

IT TAKES A VILLAGE NO-KILL RESCUE, INC.

FOSTER HANDBOOK



Our mission is “To work as one in helping animals irrespective of breed, location or circumstance, while also supporting the people who love them.”

We are a 501(c)(3) mostly volunteer, no-kill rescue. We have three locations-one in Evansville, Indiana, one in Chrisney, Indiana, and one in Owensboro, KY. We have helped over 16,600 animals find forever homes since we were created in 2010.

WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL ALL PAWS HAVE A HOME!

<u>Evansville, IN</u>	<u>Chrisney, IN</u>	<u>Owensboro, KY</u>
(812) 909 – 1306	(812) 362-4027	(270) 685-8275
1417 N Stockwell Rd Evansville, IN 47715	824 E CR 800 N Chrisney, IN 47611	2620 KY-81 Owensboro, KY 42301
<u>OPEN HOURS:</u>	<u>OPEN HOURS:</u>	<u>OPEN HOURS</u>
Monday CLOSED	Monday CLOSED	Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 12 pm-5 pm	Tuesday 12 pm- 5pm	Tuesday 12 pm-5 pm
Wednesday 12 pm-7 pm	Wednesday 12 pm-5 pm	Wednesday 12 pm – 7pm
Thursday 12 pm- 5 pm	Thursday CLOSED	Thursday 12 pm- 5 pm
Friday 12 pm – 5 pm	Friday 12 pm – 5 pm	Friday 12 pm – 7 pm
Saturday 10 am – 3 pm	Saturday 10 pm – 3 pm	Saturday 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday CLOSED	Sunday CLOSED	Sunday CLOSED

INFO@ITVRESCUE.ORG WWW.ITVRESCUE.ORG

VOICEMAIL ONLY (MUST LEAVE A MESSAGE): (812) 250 – WAGS (9427)

FOSTER ONLY **AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY LINE:** (812) 470- 7263

Follow ITV for upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and updates at

Welcome to our team of dedicated fosters!

We are so glad that you have come to us to foster! Because of our dedicated & caring foster families, our rescue can accomplish our life-saving mission of helping homeless animals. While we do have three rescue centers, we prefer all our animals live in foster homes as a “family member” while awaiting adoption. Our foster families open their hearts and homes to give these animals a chance at a new life so that others may experience the life, loyalty & companionship that only a cherished family pet can provide. Fostering an animal may seem like a formidable task, but it’s a very real way to make a difference. Everyone benefits! The foster volunteer gets to spend time with a special animal, and the shelter gains a space for a new animal. The foster animal gets a break from kennel life and a second chance at becoming a cherished pet. The new owners get an animal that is better adapted at home life and, therefore, has a better chance of remaining in the new home permanently. In this handbook, we will address some common questions and how-to’s that arise during fostering. We want you to have a wonderful and enjoyable foster experience!

By far the most important thing you need to prove is love and attention. Whether your foster came from a loving home, was a stray, or was transferred from another facility or animal control, they will probably be confused and anxious. Spend time cuddling, fetching, playing tug and just hanging out watching TV together. **Be patient;** it might take them a few days or weeks to really settle in. Every animal is different so every foster story will be different.

As a foster parent, you need to know the limitations your foster animal may have. If you are having a behavior problem that you do not know how to fix, please allow us to give you some suggestions before “giving-up” on your foster animal.

It’s important to provide some training. Housetraining is an essential skill for an animal to master. Crate training is useful especially for young, destructive or un-housetrained dogs. Basic manners such as

appropriate greeting behavior, walking nicely on a leash and coming when called can make your foster animal more adoptable and help to ensure success in the new home.

Our website has a lot of information about the organization, including current board members. Please visit our website www.itvrescue.org to learn more about our daily operations, our mission, common Q & A, community info and more. You can also connect with fosters and volunteers, as well as see upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and updates at <https://www.facebook.com/group/itvvolunteers>.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY?

