

LIFE-SAVING

# FOSTER CARE

GUIDE



Charleston Animal Society  
Since 1874  
Leadership. Tradition. Excellence.

NO KILL.  
NO HARM.  
NO MORE.™

# DEAR FOSTER FAMILY,

First and foremost, THANK YOU! You are about to embark on a life-saving adventure that you'll never forget and become a hero to your foster animal! Our foster program exists to give young animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick, or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal. Since the program's inception, our foster families have saved thousands of dogs and cats that would otherwise have been euthanized without this amazing resource.

In this manual, you will find guidance and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal's stay.

## **Types of Animals That Need Foster Homes**

- Puppies or kittens too young to be adopted
- Abused dogs or cats that need socialization and love
- Injured dogs or cats recovering from surgery
- Sick dogs or cats
- An abandoned mother with a litter of kittens or puppies
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded

If the requirements included in the following section do not work well with your current schedule, please let us know. We can help you find a foster situation that will work best for you!

Sincerely,

Charleston Animal Society  
Foster Team





# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## Introduction

Types of Animals.....	6
Foster Requirements.....	6

## Get Ready ..... 8

Do I have the space? .....	
Preparing the Room .....	

## Get Set..... 9

Where do Foster Animals Stay? .....	
Cats .....	
Dogs .....	
Puppies.....	

## Go! Animal Care Guide

### Neonate Feeding

Type of Food .....	10
Feeding Etiquette .....	10
Weaning .....	11
Amount of Food .....	11
Cleaning Equipment .....	11
Example of Neonate Puppy Daily Weight & Feeding Record.....	12

### Puppy Development

Puppy Expectations & Care by Age .....	
Additional Feeding Considerations.....	

### Fostering Moms

Bringing Mom Home.....	13
Socialization .....	13
Mom & Her Puppies .....	14
Problem Issues with Mom Dogs.....	14

### Basic Training Tips

Mouthing .....	
Housetraining.....	
Crate Training .....	
Toys.....	
Socialization .....	
Training: Positive Reinforcement .....	
Additional Reference Books.....	

## Maintaining Foster Health

Diarrhea.....	
Parasites.....	
Vomiting .....	
Eye Discharge.....	
Ear Mites .....	
Fleas .....	
Ringworm .....	
Mange.....	
Upper Respiratory Infection .....	
Parvovirus.....	
Distemper.....	
Fading Puppies .....	

## Veterinary Care

Routine Veterinary Care .....	19
Scheduling Rechecks.....	20
Vaccines.....	20

## The Finishing Line!

Spay/Neuter Surgery .....	21
The Day of Surgery .....	21

## Ready for Adoption

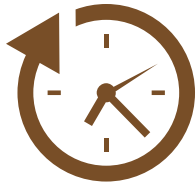
How do Pets in Foster Get Adopted? .....	22
Can't be an Adoption Ambassador or Operation Whiskers Foster Parent? ...	23
Can Foster Parents Adopt Their Foster? ....	23

## Emergency Health Sheet ..... 24





# ARE YOU A FOSTER CANDIDATE



## TIME

Are you able to devote the require time daily and weekly to your foster animal (see chart below)? YES NO

Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccinations and wellness exams every 1-2 weeks? YES NO

Are you able to contact CAS or bring foster animals to the emergency care facility quickly in an emergency? YES NO

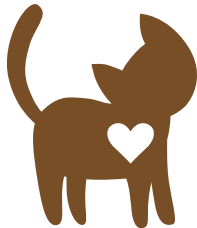


## SPACE

Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets for at least two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow for proper adjustment period? YES NO

Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning / disinfecting the kittens' quarters routinely? YES NO

Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals? YES NO



## CARE

Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal? YES NO

Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over? YES NO

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals / family? YES NO

## Time Commitments & Responsibilities

TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Sick / Injured Cats	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Weaned Puppies	1-3 weeks	3-6 hours
Sick / Injured Dogs	1 week-2 months	2-3 hours
Neonate Puppies	6-8 weeks	8 hours
Mom with Puppies	2-8 weeks	3 hours





Everything you will need to care for you foster will be provided free of charge.

Check below for further tips on how to properly set up your new fosters environment.

## Cats

- Indoors only (do not let your foster cat/kitten outdoors).
- A large crate or separate room (bathroom or large closet) is best.

