

# Mentor Form for Adult Dog Fosters

Mentee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check each item below to indicate it has been introduced and/or practiced as appropriate.** After in-shelter training session, please complete this form and return it to the Foster Coordinator.

## Skills/Talking Points

\_\_\_\_\_ Know where in the shelter you can find the essential supplies for your foster dog

- Properly fitted martingale collar (2 finger rule)
- EZ-walk harness
- Toys – especially for high energy dogs (Kong, Nylabone, etc.)
- Crate – always have a crate or somewhere that you can safely leave the dog when not supervised

\_\_\_\_\_ Discuss behaviors observed in the shelter environment vs. home environment

\_\_\_\_\_ Have a plan for introducing the foster dog to current dog(s) in home

- Know your dog's play style
- Slow introduction/monitor body language
- Long walk with current dog(s)
- Leave leash on until comfortable
- Limit free access to toys/bones
- Have plan for keeping separate if need be (crate, separate rooms, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Always keep dog separate from cats or other small animal(s) in the home – cats and small animals should have an escape route and safe place to relax

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand that some dogs take longer to decompress when transitioning from shelter to home

- Have plan to burn off nervous energy
- Give them space and time to relax
- Don't overstimulate

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand separation anxiety and how to manage and/or work on the behavior

- Is aware of the benefits of crate training/use and how to develop a positive relationship
- Protect your personal belongings – don't leave a fearful dog loose in your home alone

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand how to work with jumpy/mouthy/high energy dogs

- Basic training skill set (sit, stay, down, look, touch, recall)
- Have helpful tools (Kongs, laser pointer, metal leash, play nose games)
- Don't overstimulate/use timeouts
- Practice taking at least one jumpy/mouthy/high energy dog out of the kennel for walking/play time

\_\_\_\_\_ Discuss how to work with fearful dogs

- Slow and steady
- Build trust
- Recognize body language
- Work on introducing dog to new people and situations

- Watch exits! Fearful dogs can be flight risks
- Practice taking at least one fearful dog out of the kennel for walking/play time

\_\_\_\_\_ Knows what to do with a leash reactive dog if out on walks (e.g., get attention/treats, turn and avoid conflicts/engage-disengage game, etc.)

- Practice these skills with at least one shelter dog

\_\_\_\_\_ Is aware of resource guarding and has skill set to manage and/or work on issue

- Remove the resource (toys, food, etc.) especially if other animals are around
- Trade resource for treats/praise (practice this technique with at least 1 shelter dog)
- Safety first! training vs. provoking (don't 'test' food guarding by sticking hand in dog's food bowl)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is aware of techniques to separate dogs if involved in conflict (own pets or as on walks)

\_\_\_\_\_ Know that you're not alone and there are resources to help – don't be afraid to ask!!!

- Foster coordinator
- Behavioral staff or other behavioral support
- Adult dog foster mentor
- The shelter's Facebook volunteer/foster group

\_\_\_\_\_ Understanding of procedures for adopting from foster care and the proper way to introducing foster dog to potential adopters and other pet(s) in the home

- What to do when more than one adopter wants to meet the dog
- Where to meet (shelter may not be the best place to show the dog)
- How to talk about the foster with potential adopters

\_\_\_\_\_ Knows what to do in case of emergency and have phone numbers programmed into your phone

- Always have your foster dog's shelter ID # with you!
- Foster coordinator- call \_\_\_\_\_
- Medical emergency - call \_\_\_\_\_
- Bite report – call \_\_\_\_\_
- Lost dog – call \_\_\_\_\_

## Feedback

In your opinion, does this conditional adult dog foster:

1) Listen to input/follow advice and show good independent problem solving skills? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Ask questions when he/she seems confused? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Follow all safety procedures and guidelines? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Understand that he/she needs to observe behavior? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Need another mentoring session? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, why: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Handle walking big, energetic dogs well? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Other comments or concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_