



DOG & PUPPIES FOSTER MANUAL

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL: If you have a medical emergency please call during business hours at 260-744-0454.

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WELCOME

Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to dogs and/or puppies in need. Whether you foster puppies who need some time to grow, or an adult dog who needs a little extra TLC, you are making it possible for us to provide the very best care for dogs and puppies that find their way to our shelter.

Fostering is a messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly could not provide the level of care necessary without valuable fosters like you.

HUMANE FORT WAYNE FOSTER TEAM

Kris Brandt, Foster Manager

Dr. Sam Gamble, Veterinarian

Vicki Swanson, Foster Assistant

Barbara Wanley, Vet Technician

Chelsea Haire, Feline Animal Care Specialist

FREQUENTLY ASKED FOSTER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What do fosters need to provide?

- A healthy and safe environment
- Transportation to and from shelter appointments (typically every 2 weeks)
- A willingness to follow specific protocols and instructions to teach dogs and puppies about positive relationships

Can I foster if I work full time?

Yes! We will match you with foster animals who are a good fit for your schedule.

How many dogs/puppies will I foster?

We like to have at least two puppies fostered together so they can socialize with and learn from each other. There are times when larger litters come in or moms with babies. We will normally only have our fosters take one adult dog at a time.

How long will I have my foster dog/puppy?

Puppies need to be fostered until they are at least 8 weeks old and are healthy before they are returned for their spay/neuter surgery and are ready for adoption. Foster times vary with adult dogs. We will have a rough idea of a time-frame upon pick up of your foster.

Will I need to give medicine to my dog/puppy?

We do our best to ensure that we are sending healthy dogs and puppies out to foster, however, most illnesses have incubation periods, meaning that symptoms may not start until you have them in your home. There may be times when you are asked to give medicine to your foster dog/puppy. This will be explained and demonstrated by staff if needed.

Can my foster dog/puppies meet my personal pets?

We strongly recommend that you slowly introduce your foster to your owned pets. We do suggest that you consult with your vet to ensure that your animals are current on their vaccines. Humane Fort Wayne is not responsible for and cannot provide medical care for your personal pets.

Where do all of the dogs/puppies come from?

We partner with Animal Care & Control to intake dogs/puppies. Some are surrendered by their families who can no longer care for them. We also partner with HSUS and ASCPA who transport dogs/puppies from southern states.

What if something comes up and I have to go out of town?

If there is a change in your plans, please reach out to us right away. We will work with you on making alternative arrangements for your fosters. You cannot leave your fosters with anyone that is not an approved foster with Humane Fort Wayne.

What if a behavior problem arises or a foster bites me?

If you have any worries about your foster, contact us right away so we can assist you. If you are bitten and the skin breaks contact us within 24 hours of the bite. The law requires that we must report all bites. The tooth of the animal, not the nails, must have broken the skin for it to be a bite.

Will any of my foster dogs/puppies die?

Sadly, a small percentage of puppies do not survive even with the loving care they receive in your foster home. This may be the hardest thing about fostering. Please keep in mind that without foster homes, most of these puppies would not have stood a chance of survival.

What if I want to adopt one of my foster dogs/puppies or know someone who does?

That is wonderful! We encourage our fosters to find adopters for their foster animals. We just need a completed and approved adoption application from the potential adopter, which can be found at HumaneFW.org. Please contact a member of the foster team and give us the name of

the adopter so we can mark the dog/puppy's file accordingly. We cannot hold an animal for anyone, including the foster, once it is on our website.

APPOINTMENTS

During the time you are fostering, you will need to make a few appointments, to pick up and drop off your foster pet(s), bringing them in for vaccines, and finally for spay/neuter. Please schedule your appointments in advance. If you are unable to keep an appointment, please notify the foster department to reschedule. Humane Fort Wayne provides all medical care for foster animals through our shelter staff. We are ultimately responsible for your foster's well-being. Our staff must authorize any and all treatment. Humane Fort Wayne is not responsible for the payment of any medical care if a foster takes them to a veterinarian without prior authorization. Humane Fort Wayne is not responsible for any sickness or illness of owned pets.