## Dogs

- Dogs should be kept indoors in a crate when unattended or a separate room/office.
- Dogs should be on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in a private secure fenced in area. Recommended fence height is six feet.
- Foster dog/puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks.
  - Dog parks can be extremely dangerous environments; there are no lifeguards or professionals at a dog park when conflicts arise
  - Not every dog is safe
  - While dogs are social animals, they are individuals and do not like every dog they meet
  - Dogs have a variety of play styles and these play styles can be conflicting and instigate fights

## Puppies

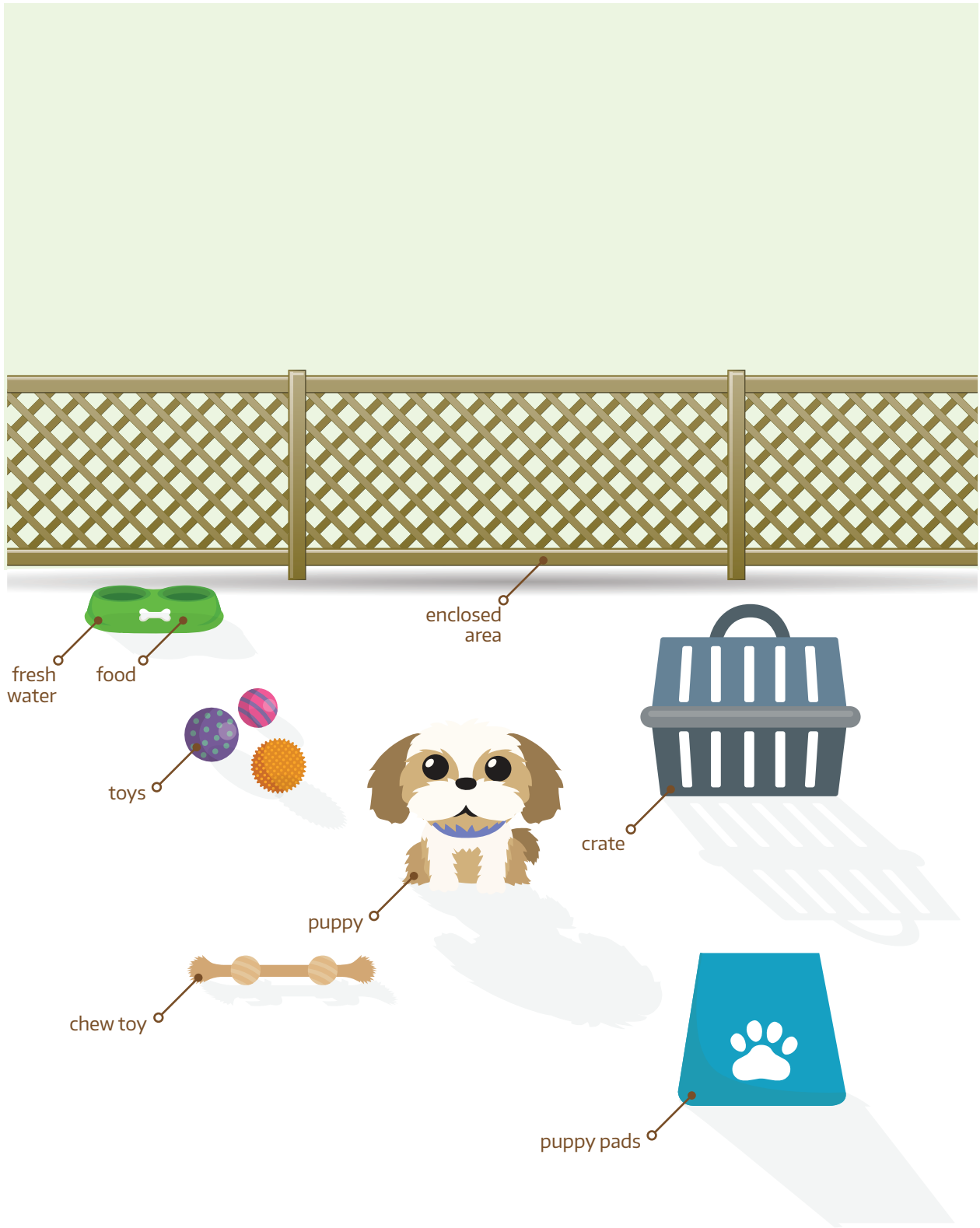
- Indoors – kitchen or bathroom. Baby gate or corral provided upon request.
- Puppies should be around humans for socialization purposes and should not be isolated.
- Puppies should be kept in a crate at all time when not under supervision. Crates are provided.
- Outdoors – only if supervised by an adult. Puppies younger than 5 months should NEVER go to off-leash areas because they are not fully vaccinated.
- Puppies should not be exposed to other dogs or places frequented by other dogs due to the risk of diseases such as parvovirus.

