

# OREGON RESCUE

## FOSTER MANUAL



Thank you for your commitment to fostering for Oregon Dog Rescue.  
Fostering saves lives!

**Please communicate with your foster coordinator**

**\*VIA E-MAIL\* unless you have an emergency!**

[foster@oregondogrescue.org](mailto:foster@oregondogrescue.org)

# General Program Info:

Oregon Dog Rescue sends puppies (under 4 months old, seniors, and medically or behaviorally challenged dogs) to foster homes. All adoptable dogs stay at the facility to meet adopters as we are open 7 days a week for adoptions!

We receive dogs and puppies several times a month from high kill shelters as well as daily from local shelters and owners who cannot keep their dog. In 2020, we found homes for 1,714 and are on track to do more in 2021!

At least 3 times each month you will receive an e-mail saying puppies need foster homes. Foster period is generally 1 week in length. Foster dogs are picked up and dropped off at Oregon Dog Rescue in Tualatin, OR. You can choose when to reply to e-mails and when not to—it is first come, first served. Once you agree to taking a puppy please make sure you can commit to that week as we do not have a safe place at our building for young puppies that are not fully vaccinated. If you are unable to care for your foster dog the entire duration, please allow us 24 hours to find a replacement foster.

We do not always know what is coming in, only that we have fosters for “10 puppies” so we commit to 10 puppies. While we try to match you with a particular puppy if you have requests, often times we do not know what is coming until they arrive. If we know ahead of time we will attach a photo or description by email. Preferences of age and size are more than welcome although we are often lacking information prior to the puppy's arrival!

ODR has a facebook group for fosters as well. Please feel free to send a request to join Oregon Dog Rescue Foster Group once you have started fostering. The foster group is aimed at sharing photos with others. Please direct all questions/concerns/etc. directly to the foster team at [foster@oregondogrescue.org](mailto:foster@oregondogrescue.org)

# FAQs:

- 1) ***Where do the puppies come from and what's their history?*** Most of the puppies we take in are strays—we have no history and will not know anything about these puppies.
- 2) ***What veterinary care have they received or will receive upon arrival?*** Most puppies come in having had little in the way of veterinary care. Once they arrive, we vaccinate, microchip, deworm, flea/tick treat and bathe. Fleas/Ticks and Worms can take 24 hours to die; you may see any or all these things on the puppies. If you see them alive after 24 hours we will need to re-treat the puppy. We suggest all dogs in the home be on flea treatment.
- 3) ***Will my foster puppy be healthy?*** Many of the puppies come from over crowded shelters and are exposed to kennel cough prior to arrival. If you hear them coughing/choking or if they have green nose discharge, we need to start them on antibiotics. Kennel cough IS contagious to other dogs—it is like the common cold in humans—some dogs will get it and some dogs will not. We suggest your dog is current on the Bordetella vaccine, HOWEVER, it is like the flu vaccine and cannot cover every strain so if the puppy gets kennel cough your personal dog may as well. We do not treat personal dogs, but it is generally much easier for a well vaccinated and healthy dog to bounce back from kennel cough. Many healthy dogs may never get it. **\*Dogs in the home must be current on all vaccines\***
- 4) ***Where can I safely take my foster puppy?*** We ask that baby puppies do not go for walks in high traffic areas. Having them in your yard or in a friend's yard is completely acceptable. Please do not take them places like dog parks, dog daycares, PetSmart etc...We need to avoid areas where there have been many other dogs with unknown vaccine histories.
- 5) ***Can I take the foster puppy to my vet?*** ALL medical care must be approved by the ODR team prior to taking a dog in to any vet. We will NOT cover any medical or emergency unless you contact us first. We have a vet team on call and can reach them or direct you to our chosen emergency vet 7 days a week! We ask fosters to be available to pick up and drop off puppies when in need of medical care.
- 6) ***What do I need to buy before I bring home my first foster?*** Nothing! We just ask for your time and energy caring for your foster dog. ODR will provide food, bedding, crate, toys, pen etc. for the puppy while in your care. If you need anything additional to what we send home, please ask!
- 7) ***What do I do with my foster when I leave the house?*** Puppies should be crated or left in a pen (if they will not climb out.) Adult fosters should always be crated when left alone in the home.
- 8) ***Do I need to have a fenced yard?*** Not necessarily- we ask that fosters have a securely fenced yard or ability to keep puppy on leash 100% of the time.

# How to Reach Us:

The foster coordinator is available by email throughout the day should you have any questions or concerns; many of the things you see in a foster pup we see every week and can walk you through things!

