



**ADOPT-A-DOG**  
**SAVE-A-LIFE**

*Adopt-A-Dog – Save-A-Life*

# **Fostering Information Outline**

Version 1.0

[www.adoptadogsavealife.com](http://www.adoptadogsavealife.com)

## Table of Contents

**TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... I**

**1. BRIEF SUMMARY ..... 1**

**2. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ..... 2**

2.1 HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE DOG? ..... 2

2.2 WILL I BE REIMBURSED FOR MY EXPENSES? ..... 2

2.3 DO I NEED TO LIVE IN A HOUSE WITH A FENCED BACKYARD? ..... 3

2.4 CAN I BRING THE DOG TO AN OFF LEASH PARK? ..... 3

2.5 WHERE DO OUR FOSTER DOGS COME FROM? ..... 4

2.6 WILL I GET TO MEET THE FAMILY WHO ADOPTS THE DOG? ..... 4

2.7 WILL I HAVE A SAY IN THE TYPE OF DOG I WANT TO FOSTER? ..... 5

2.8 WILL I HAVE SUPPORT FROM ADOPT-A-DOG/SAVE-A-LIFE? ..... 5

2.9 HOW DO I GO ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT? ..... 5

**3. APPLICATION PROCESS ..... 6**

**4. HOW TO PREPARE FOR BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT? ..... 9**



## 1. Brief Summary

### Fostering – A Brief Overview

We could not rescue dogs without our dedicated foster parents.

We do not have a shelter to place dogs. When we have a dog that needs rescue we rely on our team of fosters to get the dog into a safe home. Some situations are urgent and require fast action while other rescues allow us some time to locate a safe spot for the dog.

Our foster parents are not dog experts or trainers. Most of us are dog owners. Some of us have attended dog obedience classes with our own dogs. We even have some foster parents who have never owned a dog but are dog lovers.

We believe strongly in positive based training for dogs. We will not condone punishment based training.

Our adoptions take place mainly in the Toronto area. For this reason we find it easiest to work with foster homes in the GTA. We do make exceptions and are willing to speak with individuals who live an hour or so outside of Toronto. For those of you who live further away you might consider contacting a rescue in your area.

Fostering is a rewarding experience that can also be challenging at times. The first couple of days are usually difficult for you and the dog. The poor dog will be nervous – imagine if you were suddenly dropped off at some stranger’s house! Patience and understanding are a must for foster parents. It is a guarantee that your foster dog will have an accident in your house. If pee or pooh on your floor is a deal breaker then you should not consider being a foster parent. It is going to take time for the dog to adjust to your home and routines.



## 2. Questions and Answers

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 2.1 How long will I have the dog?

It is not easy to predict how long it will take us to find a good home for one of our dogs. Our adoption process is very thorough – we want a forever home for the dog so they never have to be moved again. As a very rough estimate you can count on at least a couple of months. Some adoptions can happen much sooner and some take much longer. If your foster dog has to be moved for whatever reason we ask that you give us as much notice as possible. There are an endless number of dogs needing rescue – our foster homes are usually always full. If your foster dog needs to be moved you must give us time and be patient for us to find another safe spot for the dog. We do try to keep some emergency spots open but sometimes they are filled with emergencies!

#### 2.2 Will I be reimbursed for my expenses?

The organization will pay for food and vet care for your foster dog. Sometimes we deliver the food and sometimes the foster parent buys the food and we reimburse them. Your foster dog will come to you with the basics. Other items will be supplied if required. If there is something you need for the dog (e.g. crate, halter, dog bed, dog coat, etc.) we ask that you contact us. Many dog care items are donated to us and we will get you what you need.

You must prepare your home for a foster dog. That means putting away any items that might get damaged or soiled. We are not able to reimburse you for any damages caused by the foster dog.



### **2.3 Do I need to live in a house with a fenced backyard?**

Many of our foster parents live in apartments. We will do our best to not give you a dog that we know is a barker. You must be committed to getting the dog outside on a regular basis. The dog may be nervous of the elevator – be aware of this and make the elevator ride a positive experience with praise and positive reinforcement. It will take time for the dog to get used to noises in the hallway. The dog may also be nervous of traffic noise depending on where the dog has come from. It is often good to get them to a quiet side street for their walk. Balconies are not to be used for a dog to do their business. Dogs can never be left on balconies.

### **2.4 Can I bring the dog to an off leash park?**

Exercise is a major need of any dog but especially important for an anxious foster dog. Walking the dog on leash is a must. When a dog is nervous their first impulse is to bolt. You cannot trust your foster dog to come when you call them. It takes a lot of training and bonding before a dog can be trusted to come when called. Many of the off leash areas in the city are not fully fenced – most have an open gated area or areas that are not secure.

We only recommend letting your foster dog off leash in a safely fenced area. If this is a new area to you please take a few minutes and walk the perimeter to be sure there are no openings in the fence where the dog can escape.