### TIPS & TAILS

Household Poisonous Plants include Lilies, Sago Palms, Corn Plant, Aloe Plant, and Asparagus Fern.

Supervise your foster animal when around children and other animals.







## Puppy Development

In the first two weeks of life, puppies are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision is still not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to a nursery area. Puppies should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first 1-3 weeks of life puppies do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. Gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the puppy's genital area and anus. This should be done before or after feeding.

Keeping the puppies clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your puppy has food, urine, or feces on him or her gently wipe the puppy down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the puppy well afterwards so they do not become chilled.

### TIPS & TAILS

**Bathe your foster with Dawn® Dish Detergent Original Formula. Be sure to dry your puppy after their bath using a towel or blow dryer.**

**Puppies are chewers! Be sure to remove all electrical cords and small objects.**





## Puppy Expectations & Care by Age

WEEKS	FEEDING	DEVELOPMENT
<b>0-1</b>	Bottle feed ½ tablespoon of formula every 2-3 hours, overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours. If there is a Mom dog, make sure that all puppies are nursing. Puppies can nurse from Mom for up to 45 minutes at a time. A lot of crying or activity could indicate a problem with Mom's milk supply.	At one week of age, the puppies should be handled minimally. Puppies will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the other 10%.  Puppies should be kept in a warm environment as chilling is the number one danger to newborn puppies.
<b>1-2</b>	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until puppies' bellies are full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 3-4 hours.	Healthy puppies should be round and warm. When you pick up a puppy they should wiggle energetically and healthy puppies seldomly cry.  The puppy's ear canal should open between 5 and 8 days. Eyes will open between 8 and 14 days.
<b>2-3</b>	Bottle feed formula every 3-4 hours, until their bellies are full but not bloated.	Puppies begin to crawl around and should be almost standing. They will begin to play with each other, biting ears, tails and paws before their teeth come in. They should be teething at this period.
<b>3-4</b>	Bottle feed formula every 4 hours until the puppies are full but not bloated. Puppies may start to lap from a bowl.	Puppies begin to see well and their eyes begin to look and function like adult dog eyes.  Puppies will start cleaning themselves. If they have a mother, she will continue to do most of the serious cleaning.  At three weeks, puppies are in their canine socialization period. If they have siblings allow them to play at will.
<b>4-5</b>	Bottle feed as needed to keep puppies from crying with hunger.  Puppies usually can drink and eat from a saucer by 4 weeks. Weaning should be done gradually. (See Weaning description in Puppy Care section.)	Begin housebreaking at four weeks of age. This can be done by using training pad or taking the puppy to an outside secure fenced in area of your home. After each feeding, place the puppy on the pad/outside for him or her to go the bathroom. Be patient! He or she may not remember to do this every time.
<b>5-6</b>	Feed gruel 4 times a day. Thicken the gruel gradually by reducing the amount of water mixed with it. Introduce dry food and water. If you are fostering a litter with their mother, continue weaning.  For reluctant eaters, try mixing puppy formula into the gruel.	At about 5 weeks, puppies can start to roam around the room, under supervision. The strongest, most curious puppy will figure out how to get out of the nest and the others will quickly follow.  Be sure to allow the puppies to have different types of toys around so they may explore and become familiar with a variety of surfaces and textures.
<b>6-7</b>	By this age, puppies should be eating dry food well. Feed the puppies at least three meals a day. Puppies may not eat much at a single sitting, they usually like to eat a frequent intervals throughout the day.	By this time, you will have "mini-dogs". They are able to wash themselves and play games with each other and you.  Some puppies may be food possessive, you may need to use a second dish and leave plenty of food out. Do not use adverse or punishing correction techniques. Be sure to take the puppies to their pads or outside after feeding, during play sessions, and after naps. These are the usual time that puppies need to eliminate.
<b>7-8</b>	Offer dry food 3-4 times a day. Leave a bowl of water down for them to drink at will.  Do not feed the puppies table scraps.	Continue playing and socializing with the puppies. You can even begin training such as sit, down, roll over and come when called
<b>8+</b>	Offer dry food 3 times a day. Leave down a bowl of water for them to drink at will.	By this time, the puppies should be ready for spay/neuter surgery and adoption.





