Welcome to pawsitive tails!

We are delighted to have you join us!

**What do foster homes do?**

Foster homes allow our partners to rescue homeless animals from a variety of situations by providing these animals with temporary care and shelter until they are adopted. Foster homes are asked to provide foster animals with plenty of love, adequate food and water, shelter from the elements, and exercise. Administering medication or wound care may also be necessary. In addition to providing the basics, foster homes may also be asked to transport foster animals to veterinary appointments and adoption events.

Foster homes play a crucial role in rehabilitating rescued animals. They are in a unique position to help abused or neglected animals learn how to love and trust again. Foster homes can help these animals become more “adoptable” by providing socialization and basic training. By teaching or re-teaching an animal how to live in a home setting, foster homes help increase the odds for a smooth and successful transition into a permanent adoptive home.

In the case of orphaned baby animals, foster homes provide surrogate parenting and round-the-clock care for tiny animals that are too young to survive on their own. By providing orphaned animals with plenty of nutrition, love, and stimulation during their first eight weeks of life, foster homes help ensure their health and survival as adults.

What do foster homes do? Any way you look at it, foster homes save lives.



What are the requirements for becoming a foster home?

 Our rescue is always looking for more foster homes. The only general requirements are that you love animals and have the time and resources to provide a foster animal with adequate care. Foster parents also take dogs/puppies to their vet appointments for illness, vaccines or surgery. We ask that foster parents bring their foster dog to adoption events. Other requirements will vary depending upon the specific needs of a given foster animal. Some animals, for example, will need fenced yards, extra time commitments (as is the case with orphaned newborns), isolation from personal pets, etc. The rescue organization makes every effort to match foster homes with an appropriate foster animal.

**What kinds of animals need foster care?**

 Animals needing foster care include dogs from a variety of backgrounds. Foster homes are needed for adults, babies, moms with newborns, and orphaned newborns. Foster homes are also needed for animals who are ill and/or need medical care. Many foster homes choose to specialize in fostering a specific kind of animal, while others choose to foster whatever animal is in need.  The choice is yours.

The majority of animals in need of foster care are rescued from shelter environments. Dogs usually need help with basic training and sometimes need a refresher course in house-training. Puppies will not be house broken.  All foster animals will need plenty of love and reassurance that humans are not to be feared.



How long do animals spend in foster care?

 The time an animal needs to spend in foster care ranges from one night to several months. Any time commitment a foster home can make is desperately needed and very much appreciated.

Who do I contact if I have issues with our foster and what method of contact is preferred?

 All brand new fosters are assigned a “foster mentor”. This mentor is a foster who has fostered several times for us, has done several adoptions and has experienced many of the issues that you will face as a new foster. Your foster mentor is there to give you one on one assistance and encouragement, 24 hours a day. These awesome mentors have volunteered to be there for you, every step of the way, to answer all of your questions. If you need additional assistance, or have a medical issue with your foster, please let your foster know and contact either Devona or Crystal. Facebook messenger is the easiest way, so if you haven’t “friended” us on Facebook yet, please do so. Devona Young or Crystal Paugh Tucker. You can also call or text. Devona 785-250-1011, is in Topeka. Crystal 913-626-0950, is in Olathe.



At what age do the animals get spayed or neutered and where?
 Your foster will be spayed or neutered as soon as we can get them in to the vet, if they are over 8 weeks old. We schedule surgery, and then will let you know your surgery date. If you are fostering a young litter of puppies, they will be fixed between 8-9 weeks. We will let you know their surgery date as soon as it is scheduled. We use four different vets for this, depending on location, availability and need. These places are:

Ridgeview Animal Hospital 816 N Ridgeview Road, Olathe, KS 66061 (913) 780-0078

Drop off time is 7:30-9am and pick up is 4-5:30pm

Dearborn Animal Clinic 6100 Johnson Dr, Mission, KS 66202 (913) 722-2800
Drop off time is 8:30-9:30am and pick up is 4-6pm

Spay & Neuter Kansas City 1116 E. 59th Street, Kansas City, MO 64110 (816) 353-0940

Drop off is 7:30am and pick up is before 4pm

Great Plains Vet Care Center 5428 Antioch Dr, Mission, KS 66202 (913) 742-7310

Drop off is 8-9am and pickup is 4-5pm

Will my foster return to me after surgery?
 Your foster will return to you the day of surgery, as we like to monitor them for a night before sending them to their homes. We make every effort to have an adopter for your foster before their surgery date. If your foster has an adopter, we will schedule the adoption to take place the day after their surgery. If your foster does not have an adopter, they will remain with you until they have adopter.

