



**HAVEN
HUMANE
SOCIETY**



Foster Packet

Caring for Your Foster Dog

[HavenHumane.org](https://www.HavenHumane.org)

Thank You

for Fostering an Animal in Need!

Fostering adult dogs is a rewarding experience that helps them transition from the shelter to loving forever homes. By providing care and attention in your home, you allow these dogs to regain confidence, learn new behaviors, and adapt to family life. Fostering not only gives these dogs a second chance at happiness, but it also allows us to learn more about their personalities, which helps us find the best match for their forever home.

At Haven Humane Society, we are committed to supporting you every step of the way. We'll ensure you have the resources, guidance, and supplies needed to make your fostering experience successful and fulfilling, so that together we can give these dogs the best possible chance at adoption.

Thank you so much for opening your heart and home to an adult dog in need. You are saving a life, and we are incredibly grateful for your dedication and compassion.

Please help us meet our monthly donor goal by becoming a Haven Hero at HavenHumane.org today!





Quick Resources

Foster Care Coordinator:

(530) 241-1653, ext. 202
adoptions@havenhumane.org

**Haven Humane Veterinary
Hospital:** (530) 241-1658

Animal Regulations:

(530) 241-2550

Animal Behaviorist:

(530) 241-1653, ext. 209
training@havenhumane.org

**Haven Humane Fosters
Facebook Group:**



Introduction to Fostering

Why Dogs Need Fostering

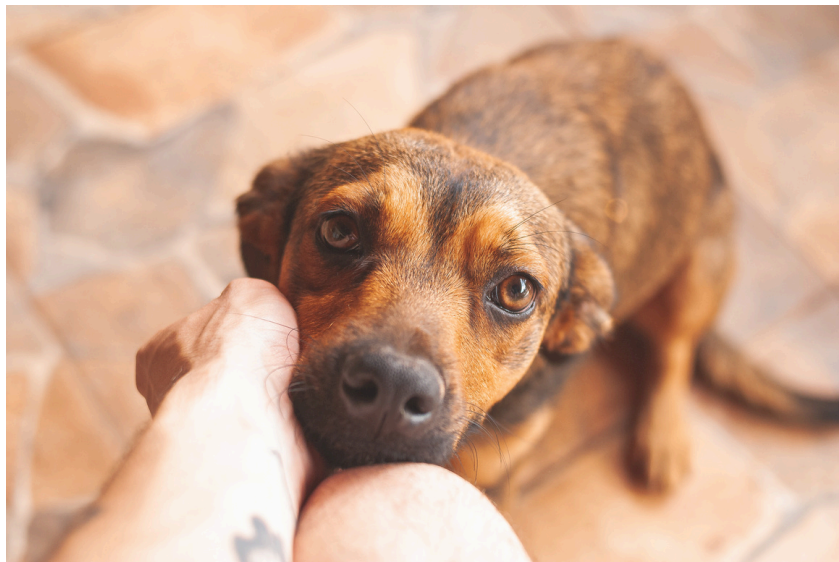
- **Shelter Stress:** Some dogs struggle with the noise, chaos, and confinement of a shelter, which can affect their behavior and well-being.
- **Behavioral Needs:** Dogs with behavioral challenges (such as anxiety, fear, or lack of socialization) often need extra time and training in a home environment to become well-adjusted.
- **Medical Fostering:** Some adult dogs require extra care due to medical issues or recovery from surgery.
- **“Fospice”:** Some adult dogs have terminal illnesses or are nearing the end of their lives. Fospice care offers them a peaceful, comfortable environment where they can receive love and care during their final days, without the stress of a shelter.

What Does It Take To Foster?

Fostering an adult dog is about providing a safe, loving, and patient environment where they can relax and adjust to life outside the shelter. Your role is to offer them a stable space to rest, play, and grow. While we supply all the essentials—such as food, medical care, and more—reliable foster parents are crucial to the process. This includes taking your foster dog to veterinary appointments, attending adoption events, and ensuring they receive the care and attention they need along the way.

How Long Will I Foster?

We ideally ask that you foster a dog until they are adopted, as consistency and stability are key to their well-being and successful adoption. However, we understand that life happens, and we’re here to support you if your circumstances change.



Preparing For Your Foster

Before your foster dog arrives, it's important to set up a safe, quiet space for them. A designated area will help your foster dog settle in and adjust to their new surroundings. We will do our best to supply items like bedding, toys, etc.