FACEBOOK FOSTER GROUP

Humane Fort Wayne has a Foster page on Facebook. This page is to share photos and information with all the current fosters. It is not intended to be used as a forum for immediate concerns about your foster. Please do not send staff members messages through Facebook.

FOSTER SUPPLIES

Each foster will receive a foster kit containing each of the items listed below. When supplies run low you may refill at the shelter.

- Dog/Puppy Foster Manual: There is a ton of information in this manual. Please make sure to read it carefully and always reach out to our shelter foster staff with any questions and/or concerns.
- Dry dog/puppy food: Make sure that you offering food based on the size and age of your foster. The foster team will go over this with you.
- Wet dog/puppy food: If needed to help entice your foster to eat, you can add some canned wet food.
- Crate/Ex-pen: Crates and exercise pens can be sent home with you. It is best to keep them confined when you are not able to watch them closely for safety purposes.
- Poop bags: Please be sure to clean up after your dog/puppy if you are outside of your home.
- Towels: Extra towels can be used to put down in the crates or on the floors.
- Blankets: Can be used to place on the floor of the crate and/or draped over the crate for additional comfort for the dog/puppy.
- Variety of toys: Puppies love to play. Offering a wide variety of toys can keep the puppies engaged and also teaches them to play with appropriate toys as opposed to human hands and fingers. An appropriately sized Kong which can be stuffed with treats or peanut butter. These can be frozen for a more challenging activity.
- Two bowls: One for food and one for water
- Puppy pads: For puppies only, which can be put down on the floor to help with messes.
- Scale: Please weigh your puppies daily to ensure they are gaining weight. If they are not gaining weight, please reach out to the shelter staff.
- Snuggle Safe Disc: Place this disc in the microwave for approximately 5 minutes and it will stay warm for roughly 5-8 hours. Please make sure it is not too hot for the puppies.

PREPARING YOUR FOSTER SPACE

When you take your foster dog/puppy home, they may be frightened or unsure about what is going on, so it is important not to overwhelm them. We request that all foster dogs be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not suitable housing for a foster dog.

Prepare a special area for the foster dog to help their adjustment into their new home. Sometimes it is better to confine the foster dog to a small room at first to let them adjust before giving them free reign of your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate and also allow the dog enough room to access their food and water bowls, and toys. Using an x-pen or baby gate may help make this possible.

Never leave your foster dog unattended in your home with children or personal pets. During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster dog, so that they are only meeting immediate family and your personal pets (if old enough). If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster a quiet space of their own where they can stay while getting used to all of the new sounds and smells.

Foster dogs ALWAYS need to be on a leash or inside a secure fence or exercise pen. NEVER let your foster off leash or leave them outside unattended. Here are some tips to dog proof your home:

- Make sure that all the trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet.
- Keep the toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off counter tops.
- Move house plants or secure them. Dogs may like to play with them, dig in the dirt, and/or knock them over. Some house plants are poisonous to dogs.
- Remove medications, lotions and cosmetics out of the reach of your foster.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach.
- Pick up clothing items that may be chewed on by your foster.

CARING FOR YOUR DOG/PUPPIES

Basic Needs and Handling: All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified. Humane FW uses Hill's Science Diet dog food and you will be sent home with the food your foster has been eating.

Transporting: When you are transporting your foster, please keep them secured inside your vehicle. Your foster cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup or truck.

Out in public: Your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks, other off-leash areas, or visit with unknown dogs unless approved by the foster team. We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to make sure that all animals are safe at all times. We also don't know if other dogs they encounter are vaccinated appropriately or are carry diseases, so it is best if your foster dog does not meet any unknown dogs. Having come from a shelter setting, foster dogs can be vulnerable health-wise.

Health monitoring: Look your foster dog over daily for any changes or potential problems. A thriving dog will be bright and playful with a good appetite and normal stool. If you notice diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite, lethargy or any other concerns regarding your dog's health, reach out to the foster team.