It is also essential that the dog is wearing proper ID tags on their collar before heading out for any walks just in case the dog gets away somehow. If your foster dog does not have an ID tag or it gets lost, please contact us right away.

You must be very careful when opening your front door. A good practice to put into place is to hang a leash from your front door (or any other door that opens to an unfenced area) – before any one opens the door clip the leash onto the dog's collar. If the dog tries to bolt you will be in control.



## **2.5 Where do our foster dogs come from?**

We give priority to dogs in shelters. Many shelters in Ontario contact us when they have a dog that requires rescue.

When we can we will rescue dogs from puppy mills. These dear souls are very special and we love to give them a chance at a real life.

We also get calls from private owners who are no longer able to keep their dog.

At times we hear from Vet Clinics that have had a dog surrendered to them.

We try to learn as much as possible about the dog so we can share that info with the foster parent. There are times however when a dog is in urgent need and we need to act fast – in such instances we will share as much as we know.

## **2.6 Will I get to meet the family who adopts the dog?**

We have a very thorough adoption process. Please see the online application on our website ([www.adoptadogsavealife.com](http://www.adoptadogsavealife.com)) to read about the steps we take. The last part of the adoption process is a meeting with the potential adopters and the dog. The foster parents are usually included in that meeting because you will know the dog the best. We encourage you to share everything you have learned about the dog.



### **2.7 Will I have a say in the type of dog I want to foster?**

We will do our best to only contact you when we have a dog that fits your preferences. If you are allergic and can only foster nonshedding dogs – we won't call you to take a dog that sheds. If you live in an apartment we would not give you a dog that we know is a barker. If you have other dogs we won't ask you to foster a dog that we know does not like other dogs – the same goes for cats. That being said – we do not always have a lot of info on the dog. The dog will be nervous and out of sorts when first coming to your home. Please give the dog time to settle in and feel safe – the first couple of days are not a good indicator to the character of the dog. Everything takes time!

### **2.8 Will I have support from Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life?**

We feel an open line of communication is essential. We will do our best to return your phone calls and/or emails in the same day. If there is an emergency we expect you to contact us immediately. We will do our very best to provide support to you while you are fostering. We are a team and work together in the best interest of our dogs.

It is likely you will have more questions about fostering. This is just a brief overview of how we work. We will always be available to answer any other questions or concerns you may have.

### **2.9 How do I go about becoming a foster parent?**

If you have read through these notes on fostering and still feel you want to move forward we ask you to fill out the foster application form.

Once we receive the form a volunteer will contact you by phone to go over your application and answer any other questions you may have.

If we decide to move forward a volunteer will come to your house to meet you in person and see your home.

When these steps have been completed we will contact you when we have a dog that needs fostering.



### 3. Application Process



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life Inc.</b> <b>Foster Application</b></p>
--

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of all members of the household (include the ages of the children):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City:

Postal Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

Major Intersection: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the name next to their phone number.

Home Ph. #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph. #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Business Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own a car or have use of one? \_\_\_\_\_



Do you live in a house, apartment, town house, condo:

---

---

Do you own or rent?

Do you have a fully fenced  
backyard?\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a gate?

---

Please list any pets you have in your home – include type and age:

---

---

---

Are your animals neutered/spayed? – if not please explain:

---

---

Do your animals like other dogs?

---

---

---

How do you know?

---

---

---

How long will the dog be alone during the day?

---

---

Where will the dog be kept when left at home alone?

---

---

---

Where will the dog sleep?



How much exercise can you give the dog on a daily basis?

Briefly outline your experience with dogs:

Briefly outline your philosophy on training a dog:

What type (size, age, breeds) of dog do you want to foster?

Name of Veterinarian Clinic (if applicable):

Do you agree to have a volunteer from Adopt-a-dog/Save-a-life come to your home for an interview?

Please list any other questions or concerns you have about fostering:



#### 4. How to prepare for becoming a foster parent?

1. Think carefully about your daily routines – do you have the time and energy to commit to a dog?

2. Talk to your friends and family – do they support you?

3. Take a careful look around your house and yard. We recommend getting down on your hands and knees so you can see your home as the dog will. Do you see any obvious hazards?

Some things to consider:

- cupboard doors that do not close giving the dog access to food inside
- garbage containers the dog can get into
- toilet seat up
- electrical cords they may chew
- cleaning supplies left on floors
- shoes must be kept in closets away from the dog
- cat litter box and cat food must be out of reach of the dog
- cell phones, remote controls must be out of reach (young dogs will chew anything!)
- are there any openings in your fence?
- does your gate shut securely – is there a lock? (sometimes gas company workers or telephone repair people will enter your yard and leave the gate open unknown to you)

4. Talk with other dog owners – can they offer any advice? Check out resources online for dog owners about adopting a rescue dog.