We ask that all correspondence occurs on email when it is not an emergency:

The foster team can be reached at [FOSTER@OREGONDOGRESCUE.ORG](mailto:FOSTER@OREGONDOGRESCUE.ORG)

In the case of an immediate emergency please call or text  
Dannica; 971-319-1512

There is a cheat sheet on the following page outlining the levels of emergency and the appropriate protocol.

Go to Tualatin Emergency Vet **if the pet is at risk of immediate death.**

\*Please remember, we will NOT reimburse any medical expense that is not pre-authorized.\*

# LEVELS OF EMERGENCY FOR FOSTERS

Please review the information below to determine what type of emergency you have and what to do.



## RED: PHONE CALL TO MEDICAL

medical phone: 503-683-3794

office phone: 503-612-0111

- Lost dog
- Dog bite/broken skin
- Bleeding profusely
- Hit by car or otherwise seriously injured
- Unresponsive
- Ingested dangerous item
- Unable to stand or walk
- Seizure/disoriented/drunk walking/ataxia
- Having trouble breathing



## YELLOW: SEND A TEXT

phone: 971-319-1512

- If you are concerned about your puppy from the hours of 9pm-6am
- OR If you email and do not receive a response within **2 hours**



## GREEN: EMAIL

Email: [Foster@oregondogrescue.org](mailto:Foster@oregondogrescue.org)

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Excessively itchy skin
- Watery/goopy eye(s)
- Dirty/stinky ears
- Broken nail
- Colored/thick nasal discharge
- Incident of aggression
- Hot spot/skin irritation
- Live worms in poop
- Straining to urinate/blood in urine
- Coughing/Hacking
- Cut or wound
- Lethargy/not eating
- Limping

No matter which level of emergency, it is imperative that you be as detailed as possible in your description so that our foster coordinator can best assist you.

## Foster Basics:

- We do not require a fenced yard; however, we do require the dog be always kept on lead outside of the home or securely fenced yard. No dog parks, please.
- Foster dogs are not permitted to travel outside of a 30 minute radius of the rescue in case of emergency.
- We welcome other pets in the home who are spayed/neutered. However, we do ask that you bring all dogs into the facility for a meet and greet if the foster dog is over 6 months to ensure it's a good fit.
- Please remind us if you have any cats if you are taking an adult dog.
- We do ask that you are committed to one organization at a time- as we do not want to cross contaminate puppies with puppies from other shelters. This includes fostering cats and kittens. If you foster for multiple organizations, we ask that there be a two week period between a foster from another organization and an ODR foster.
- All of our requests for foster will be sent out via email and the duration of the foster commitment will be discussed prior to your commitment. Many times, we send puppies into foster care as soon as they arrive at the rescue with the plan of them being made available for adoption after one week. If you have any time limitations, please let us know. Occasionally, puppies will come down with kennel cough and need to remain in foster for the duration of their treatment.
- If you would like to adopt- please let Dannica know by day four of the foster week. We can arrange an adoption prior to when we post puppies to the public. Once puppies are posted to the public, we are no longer able to hold the puppy for the foster.
- We will provide you with all food, bedding, toys, crate, pen, etc. while you have one of our fosters. When you get home we suggest keeping a short and thin leash on any new dog that you take home for 12-24 hours. In case the dog hides behind something or gets out of reach, we find it always safest to grab a leash than to reach for a new/scared dog.
- **Do not for any reason remove your puppy's collar!** ODR will happily provide a new collar if it has become too small or gets destroyed.

# Feeding & Gastric Upset:

- We ask that you keep the dog on the food that we send and contact us if for any reason we need to switch the food. We often hear of dogs not eating the first day or so in their new environment, we suggest adding chicken broth, cottage cheese, wet canned puppy food etc., to encourage the dog to eat. Please feed your foster pup away from any resident pets—we feed our dogs in their crates at the facility and find this works well.
- The foster coordinator will communicate daily feeding instructions for adult foster dogs

## **General Feeding Guidelines for Puppies Under 6 Months**

*(depending on body condition and/or diarrhea)*

3-10 pounds  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1c per day

10-20 pounds  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1.5c per day

20-40 pounds 1.5-2c per day

\*We suggest feeding puppies 3 times per day. If wet food is added to each meal, then decrease kibble amount\*

- Most of the time you will pick up a puppy right after it has arrived at ODR. This means it has been given vaccines, micro-chipped, flea treatment and de-worming medication in addition to the stress of a long trip and new food. This means you should expect some GI issues the first few days!
- We suggest small meals, adding firm up powder to their meals and adding in the Panacur sent with you IF Sydney gives you that go-ahead. Bland meals like white rice and plain chicken can also help diarrhea. Should your puppy have EXTREME liquid stool, vomiting or refuse food or water please contact Sydney for further instructions. These puppies could have been exposed to any number of illnesses prior to arrival so we do monitor closely for things like parvo, giardia and coccidia. All of which we treat at our facility with our staff veterinarian.
- It is normal for puppies to pass dead worms in their stool after a deworming treatment. Let us know ASAP if there are live worms.