Handle puppies with care: It is important to handle puppies daily so they become accustomed to it. Picking up and holding puppies several times a day while gently petting them can encourage affectionate behavior. Touch puppies all over their bodies (ears, tails, feet, etc.) to help them learn that handling is a good experience. Pay close attention to the puppy's body language and if you are seeing signs of discomfort, stop and try again at a different time. NEVER scruff a puppy!!

Weighing your foster puppies: You will be provided with a scale to weigh your young puppies. Keep track of the weights as that will be the easiest way to ensure that your puppies are growing. If a puppy is losing weight, reach out to the foster team as soon as possible.

Introductions with your dogs: You will want to introduce them to your foster dog one at a time and supervise their interactions. It is a good idea to introduce them outside in a large yard or on a walk, keeping all the dogs on leash and allowing them enough space to get adjusted to one another. If possible, it works best to schedule a time for your personal dogs to meet the foster dog before you take the foster dog home. We are able to help accommodate this at the shelter. In addition, make sure that high-value items, (food, chew toys, plush toys, Kongs, rawhides, or anything else that your owned dog holds in high regard) are put away whenever the dogs are interacting. You don't want to allow for the possibility of a fight. Finally, NEVER feed your dog in the same room as the foster dog; always separate them at feeding time.

Introducing children: Since we don't always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and be respectful around the foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your living situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog. Key things to remind your children:

- Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing or sleeping.
- Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating, or startled when sleeping.
- Dog not take items away from the foster dog.
- Do not tease the foster dog.
- Don't chase the foster dog around the house, or make sudden movements.
- Pick up all toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the children.
- Do not hug, climb on, or lay on the foster dog.
- Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog as they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to hold encounters with other dogs or animals who cross their path.

Introducing your cat: We can't ensure that a foster dog has been "cat tested", so if you have personal cats, you will need to make the introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely. Start by keeping them separated at first. You can either keep your cat in a separate room, or confine the foster dog to a room. Over a 1- to 2-week period, let the dog and cat smell each other through the door, but don't allow them to have contact with one another. Exchanging blankets or towels between the dog's area and the cat's area will help them get used to each other's. After a couple of weeks, do a slow introduction. Keep the foster dog on a leash, allow the cat out in the same area. If you have more than one cat, introduce one cat at a time. Allow the cat to choose whether they want to meet the dog. If not, that is okay. Do not allow the foster dog to charge or run directly up to the cat. Try to distract the dog as best you can so that the cat has the chance to approach without fear. interaction if either pet becomes over-stimulated, fearful or aggressive. Never leave your foster dog unsupervised with any cats in your home.

Introducing new people: When introducing your foster dog to new people monitor all interactions to ensure that they are positive, not scary experiences for the dog. Have new people toss treats towards the dog at first. Allow the dog to approach the person giving the dog room to back away if he/she is not comfortable. Only if the dog seems comfortable should the new person try petting the dog.

Introducing a new environment: It will help the dog adjust into the foster's home if you can allow disinfected and away from your owned pets. Whenever you introduce the dog to a new space, space with their favorite things. Keep the exploratory sessions brief so that you don't overwhelm the dog and return them to their living space if they do seem overwhelmed or scared.

New noises: It is beneficial to expose dogs to a variety of normal household noises but, again, try to do it in a positive way. The key is to introduce different noises gradually. For example, start by keeping a radio on low volume and gradually increase the volume over a few days. Another example would be to run the vacuum in another room with the dog at a safe distance. Then, over the course of a few days, move the vacuum noise closer to their room.

Crate training: We highly recommend crate training to help foster dogs feel safe and secure. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have “down time” and can also limit their access to the entire house. Crates can also be an effective component of potty training. When crate training remember the following:

Always make the crate a positive place and never use the crate as a punishment. Giving dogs interactive toys such as food dispensing toys can help occupy their time while in the crate. Acclimate slowly. Use lots of yummy treats to have the dog look forward to going in the crate. Crates are not intended for your dog to spend long extended periods of time in. Sometimes covering half the crate helps the dog feel more relaxed. If the dog panics in the crate, reach out to the foster team immediately, such as barking without subsiding, digging to get out, chewing the bars, panting/drooling.

