



Potter's Angels Rescue

What to expect when fostering

Potter's Angels Rescue does not have a physical shelter. All of the animals in our care stay in foster homes until they are adopted by their forever family. We can only help as many animals as we have space for in our foster system. Our foster homes are our most valuable volunteers because they are directly involved with saving the lives of the animals that we take on by providing them with a home to stay until they get adopted. Without them we could not save as many animals as we do so we try to make the process as easy on them as possible. Before you consider fostering for PAR you should read through this list of FAQ's to see if fostering is right for you. Thank you for showing interest in PAR's foster program!

How Do I Become a Foster Parent?

If you feel you can help in any way, please fill out a foster application on our website. If you have a specific question about fostering please contact us at info@pottersangelsrescue.org All foster homes are screened in the same way as adoptive homes.

What do foster parents do?

They provide an animal with a loving home until they are adopted. They work on any undesirable traits to make them more adoptable and better prepared for their new homes. Shelter/boarding environments can be very stressful on an animal and many of these animals are being locally surrendered from the only homes they have ever known, adding to the stress of a boarding situation. We ask our fosters to be empathetic and compassionate while providing strict boundaries and guidelines for the animals to adhere to while they are in foster. The foster parent can also provide us with valuable insight into their pet's personality, such as their likes or dislikes to aid us in finding the best possible match for their forever home. Most importantly, foster parents single handedly save precious lives!

If you join our foster program, we will provide you with whatever you need, **at your request** (food, crate, training materials/devices). We also provide any veterinary care that is needed for the foster pet. We will provide you with a phone list of Veterinarians that we use, as well as, the numbers for PAR board members in case you have any questions or need support. We have just begun a private group on Facebook called Friends of Potters Angels dedicated to our foster homes making it easy for everyone to communicate and receive advice or hear about other foster pets and how they are doing. This also comes in very handy in receiving updates from our fosters as the pets progress so we can update the website.

What are my responsibilities when fostering animals?

We ask our fosters to give us weekly updates on their pet's progress so we can match them with good homes accordingly. If you have other animals in your home it is your responsibility to make sure they are up to date on the following vaccinations: bordatella, distemper, and rabies. They should also have flea/tick protection as well as Heartworm preventative. We will not be responsible for your veterinary bills should your own pet get sick from your foster pet due to the lack of these preventative measures.

If you need any of these vaccinations for your animals (aside from rabies which has to be given by a licensed veterinarian) we are happy to provide them to you at cost (\$5 per vaccine/\$10 for flea treatment or heartworm preventative) but it is your responsibility to set this up with one of our board members. If you are fostering pets that are coming in from shelters it is especially important to have both the bordatella (given every 6 months) and the distemper (every 3 years after boosters) vaccinations up to date on your animals. To prevent your pet from getting potential parasites/worms you should pick up each dog's stool immediately. If you follow the above protocol, and your animal still gets sick, contact your PAR representative and we will determine whether or not we can pay for treatment. Do not go to your vet expecting full reimbursement. Many common ailments can be easily treated with meds we have on hand, which we can provide to you for free. We will evaluate each case individually.

It is also your responsibility to let us know if the foster animal is in need of vet care. All vet visits need to be preapproved by one of our board members and brought to one of PAR's vet partners. Many ailments can be treated by us without the cost of a vet visit so we will decide the necessary steps to take after speaking with you. If it is an emergency (such as hit by car, ingested toxins, etc.) you will need to take them to your nearest emergency vet and contact your PAR representative as soon as possible.

There are a few rules that we go by when fostering an animal through PAR. They must be kept on a leash **at all times** when not in a securely fenced area. If they have not yet been altered they should not be around any other intact animals until we have arranged for them to be spayed/neutered. If you have other animals we ask that all introductions be done safely and slowly- You can refer to our training material on the website, which includes proper dog to dog introductions. In fact, we like our foster homes to look through all of our training material provided so they can better understand dog behavior and how to work with specific issues if necessary. Your animal(s) should NEVER be left unattended with your new foster pet without giving the proper amount of time to get acquainted (at least 2 weeks if not more in certain cases). We ask that you have prepared either a separate room or crate for your foster dog to stay in while you are away to keep all animals safe.

Basic care of your foster animal.

Most animals adjust to the foster home without major difficulties, but there are a few common things that you should be prepared for. Be sensitive to the stress caused to the animal by being moved from the only home they have ever known or surviving the chaos of a shelter. These animals have been through a lot and what they may need is some quiet time left alone to adjust to their new surroundings. Avoid feeling sorry for or spoiling your new animal with lots of attention or treats- this can be overwhelming to certain animals. Do not bring the animal around to visit with your family or friends as soon as you get them- they need time to adjust and feel comfortable with you. If you have any specific questions or concerns, call your PAR representative and they will gladly provide you with support and guidance.

Sometimes, the stress of the move/change of food will cause the animal to have diarrhea. This does not necessarily mean they are sick. This may last for the first few days; if it persists you should contact your PAR rep. for advice. Keep all stools picked up and use bleach to clean soiled areas. Even fully housetrained animals will sometimes have accidents in the house for the first day or so due to the change in environment, so you should expect this and work with it if needed.

If you notice that your foster pet has signs of illness, you should contact your PAR rep. right away so we can assess the situation. We have meds on hand for most of the common ailments that we sometimes see so don't rush the dog to the vets expecting to be reimbursed. Many times a vet visit is an

unnecessary expense and we ask that you allow us the opportunity to assess the situation PRIOR to bringing them in.

How long will I keep a pet?

It's impossible to predict how long an animal will be in foster care. It can range anywhere from 1 week-6 months. If you cannot commit to this kind of unpredictable long-term care, you may be interested in being on standby as our foster homes take vacations or volunteering in some other way. We expect our adopters to not give up on their pets, so we expect the same from our foster parents. Besides moving the animal around more than needed will only cause unnecessary stress and confusion to the animal.

If you join our foster team, we will match you with a suitable pet to foster. For example, if you work full time, you would not be a good candidate for a puppy that needs a lot of training and attention or an animal that has separation issues. If you have a male dog that does not do well with other males, we will not place any males into your home. We will work with you to match you with an appropriate foster pet to avoid having to move them more than once.

What if my foster animal isn't working out?

PAR will make every effort to ensure a good and safe foster match. However, there are times when this will fail. In this case contact your PAR representative as soon as possible. If the issues are minor, PAR will work with you to address them. Many times, problems can be solved by trying something different and/or giving the animal time to adjust to your home. PAR will always move the animal if the issue can't be resolved, but we ask that you give us 24 hours to make a plan. If that is not possible, we will make emergency arrangements. PAR never wants to put the safety of foster people, their animals or the foster animal into jeopardy.

What if I become attached?

Getting attached to your foster pet is normal. After all, we do this because we love pets!! The most common reason given for people choosing not to foster is that they would get too attached and letting go of them would be too hard. It is hard to say goodbye to a pet that we have loved and taken care of, but the alternative is even sadder. Animals face a fate every day that they have no control over, which is, their last day to live because there is no more room in the shelter. When you look at it this way it seems kind of petty not to save an animal's life because you are worried about getting your feelings hurt for they have much more laying on the line of your decision. The first three dogs that I fostered I cried like a baby when they went on to their forever home, but they got to live and let me tell you those tears were well worth their lives- now I receive updates and am so thrilled for them and very proud of what I did for them. And trust me it does get easier as you go along. And remember, as an adopter you can save one animal's life, but as a foster you can save dozens.

However, if you do decide you can't give up an animal, that's ok too. Foster parents can go through the adoption process and pay the adoption fee just like any other adopter, nonetheless, we require that you let us know that you are considering adoption as soon as possible and have made a commitment within the first two weeks to prevent us from disappointing potential adopters. The important thing for you to consider is what is in the animal's best interest. Sometimes, even if we love them, the best thing for the pet is to let them go.

Can I search for a home for my foster pet?

YES! The more active you are in getting your pet seen the sooner they will move into their new home. Anyone interested in adopting the pet will still need to go through the adoption process. You can make up flyers, do posts on Facebook, create videos of them--get creative! We do ask that you not make

Craigslist posts. If you would like to write up a description of your foster and mail it with some photos to info@pottersangelsrescue.org, Michelle will then post them. This will cut down on the confusion of having multiple "first responders" to potential adopters. If someone responds to any of your posts you can direct them to our website at www.pottersangelsrescue.org to submit an adoption application. If you know them personally, have them use you as one of their references.

What if I have to leave town?

Please notify us ahead of time so we can try to make temporary arrangements for your foster animal to go elsewhere while you are gone.

Can I take my foster dog to the dog park or a family gathering?

After giving the dog two weeks to adjust to your home and the new environment, you can begin taking them out to visit. However, the dog MUST have a very friendly temperament with other dogs to be a good candidate for a dog park so we ask that you first speak with us BEFORE you bring the dog out to socialize. Depending on the dog's history, they may need less or more time to adjust before being brought around a bunch of strangers so we ask (for the safety of everyone involved) that you speak with your PAR representative BEFORE taking them out to visit with new people or animals.

Can I rename my foster animal?

I know it is fun to pick out names and in certain cases you can, however, if we have already assigned a name to the animal going into your care, we ask you to stick with that one to avoid confusion amongst us and potential adopters. If you have any questions about this, contact your primary PAR representative.

Am I expected to buy supplies for my foster animal?

Purchases made for fosters are considered donations to Potter's Angels Rescue and are tax-deductible. Keep your receipts and we will be happy to issue you a tax donation receipt. If you want to be reimbursed for a purchase, you must get prior approval from your PAR representative.

Do I have to use a crate with my foster dog?

Unless the dog is terrified of being crated, we highly recommend it. You can refer to the training material on our website if you are not familiar with the proper use of a crate for a dog and how to train them to using it. We cannot guarantee that the dog will be housebroken or won't chew your items while unattended. PAR cannot be responsible for damage done by a dog left unattended and uncrated. We also STRONGLY recommend that the foster dog be separated from your animals when you are not around to avoid possible injury to either animal and sometimes using a crate is the only way to do so in certain homes. You may find that your dog does not need the crate when left alone, but make that decision after you have done some test runs and have gotten to know the dog's personality.

Do you do "foster to adopt" situations?

In most cases, we do not do foster to adopt. If someone is interested in adopting one of our animals, they should proceed with the adoption process to avoid losing their chance at adopting them. We understand that people may want to get to know the animal before they commit to adopting, however, that is why we have a (flexible) two week period after adopting in which they can return the animal to us and receive a full refund. We do not want anyone to feel like they are "stuck" with one of our animals just because they have paid the fee for them. If the animal is not working out with them, we just ask that they bring it to our attention ASAP so we can decide whether they want to work on the issues or return the animal at that point.

My friend is interested in adopting my foster dog. Can I let them take the dog for an overnight?

Possibly BUT this has to **FIRST** be approved through your PAR representative and your friend will need

to fill out and sign a foster contract **BEFORE** they can take the animal with them.

Adoption Process

Your foster pet will remain on the website, as a PAR rep. accepts applications and conducts phone interviews. Once we have an adequately screened adopter that is a good fit, we will call you and put you directly in touch with the adopter. At this point, we ask that you and the potential adopter make arrangements for a meeting. Because each adoption is different, your PAR rep. will discuss the details of the adoption with you before you call the potential adopter. If you have any concerns about the adopter we have chosen, freely discuss them with your PAR rep. It is important to us that you feel comfortable with the adopter we have chosen. Once we have found the perfect adoptive home for your pet, we will often set up the final adoption through our foster homes and have them handle the final paperwork. We ask that you please read our adoption policies so you can get familiar with our process- You can always call your PAR rep if you have any questions.

Finalizing the Adoption

The adoption contract should be filled out and signed by the adopter. You should go over the contract with the adopter to make sure they have read everything and agreed to everything in the contract. The adoption fee is due at the time of the adoption without exception. You will keep the adoption contract and fee which we will pick up or have you mail to us. The medical records will be mailed to the adopters once the adoption is finalized and we have received their contract and fee. You should speak with your PAR rep. ahead of time to find out what has been done with the animal so you can provide this information to the adopters when they arrive to adopt. You should also direct the adopters to our website to take advantage of the training material that we provide, as well as, instructions on how to register their animal's microchip which they will need to do once they have adopted.

Follow-Up

A few days to a week after the adoption, you will want to follow up with the adopter to see how things are going. Adopters are usually happy to get a call and may want some additional advice. Remind the adopter that they should contact PAR if there are any problems or issues they wish to discuss in the future.