Ensure You Have All The Supplies

- Blankets or bedding
- Collar and leash
- Variety of toys
- Food and water bowls
- Dog food and treats
- Pet safe cleaning supplies
- Any necessary medications
- Crate (optional)
- Pee pads (optional)



Creating a Safe Space

When your foster dog arrives, it's important to provide them with a quiet, secure space where they can adjust to their new environment. Choose a room that is away from high-traffic areas and other pets in your home to give your foster dog time to relax and feel safe. This space will be their "home base" for the first few days as they acclimate.

During this time, keep your foster dog separated from other animals in your home to reduce stress and minimize the risk of spreading illness, especially if they've recently entered the shelter.

Prepare Yourself!

Fostering a dog is a commitment. While it's not the same as adoption, it still requires patience, understanding, and consistency. Of course, your foster dog is incredible, but like any dog adjusting to a new environment, they may have some behaviors you don't love. These issues are often a result of stress or unfamiliarity with house rules, and they're part of the adjustment process.

Before deciding to foster, it's important to consider whether you're ready to work through challenges like this. If your foster dog has accidents or chews on things, are you prepared to be patient and help them learn? Remember, you are saving a life by welcoming a homeless animal into your home. We are here to support you every step of the way, and together we can address any behavioral concerns.

Your Foster's Arrival

When your foster dog arrives, it's important to remember that every dog is different. Some may be shy or nervous in their new space and could take time to warm up, while others may feel more comfortable right away. It's normal for them to show signs of stress, like hiding, pacing, or even avoiding interaction initially. With patience and a calm environment, most dogs will start to adjust within a few days.

Feeding

Establish a consistent feeding schedule. Try to feed them at the same time each day to help them feel secure and settled. If your foster dog isn't eating right away, don't worry—it's common for dogs to have a reduced appetite when adjusting to a new environment. However, if they consistently refuse food or seem unwell, please contact us right away so we can help troubleshoot or provide a different food option.



Make Crates a Safe Place!

Crates can be a fantastic tool for both you and your foster dog, providing them with a safe, comfortable space when you're not around. However, it's important to remember that crate training takes time and patience—don't expect your dog to love the crate right away. Start by making the crate a positive experience with treats, toys, and plenty of praise. Gradually, your dog will learn to associate the crate with comfort and security.

A crate-trained dog can be safely left alone for short periods, which can be helpful when you need to run errands or go to work. Plus, crate training is a huge plus when trying to get your foster dog adopted, as many potential adopters value dogs that are comfortable in their crate.

Crate Training Tips



Scan the QR code for a helpful video on crate training tips to ensure a positive experience for your foster dog.

Basic Training

Basic training is one of the best ways to make your life easier while fostering, as it helps your dog adjust and learn important skills. Not only will it improve their behavior, but it will also make them more adoptable and ease their transition into their forever home. The best time to start is immediately!



Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is the most effective way to train your foster dog. Rewarding good behavior with treats, praise, or play helps them understand what you expect and encourages them to repeat those behaviors. Unlike punishment or scolding, which can confuse or scare a dog, positive reinforcement builds trust and strengthens the bond between you and your foster.



Basic Commands

When teaching basic commands like "sit," "down," or "stay," focus on positive reinforcement and consistency. Start with simple commands and use treats or praise to encourage the behavior. If your foster dog begins to do the action, immediately reward them—praise or treat every time they get it right. This helps them understand what you want and reinforces the behavior. Keep training sessions short and fun, and always use a calm, encouraging tone.



Teach the Routine

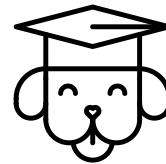
Teaching your foster dog your routine helps them feel more secure and understand what's expected of them. Start by being consistent with feeding times, potty breaks, and exercise, and try to stick to the same schedule each day. Dogs thrive on routine, so by reinforcing predictable patterns, your foster dog will learn when it's time for walks, play, or rest.

Need Some More Tips?



This video by the Kind Canine gives advice for three common problems when training rescue dogs.

Basic Training continued



INDEPENDENCE TRAINING

Bringing home your foster dog is exciting, and you may feel compelled to give them all of your attention. Although sometimes difficult for you and your dog, **you should establish a sense of independence within the first few days**. Devoting time to your new dog is wonderful, just make sure you practice leaving them home alone. A quick trip to the store is a great way to test your dog. Just make sure that you leave your dog either in a crate or a secure place so you aren't surprised when you return home. This short controlled time will give you an idea of how your dog handles being left alone.

When you leave, turn the radio on and give the dog a food-filled Kong or hide treats around the house to keep them busy and form a positive association with your departure. Don't make a big deal about leaving and greet your dog calmly when you get home.