House training: it is unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house trained when you take him/her home. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets use to your schedule. Take the dog outside to potty several times a day, to the same potty area and keep them on a leash (even if you have a fenced yard) to help keep them focused. Prime times for potty breaks are: right after waking up; after eating or drinking; after playing; right before sleeping. Most dogs will give cues such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles, which indicates they need to go out. Immediately after they potty, verbally praise the dog and offer a treat. Block off areas of your home and keep the dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise them indoors. If your foster has an accident inside the house DON'T discipline or punish them. This will only teach them to fear and mistrust you.

Chewing: Destructive chewing is a phase that most puppies go through. It usually starts around 3 months and can last until the dog is around 1 year old. During this time, the dog's adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps relieve the pain. Adult dogs usually chew on inappropriate things because they are anxious or bored, or they have never been taught what is appropriate items to chew on. The best solution for destructive chewing is providing your foster dog with something that is acceptable to chew on. Alternate chew toys daily and do not leave the toys out all the time. Blocking off areas of your home and making sure you “dog proof” those areas helps set up the dog for success.

Mental stimulation and exercise: Keeping your foster dog mentally and physically happy is very important. Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he/she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day. You can also offer your foster a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide the treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get them out. Try a variety of toys such as balls, squeaky toys, rope toys, to see which ones your foster prefers.

Grooming: Bathing is very stressful for dogs and is only necessary if they have fleas and are too young for preventative, or if they are extremely dirty from feces, mud, or any other filth. If you do need to bathe, keep soap and water away from the nose, eyes and ears and be sure to keep them warm afterwards---especially young puppies as they cannot regulate their body temperature and are at great risk of becoming dangerously cold when wet. If you need to trim the foster's nails, you may gently hold their paws to help prepare them for having their nails clipped. Pairing this with a treat is always a good idea to create a positive experience. Pay close attention to the dog's body language and if you are seeing signs of discomfort, stop and reach out to the foster team for further advice. Brushing can be a big benefit for your foster, especially if it has longer hair. Having treats available is very beneficial to help the foster associate that grooming is a positive experience. Please do not attempt to cut your foster dog's hair, or take them to a groomer without prior approval from the foster team.

Training: Positive reinforcement training. Humane Fort Wayne requires that our foster families only use positive training methods when working with your foster. This includes using highly desired treats, praise and toys. These help you bond with your fostered while creating a fun and fear free experience. Keep training sessions short and positive. NEVER use any aversive training methods, such as choke collars, prong collars, electric shock collar, squirt bottles or physical punishment. If you are struggling with unwanted behaviors, please reach out to the foster team.

Behavior challenges: One of our goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. We ask that you help your foster to develop good habits and skills through the use of positive reinforcement training which builds a bond of trust between you and your foster. The basic idea is to reward desirable behaviors and ignore unwanted behaviors. **Don't punish a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because punishment is ineffective at eliminating the behavior.** If the foster is doing something undesirable, distract him/her before the behavior occurs. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dog, which will help them learn faster.

When interacting with your foster, refrain from wrestling or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and "play bite" on your body. Also, try to refrain from inviting dogs up on the couch or bed. Not all potential adopters find this behavior acceptable. Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we are aware of. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her particular issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog. If you have behavior issues that arise (leash pulling, barking, jumping, aggression) with your foster, please reach out to the foster team. If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the foster team to discuss the issue. We will guide you and help in every way that we can. If the behavior is one that you are not comfortable with or do not want to work through, the foster can always return to the shelter.

If the foster is displaying any of the following behaviors, please let us know right away:

- Darting away from/avoiding humans;
- Excessive hiding;
- Growling;
- Snarling;
- Biting.

Loose Dog: Sometimes despite our best intentions, a foster will get loose. Please try not to panic and try the following tips: If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of the more social fosters may come right to you, but very often even social dogs get frightened once they are loose. You may be more successful in calling them to get their attention and then walking the opposite direction and/or kneeling down. Reaching out for a scared dog will often cause them to bolt and can even result in a bite, so please use caution and only reach for the dog if you can safely do so. If the dog is in an area that is secured, but is so scared that they are growling at you, please reach out to the foster team so we can guide you. If the dog is already in a flat out run and is panicked, they may not respond to you at all. Try following them from a distance so that you can see the direction they are going and can hopefully catch up to them once they have slowed down. If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to make sure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you. We understand every circumstance is different and that luring the dog to you may not be possible, please reach out to the foster team if this is the case.

