove the animal from my care with/without notice.
- I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the CCAS Foster Care Manual ("Manual"), and that I have read the Manual. I agree to fully comply with the policies, guidance and requirements set forth in the Manual as applicable to my foster animal.
- I agree to not take my foster dog(s) or my foster cat(s) to dog parks, off-leash areas, daycare facilities, crowded public areas, or any similar locations, unless a CCAS sanctioned event, or given prior approval by the CCAS Foster Coordinator, Staff or Mentor. I understand that I will be solely responsible for any injury or damage caused by my foster animal if I do not comply with this provision.
- I understand that CCAS recommends that my foster animal(s) is to be kept separate from any other animals currently living in my home. I agree that if I choose to introduce my foster animal(s) to any other animal living in my home, I will be solely responsible for any illness or injury to other animals. CCAS will not provide treatment to any household animals and I agree to assume the risk inherent in fostering behaviorally or medically challenged dogs.
- I agree that the animal(s) that I foster will reside in my home, will be kept as household pets, and will not be used for breeding.
- I agree to notify the CCAS Foster Mentor/Coordinator immediately by phone and in writing at 925-608-8441 and Foster@ccasd.gov immediately if my foster animal(s) becomes lost or separated from me.
- I agree to notify the CCAS Foster Mentor/Coordinator immediately by phone, 925-608-8441, and in writing at FosterProgram@asd.cccounty.us if my foster animal demonstrates any aggressive behavior, including, but not limited to, biting a person or another animal.

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

- I agree to seek immediate medical attention if I am bitten by my foster animal, or if I receive any other physical injury resulting from interaction with my foster animal. I further agree to seek immediate medical attention for any member of my household who is bitten or suffers any other physical injury resulting from interaction with my foster animal.
- I agree to return my foster animal(s) at any time upon the request of the CCAS Foster Mentor or Coordinator or any CCAS staff member.
- I agree to receive and respond to calls and emails concerning my foster animal(s), from CCAS shelter staff, veterinary staff, and potential adopters promptly, and always within 24 hours.
- I agree to transport the animal to CCAS or an approved veterinary clinic to receive medical treatment as requested by CCAS Foster Mentor/Coordinator or staff. If my foster animal experiences a medical emergency, I agree to follow the instructions of my Mentor and as outlined under “At a Glance” in manual.
- I understand that CCAS will not reimburse me for any routine, non-emergency or emergency care for my foster animal that is not pre-approved in writing by the CCAS Foster Mentor/Coordinator/CCAS staff.
- I agree to contact the CCAS Foster Mentor/Coordinator 925-608-8441 for any emergency or non-emergency matters and will obtain approval before any veterinary care outside of CCAS facilities.
- I agree to assume the risks implicit in working with animals who may have been abandoned, neglected, mistreated, or who may suffer from an illness or disease. My participation in the CCAS Foster Program is entirely voluntary and without the promise or expectation of compensation. I have no known physical or mental condition that would impair my ability to participate in the CCAS Foster Program. I understand that while CCAS staff carefully monitors all animals, CCAS may have limited knowledge of their behavioral and medical backgrounds. Therefore, I understand that CCAS makes no warranties or representations regarding my foster animal’s health, behavior, temperament, age, or breed. I further understand that environmental changes may affect and change the temperament of my foster animal(s).
- I understand and agree that the Contra Costa Animal Services, County of Contra Costa, its members, officers, directors, agents, volunteers and elected officials have no liability or responsibility of any nature for injuries or damage to any person, animal, or property which may be caused by my foster animal(s) or my participation in the CCAS Foster Program. I expressly agree that this release, waiver and indemnity is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the State of California and that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

By my signature below and, and by my initials beside each numbered paragraph above, I affirm that all

Guide for Dog Foster Homes

statements and stated agreements contained in this document are truthful, I affirm that I have read and understand this Agreement in its entirety, and I agree to abide by the terms of this Agreement. Further, I give permission for CCAS to contact any/all named references below: