



Quick Tips for Foster Safety and Success

- Please follow the **2 Week Shut Down Protocol**.
- Be prepared to keep your foster dog in a crate whenever you cannot directly supervise interaction between the dog and children. Many rescue dogs have not previously interacted with children and it is imperative to take reasonable precautions. Do not allow your child to be overly familiar with your rescue dog until the dog has settled into the family. Please remember that a dog is an animal and not a cuddly toy. Most dogs don't like being hugged or kissed. Hugging in dog language can mean fighting and that is not an expression of affection like it is in human language. Do not allow your child or any child to hug dog, put his face close to dog's face or roughhouse with your foster dog.
- Follow safe dog introduction techniques when introducing your foster dog to your personal dogs or cats. Please reach out to us if you have any questions!
- Dogs do best with structure and very clear rules. Establish a schedule that includes regular meal times, regular potty breaks and regular play/exercise time.
- Feed your foster dog very lightly for the first 12 to 24 hours. Allow free access to fresh water. Don't be alarmed if your foster dog isn't interested in eating during the first day or two. Your dog is adjusting to a new environment and needs time to settle in. You may notice your foster dog has diarrhea. You might try feeding small meals of cooked rice mixed with boiled chicken and/or adding a tablespoon of organic, canned pumpkin to his food to help ease tummy troubles. If diarrhea persists for 48 hours or if you notice blood in the stool, please contact Christine Williams.
- Count on some potty accidents during the first few days with your foster dog. A dog that has been previously house-trained may regress because of the stress associated with transport and transitioning to a new, temporary home. It is not at all obvious to a dog that the bathroom rules in one place apply everywhere else. Teach your foster dog to distinguish between indoors and outdoors by getting him to potty in a designated area and rewarding with treats and praise. With a little patience and training, your dog will soon be fully versed in toilet etiquette. Preventing potty accidents is key so always supervise your dog and use a crate when you can't give your foster dog your full attention.
- Ideally, please keep your foster dog on a short leash at all times (unless crated) for the first few days in your home. Be extra careful not to let your foster dog run out of an open door.
- If you have a fenced yard, please carefully inspect the fence to be sure it is completely secure. Never leave your foster dog unsupervised in your fenced yard.
- We recommend that you use a harness for walks instead of connecting the leash to a collar. If you do use a collar, please use a martingale style collar.
- Keep your foster dog on a leash whenever you are outside your home. Be sure the TRU Rescue Identification Tag is attached to either the collar or harness.