Emergency Info

What constitutes an emergency? An emergency is any situation in which a foster animal’s life is in danger. The following are specific examples of emergency situations.

* Illness – If your foster animal becomes severely ill, please contact Crystal or Devona immediately. Indications of severe illness include lethargy, vomiting and/or diarrhea, or signs that an animal is in pain.
* Trauma – If your foster animal sustains any kind of traumatic injury, please contact Pawsitive Tails as soon as possible. If the injuries are severe and life threatening, please take the foster animal immediately to the nearest veterinarian and notify Crystal or Devona.
* Loss – If your foster animal becomes lost, please contact Pawsitive Tails as soon as possible. They will help you contact local animal control facilities and post on Facebook.

To help ensure the health and safety of your foster dog, the rescue organization asks that you adhere to the guidelines set forth, including the following:

1. Always keep a Pawsitive Tails ID tag attached to a properly fitted collar that will remain on your foster dog at all times. (not necessary for puppies who remain indoors)

2. Keep your foster dog under your control at all times, going outside only on a leash or into a securely fenced area.

3. Let Pawsitive Tails know if you are no longer able to care for your foster dog. Do not give your foster dog to another person or agency without first receiving permission from your Pawsitive Tails.



Who can watch my foster dog

 If a situation arises when you need someone to watch your foster, please let Crystal or Devona know. We will attempt find another approved foster to help. A member of your household that lives with the dog can certainly fill this role provided the dog remains in your home. For all other sitter situations, please contact us prior to the time that you need to be away.

Promoting your foster

 We will promote your foster on our public page, but it’s very helpful to have your help promoting them as well. We ask that you write up a bio for your foster, and include as much information as possible. This can be shared on Kansas City swap pages, and pet sites on Facebook. Craigslist ads are also a wonderful way to find adopters, we have met many wonderful people from Craigslist. Please include something like this in your listing:

 “I am up to date on age appropriate vaccines, dewormed, current on flea/heartworm prevention, spayed/neutered, microchipped and come with a trial offer for 30 days of free health insurance. To meet me, please fill out an application at [www.pawsitivetailskc.org](http://www.pawsitivetailskc.org). Meet and greets are scheduled once an approved app is on file.”

 In addition, Facebook has several wonderful pet pages that you are welcome to use for promoting your foster.

What do I do when my foster has an application?

 Pawsitive Tails promotes our adoptable dogs on Facebook and Craigslist. Our application is very detailed and requires a vet reference and 3 personal references. When we receive an application, we carefully read thru the answers, verify all information, and check the references. If everything checks out, we approve the application.

 Once the application is approved, we send the contact info for the adopter to you, the foster. At that time, we ask that you call the interested adopter. Ask if they have any additional questions about your foster, and ask if they would like to set up a time to meet your foster. Arrange a time and place to meet (please see info on meet and greets), and PLEASE let Devona or Crystal know when this will take place. We need to know when a dog has a scheduled meet and greet, so that we do not continue to tell interested parties that the dog is available. If the meet and greet goes well, and the adopter wants to adopt your foster, the dog will be put on hold for them. We do not require a fee to hold the dog. You will continue to foster until they are available for adoption.

 We do ask that once we give you the contact information for an interested adopter, that you please contact them within 24 hours. Humans are not a patient breed, and many people will look elsewhere when they don’t hear from us in a speedy fashion.



My foster has a meet and greet!

