



FOSTER BASIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

- How old are the dogs? Normally, we try to get dogs that are 1-2 years old when rescued from a shelter. Sometimes, however, we do have puppies come in to the program.
- How long would the dog stay with my family? Some foster dogs stay only a short while, like one to two weeks. Some foster dogs might stay longer, perhaps one to three months. Younger dogs and puppies would of course stay longer. However, you never have to keep a dog longer than you want and you can specify if you would like to be a short term, long term, or respite foster parent.
- How am I paired with a dog? We want to know your preferences! Would you rather have a male or a female? What is your activity level? How much time will the dog be home alone? Most importantly, what type of dog do YOU feel will best fit your lifestyle. If you have other dogs in the home, a meet and greet will be arranged in your home to help make sure they are compatible. It can often take a few days for everyone to be more relaxed around each other, but we want to rule out any aggression concerns on either side at the initial meeting.
- Do I have to train the dog? No, you are not required to train the dog. Most of the dogs know some basic commands when they come in to foster and it helps to continue these to reinforce positive behaviors.
- What if there is a problem??? We have HP4Ws volunteers available 24/7 to assist in an emergency situation. We also have two trainers on staff and current foster parents with hands-on experience to answer any questions and assist with any concern.
- What if I go on vacation? That's great! We would appreciate as much notice as possible when your vacation is scheduled, and we will make arrangements for your foster dog to go to another foster home for the time you are away.
- Food, crate, blanket, stainless steel feeding/water bowl, toys, storage bin, reward bag, flea & heartworm prevention medicine, veterinary contact info, bed, collar, and leash are provided.
- What if I fall in love with my foster dog? You will. Plain and simple. It's hard to have one of the dogs and not get attached! However, if you go into fostering with the mindset that THIS DOG already has a VETERAN waiting, it makes it easier to accept. And hopefully, you will agree to foster another dog to help yet another veteran. Happily, our Veteran/Dog Teams usually stay involved with HP4Ws after graduation, so you will get to see the progression of your previous foster dog and have that GREAT FEELING of knowing you played a huge part in it.

PLEASE let us know if you are interested in pursuing this further. There is a [foster application](#) on our web page that will officially get the process started. Thank you!

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