## Type of Food

Never give a neonate puppy anything other than their specified formula! (No cow's milk!)

Puppies who are less than three to four weeks old are fed a combination of liquid or powder formula. After a feeding, unused liquid formula can be stored for up to three days in the refrigerator or frozen for future feedings. Frozen formula will last for 6 months.

The powder formula must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions: one part powder into two parts warm water (as it can cause diarrhea or constipation if not done correctly). When mixing do not use a blender. Any reconstituted powder formula can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

## Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles!
- Feed puppies one at a time. Place them on a countertop and allow them to feed with four paws on the counter and with a level head. This simulates how they would nurse from a mom.
- Do not feed a puppy while she is on her back. This can cause formula to go down the wrong way and end up in the lungs.
- Gently open the puppy's mouth with your finger and place the nipple on the tongue.
- Stroking puppy can help them to eat.
- Pull lightly on the bottle. This promotes strong sucking.
- Tilt the bottle up slightly. This prevents the puppy from inhaling too much air.
- Do not squeeze the bottle to force formula into the puppy's mouth. This can cause formula to move into the lungs.
- After feeding, burp your puppy by gently massaging her back.
- Be sure to stimulate the puppy after or before feeding. Stimulate them with a warm cloth if necessary.
- Fill out the Daily Weight and Feeding Record.

## TIPS & TAILS

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**To warm nursing bottles, fill a coffee mug half way with hot water and place the bottle of formula into mug. After a minute or two, test formula by sprinkling a few drops on the back of your hand. Formula should be warm to the touch, but not hot.**

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## Weaning

Weaning can occur at 4 to 5 weeks and should be conducted gradually. Create a gruel by mixing moistened dry food with water or canned food. Introduce them to solid food by offering warmed can food, mixed with a small amount of water into gruel, in a shallow dish. Begin by placing puppy to the side of the plate, he or she should start to eat, it may take a few tries for puppies to understand. If they are not interested, wait a few hours and then try again. After they have accepted the gruel, gradually thicken it by adding less water. Begin to also offer dry food on a free feeding basis.

If the mother is present she will usually begin weaning the puppies by discouraging them from nursing; however, some dogs will allow the nursing until the puppies are old enough for spay/neuter surgery. Some nursing activity is the canine equivalent of thumb-sucking, that is, for comfort only. Even if the puppies appear to be nursing, they may not be getting all of the nutrition they need from mom. Make sure the puppies are eating food and gaining weight.

## Amount of Food

Overfeeding is a dangerous as underfeeding. Feed puppies until they are full but not bloated.

## Cleaning Equipment

Keeping the puppies' nursing bottles and supplies clean is vital as this will prevent diarrhea, vomiting, or infection. Cleaning the bottles and nursing nipples is quite easy. Using hot, soapy water clean the bottle with a bottle brush. If you do not have a bottle brush you may wash the bottle and nursing nipple in the dishwasher. You may place them in the silverware rack or in a dishwasher basket.

## Additional Feeding Considerations

The digestive systems of puppies are fragile. Do not offer puppies treats. Only feed them the food provided by the Foster Coordinator.

If puppies are fighting over food, start to feed them separately. Contact the Foster Coordinator for support.

Never take food away from a puppy that is growling. Simply remove the other puppies and wait for the food bowl to be unattended.