 Yay! A meet and greet! Meet and greets for puppies under 6 months old MUST take place in the fosters’ home. There are no exceptions to this rule. Puppies are not fully vaccinated, and taking them into a public place puts them at a huge risk of contracting a potentially deadly virus. Dogs over 6 months of age may have a meet and greet someplace other than your house, if that is what you wish. We do NOT require foster parents to go out of their way to meet adopters. If you prefer they come to you, that is perfectly acceptable. If you are uncomfortable having them come to your home, please let us know and we can do the meet and greet at Crystal’s or Devona’s, or one of us can arrange to have someone there with you.

 No one knows your foster better than you do! So the meet and greet is your chance to determine if this is an acceptable home for your foster baby. You are welcome to ask questions and to watch how the family interacts with the dog. Our interest is not in getting them adopted quickly, but in making sure that we make the right match and that this will truly be the dog’s forever home. If you have any concerns about the adopter, you do not have to be the one to tell them. Please share those concerns with Crystal and/or Devona, and we will deal with it. We take your concerns very seriously.

 Your foster is up to date on age appropriate vaccines, current on flea/heartworm prevention (we use Advantage Multi), has been wormed, is/or will be spayed or neutered, and is microchipped before going home.

What if the adopter wants two of my puppies?

As a general rule, we do not adopt out littermates to the same home.

There is something called “littermate syndrome” that has been

recognized in puppies from the same litter who are adopted out to live together.

“Anecdotal evidence suggests that behavioral issues may arise during

key development periods because the two puppies’ deep bond impedes their ability to absorb and grasp the nuances of human and canine communication. Since fear is the default reaction to odd or unfamiliar stimuli in dogs, this muddled understanding of the world around them can lead to impaired coping mechanisms later on.”

In short, “littermate syndrome” can lead to behavior problems,

failure to form strong bonds with their people, difficulty with training,

and fighting/aggression later in life.

If you have someone interested in adopting littermates, please refer them to Devona or Crystal. Many factors, including the personality of

the puppies, and the dog experience of the owner are considered when

this is a concern.

My foster is getting adopted!

 If your foster is ready to go home, meaning that they are up to date on vaccines, have been spayed or neutered, and microchipped, they can go home the day of the meet and greet if all goes well, and the home visit has been done. Please check with Devona or Crystal to make sure they are able to be adopted at that time. Here is what to do if your foster is getting adopted:

1. Print a contract. Contracts are found on the Facebook page under “Files”. It is titled “Pawsitiveadoptioncontract”. Please have the adopter fill out completely, including reading and initialing each number. When they are done, please sign your name under theirs.

2. Instruct adopter to make payment by Paypal. Our payment address is info@pawsitivetailskc.org, or they can make payment by clicking the “donate” button on our website.

3. Let adopter know that a copy of the contract, all medical records, surgery instructions (if needed), microchip information, and the offer of insurance trial will all be emailed to them within 24 hours. Please let them know that it does sometimes take up to 24 hours.

4. If you picked up your foster from surgery, and have the microchip tag, please send that home with the adopter. Also send home any remaining pain meds if there are any.
5. Don’t forget to take an adoption pic to share! ☺

Pawsitive Tails works diligently to ensure that our animals are placed in loving homes. Adopters enjoy information about the animals we have available for adoption, so please consider doing a write-up about your foster(s). Include photos and information about your foster animal’s daily life! Amusing anecdotes about his/her quirks, stories about habits, tricks, favorite toys and treats and “action shots” really generate interest amongst prospective adopters.

We recognize that seeing your foster leave can be very emotional, even under the best of circumstances.  Several staff members are also experienced foster volunteers and are always available to offer emotional support to you. You are never alone!

After a foster animal leaves, please be sure to thoroughly clean any items of your own that the animal(s) used to prevent spread of infection from one foster to the next. It’s also important to clean the floor of foster room.

As foster volunteers, you have given the animals you cared for and loved a very special gift, a second chance at a full and wonderful life. YOU have changed a life.





Preparing for your foster(s)!

