



Foster Program FAQ

What kinds of dogs are fostered and why are they fostered?

We will only place dogs that are potentially adoptable into foster homes. They may be fostered because of minor health problems such as kennel cough or because they're recovering from a surgery or an injury. Sometimes we foster dogs because they are having difficulty coping with the kennel environment. In all instances the expectation is that after a reasonable amount of time in foster care, they will be ready to be placed into a permanent adoptive home.

What is the foster parents' responsibility while the dog is in their care?

As foster parents it is your responsibility to provide reasonable and proper care of the dog while it is in your home. They require the basics of water, food, exercise, adequate confinement, and, of course, lots of socialization and love. You may be required to administer medication according to instructions. We supply food, veterinary care, crates, toys and anything else you may need, but if you want to buy those items yourself, you can do that. You will be able to write the cost off as a donation on your taxes.

How long does a dog remain in a foster home?

The length of time a dog is in a foster home can range from a few days to several weeks, depending on the needs of the dog. Most dogs remain in foster homes from 1-2 weeks.

What happens at the end of the foster time?

Dogs will be placed up for adoption. In some cases, we will ask that adoptable dogs remain in their foster homes while waiting to be adopted (if foster parents are able to accommodate this.) We will notify fosters of any scheduled meet-and-greets with potential adopters. We strongly encourage foster parents to give people interested in adopting an adoption application which must be returned to the shelter for the next step in the adoption process. If you are interested in adopting your foster dog, that is an option too!

How do I become a foster parent?

The shelter offers fostering orientations, which are required before you can take home a dog. This also provides a forum for you to ask questions and express your concerns. If you are interested, contact the Foster Representative at 503-316-6698 or email us at MCDSFosterDogs@co.marion.or.us.

Maddie's Pet Assistant App:

We are also Using Maddie's app (MPA). MPA is a smartphone and tablet app that provides support for foster caregivers from the moment they bring foster pet(s) into their temporary homes. Through this app foster caregivers share valuable updates on their foster pet's health and behavior, send questions, comments, submit pet biographies, photos or videos for organization adoption events.