### Example of Neonate Puppy Daily Weight and Feeding Record

NAME/ID	PUPPY 1	PUPPY 2	PUPPY 3	PUPPY 4	PUPPY 5	PUPPY 6
Date						
Weight						
Attitude						
<b>FEEDING 1</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 2</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 3</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 4</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 5</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
<b>FEEDING 6</b>						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						

**NOTES:**

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**In some cases, moms are fostered together with her litter. There are a few things to keep in mind for this type of foster situation. Moms require a calm setting that has privacy and minimal activity. Stress can cause moms to stop taking care of their puppies.**

### **Bringing Mom Home**

You will need a separate space for a mom with her litter. When you first bring them home, leave them alone in their new space. The separate area may be referred to as a whelping box or nesting area. Mom will need some time, up to a few days, to adjust to her new space. Be sure to offer mom fresh food, water and a clean nesting area.

### **Socialization**

Even adult dogs need socialization; however, proceed slowly with any adult dog that you do not know. Create situations for socialization but let her come to you. Stop the session if you notice any negative signs, such as swishing tail, ears laid back, head jerk towards you, tensing up, moving away, or growling. It is always best to move slowly and use caution when reaching into the nesting area.



## Mom and Her Puppies

For the first few weeks, mom will do everything necessary to take care of her puppies. Puppies start nursing very soon after birth. Mom will also groom her puppies. It's best to leave the mom alone for the first two weeks except to feed and to go outside for potty breaks.

## Possible Issues with Mom Dogs

**Maternal neglect** – In some cases, about 8% of the time, puppies die from poor maternal care. There are a few causes of this. Some dogs lack maternal instincts and, in other cases, it is nature's way of handling sick or weak puppies. Environmental stress is an important factor, which is why it is important to create a calm environment for mom and the litter. Foster parents should watch for signs of maternal neglect. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice the mom avoids feeding and grooming her puppies and ignores their cries.

**Maternal Aggression** – As mom protects her puppies, it is common for her to be aggressive towards humans or other animals. Do not try to introduce your household pets to your foster mom as this adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe, call the Foster Coordinator.





## Mouthing

- Puppies are born with instincts to bite. One of the most important things they learn, as a puppy, is how to control the strength of their bite.
- Puppies naturally train each other how to bite. When one puppy bites another too hard, the other puppy yelps loudly and stops playing.
- As a foster parent, you can play this role. Any time a puppy mouths with too much force, yelp loudly. If the puppy stops biting, then praise him/her lavishly. If the puppy continues biting, turn your back on the puppy and walk away. After ten seconds or so, resume play happily.
- Remember: Mouthing is important! A puppy who is never allowed to mouth will grow up to have a hard bite.
- Never scold, tap on the nose, or yell no at a puppy who is biting. Bite inhibition is a crucial development for puppies. A puppy who is punished for biting can turn into an adult with unsafe jaws (because they do not know their jaw strength). Simply yell “ouch” when a puppy bites too hard.





## Housetraining

We always want to set our puppies up for success, and doing so in the house training process is essential! Puppies should have frequent breaks and be taken outside to the same spot to relieve themselves every 30 – 60 minutes when active (when waking up from a nap, after drinking or eating, and after a play session). A puppy can hold his/her bladder one hour for each month of age (i.e.: 2 months = 2 hours, 3 months = 3 hours).

### Remember these five steps to successful house training:

1. Prevent accidents
2. Reward going to the bathroom
3. Anticipate bathroom needs
4. Interrupt accidents and avoid punishing
5. Clean up accidents with enzyme cleaner

**Pee Pads:** For Puppies Five Weeks and under: place puppies on pee pads immediately after waking up, after eating, and about once an hour. Praise the puppy enthusiastically every time he/she urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently, as puppies tend to chew on pee pads.

## Crate Training

House training and crate training go hand in hand. A crate can be a great tool to use for your puppy, but it can also be misused. The crate should be big enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and stretch out; we will make sure you go home with the correct size, but your puppy may grow. Please let us know if you need a larger crate.

Your foster puppy/dog should have a short term confinement area, such as the crate, and a long term confinement area, such as an x-pen or baby gated section of the house or room.

If you are beginning to crate train, feed your puppy in the crate, provide stuffed chew toys only in the crate, and/or play crate games to build a positive association with the crate. Keep sessions short and fun, and have your puppy in the crate for short periods of time when you are home.

Never use a crate as a form of punishment for your foster puppy or dog.

### TIPS & TAILS

After your dog eliminates plan an extra few minutes to play with your puppy. Dogs quickly learn to hold their bladder if they immediately go inside after they relieve themselves.