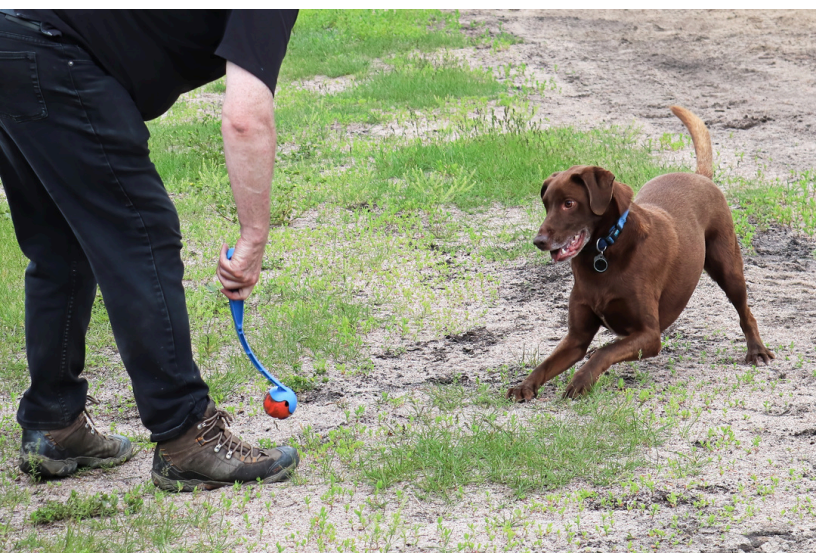
PHYSICAL EXERCISE

All dogs need aerobic exercise (a leash walk is NOT aerobic to a dog). Ensure your foster dog gets at least 20 minutes of aerobic exercise daily.

Suggested activities include fetching with a ball, jogging with you, and playing a recall game where the dog runs back and forth between two people for treats. A tired dog is a good dog! Physical exercise will help with chewing, jumping, barking, and other undesirable behaviors.

MENTAL STIMULATION

A bored dog can get into trouble as they try to entertain themselves so you want to provide your dog with mental exercise too. The best mental stimulation for a dog is using their nose. Take your dog for a walk and let them sniff things. Hide treats around the house for them to search for. Lay a trail of treats through the yard or house for them to follow. Additionally, putting your dog's meal inside puzzle feeders, feeder balls (an empty soda bottle will do) or a Kong toy can make it a challenge to get the food, thus providing mental stimulation each day at feeding time. Make sure you monitor your dog while they use feeder toys.



Getting outside and having fun together not only keeps them mentally and physically stimulated, but it's also a fantastic way to learn more about their personality!

House-Training

House-training an adult dog who may have never been trained before can take some time, but with consistency and patience, it's completely doable!

House-Training Tips

Set a Consistent Schedule: Take your foster dog outside at the same times every day—first thing in the morning, after meals, and before bedtime. A consistent routine helps them learn when it's time to go potty.

Take Them Outside Frequently: Adult dogs who aren't house-trained may need extra potty breaks, especially when they're adjusting to a new environment. Start by taking them outside every 2-3 hours, then gradually extend the time between breaks as they become more reliable.

Choose a Designated Potty Spot: Take your dog to the same area each time so they can learn to associate it with potty time. The familiar scent will help reinforce the behavior. When they go potty, immediately praise and reward them to reinforce the positive behavior.

Supervise Indoors: Until your foster dog is fully potty trained, supervise them closely indoors. If you're unable to watch them, consider confining them to a crate or a safe, easily cleaned area (like a bathroom or laundry room). This will help prevent accidents while they learn.

Reward Immediately: Positive reinforcement is key. Every time your foster dog successfully goes potty outside, praise them enthusiastically or offer a treat. This helps them associate going potty outside with good things, making them more likely to repeat the behavior.

Be Patient and Consistent: House-training takes time, especially for adult dogs who may not have been trained before. If accidents happen, stay calm and clean them up thoroughly. Don't scold your foster dog—they won't understand why. With patience and consistency, your dog will learn the routine and begin to feel more comfortable in their new environment.



Clean any accidents with an enzymatic cleaner like Nature's Miracle to ensure it does not become a reoccurring "bathroom spot".

Introductions

Introducing your foster dog to your existing dog or cat can be a stressful part of fostering. To facilitate building the relationship between animals, make all interactions fun and positive. Expect the transition to take some time and be prepared to go about it gradually.