Before you pick up your foster(s), you will want to prepare your home for its stay. If you have other pets in your household, you must provide a separate room for your foster animal for the safety of all animals involved. No matter how friendly your dog or cat may be, you never know how the new foster will react to your pets. Also, although our shelter animals are examined by our staff when they arrive, they may be harboring an illness that could be contagious to your own animals. We encourage you to keep your foster animals away from your pets. The room you keep your fostered animals in should be free from valuables that may become damaged.  For the safety of the animals, please take the following steps:

• Remove any potentially toxic items (please see chart below)

• Close toilet bowls

• Check for exposed electrical cords

• Remove breakable items that could be knocked off shelves

• Remove small, ingestible items such as rubber bands or pieces of string

Always provide your fostered animals with access to fresh water (bottle-feeding infants excepted).

Make a plan to feed on a consistent schedule, at least twice daily, unless instructed that the animal needs modified feedings.

When fostered animals are not being supervised, we recommend that you crate them to prevent damage and ensure safety. Pawsitive Tails will provide a crate, if necessary, for the animals for the duration of their stay.  Pawsitive Tails will provide all necessary medication, please do not give your foster any medication outside of what is recommended by Pawsitive Tails.  If you desire, food can also be provided. When you pick up your foster animal, a Pawsitive Tails member will go over the specific needs of that animal, instruct you on how to administer medicine (if needed), give you feeding guidelines and answer any other questions that you may have about that animal.

After picking up your new foster, the first thing that you want to do is to bathe them.  Please give them a bath in Original (blue) Dawn dish soap, immediately upon arriving home.  Let the soap sit on the dog for 10 minutes before rinsing to help kill any fleas that the dog may have.  The next day, you will apply the flea/tick preventative that you were given at pick up.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

The following is a checklist of items that you will need to foster a dog or puppy. Pawsitive Tails can provide supplies that you need. If you have some of these, you are welcome to use those as well.

**Checklist:**

* Food and water bowls
* Collar and Leash **(Dogs must be on a leash when outside unless they are in a secure, fenced enclosure.)**
* Food, for puppies, we like Iams puppy. For adults, any quality food will do.
* Chew toys
* Crate or kennel (for keeping dogs safe and out of trouble while you’re away and to help with house-training)
* Dog bed, blankets, or towels to provide your foster dog with a comfortable place to sleep

BEHAVIORAL ISSUES

We do our very best to access and be aware of any behavior issues before placing the dog in your home. It is very common for a dog to experience some behavioral problems and need a period of adjustment when placed into a new environment. Foster homes are in a unique position to help increase the “adoptability” of their foster dogs by providing some basic training. The following is a list of common behavioral problems as well as suggestions for behavior modification.

Lack of House-Training

Chances are your foster dog will need at least a refresher course in house-training. Many rescued dogs have spent most of their lives outside and never learned the rules of living indoors. Other dogs may have once been house-trained, but may still have an accident or two when transitioning into a new home.

The most important element of effective house-training is extensive supervision, to minimize accidents. There will, of course, be times when you are unable to watch the dog constantly. During these times, you can confine the dog to a crate. The crate should be just large enough for the dog to be able to comfortably stand up, turn around, and lie down. Because a dog will try not to soil the area where he sleeps, he will usually not urinate or defecate in a crate.

When the dog is allowed out of the crate, he should be taken outside immediately. If the dog eliminates outside, give him lots of praise. If the dog does not eliminate, it is important that you supervise the dog closely once you re-enter your home. If you catch the dog having an accident in the house, take the dog straight outside and give him a chance to finish eliminating outside. If the dog does eliminate, give him lots of praise.

When house-training a dog, use common sense. Give the dog a chance to eliminate outside following meals and naps. Pay attention to the dog’s behavioral signals. If you observe the dog circling, sniffing the floor, or moving toward the door, take the dog outside.



House-training Don’ts:

\*Do not rub the dog’s nose in it! This method of training has been proven ineffective by trainers and behaviorists. The only message a dog gets from this type of “training” is that you are angry. The dog will likely not learn to eliminate outside and may instead learn to fear you. **We do not support punishing dogs for accidents in the home.**

\*Do not correct the dog after the fact! Again, this method of training has been proven ineffective. Punishing a dog for something she did much earlier will not yield the results you are looking for. Yes, the dog will behave submissively and perhaps look guilty, but this is because the dog knows you are angry, not because she knows that, earlier, she did something wrong. House-training is not a process that happens overnight. **Be patient**. Any progress you can make with your foster dog on house-training will make your life easier and help improve the dog’s chances for successful placement.