- If your foster animal has an emergency **during office hours**, call your primary ITV location or email info@itvrescue.org
 - Evansville (812) 909-1306
 - Spencer County (Chrisney, IN) (812) 362-4027
 - Daviess County (Owensboro, KY) (270) 685-8275
- If your foster animal has an emergency **after office hours**, call the foster only emergency line.
 - (812) 470- 7263
- **DO NOT TAKE YOUR FOSTER TO YOUR VET OR TO AN EMERGENCY VET WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OR YOU BE LIABLE FOR THE VET BILLS.**
- **FACEBOOK IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO QUICKLY CONTACT US.** We do not monitor Facebook as much as we do our voicemail and email.

LEVELS OF EMERGENCY for ITV foster families and what to do

RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bite w/broken skin / profuse bleeding • Hit by car or other serious injuries • Having trouble breathing • UNRESPONSIVE • Ingested dangerous objects or chemicals • Unable to stand or walk • Seizure/Fainted • LOST ANIMAL (animal gets out) 	<p>Call emergency foster line after hours. Call your nearest ITV center until answered if during office hours.</p> <p>(see above for center phone numbers and emergency line number)</p>
YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting more than once in 24 hours • Cut or puncture wound without severe bleeding • Lethargy or not eating • Limping • Nasal discharge • Incident of aggression 	<p>Call or Text (812) 250-9247 or email info@itvrescue.org</p>
GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One episode of vomiting or diarrhea • Reverse sneezing or regular sneezing • Itchy skin • Watery eyes • Broken nail • Coughing 	<p>Email info@itvrescue.org</p>

Some examples of what we consider emergencies: grievous injury, lost pet, extreme difficulty breathing, unresponsive, animal in labor, parvovirus symptoms. (see below)

Some common non-emergency situations that we still want to hear about can just be emailed. These include worms in stool, diarrhea, limping/favoring limb, etc.

PARVOVIRUS- Canine Parvovirus is specific to dogs and most commonly affects the GI tract. Dogs under 2 years of age are most susceptible. Symptoms include lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea (usually with mucous and having very strong smell), and not eating/drinking. While it is common for dogs to have some diarrhea when they suddenly change food or move to a new environment, diarrhea with other symptoms is not.

Worms and other parasites- Unfortunately, animals can pick up parasites anywhere. We suggest you check your foster for fleas, and/or plan on giving the animal a bath with blue Dawn dish soap, leaving the soap on for five minutes before rinsing. Topical/oral flea preventions do have minimum ages, but we will provide them if appropriate. Worms are extremely common parasites. ITV deworms all young animals at least once. If you are fostering a young animal, and especially if you are fostering a litter of puppies, they will likely need to be dewormed more than once. The most common sign of worms is diarrhea and sometimes worms are visible. **Please take note of the worm type**, either fairly short or very long/skinny so we can get you the correct dewormer. For animals over 8 months of age, let us know if they have diarrhea more than 72 hours via email or voicemail. To prevent other animals from getting worms, clean up the feces **immediately**. The worms or their eggs can enter the soil if the feces are not cleaned up.

Kennel Cough (Upper respiratory infection)- Kennel Cough is like the head cold for dogs and is extremely common for dogs coming from a shelter. It can infect dogs of any age and be caused by a “goose honk” . Sometimes the dogs cough up clear to yellow “foamy” phlegm. This is often confused with vomiting but follows a round of coughing. Please inform us ASAP if your foster dog begins to develop a dry, hacking cough.

Cats may also experience upper respiratory infections. An upper respiratory infection (URI) is a contagious viral or bacterial infection affecting the nose, throat, and airways, commonly presenting as a cold, sinusitis, or pharyngitis. Symptoms include nasal congestion, cough, sore throat, sneezing, and low-grade fever. Most infections last 7–10 days. Please inform us ASAP if you suspect that your foster cat may have an upper respiratory infection.

WHAT IS THE ITV QUARTINE PERIOD?