# Puppy Basics & Training:

## Puppy Proofing:

Before bringing your puppy home it is a good idea to give your home a once over and look for all the small things that may be very interesting to puppies! Things such as electrical cords, couch corners, blankets and plants are magnets for puppy chewing! Remove any cords that you can and place houseplants up high enough that puppies cannot reach them. It is a good idea to move any breakable items from shelves that may be bumped into by a puppy, as well as pick up any expensive rugs/shoes etc.. Look over your yard- puppies will put anything and everything into their mouths. Small rocks, plants, bark dust will all go into your puppies mouths, so be aware of what is in your yard.

### CRATING: TIPS AND TRICKS!

- Every time your puppy is in the crate make sure they have a nylabone, sterilized bone, filled kong, etc. to make the crate a fun place for them.
- Do not put the crate in a high-traffic or noisy area.
- It should be placed as close as possible to a “people” area, such as a kitchen, family room, etc.
- To provide a greater sense of security and privacy for your puppy, you can place the crate in a corner and/or have the sides and back loosely draped with a sheet, large towel, or light blanket.
- Do not overdo crating. Be sure to crate him for short periods of time when you are home, but do not substitute the crate for interacting with your dog.
- Provide your puppy with a chew toy that he will only get when he goes into his crate.
- In the beginning of the crate-training process to help your puppy adjust to being confined, you can feed him in the crate. Only put his bowl down in the crate once he is quiet and behaving.

## Crate Training:

A crate serves as a safe place to confine your puppy when you must be out of the house for a short period of time. ODR will provide an appropriately sized crate. A little puppy tends to be more comfortable in a smaller crate. Also, a crate that is too large for your young puppy can sabotage housebreaking because the puppy can eliminate in one end of the crate, then move to “higher ground”. Be sure to get your puppy used to his crate while you are home, so he does not begin to associate the crate with being left alone. When he is comfortable being in it, crate him 5-10 minutes before leaving, and take him out 5-10 minutes after you have returned. Always avoid emotional departures, as this could make your puppy nervous. Be calm when you let him out of the crate, and take him right outside. After the puppy empties then celebrate your reunion by doing something fun together.



## **Leash Walking:**

- Many new dogs have not been trained to walk on a leash. To help them learn you may leave a “drag line” attached to the dog’s collar for a day or two to get them used to the leash being attached.
- You may lure them with food or bring another dog along to help them feel more comfortable.
- Please do not take puppies under 12-14 weeks of age on a walk unless approved by ODR staff. Many pups that come in as strays have no vaccine records and we want to make sure they are fully protected before allowing them out on the ground in public places.
- We do not allow any of our foster dogs to go to dog parks, puppy classes, or travel outside of a 30-minute radius from the rescue, etc., but socializing with adult dogs in the home is just fine!

## **House Manners:**

- Your puppy’s first manners at home will be influenced by cause and effect. If he does something that feels good or gets your attention (negative or positive), he’ll do it again! For example, if he can’t find anything around to chew, he might chew the corner of a carpet or a chair. If you provide a bone in a routine location, then a bone will satisfy his teething needs just as well.
- If you get riled when your puppy jumps during greetings, then he’ll learn to jump for the thrill of your dramatic reaction. If you stay calm and encourage him to fetch his ball or roll over for a belly scratch, then he’ll be just as satisfied with those behaviors as well. Get everyone on board and consistently follow these simple guidelines to start training good manners today.

## **Jumping Redirection:**

- All puppies are enthusiastic about their relationships. And like all dogs before them, they want to give everyone a full-fledged respectful greeting that includes face-to-face interaction. The problem is that people’s faces are so far away.
- Further encouraging your puppy to jump is the fact that you spend a large part of your day staring at surfaces your puppy can’t investigate (on countertops and the like) and he must stand on two legs to see! To redirect your puppy’s jumping habits, encourage everyone to do the following:

- Ignore your puppy when he jumps for attention. If the puppy is insistent, let him drag a light leash in the house that you can use for corrections. Discourage anyone from verbal frustrations and pushing, because these reactions excite more jumping, not less.
- Place inviting toys and chews on his level (as opposed to on counters and tables) and discourage counter interest by interrupting him the moment you see him looking up at off-limits surfaces. A sharp quick clap with a discouraging sound can cause him to pause; then refocus him on one of his toys.