Marking

You may have an adult dog that is house broken, but urinates occasionally in the home.  This is called marking.  Dogs who are reproductively intact (unspayed females and unneutered males) are more likely to urine mark than spayed or neutered dogs. In unspayed females, urine marking usually happens more frequently just before and while they’re in heat.  Dogs mark for a variety of reasons, and it is a normal form of communication.  We recommend using a Belly Band to help with marking, or you can use a pair of boys boxers/underwear with a sanitary napkin in them, simply turn the boxers/underwear around so they are backwards and put the dogs’ tail through the hole. A squirt bottle, and a firm NO can also help to stop marking as they learn that behavior is unacceptable.

Chewing

Destructive chewing is a phase that all puppies go through. It usually starts around three months and can last until the dog is one year old. During this time, the dog’s adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps relieve the pain. Adult dogs may also have problems with chewing, but for different reasons. Adult dogs usually chew on inappropriate things because they are anxious or bored, or because they have never been taught what is appropriate to chew on.

The best solution for destructive chewing is providing your foster dog with something that is acceptable to chew on. Have plenty of chew toys available at all times. If you catch the dog chewing on something inappropriate, tell the dog “NO” in a firm (but not angry) voice, and replace the item with something more appropriate.

If the destructive chewing occurs when you are away, consider confining the dog to a crate. A crate will help keep both the dog and your home safe. It is also important to make sure that your foster dog is getting plenty of exercise. A tired dog will sleep, not chew!

**Separation Anxiety**

It is pretty common for foster dogs to experience some separation anxiety when left alone. The severity of the anxiety can range from pacing and whining to much more destructive behavior. A dog may experience separation anxiety simply because he has a very dependent personality, or because she is reacting to a history of abuse or abandonment. Whatever the reason, separation anxiety can be difficult to deal with because you are not around when it happens.

The most common sign that a dog may be suffering from separation anxiety is destructive behavior when left alone. A dog may scratch frantically at the door or make other attempts to get out of the house, or the dog may chew on things or engage in other destructive behaviors.

If you do have the time to work with your foster dog, there are several things you can try to help alleviate separation anxiety. Start out by leaving the dog in your home for very short intervals. Tell the dog to wait and then walk outside for a few minutes before returning. When you return to the house, praise the dog for waiting. Begin to gradually leave the dog for longer and longer periods of time. It is important that, when you leave, you remain calm and not make a big deal out of leaving. It is also important that you not be too excited when you return. You want to praise the dog, but calmly. You don’t want your return to be such an exciting event that the dog anxiously anticipates the moment of your return. Perhaps the most effective treatment for separation anxiety is time. Be patient. As your foster dog spends more time with you, he will begin to feel more secure in knowing that when you leave, you always come back. For more info on separation anxiety, [click here](http://bestfriends.org/Resources/Relieving-Separation-Anxiety/).

Some destructive behavior that appears to be related to separation anxiety may, in fact, be the product of boredom. Try providing chew toys or other play items that will entertain your foster dog while you are away. There are several products on the market that work quite well. One of the more popular toys keeps dogs engaged by making them work for food or treats. Once the toy is filled with some kind of small food item, the dog must work by rolling and tipping the toy until a treat falls out. Most of these products allow you to adjust the level of difficulty, and can keep a dog entertained for significant periods of time.

Don’t forget to make sure that your foster dog gets plenty of exercise. A tired dog is much less likely to engage in behaviors associated with anxiety or boredom.



BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION/SOCIALIZATION

Certain animals may need to be placed into foster care for modification of unwanted behaviors or general socialization. For example, a dog that is so nervous that he is constantly hiding in the back of his cage and refusing to eat will benefit from individualized love and attention in a foster home. Volunteers that take in these special assignments must be prepared for a little extra work. These animals need extra time spent building their trust (sometimes through hand-feeding) and probably, some basic training. These animals will be handled on a case-by-case basis and any specific handling instructions will be relayed to you when the animal is picked up.