Animals that enter our rescue undergo a quarantine period while we make sure they are not harboring a disease that could be infectious to other animals. For young animals and animals with no vaccination history, we do a 14-day quarantine since that corresponds with incubation period for Parvovirus, in particular. Adult dogs with current vaccinations typically have a 10-day

quarantine. We find that an animal's illness will generally become symptomatic during this quarantine period if the animal came to us sick. However, it is possible that the animal will become symptomatic after this quarantine period, particularly with young animals.

As a foster, if you are taking an unvaccinated animal into your home, we ask that you do **NOT** take to public parks, store, etc. Once the quarantine period is up and vaccinations are in place, we still ask that you avoid areas like pet stores where large numbers of animals with unknown vaccination histories may congregate. Remember, most fosters will **NOT** have a rabies vaccination until after their vet exam. We strongly recommend that your personal animals are current on their vaccinations.

What vetting is needed for my foster animal?

If you are fostering a puppy or kitten, it is very likely that ITV will ask you to bring your foster animal back for a vaccination booster. This happens at the rescue center during open hours and should only take a few minutes.

When possible, ITV will let you know about a scheduled vet appointment when you pick up your foster. Otherwise, we will call, text, and/or email you when we have an appointment available. We use multiple different vets, so please pay close attention to which location your foster will be going to. If you are unable to make the scheduled appointment or drop off, please let us know and we will schedule a time for you to drop off at the rescue center the day before. **Vet scheduling is always tight, so it is *extremely* important that you make every effort to make the scheduled appointment.**

What happens after spay/neuter surgery?

Please follow these post-operative instructions after your foster's spay/neuter surgery.

1. **NO running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activities for 10-14 days.**
It is very common for females to develop a large bump (hernia) at the incision site. This will usually resolve within a week or two.
2. **NO BATHS** for 10 days following surgery.

3. **Check the incision site** twice daily. There so be *no* drainage. Redness or swelling should be minimal.
4. **DO NOT** allow your pet to lick or chew at the incision. If this occurs, an Elizabethan collar (e-collar) aka cone **MUST** be used to prevent it.
5. Appetite should return within 24 hours of surgery. Lethargy last more than 24 hours post-op, diarrhea, and vomiting are **NOT** normal (without other explanation like antibiotics) and you should contact ITV if this occurs.
6. Animals may have a slight cough after surgery due to being intubated.
7. Sutures should dissolve on their own within 30 days.
8. Your foster may have received a green tattoo next to their incision to indicate they have been altered. It is skin scoring and does not require sutures. Some scabbing is normal.
9. **If there are any questions or concerns directly related to the surgery during the recovery period, please email info@itvrescue.org. For emergencies, please refer to the front page of the handbook.**

Why do we foster versus just adopt animals?

Per an Indiana law effective 2021, all animals must be spayed or neutered before they can be adopted from a shelter. Most animals that come into our care are unaltered. While we get animals into the vet as soon as scheduling allows, some animals are too young (cats and dogs must be at least 8 weeks and weigh at least 2 pounds) or too unhealthy for surgery. We also want to make sure animals we are adopting out are up to date on vaccinations, heartworm negative (dogs over 6 months of age), FIV/FelV tested (cats only), and have had a veterinary exam.

What happens when your foster is ready for adoption?

If you have decided that you want to adopt your foster, you will generally get first choice for adoption provided:

1. You have demonstrated proper care of the animal;
2. You have shown up for the vet appointments that ITV set;
3. You are able to pay the adoption fee the day the animal is ready for adoption; and

4. You and ITV agree that it's a good fit.

ITV reserves the right to make the final decision regarding the interests of the animal.

What happens if you have a friend/family member that wants to adopt your foster?

They will still need to complete an adoption application and have it approved. We do not make final selections on animals' homes until they are ready for adoption, so they should be prepared to be patient. We prefer to wait until we have information from the vet and fosters about any behavior so we can ensure the best potential match. Make sure they put you down as a reference to indicate that they know you.

“I don't want to adopt, just foster” .

First off, it is never “just” foster. You are amazing and your gift of time and love has made a huge difference to this animal. Once the animal has been vetted, you can help get the animal adopted by posting photos on social media and directing potential adopters to complete an adoption application at www.ITVrescue.org.