**TIPS & TAILS**
**Runaway Foster**

If your foster escapes or runs away contact the Foster Coordinators immediately. You may also contact animal control for your area.

If your foster dog gets loose while on a walk don't chase, simply lay on the ground and calmly call their name.

If your foster cat escapes the home place a blanket that smells like the cat/home and litter box outside of the home.

Be sure to have your foster's collar and tags on at all times. If you did not receive your fosters tags at pick up, call the Foster Coordinators.

**Toys**

Having toys available for your puppy is vital for their mental health and development. A selection of toys is best such as plush squeak toys, rope toys, stuffed Kongs, and teething toys.

**Socialization**

From 3 weeks to 3 months, puppies are biologically primed to learn that new sights, sounds, smells, objects, environments, and people are fun and safe. This is the most crucial and sensitive period in a puppy's life.

Socialization is not simply exposing a puppy to a variety of people, places, and things, but using positive proactive socialization training. Each new person the puppy meets should be a wonderful experience with treats and toys. Take things slow if your puppy seems fearful of the new person, place, or thing.

**Training: Positive Reinforcement**

As a foster parent, there will be many situations for you to train your animal. Charleston Animal Society only promotes training using positive reinforcement. Decades of research and scientific study concludes that Positive Reinforcement training is the most humane and effective method of training.

**Do not scold or punish bad behavior.**

- When an unwanted behavior is offered/performed re-direct the puppy with a kissy noise or toy. Praise and reward the puppy for stopping the undesired behavior and giving you attention.
- Punishment can instill fear, which can lead to aggressive behavior.
- Praise and reward good behavior.
- When a behavior is immediately followed by a positive outcome, that behavior is strengthened.

**Additional Reference Books:**

*Perfect Puppy in 7 Days: How to Start Your Puppy Off Right*  
by Dr. Sophia Yin

*Puppy Start Right: Foundation Training for the Companion Dog*  
by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Debbie Martin



## Socialization Checklist

Socializing your puppy to these items/actions is as easy as touching your puppy's paw and giving a treat, having a man with a hat give a treat as he walks by or saying hello and giving affection.

<b>PEOPLE</b>	
MEN – tall, bearded, variety of ethnicities, younger, older, men with canes/walker, men with hats, etc.	
WOMEN – tall, younger, variety of ethnicities, older, with purses, with walker/canes/crutches, etc.	
CHILDREN – behaviorally appropriate - keep puppies on the ground	
<b>BEHAVIORS</b>	
Laughing, talking loudly, walking, jogging, running, etc.	
<b>ITEMS</b>	
Vacuums (turned off), mops, brooms, bicycles, skate boards, tricycles, lawnmowers (turned off), etc.	
<b>SURFACES</b>	
Grass, concrete, stairs, carpet, tile, hardwood, etc.	
<b>HEALTH &amp; GROOMING</b>	
Nail clippers (not used), feet being touched, ears being touched, tail being touched	



Normal Stool



Soft Stool



Diarrhea

## Diarrhea

There are three types of stool: normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, overfeeding and other issues.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can lead to dehydration. If the foster is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not a concern. Feed the foster less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3-4 feedings or contains blood/parasites, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck..

## Parasites

Fosters are dewormed upon intake and at every recheck. Parasites are commonly found in the stool of puppies and kittens. Tapeworms may look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit. If you notice worms, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

## Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously or accompanied with diarrhea. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call the Foster Coordinator right away.

## Eye Discharge

It is normal for animals to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, swollen or closed eyes call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck. You can use a warm, damp towel to wipe the affected eye(s).



### Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind their ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their head. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any these symptoms.

### Fleas

Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical and oral flea prevention are given to fosters over 4 weeks of age. Flea prevention for puppies under 4 weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bedding changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the puppy in a small amount of Dawn® dish soap followed by using a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Be sure to thoroughly dry him/her following a bath. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. If you still notice signs of fleas, call Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

### Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.

### Mange

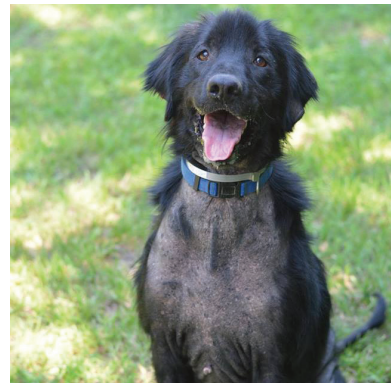
Mange is caused by parasites that infect the skin of animals. Some forms of mange are contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss and sores. If you notice these symptoms, call the Foster Coordinator for treatment.