HEALTH ISSUES

Because most foster dogs are rescued from shelter environments, it is difficult for rescue partners to ensure that they will always be healthy, despite our best efforts. A dog who appears healthy at the time of rescue could easily begin to show signs of illness several days later. For this reason, it is very important that foster homes keep their own dogs up to date on vaccinations.

While Pawsitive Tails checks animals over to make sure they appear healthy upon arrival, most illnesses have an incubation period between exposure and the onset of symptoms.  Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing what each animal may have been exposed to prior to rescue.  Please watch your fosters carefully for any changes in their normal behavior or habits (eating, drinking, energy level, urinating and defecating). If your foster animal shows any of the following symptoms, please call so we can start the appropriate treatment.

• Loss of appetite – Can be normal the first day as foster adjusts to a new home. If your foster is not eating the second day- call that day.

• Diarrhea – If stools are soft but not watery, monitor for two days. If there is no improvement- call the third day. If stools are watery- call that day.

• Blood in stool – call immediately

• Difficulty urinating – call immediately.

• Vomiting – If your foster throws up food two or more times- call that day. If it vomits bile or liquid- call that day. If vomiting is frequent or projectile- call immediately.

• Dehydration – Dehydration is generally associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, pinch the animal’s skin gently just above the shoulder blades. If the skin springs back slowly (takes more than 1 second), it is dehydrated. Call immediately – dehydration can be fatal to animals!

• Sneezing – More than three times a day- call that day

• Runny nose or congested-sounding breathing- call that day. These are often signs of an Upper Respiratory Infection or Kennel Cough (a fancy way to say “cold”).

• Coughing – call that day.

• Hair loss, even in very small patches – call immediately.

• Watery, goopy or red eyes – call that day.

• Itchy/dirty/smelly ears – call that day.

• If your foster animal is on medication but is getting worse or not getting better as expected – call that day. Some animals do not show traditional signs of illness. They may be less active than normal, sleep more than normal, have a loss of appetite, or avoid other animals or people. Please call us if you notice any of these changes.

Common Illnesses in Dogs

The following information is intended to help you better understand and recognize some of the more common illnesses in dogs.

**Canine Distemper**

Canine distemper is a viral disease that is often fatal. Distemper is most commonly seen in puppies 3-6 months old. Early signs resemble a severe cold. The vaccine for canine distemper is considered very effective, at nearly 100% once fully vaccinated, so we thankfully, don’t see a lot of this terrible disease.

Signs & Symptoms: Eye congestion and discharge, loss of appetite, vomiting, weight loss, nasal discharge, sneezing and diarrhea

Treatment: Veterinary care including fluid therapy and antibiotics

Transmission: Very contagious

**Parvovirus**

Parvo is a disease that is most common in puppies and young dogs. It causes the sloughing of the lining of the intestinal tract. Parvovirus can survive in the environment for up to a year. This means that other unvaccinated dogs can become infected with Parvo simply by coming into contact with places where an infected dog has been. A bleach solution, or Accel, is the best way to disinfect areas that may have been contaminated.  If your foster exhibits any symptoms of Parvo, please notify a staff member IMMEDIATELY, as Parvo kills quickly, and hours can make the difference between life and death.  The vaccine for parvovirus is considered very effective, once fully vaccinated.

Signs & Symptoms: Lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, and foul smelling diarrhea (usually bloody)

Treatment: Veterinary care, including fluid therapy and antibiotics

Transmission: Very contagious to other dogs, especially through contact with infected feces or vomit

**“Kennel Cough”**

Kennel cough is a respiratory tract infection that has been linked to several different viral and bacterial causes. Coughing is usually stimulated by physical exertion or by touching the throat area. Kennel cough is self-limiting, usually lasting 1-3 weeks. Antibiotics are often given to prevent secondary infections. Kennel cough is very common in shelters and other boarding facilities. There is a vaccine for bordetella, one of the main agents responsible for causing kennel cough.

Signs & Symptoms: Cough, runny nose and eyes

Treatment: Veterinary care, including antibiotics and cough suppressants

Transmission: Very contagious to other dogs

**Ear Mites**

Ear mites are tiny parasites that live in the ear canal.