We also welcome photos of your foster in a home setting to help potential adopters picture the animal in their own home. Photos can be emailed to info@itvrescue.org. The more exposure your foster gets, the greater the chances of adoption.

Saturdays are our busiest adoption days at our Evansville location. While all of Evansville adoptable animals are required to attend on Saturdays, all fosters are welcome to attend adoption days/events in Evansville, including fosters from our Owensboro, KY and Spencer County locations. If your foster is adoption ready, please send us an email at info@itvrescue.org to let us know you plan on attending, this helps us to plan accordingly.

For adoption viewing on Saturdays

- Drop off is at 10:00 am at the Evansville Rescue Center.
- Pick up time is at 2:30 pm.
- We will generally contact you if your foster is adopted. However, if you do not hear from us before 2:00 pm, we recommend calling the Evansville Rescue before you arrive to see if your foster is still on site. There are times when we cannot reach out due to the volume of adoptions, or a meet and greet can be in progress.
 - Of course, you can come in anyway and pick up your next foster!

Generally, your foster is adoption ready the first Saturday AFTER their vetting has been completed. We may also contact you once you have an approved adoption application to set up a time for a meet and greet with the potential adopter during our business hours. You are welcome to stay to meet the potential adopters, but it is not required. Depending on your foster's individual behavior, it may be better to let the adopters meet alone so your foster animal doesn't focus on you.

Please consider fill out an animal bio form with information on your foster animal once you have gotten to know them a little. The form is attached as the last few pages of this handbook. *If you want the adopter to have your information*, please include your contact details with the form. Otherwise, we do not generally provide the adopters with your information. However, if the adopter contacts you about a problem or wishes to return the animal, please make sure to instruct them to contact the rescue.

Check out this website for tips on marketing your foster pet -

<https://chewonthis.maddiesfund.org/2023/04/six-guidelines-for-marketing-your-foster-pet/>

Tips for housing your foster dog.

You will have to treat your foster dog like a poppy at first, regardless of age. Puppy-proof the house before he/she arrives, if possible. If your foster is young, or has not been in a house, they might be destructive and/or not housetrained. You should set up a crate for them with bedding that can easily be cleaned or thrown away if soiled or chewed (like old towels or blankets). New foster dogs should *always* be crated if you are not directly supervising them.

Housetraining

Housetraining is an essential skill for a dog to master. The most successful potty-training methods consist of four key elements:

1. Confinement
2. Training & Praise
3. Timing
 - **Confinement**
 - Puppies (or dogs who do not yet understand) need to be confined in the beginning. The BEST and most effective place to confine is in a crate. At this

point, don't leave anything on the bottom of the crate (blanket, newspaper, etc) Most dogs do NOT want to eliminate where they live, so the crate needs to be just large enough for dog to turn around and lay down. Anything larger will encourage a dog to eliminate at one end and sleep in the other. For those dogs who will grow quite a bit larger, use a crate that is sized for an adult and partition it to smaller size using a crate insert by the crate company, or a homemade insert.

- **Training & Praise**

- When teaching a dog where to eliminate, ALWAYS use a leash. Leashes keep your dog close where you can supervise and control what happens. Puppies are easily distracted. A blowing leaf, stick, or another animal – all can take a puppy's mind off the task at hand. If you are near the puppy (or dog) with the leash in hand, a gentle tug will redirect away from the curiosity. Leashes are also good to help teach the *area* to eliminate.
- Teach words for elimination. This way when the dog understands what the words mean, he will understand WHAT you want as well as WHEN you want it to happen. It can be ANY word or phrase you want to use consistently (such as “hurry up” , “do your business” , “let's go piddle” , etc.). Remember when you choose your word or phrase that you will be repeating it A LOT. As you take the dog outside, start to teach the word “outside” (“let's go *outside*” , “Do you need to go *outside*?”) In time, the dog will learn that outside is associated with elimination. Eventually you will be able to ask “Do you want to go outside?” and get a response like barking, running to the door, or tail wagging.
Verbal praise needs to happen during the act of elimination, not after.