Dogs Introductions

Introduce your foster dog to your current dog in a neutral location, such as down the street or in a non-territorial spot away from home. Start by walking them together in the neighborhood to help them get acquainted. After the walk, allow them to explore together on leashes. If they seem comfortable, you can let them play off-leash for a bit before putting the leashes back on and bringing them into the house. Walk them through the house together, and if everything seems fine, you can let them off-leash indoors. **For the first few weeks, closely supervise as they adjust to sharing the home and its resources.** To avoid conflicts, ensure each dog has its own food and water bowls, toys, and bed.

Cat Introductions

The goal of introducing a dog and cat is for them to live peacefully, with the dog learning not to chase the cat. Start with the dog on a leash until you're sure the cat is safe. Even once they seem comfortable together, **always provide the cat with an escape route**, such as a baby gate they can jump over. Never grab a frightened animal or separate fighting pets with your hands—use a hose or a spray bottle with water instead. Plan short play sessions, give attention to each pet individually and together, and serve meals at the same time but in separate locations at first. Be patient—adjustment can take days or even weeks, but with time, they will sort out their relationship.

Children Introductions

Always supervise interactions between your foster dog and children until you're certain they are safe together. Learning to recognize subtle signs of discomfort in your dog's body language around children is essential. If you ever suspect your dog may harm your child, separate them immediately. If you're concerned about your dog's behavior but don't see signs of aggression, keep your dog on a leash and teach them to "sit" when near children, rewarding positive interactions with treats.

Children often do things that can make dogs nervous or scared. Actions like hitting or kicking a dog may cause the dog to defend itself, but even affectionate behaviors like hugging, kissing, or lying on the dog can trigger fear and lead to aggression. Teach your children to respect your foster dog and avoid these actions to ensure everyone feels safe and comfortable.



Medical Protocols

Picking Up Your Fosters

When picking up your foster dog, please check in with the Foster Care Coordinator to ensure all paperwork is completed and all necessary medical information is shared. Some dogs may be ready to go home the same day, while others may require additional care, such as spaying or neutering, or a check-in with the clinic.

If you are picking up from the clinic, be sure to check in with the Foster Care Coordinator before leaving Haven Humane. For dogs with medical needs, the Veterinary Clinic or Foster Care Coordinator will review any care instructions, including medications and follow-up appointments, before you head home.

Veterinary Appointments

Vaccines and weigh-ins for your foster will be done at the Morgan Adoption Center. Any other follow-up appointments will be scheduled directly with the clinic, but if you have trouble reaching them, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator for assistance.

When you arrive for your appointments, be sure to sign in at the front desk. Please check in with the Foster Care Coordinator anytime you visit the shelter.

Haven Humane Society provides all vaccinations, medications, and treatment for our foster animals at no cost to the foster parent. Please note that all medical decisions regarding your foster dog are made at the discretion of the veterinarian. This includes decisions related to treatments, surgeries, medications, and any other medical care required.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency with your foster animal, your first step is to contact our Veterinary Clinic or the Foster Care Coordinator as soon as possible for guidance. If the emergency occurs after hours, please contact Animal Regulations for assistance. It's important to note that if you take your foster animal to an outside veterinary facility without prior approval from Haven Humane Society, you will be responsible for all costs incurred.

Signs of Illness

If you see any of the following symptoms in your foster animals, please contact our Veterinary Clinic immediately:

- Diarrhea, After 24 hours
- Worms in Stool
- Vomiting, Coughing, or Sneezing
- Discharge from Eyes, Nose, or Ears
- Loss of Appetite or Lethargy
- Difficulty Breathing or Blue-tinged Gums and Tongue
- Severe Pain (whining, howling, constant pacing, inability to move)

Ready For Adoption!

When Are They Ready for Adoption?

Your foster dog is always available for adoption, unless they are dealing with a medical circumstance that requires additional care. While we may have some dogs who need a little more time to heal or adjust, most foster dogs are ready to find their forever homes as soon as they're comfortable and stable!

How Will People See My Foster Dog?

To help your foster dog find their forever home, we require all foster parents to take their dog to PetSmart at least once a week, Wednesday through Sunday, between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

This gives potential adopters the opportunity to meet your dog in person! You are welcome to stay with your dog during this time to assist with introductions and share their personality, or you can drop them off and let our Adoption Staff handle the meet-and-greets.

Before bringing your foster dog to PetSmart, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator in advance to let them know your dog will be there.

If you find a potential adopter for your foster animal, please refer them to our Foster Care Coordinator so appropriate paperwork and interviews can be completed. Under no circumstances should a foster animal be transferred to their forever home without the proper adoption process being completed.