### **Instilling good chewing habits:**

- Puppies like to keep busy. If you don't give the puppies things to chew, they'll settle for what they can find. To instill good play and chewing habits, find one or two types of bones and one or two toys that your puppy adores chewing and playing with; then buy multiples. As tempting as it is to buy everything on the rack, having too many different types of things will confuse your puppy into thinking everything on the floor is fair game.
- Choose a word for each object and have everyone repeat the word as they give or play with the object. Whenever your puppy seems bored or is getting restless, direct him to his playthings. If you catch him chewing something unacceptable, distract him from the object or spray it with a bitter spray and direct him to his things.

# Avoidable Puppy Blunders:

## ***Not Starting Basic Training Immediately***

An eight-week-old puppy is completely capable of learning basic obedience commands the moment she walks into your home. Oddly, many people fail to recognize this, thinking that the only training that should occur is housebreaking. Not true! By beginning simple obedience skills such as sit, down, stay, and come, you'll give her a heads up and create a sense of focus and enthusiasm crucial to a well-mannered pet. Start training right away, day one!

## ***Failing to Crate Train***

Dogs are den animals and prefer snug spots in which to eat or rest. A PLASTIC crate takes advantage of the dog's innate desire not to soil its sleeping or eating area. The crate is in fact a great place to feed a puppy; she will be able to eat in peace, away from other pets, children, or other distractions. Choose a plastic crate, which gives a more secure, snug sense than does a wire crate. It should be tall enough for the puppy to stand in, and just long enough to allow her to turn around. Too large, and the puppy might eliminate in the back and lie down in the front. Feed in the crate, and have her sleep in it as well. When you cannot be with her, she should be with someone else, or in the crate. Though she can sleep the night in the crate, it's best not to leave her in it any longer than six hours overnight, or more than four hours straight during the day.

## ***Too Much Independence Too Soon***

Puppies have an unquenchable curiosity about their environment. But if you allow yours to wander your home unsupervised, she will inevitably get into some sort of puppy trouble. Improper elimination, destroyed clothing or shoes, chewed wiring, or even escape can end up ruining your day and perhaps even hurting her. Every "accident" in the house due to lack of supervision sets your house training efforts back. Prevent this by ensuring that your new pup is either with you, in her crate, or within a fenced enclosure. While indoors, try tethering her to your belt loop with a light, six-foot lead; she will accompany you all about the home, yet never be more than six feet away. Only when her house training is reliable should you begin to slowly increase her indoor independence.

### ***Free Feeding***

Leaving food down all day for your puppy to munch on is a mistake. By allowing her to snack all day, you'll reduce the chances of creating a predictable elimination schedule; if she always has food in her system, she will need to go more often. By feeding at specific times, you'll "synchronize" her system, and make house training easier. Also, feeding at precise times creates a stronger food drive in your puppy. Predicting when she is hungry is a training tool; twenty minutes before mealtime, she'll do just about anything for that cookie! Finally, feeding at precise times allows you to know exactly how much food she is eating, so you can keep her trim. Those who free feed puppies never really know how much food gets eaten, because they keep adding to the dish throughout the day.

### ***Pushing a Puppy's Face in Her Mess***

A ten-week-old puppy has no idea what you are teaching her when you shove its nose into stool, other than you seem to get mad whenever that mess appears. This will only teach your pup to fear the presence of the mess, causing her to eliminate in hidden spots, such as a closet. Instead, crate train her properly to avoid the issue. If you catch her in the act, simply clap a few times while saying "AAH-AHH!!" then get her out quickly to the appropriate spot. (Don't forget to treat the area with an odor eliminator.)

### ***Repeating Commands***

Once a puppy knows a behavior, don't repeat the command over and over. By doing so, you are actually training her to sit-sit-sit-sit-sit and not sit. She will literally wait for you to say it five times instead of once. Say it just once then wait a second or two. If she does not sit, you have either not taught the behavior well enough or she is just ignoring you. Gently tell her "no," walk her to a different spot, and ask her again, verbally and with an upward hand sign while holding a treat in your gesturing fingers. When she sits the first time, hand it over!