Signs & Symptoms: Itching, scratching, head shaking, dark brown discharge in the ears

Treatment: Veterinary care, including an injection or ear drops

Transmission: Contagious to other dogs and cats, but usually requires direct contact with the infected animal

**Ringworm**

Ringworm is a fungus related to athlete’s foot; it’s not actually a worm.

Signs & Symptoms: Irregularly shaped areas of fur loss; the skin of the areas will usually appear rough and scaly

Treatment: Veterinary care, including an injection and/or topical treatment

Transmission: Very contagious to other dogs, cats and people, but usually requires direct contact with the infected animal

**Fleas**

When a foster dog arrives at your house, it’s almost a certainty that they will have fleas. Please bathe all new dogs in Dawn dishsoap, the BLUE kind. The soap must sit on them for 10 minutes to kill adult fleas. Apply the supplied flea and tick medicine the next day.

Fleas are tiny insects that feed on the blood of dogs, cats, humans and other animals. Although each flea only consumes a small drop of blood, fleas usually attack in large numbers.

Signs & Symptoms: Intense itching and scratching

Treatment: Veterinary care, including an injection and/or topical treatment

**Round, Tape, and Hook Worms**

Worms affect a dog’s digestive system. They are most commonly seen in puppies and young dogs. Almost all puppies come with worms, it’s very likely you will get a foster who has worms.

Signs & Symptoms: Large belly, diarrhea, and an inability to gain weight

Treatment: Veterinary care, including de-worming medication

Transmission: Contagious to other dogs and cats, but only through contact with (and subsequent ingestion of) feces. Your own dog is not in danger unless they eat the stool.

If worms are seen (they often resemble spaghetti or rice) in the stool, vomit or around the anus, call the Crystal or Devona. All animals that come in are dewormed immediately if they are over 4 weeks old; however, it is common for puppies to have worms and they need to be dewormed multiple times. After we determine what type of worms your foster has, we can give you the medication to administer at your home.

**Ticks**

Ticks carry diseases and must be monitored for. If you notice a tick engorged in your animal (it will feel like a small, soft bump), wrap a piece of tissue or toilet paper around it, pinch it firmly as close to the animal’s skin as you can and slowly pull out the body and head. If the body breaks off, the tick will die. Don’t worry if the head is left in the body- the animal’s body will push it out on its own eventually. If you are able to pull out the entire body, the tick will still be alive. Dispose of it in the toilet. Do not squeeze it or it will pop and you could risk exposure to disease from the blood. There will be a scab on the animal for a week or two. You can put a little antibiotic ointment on it.



Cleaning Procedures

It is important that all items and areas used by a sick foster animal be cleaned thoroughly. You can use a 10% bleach solution to reliably kill most viruses and bacteria. Items to be cleaned should be thoroughly wetted with the bleach solution and allowed to stand for several minutes before rinsing. Color-Safe bleach does not disinfect like regular bleach.  Foster homes that have recently fostered a dog or puppy with Parvo or another extremely contagious disease may be asked to wait several months before fostering another unvaccinated dog or puppy.

Routine Veterinary Care

Pawsitive Tails will provide foster dogs with routine veterinary care prior to placement in permanent adoptive homes. Crystal and Devona will inform you of all vet care your foster will receive and when, as it varies from dog to dog.

FIRST AID EMERGENCY CARE

An animal’s health can deteriorate rapidly. If you discover that your foster is in a very weak condition, here are the things you should immediately do while waiting for medical attention:

·        Check body temperature. Animals should be warm, not hot or cold to the touch. Warm up a cold animal gradually with a hot water bottle or heating pad. Cool off your foster by placing ice water in a hot water bottle or giving the animal a tepid bath.

·        Seek immediate medical attention. Refer to the front of this manual for the correct phone numbers for assistance. Remember: Do NOT take the animal to your veterinarian! We cannot reimburse you. We have veterinarians that we work with and will instruct you on what you should do in case of illness or injury.