- **Timing**

- Dogs can earn freedom by eliminating appropriately. The best time for a dog to be out of his crate is AFTER eliminating outside. This free time will still need to be supervised, so any inclination towards inappropriate elimination can be Bark

- The best rule of thumb is to **anticipate** the need.
- As a general rule, the length of time a puppy can be left confined in his crate without going outside is roughly equal to their age in months:
 - 2 months old – 2 hours of confinement without a potty break
 - 3 months old – 3 hours of confinement without a potty break
 - 4-8 months old – 4 hours of confinement without a potty break

Chewing

Make sure you are always supervising the dog when he's not crated. Dogs have a need to chew things. They use their mouths to explore the world like a child uses hands and if they're bored or frustrated it will intensify the chewing. Make sure you provide appropriate chew toys (such as Kong). If you catch your foster dog chewing on something inappropriate, correct the behavior and offer something they CAN chew. Many chewing problems are from boredom and can be corrected with exercise and stimulation.

Barking

Dogs bark for many different reasons. Some reasons might be:

- Boredom: Provide exercise and mental stimulation. Try “find it” games or food dispensing toys.
- Loneliness: Keep the dog around you when possible.
- Separation anxiety: Gradually teach the dog to tolerate being alone starting with short periods of time. Also, when you are home, help the dog be comfortable being alone by not always allowing them to be in the room with you.
- Attention seeking: Ignore. Reward quiet behavior.
- Stress: Refocus the dog with obedience commands (sit, down, etc.). Offer a mental activity.
- Guarding: Confine the dog to a quiet area away from windows or doors. Correct unwanted behavior.

Leash Manners

Do not allow dogs to pull ahead or drag behind. Keep the leash **LOOSE**. When your foster dog pulls tight, stop and/or guide them to change direction. You are teaching that pulling will slow rather than increase their progress. With consistent practice you will establish clear signals

between you and your foster dog. They will understand that a tight leash is not a normal condition; it is a signal to stop or turn.

Tips for housing your foster cat

ITV FOSTER CATS/KITTENS SHOULD NOT BE LET OUTSIDE!

If you have other cats in the home, it is recommended that you “quarantine” your new foster. A lot of cats/kittens that come into our care have Upper Respiratory Infections (see page 4). You should also consider that we usually do not know their FIV/FelV status and while it is of low incidence in our area, it can be transmitted through saliva/bites/sharing food/bowls etc. A bathroom or spare bedroom works well for this. If you do not have any other cats, you will want to keep your foster contained in a smaller space initially while you evaluate if the area has been sufficiently kitten-proofed. When introduced to a new environment, cats benefit greatly from having a place where they can “hide” (a box turned on its side, or a hooded cat bed, cat tree, etc.). Kittens should not be taught that hands are toys. While it might be tempting to play with your foster this way it can lead to long-term issues with inappropriate biting/scratching. Always use a toy/object to play with your foster kitten/cat.

Litterbox training

- **Supplies you will need**

To start your foster off on the right path to developing good bathroom habits, you will need a few supplies. If you do not have this supplies, please ask ITV.

1. **Litterbox:** Place the litter box in an area that is easy to get while offering privacy. If the box is too exposed, your foster might not feel safe enough to use the box. Some fosters have more than one litter box for convenience.
2. **Kitty litter:** You will find a lot of options, ranging from inexpensive non-clumping clay litter to high-end, eco-friendly options made from materials such as pine pellets, recycled newspaper and even wheat. While many cats are not picky about what type of litter you use, some cats are very particular and will not use litter if they object to the texture or smell. Your best bet is to start with a standard, unscented clumping litter, and then if you want to use something else you can experiment once your foster cat is fully litter trained.
3. **Treats & toys:** When you see your foster cat using their box, reward them with a cat treat. You can also use toys and praise to help create positive association with using the litter box. Eventually, you will need to wean them off of expecting a food related treat every time they use the box.