### ***Scolding After the Fact***

You find a mess in the hallway, and have no idea when it happened. Your puppy comes over wagging her tail, and you yell at her for making the mess. What's wrong with this picture? Plenty. Dogs (especially puppies) have a poor sense of time and will not understand being punished for something that happened an hour ago. All you do is to make her think that you get angry whenever there is waste present. This will make her secretive about eliminating, and throw off her house training. Instead, say nothing to your dog—an accident discovered after the fact is an accident discovered too late. Instead, reduce her independence, use the crate, and thoroughly clean up the mess until she is reliably eliminating outdoors.

### ***Failing to Establish a Routine***

Dogs love routine. Knowing when they will eat, play, walk, and sleep creates a confidence in them that minimizes stress and builds a healthy anticipation. For puppies, it is especially important to establish a reliable schedule for feeding, walking, eliminating, and playing. If this framework of routine gets thrown off, it leads to confusion for the puppy and the ensuing “accidents” and behavioral mishaps can stress everyone out. Especially for the first six months, commit to a solid schedule for your puppy that includes predictable chances to eliminate, eat, nap, play, and train. Whatever schedule you set, sticking to it will inspire confidence in your puppy and make her transition into adulthood easy.

### ***Failing to Puppy Proof the Home***

Shoes, socks, underwear, children's toys—you name it, a puppy on a mission may shred it. Worse yet, exposed wiring, toxic cleaners or solvents, poisonous houseplants, or even human medications can injure or kill a puppy. Many of us forget how inquisitive and scent-driven puppies are and how while teething they need to chew. Puppy proof your home by removing clothes, human toys, TV remotes, and loose objects from puppy's reach. Replace these things with toys and chews designed for pups. Hiding wiring under carpets and placing plants above the puppy's reach is also a good idea.

### ***Exaggerating Greetings and Departures***

Dogs who overreact whenever people come or go from the home often learn this behavior from family members who stage elaborate emotional scenes whenever they depart or arrive. Eventually the dog becomes agitated and vocal whenever the door is used. Instead, whenever you leave your puppy, just leave without fanfare. The same goes for arriving; say nothing for a minute, until the puppy calms a bit. Then greet, focus her with a treat, and praise.

### ***Consoling***

Dogs do not understand human abstractions such as empathy or consolation. Instead, they understand simple action and reaction. If, for instance, your puppy gets scared by a big white dog, she may continue to associate white dogs with danger. Consolation after a scary experience can have the same negatively reinforcing affect on a puppy; if she gets scared, and you pick her up and soothe her, she can literally learn that being scared or nervous gets your emotional and physical praise. This can make for a nervous yet manipulative dog later in life. Instead, when your dog has a scary experience, ensure her immediate safety then redirect her anxiety by giving her a sit command then rewarding her with praise or a treat. Redirecting her away from the frightened mindset instead of consoling her will teach confidence and minimize the chances of the anxious behavior becoming ingrained.

### ***Failing to Socialize***

The first eight weeks of your puppy's social life are covered by her litter mates. Socialization to people and other dogs, particularly within the key eight week to 16 week socialization window, is paramount to raising a happy, well adjusted dog—and, this is key—one that plays well with others. Unfortunately, once puppies come home, they often only see other dogs on walks, or out a car window. This leads to an antisocial mindset and possible dog aggression. The same goes for exposure to people; puppies often only see their immediate family and rarely interact with other humans. To maintain a happy go lucky puppy, invite friends over regularly. Let them play with and train your puppy.

# OREGON DOG RESCUE

## Foster Agreement

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Printed Name:

Date Of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_

*Foster agrees to feed the food provided, give fresh water daily and any other necessary care to maintain a clean living environment as mandated by Oregon Dog Rescue. Foster agrees to **NOT LET THE DOG OFF LEASH UNLESS IN AN ENCLOSED AND SECURED AREA**. Foster agrees to not take fosters to dog parks! Foster parent agrees to incorporate leash training, lots of handling, socializing and basic good manners training. The foster's appearance may not be altered unless directed by ODR. The dog shall not be left unattended outside for any duration of time. All veterinary care or other expenditures must be authorized by Kim (text 503-348-9545) or Deb (call 503-810-1720/503-612-0111) in advance. ANY UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED. The dog must be returned to ODR on the date and time agreed upon and should be bathed if possible prior to return.*

*\*ODR will not be responsible for resident dogs contracting kennel cough or any other communicable disease from an ODR Dog. Please make sure your pets are healthy, altered, and current on vaccines\**

Do you agree to the above terms for any and all future ODR Fosters?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_