



6965 El Camino Real Ste. 105 - 113, Carlsbad, CA 92009 | Phone: 760-804-1400 | Fax: 760-804-1455 | [www.thedogsquadrescue.org](http://www.thedogsquadrescue.org)

## FOSTER PARENT GUIDELINES

Foster care consists of providing a safe, loving, temporary home for a dog until a permanent home can be found. We can only rescue as many dogs as we have foster homes!

To place our dogs in permanent homes, we advertise the dog on several online sites and hold regular adoption events. We encourage your active participation in finding a new, loving home for your foster dog.

In an effort to ensure the success of the program and the safety of our animals, we provide you with the following, important guidelines:

### General Guidelines:

- All foster parents must fill out an application and be approved prior to taking a dog home. A TDS staff member or volunteer will do a home check prior to approval of the application.
- A foster agreement must be signed for each dog.
- All foster animals remain the responsibility and possession of TDS until formally adopted. A dog may not be transferred to a new guardian or foster home without approval of TDS. You must return the foster pet to TDS if you are no longer able to care for the animal. All foster pets must be returned to us promptly upon request.
- The foster dog must have a TDS ID tag on at all times.
- The dog must be returned to TDS if you are leaving for vacation or going out-of-town unless we approve a pet sitter prior to you leaving.
- Since potential adopters could visit at any time and it is important that the foster dog makes a good impression, the dog should be well groomed. Grooming can be arranged if necessary. Let the dog adjust for at least 2-3 days before attempting to groom it.
- If a veterinarian is needed, please contact us for an approved facility. The foster parent must be willing to take foster dog to vet appointments when needed. All vet visits and procedures must be pre-approved by the President or Vice President.
- It is critical that foster parents keep TDS informed of the current status of the dog. A weekly phone update is necessary so that we may adequately track the whereabouts of our animals at all times.
- You must inform us of potential additions to the home, i.e. any animal, child or adult. A change of this type may not work with the foster dog and, for the safety of all, we will need to evaluate the situation.

### Caring for the Dog:

#### THE INITIAL ADJUSTMENT

- Introduce your dog(s) to the foster dog on neutral territory, not in your home. If possible, walk them together before bringing the foster dog into the home. Otherwise, let them meet through a screen door, baby gate or something similar.
- Crate the foster dog and ignore it for 24 – 48 hours (longer if it is not socialized). It needs time to adjust to its new surroundings. Potty and return it to its crate. An x-pen around the crate is handy as the foster dog can then choose to come out when it feels comfortable.
- **Crating the dog when you leave the home is a requirement.** It will ensure the dog's safety, give your dogs a break and also protect your home from accidents and/or destructiveness. At night, the dog must be crated or kept in a secure place.

# **THE DOG SQUAD RESCUE, INC.**

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- Your foster dog should not be out of your sight for the first week. Leash the foster dog to you if working around the home. If you can't watch it -- crate it!
- REMEMBER: Your dogs were there first. It doesn't hurt a foster dog to crate it when necessary to give your own dogs a break.
- Be very cautious when taking the dog off of your property. Until the dog has bonded with you it is very likely to bolt at the first opportunity. Some dogs back up when frightened or startled and can slip out of their collars. Check the foster dog's collar and, if this seems a possibility, let us know and we'll provide a more secure collar. If the dog does happen to break free try to approach it as calmly and nonchalantly as possible; rushing up to the dog will only make it run away. **LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF YOU LOSE POSSESSION OF THE DOG.**
- Be cautious when exposing the foster dog to children that are not in your household and to strangers. Get to know it a little first. In most cases, we do not know the dog's history and so we cannot predict how it will react in all situations. Be aware that, if the dog bites, even if through fear, it may have to be euthanized. Don't put your foster dog in a situation that will cost him his life.

## **FEEDING**

- If you have other dogs, feed your foster dog in a crate. Please do not over feed the dog. An overweight dog has a shorter lifespan and more health risks.

## **HOUSETRAINING**

- Potty the foster dog outside on a leash or in a restricted area until it has adjusted to the new surroundings and you feel comfortable that it will come into the home when called.
- Don't assume the foster dog is housetrained -- changes in homes and families are stressful for the dog and it may "forget" or need some time to adjust to your routine. Praise when foster dog does its business outside.

## **INTERACTING WITH THE DOG**

- Do not reach over the dog's head to pet it as they may perceive this to be a threat. Instead, pet the dog under the chin.

If foster dog is shy or fearful don't make direct eye contact or stare. Again, the dog may consider this to be a threat.

- **Do not** pick up a foster dog that doesn't know you very well! This is good way to get nipped.
- Teach the dog basic manners – “sit”, “down”, "leave it," "wait" (as in don't bolt out the front door), “stay” "quiet" and how to walk on a leash. Good manners help the dog become more adoptable!
- Discourage the foster dog from getting on the furniture and on your bed. You may enjoy it, but the new adopter may not. You need to assist the dog in becoming more adoptable. In addition, this provides a clear signal to the foster dog and to your own dog(s) that the foster dog has a lower status in the pack. This is reassuring to your own dog(s) and also to the foster dog who is trying to figure how where he fits in.

## **Need Help?**

If the foster dog isn't working out for any reason, contact us immediately. You are not a failure -- the foster dog just isn't the right match for your home.

TDS provides counseling, especially during the initial adjustment. We are here to help you so, if something isn't working or, if you are struggling, **ASK FOR HELP!**

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## Contact information:

### DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Name	Title	Land Line Cell Phone	Email	Fax Number	Physical Address
Caroline Wright	President	760-804-1400 760-822-3843	<a href="mailto:caroline@thedogsquadrescue.org">caroline@thedogsquadrescue.org</a>	760-804-1455	6226 Rancho Bravado, Carlsbad, CA 92009
Sue Barbato	Vice President	760-436-7446 760-815-7978	<a href="mailto:sue@thedogsquadrescue.org">sue@thedogsquadrescue.org</a>	760-805-1455	885 Del Rio Avenue #1, Encinitas, CA 92024
Marci Pascua	Director	858-357-6642	<a href="mailto:marci@thedogsquadrescue.org">marci@thedogsquadrescue.org</a>	760-805-1455	155 W Jason Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

### VETERINARIAN INFORMATION

Name	Doctor	Phone #	Services	Fax Number	Physical Address
Pearson-Nespor Animal Hospital	Any	760-598-2512	Spays &neuters, general		1903 W. San Marco Blvd, Suite 140 San Marcos, CA 92069
All Pets Animal Hospital	Any	760-634-2022	General		285 N .El Camino Real, Suite 105 Encinitas, Ca 92024
Cote Animal Hospital	Any	858-452-7100	General		8915 Towne Centre Drive #110 San Diego, CA 92122