Marketing Your Fosters

You can send us photos and brief descriptions of your foster animal to help us showcase them to potential adopters. High-quality, well-lit photos of your foster pet in various settings—whether they're playing, cuddling, or interacting with people or other animals—really help highlight their personality and unique traits.

Descriptions that include details about their temperament, likes, dislikes, and any special quirks or training they may have received are also incredibly valuable. Even if there are challenges, being honest about your foster dog's temperament and habits is helpful for matching them with the right adopter.

We also encourage you to share your foster's profile on your own social media channels. By posting about them and sharing their story with your friends and family, you may be able to connect them with someone in your own circle who is looking to adopt.



“Our Time Together Is Already Over?”

Saying Goodbye

Saying goodbye to a foster pet is never easy. You've invested your time, energy, and love, and it's natural to feel a sense of loss when they leave for their forever home.

But remember, the love you've given them has made all the difference—they've been given a second chance at a happy life because of **you!** While it's hard to let go, take comfort in knowing that your foster is now in a loving, permanent home where they'll continue to thrive. You saved a life, and that's something truly special.

If you're feeling emotional after saying goodbye, it's okay to grieve. Acknowledge your feelings, but also celebrate the success. Every animal you foster is one less in need, and there will always be more animals to help. You are making a world of difference, one foster pet at a time.

Adopting Your Foster

If you've fallen in love with your foster pet and are considering adopting, that's wonderful! Adopting your foster is an incredibly rewarding experience.

However, before making the decision to adopt, we ask that you take a step back and consider the long-term impact this decision may have, especially on your ability to continue fostering in the future. Fostering **saves lives**, and your role in helping our shelter is absolutely crucial, particularly when we are over capacity. Every time you take in a foster dog, you are giving another animal a chance at a new life. If you adopt your current foster, ask yourself: *Will you still be able to foster another dog in need?*

If you do decide to adopt your foster, please let the Foster Care Coordinator know as soon as possible. We're excited for you to give your foster their forever home and we're here to support you through the adoption process!



Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if I'm going on vacation?

If you're traveling and cannot bring your foster dog with you, please also reach out to the Foster Care Coordinator as soon as possible. We'll work with you to arrange care for your foster while you're away.

If you would like to take your foster dog, please contact the Foster Care Coordinator. Let them know the dates of travel and where you'll be traveling.

What should I do if my foster is having behavior issues?

If your foster dog is having behavioral problems, don't worry—we're here to help! It's important to remember that many behavioral issues are a normal part of the adjustment process as your foster dog settles into their new environment. If you're encountering specific challenges, please reach out to our Animal Behaviorist at (530) 241-1653, ext. 209. They can provide guidance and support for foster dog's needs.

Can I take my foster dog out in public?

As long as your foster has received all necessary vaccines, is healthy, and you feel confident in handling them, you are more than welcome to take them to dog-friendly locations! Taking your foster out in public is a great way to help socialize them, learn more about their behavior in different environments, and even give them the chance to meet potential adopters.

What if I want to return my foster?

Please reach out to the Foster Care Coordinator first to see if there's anything we can do to help or troubleshoot any challenges you may be facing. We understand that fostering can be difficult at times, and we want to offer support before you make any final decisions.

If you do decide to return your foster, you can bring them to the Morgan Adoption Center Monday through Saturday, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

More Community Support

Stray Cat Services

We have free and reduced-price spay/neuters for stray cats in our community.

Vaccine Clinics

Every Wednesday, we hold low-cost Vaccine Clinics for the public.

Microchipping

We also offer discounted microchipping with no appointment necessary or at our Vaccine Clinics.



Please help us meet our monthly donor goal by becoming a Haven Hero at HavenHumane.org!

What is Haven Humane ?

Haven Humane Society is more than an animal shelter; we are a community-supported animal resource center providing compassion and care for all animals.

Since 1952, Haven Humane has offered lifesaving programs and services for animals and the people who love them in the greater Shasta County area. At our Anderson campus, we provide shelter, dedicated care, and new beginnings for thousands of our community's most vulnerable animals every year.

In addition to pet adoptions and fostering, we focus on programs and services aimed at helping people care for and keep their pets, such as free and low-cost spay/neuter and vaccines, a pet food pantry, and licensing services. In 2023, Haven Humane helped more than 7,000 animals through adoptions, rehabilitation, lost & found, veterinary services, Animal Regulations, and rescue.

Haven Humane is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our tax ID number is 94-1634752.

Contact Us:

Office: Haven Humane Society
7449 Eastside Road
Anderson, CA 96007

Email: adoptions@havenhumane.org

Phone: (530) 241-1653



Thank You to Our Sponsors