Bites: If the foster bites any person or animal (including you) we need to know right away! If the foster bites a stranger, please ask them to stay around while you call us so that we can fill out the proper paperwork. We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound. We are required by law to report any bites that break the skin. We will also need to quarantine the dog for ten (10) days in accordance with State law. A bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate to report it. If you are seeing any signs of extreme fear and/or aggression, even if you feel it is minor, please contact the foster team.

Intros & Quarantine: We love for puppies to go out in pairs but sometimes we get single puppies that come into the shelter. We make sure the puppies are around the same size and energy levels when attempting to match pairs. Please quarantine the puppy for 2 weeks to look for signs of illness before doing the introduction. If you notice any issues with your new fostered please reach out to the foster team.

Gradually introduce the puppies. Signs of a good interaction include both puppies initiating play and that neither puppy seems stressed. It can be normal for puppies to initially be cautious or play rough with some vocalization. Monitor these signs closely and if present, do small, positive interactions for a while. Monitor feeding time and water bowls to make sure they are shared nicely.

Signs of problems: Persistent bullying by one of the puppies and not being able to easily distract them or stopped. One of the puppies keeps the other from resources. When in doubt, separate them and always reach out to the foster team.

Babies: Caring for puppies is an around the clock job but so worth it!! If you are curious about what it takes to foster these little ones please let us know and we can discuss the next steps.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Emergency Protocol: Notify us immediately **260-744-0454** if any of the following occurs.

- Unresponsive/unable to stand or walk
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe trauma
- Profusely bleeding
- Ingested a dangerous item (medication/chemical/toy/etc.)
- Seizure/disoriented
- Any bite from a foster that breaks the skin
- Lost foster animal

Medical concerns: Humane Fort Wayne provides all medical care for our foster animals through our shelter veterinarian. Since we are ultimately responsible for your foster's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for fosters. Do not give your fosters any medications, foods, supplements, etc. that have not been prescribed/approved by our staff. If your foster needs to see the shelter veterinarian, please contact the foster team and we will schedule an appointment. REMINDER, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if you take your foster to a veterinarian without authorization from Humane Fort Wayne.

Dogs do a good job of masking when they don't feel well, so determining if a foster dog is ill and will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity appetite levels. Be aware that dogs act differently at different ages. For example, a healthy 2 week old puppy will sleep often and get up only to nurse, whereas a healthy 6 week old puppy should have a lot of energy. If you have any questions, about the health of your foster, please contact the foster team right away!

Eye discharge: It is normal for dogs to have some discharge from their eyes when they wake up and some may have more than others, depending on the breed. But if your foster dog has yellow or green discharge, or swelling around the eyes (making it hard for him to open his eyes), or the third eyelid is showing, you need to contact the foster team as medication may be needed.

Coughing, sneezing and nasal discharge: Coughing can be common if your foster dog is pulling on the leash. If the coughing becomes more frequent, however, watch for discharge coming from the nose. If the discharge is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed, but check with foster team to find out if a check-up is necessary. If the discharge becomes colored, an appointment is necessary because the dog may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the dog's breathing. If the dog seems to struggle to breathe or starts wheezing, follow the emergency contact protocol. Also, once you notice nasal discharge, monitor the dog's eating habits more closely to ensure that he or she is still eating.

Loss of appetite: Your foster dog may be stressed after arriving in your home, and stress can cause lack of appetite. But if your foster hasn't eaten after 24 hours, please notify the foster team. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12-24 hours, notify the foster team to schedule an appointment. Please do not change the foster's diet without contacting the foster team. An abrupt change in diet can cause diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration.

Lethargy: The activity level of your foster will vary depending on age and personality. If the dog cannot be roused or seems weak and unable to stand, it's an emergency so start the emergency contact protocol.