Ear Mites



Ring Worm



Mange





## Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URI)

URIs are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria. Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.

## Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a deadly and contagious virus that attacks a dog's gastrointestinal tract. Once parvovirus is present in an environment it is difficult to remove. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated feces.

Signs to look for:

- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain and bloating
- Fever
- Low body temperature
- Vomiting
- Severe diarrhea with or without blood

If you notice any of these signs, immediately contact the Foster Coordinator to schedule a recheck.



## Distemper

Distemper is a highly contagious and fatal disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated saliva, blood, or urine.

Signs to look for:

- Severe Upper Respiratory Infection or Pneumonia
- Lethargy
- Neurological signs such as seizure activity, convulsions, and partial or complete paralysis.

## Fading Puppies

Occasionally, a puppy that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and crawling. They will begin to lose weight and may cry continuously. When this happens, they fade quickly and, even with medical intervention, may not survive 48 hours.

There is not understood cause for this condition. Occasionally, puppies die in foster care. If this should occur contact the Foster Coordinators for information concerning the disposition of remains.





## TIPS & TAILS

Questions about your foster's veterinary care? Call 843-329-1543 during business hours and 843-270-9085 for after-hours emergency care

### Routine Veterinary Care

Routine veterinary care is provided by the veterinarians at Charleston Animal Society during normal business hours. The foster coordinator will work directly with the shelter veterinarians to manage the health and well-being of each foster pet or litter. After hours, the foster coordinator will take calls when emergencies arise. In the event of an emergency, the foster coordinator will contact the veterinarian on-call as to how to manage each particular case and, should after-hours treatment be needed, the foster coordinator will instruct the foster parent or family on the appropriate steps to take.

Charleston Animal Society has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is pre-authorized by the Charleston Animal Society veterinary staff.



## Scheduling Rechecks

Foster animal(s) are required to return to the shelter every two weeks for vaccinations, deworming and general exams. You will receive reminders via automatic email through our online scheduling system. All rechecks require an appointment made at the time of pick up.

Recheck times are as followed:

Monday-Saturday from 10 am-4 pm and Sunday 11 am – 3 pm.

If for any reason you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment please contact the Foster Coordinator to reschedule..

## Vaccines

Kittens and puppies receive vaccinations every two weeks from the time they are 4 weeks of age until they are 16 weeks or unless otherwise directed by our veterinarians. Animals 12 weeks and older receive a Rabies vaccine.

Cats & kittens receive FVRCP Vaccine (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia)

Dogs & Puppies receive the DHPP Vaccine (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza).

### TIPS & TAILS

Missed your foster recheck? Need to view your appointment?

Go to [www.charlestonanimalsociety.fullslate.com](http://www.charlestonanimalsociety.fullslate.com)







## The Day of Surgery

- Adult dogs and cats – no breakfast but may have water
- Kittens/puppies – Feed a small breakfast (1-2 tablespoons of canned food) and offer water
- All pets should receive fresh water at all times, even the morning of surgery.
- Drop off time for surgery is 8am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays.

## Spay/Neuter Surgery

During a scheduled visit, the Foster Coordinator or recheck staff may decide to accept the pet or litter back for adoption. If this is the case, surgery may be scheduled that same day or scheduled for a later day. If scheduled for a later day, you will continue foster care and bring the pet in on the morning of the scheduled surgery. Veterinarians use the following guidelines to determine when the foster animal is ready to be returned for surgery:

- Are the puppies/kittens old enough or did they gain enough weight for surgery?
- Are they successfully weaned from their mother?
- Have they been successfully socialized?
- Is your foster healthy and recovered fully from the illness or injury?
- Is there room on the adoption floor?





## CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE SAVED A LIFE!

### How do pets in foster care get adopted?

All foster parents are encouraged to promote the adoption of their foster pet to friends, family, and other potential adopters. Charleston Animal Society's Adoption Ambassador/Operation Whiskers program is for adoptable animals. This is a foster program and has been quite successful! We place dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens that are up for adoption into foster homes. We will then supply you with everything: an adopt me vest, business cards for the dog, food, crate, etc. We will train you on the adoption process, advertise your foster on our facebook and website, and encourage you to take your foster around the community to try to find someone to adopt them. We will even invite you out to our offsite adoption events. If you find someone to adopt the animal you are fostering you will perform the adoption process.

This program allows us to have more space available for new animals entering the shelter, animals adopted out of foster homes are less likely to be returned, and the animal is able to live in a home environment and never has to come back to the shelter! If you are interested in this program contact Courtney Gumienny at [cgumienny@charlestonanimalsociety.org](mailto:cgumienny@charlestonanimalsociety.org) or 843-329-1577.

Please feel free to utilize social media sources to promote the adoption of your foster. Examples would be to make a Facebook page for your foster and to cross-post your foster's story using email and social media.

### TIPS & TAILS

#### Photo Taking Tips

Know your pet

Get on their level

Use the right lighting and setting

Be patient

Have fun and be creative!





## TIPS & TAILS

Make a Facebook page or website to promote your foster.

### Can't be an Adoption Ambassador or Operation Whiskers Foster Parent?

If unable to secure an adopter outside of Charleston Animal Society, the foster parent will bring their pet in for rechecks as scheduled. At each visit, the Foster Coordinator and veterinarian will evaluate the pet or litter's progress and, when fully treated or recovered, will accept the pet or litter back for surgery and adoption.

When your foster is transferred back to the shelter for adoption, we gladly welcome any information such as written stories or pictures (photographs or childrens' drawings) that would describe your foster pet to a potential adopter.

Should you need to discontinue foster care for your foster pet prior to their full recovery, call the foster coordinator to schedule a time to bring the foster pet back to the shelter. The foster team at the Charleston Animal Society will work hard to secure a new foster family for any foster returned.

### Can foster parents adopt their foster animal?

You bet! Foster parents have first choice to adopt their foster pet. Adoption fees will apply.





# HEALTH CHEAT SHEET

NON-EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
<p>Monitor First</p> <p>If worsens: Call the Foster Coordinator at 843-329-1543</p>	<p>Require Immediate Veterinary Attention</p> <p>Business Hours: come straight to shelter</p> <p>After Hours: 843-270-9085</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runny discharge from the eyes or nose</li> <li>• Lack of appetite</li> <li>• Lethargy (lack of energy)</li> <li>• Diarrhea lasting more than 3 or 4 feedings</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Weight loss</li> <li>• Coughing and sneezing</li> <li>• Lack of bowl movements for more than 24-36 hours or straining to urinate/defecate</li> <li>• Swollen eyes or eyes held closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous diarrhea longer than 24-36 hours</li> <li>• Continuous vomiting longer than 12 hours</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Bleeding of any kind (from nose or in urine/ stool)</li> <li>• Any trauma (hit by a car, dropped, limping, unconscious, etc)</li> <li>• Difficult breathing or labored breathing</li> <li>• Dog or cat that is not responsive</li> <li>• Lethargy with or without fever</li> </ul>

## Emergency Care

If you have questions about the health of your foster animal or if an emergency situation should arise **during regular hours of operation, please call 843-329-1543**. If you do not speak to the Foster Coordinators, please come directly to the shelter. Our regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm and 10am-5pm on weekends. If your foster animal has an emergency that occurs **outside of the normal hours of operation, please call the Emergency After-hours phone number at 843-270-9085**. The Foster Coordinator will contact the veterinarian on-call or the Director of Animal Services for a treatment plan. Should after-hours treatment be needed, the Foster Coordinator will instruct the foster family on the appropriate steps to take. **Charleston Animal Society must approve any and all treatments for foster pets.**

- If Charleston Animal Society has not approved any or all treatments to foster pets, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- If the foster parent takes a foster pet to any other veterinary or emergency clinic than the one designated by the Foster Coordinators, the foster parent will be responsible for ALL costs.
- The Charleston Animal Society has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for vet bills for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is pre-authorized by the Charleston Animal Society veterinary staff.



NO KILL.  
NO HARM.  
NO MORE.™



**Foster Care** 843.329.1543  
**After Hours Emergency** 843.270.9085  
**Shelter** 843.747.4849