In the unfortunate event that a foster animal passes away at your home, please call and inform us. We require that the body be brought to our shelter for proper disposal. Death generally occurs because of one of the following: congenital defects, low birth weight, diseases resulting from inadequate diet fed to the mother, infectious diseases, lack of antibodies from mother, severe intestinal parasites or other causes.

**Please understand that death is an unfortunate possibility when fostering animals, especially infants. Usually, the circumstances are unavoidable. REMEMBER THAT IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!  Also remember that you gave that animal every opportunity to survive and gave them love when they needed it most.**

Your fosters’ spay/neuter surgery

It is likely that your foster will need to be spayed/neutered while in your care.  We will let you know the details of this date/time.  Please withhold food beginning at midnight the day of surgery.  They may have small drinks of water, but no food.

After surgery, they may be sore or groggy.  This is normal, as this is a major surgery.  There will be an incision on the abdomen for females and in the scrotal area for males.  It is important to try to keep them calm for the next 7 days, in order to prevent complications.  Have them refrain from running, jumping, climbing stairs or any exercise other than leash walks for the next week.  We know this can be difficult, and a crate is very helpful at this time.  Please keep them indoors except to use the bathroom, to prevent infection and allow healing.

You can offer water and a small meal when the foster returns home.  If he/she vomits, remove the food and water until the next morning.  If there is no vomiting, you may offer another small meal an hour or so later.  This is especially important for the young ones and little ones, as they need to eat more often.

Please prevent your foster from licking/chewing at his incision.  Please let us know asap if this is a problem.  A baby onesie may be used, or we can get you a cone collar if this is a problem.

Please monitor suture area daily.  If you notice fluid draining, bleeding, excessive swelling or an open incision, please contact one of us immediately.

No bathing your foster for at least 7 days.  We do not want soap and water to get inside of the incision or to irritate the site.  Water can also make the stitches dissolve before their job is done.

Your foster was given a shot that lasts 24 hours for pain relief.  If you notice additional signs of pain, such as panting, whining, and unwillingness to sit, lay down or walk, lack of appetite, etc, please notify us immediately.  DO NOT ever give aspirin, Tylenol, Advil/ibuprofen or any other human pain medicine, as these can be deadly to dogs.

*Because of you…*

*By Arlene Pace*

Once I was a lonely dog, just looking for a home.
I had no place to go, No one to call my own.
I wandered up and down the streets, in rain in heat and snow.
I ate whatever I could find, I was always on the go.
My skin would itch, my feet were sore, my body ached with pain.
And no one stopped to give a pat, or to gently say my name.
I never saw a loving glance, I was always on the run.
Some people thought that hurting me was really lots of fun.

And then one day I heard a voice, so gentle, kind and sweet,
And arms so soft reached down to me, and took me off my feet.
"No one again will ever hurt you again, was whispered in my ear."
"You'll have a home to call your own, where you will know no fear."
"You will be dry, you will be warm, you'll have enough to eat."
"And rest assured that when you sleep, your dreams will all be sweet."
I was afraid I must admit, I've lived so long in fear.
I can't remember when I let, a human come so near.

And as she tended to my wounds, and bathed and brushed my fur
She told me about the rescue village, and what it meant to her.
She said, "We are a circle, a line that never ends."
"And in the center there is you, protected by new friends."
"And all around you are the ones that check the pounds,
And those that share their home with you, after you've been found."
"And all the other folk who are searching near and far.
"To find the perfect home for you, where you can be a star."

She said, "There is a family, that's waiting patiently,
and pretty soon we'll find them, just you wait and see."
"And then they'll join our circle, they'll help to make it grow,
so there'll be room for more like you, who have no place to go."
I waited very patiently, the days they came and went.
Today's the day I thought, my family will be sent.
Then just when I began to think it wasn't meant to be,
there were people standing there just gazing down at me.

I knew them in a heartbeat, I could tell they felt it too.
They said, "We have been waiting for a special dog like you."
Now every night I say a prayer to all the gods that be.
"Thank you for the life I live and all you've given me.
But most of all protect the dogs, in the pound and on the street.
And send a rescue person to lift them off their feet."

Thank YOU for choosing to foster with Pawsitive Tails! You are choosing to save a life, whether it be one life, or many. A life will be better, because of YOU.