Vomiting: Sometimes dogs will eat too quickly and will immediately throw up their food. Occasional vomiting isn't cause for alarm, but if your foster has thrown up two or more times in one day, please notify the foster team.

Pain or strain while urinating or defecating: When a dog first goes into a foster home, he or she may not urinate due to stress. If the dog hasn't urinated in more than 24 hours, however, please contact the foster team. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little or no results, or crying out when urinating, please contact the foster team.

Worms: All dogs are given a round of dewormer before they leave for foster care. Round worms will look like spaghetti. Tape worms will look like grains of rice and are found around the anus. If you notice worms in the dog's poop or vomit, please contact the foster team.

Hair loss: Please contact the foster team if you notice any hair loss or crusty/scabby lesions on your foster dog. It is normal for dogs to have thin fur around the lips, eyelids, and in front of the ears, but clumpy patches of hair loss or thinning hair can indicate ringworm or dermatitis. It is important to check your foster's coat frequently.

Fleas: All dogs are checked for fleas before going to their foster homes. If old enough, dogs are given flea preventative. If you notice fleas on your foster dog, please contact the foster team.

Frequent ear scratching: If your foster has irritated, swollen or red or pink ears that smell like yeast, they may have an ear infection. This type of infection is more common in dogs who have floppy ears, like basset hounds or labradors. These dogs may need to have their ears cleaned more often to ensure that the infection does not re-occur.

Medications: Please keep the following in mind when asked to give your fosters any medications. Follow all the directions closely and only give as directed. Always offer the medication in food if possible. Make sure you give the correct dose of medication based on the animal's weight. Do not stop giving the medications before they are completed unless advised to do so. Do not give your foster any medications or supplements not approved by Humane Fort Wayne.

Dealing with loss: While rare, not all puppies survive even with early intervention and advanced medical care. We work hard as a team with our foster families staying in close communication to identify puppies who may be struggling. Unfortunately, there are still a small percentage of puppies who crash suddenly through no fault of anyone. Although this is the most devastating part of fostering, please know that without individuals willing to take these puppies into their homes, they would not stand a chance of survival. We are here to support you!

Euthanasia: Humane Fort Wayne never sends an animal out to foster care intending the end result to be euthanasia. Through the use of foster homes we find out information that we would otherwise never know. Although most of the information we gain is very positive there are times when serious issues occur once the animal is in foster care. The decision to euthanize an animal is not taken lightly and is used only when we have exhausted all reasonable alternatives. Some animal may display behavioral patterns or have physical conditions that make it difficult, with limited resources, to care for them at the shelter or in a home environment. There are also times that an animal may show behaviors that could make them potentially dangerous to people or other animals. Please know that we will be open and honest when talking about this sensitive topic should it arise with one of the animals you are fostering.

Returning to the shelter: Returning to the shelter: Dogs/puppies can return to the shelter when the puppies are at least 8 weeks old. The foster team will inform you when adults can return. They must be healthy and up to date on all vaccines and dewormers.

Adoption: We highly encourage our foster families to find homes for their foster animals. If you have someone wanting to adopt your foster animals direct them to the main web page, **Humane Fort Wayne.org**, select Adopt, and complete the adoption application, adding that they are interested in an animal currently being fostered and give the foster's name. We rely heavily on our fosters to keep track of who they have lined up to adopt their fosters and to communicate with them.

Saying Goodbye: We understand that bringing your foster animals back to the shelter may be an emotional time for many fosters. There are always more animals that need fostered. If you need to fill that void sooner rather than later please let the foster coordinator know. Volunteering in the animal welfare field often times put you at a greater risk of developing compassion fatigue. When your emotions build up you may feel exhausted, angry, sad, etc. A combination of these symptoms can lead to burnout and is of often responsible for the loss of many talented foster volunteers. In order to maintain your emotional and physical health, take frequent breaks and reach out if you are struggling with anything. We are here to help you have a positive and rewarding foster experience!

Thank you: Word's cannot express how grateful we are for our fantastic team of foster families. Without your help we would not be able to help as many dogs and puppies as we do in our community. Please know that we are here for you, and please reach out with any and all questions and concerns.

Thank You!

Humane Fort Wayne Foster Team