- **How to litter train your foster cat/kitten**

Follow these steps for how to litter train

1. Show your new foster the litter box as soon as they arrive by setting them in the box and letting them sniff and examine the box. Be sure not to move the box once you have shown them the box, this helps to avoid confusion.
2. Set your foster in the box immediately after meals and right they wake up from naps/sleeping. If you notice that your foster is behaving like they need to eliminate (which might look like sniffing or crouching in a particular area) pick them up and put them in the litter box.
3. Reward your foster whenever you notice them using it. *Praise them and give them a toy or treat.*
4. Don't punish or scold for accidents. Doing so will only lead to stress and anxiety, which may exacerbate the problem and make training more difficult. Cats do not associate punishment with incidents in question so punishment does not help to train them to not do it in the future.

- **Cleaning and Maintenance**

It is important to take proper care of the litter box. Not only will this help eliminate the dreaded

“cat smell” from your home, but it will also make using the box a more pleasant experience for your cat.

- Scoop the box daily to remove your foster cat/kittens deposits. Replace soiled litter as needed- typically when the litter stops controlling the odor.
- Clean and disinfect the box when you change out the litter. Use mild soap and water, or a solution of water and white vinegar. Do not use bleach, commercial disinfectants or other harsh chemicals. These could be harmful to your foster.
- Use an enzyme cleaner to clean areas outside the box where your foster has had accidents. This type of cleaner will eliminate the smell which, if left untreated, might encourage her to keep in that spot.

- **Litter Training Older Cats**

Typically, older cats will already be old pros at using a litter box, but you may run into a litter box

training challenge if your foster cat was formerly an outdoor cat. Even then, cats have all the instincts to help them learn quickly what a litter box is for. Getting them used to the litter may be the biggest challenge. In such cases, we suggest filling the box with outdoor soil, to begin with. As your cat gets used to going in the box, gradually replace more and more of the soil with the cat litter to give them a chance to become familiar with the new surface.

Some cats, as previously mentioned, can be quite picky about the conditions of which they’ re willing to go. If your foster cat doesn’ t seem to be getting the hang of using the box, it could simply be that they do not like size or shape of the box, the smell, or texture of the litter. If the box is covered, your foster may find it too confining – or it may be that they feel too exposed in a non-covered box and would prefer the cover. Your foster may also dislike the location of the box or you may need to scoop it out more often. You may need to experiment until you find the right combination of factors that makes your foster comfortable enough to use the box

Cats that have yet to be spayed or neutered might spray urine in the house in order to mark their

territory, even after being fully litter box trained. Often, being spay or neutered tend to eliminate

the behavior. If you have any problems or need help, please do not hesitate to contact ITV!

Common Questions About Fostering....

How does ITV Rescue get their foster animals?

Almost all of our foster animals are transferred from high-intake city shelters. We also accept owner surrenders, and in some cases/locations, we will accept strays. The shelters try very hard to reunite strays with owners or find adopters for the animals that come in to their care.

Unfortunately, their intake numbers usually far exceed their return/adoption rates.

That is where the rescues can help, by pulling animals that are passed their stray hold and have not

found homes. Then your role as a foster comes into play. For every animal you foster, you actually save a second animal that can now take its place in the limited space at the shelter/rescue.

How much time & effort is needed to foster an animal?

It depends on the animal you foster. Puppies and kittens are more work than adults and involve more intensive care, time and energy. Although, adult dogs generally stay in foster care longer than puppies.

Many of our animals take an average of 1-2 months to place, but some take a year or more to find their perfect match. Since certain breeds can take longer to place than other breeds, we look for foster homes that are patient, stable, and realistic about what they are getting into.

Should I worry about getting in over my head with an animal(s) I can't handle?

We're careful to match fosters with dogs that meet their skill levels. If you've never fostered before, we will likely give you a very low drive dog or cat. We will work together to decide what kind of personality would be right for your situation, and then we will support you so that you feel comfortable in your foster's progress. We want you to have a fun experience with this project. By fostering, you will be increasing your own animal skills under the guidance of a large group of people who know and love animals and you will have the satisfaction of making a real difference.

Can I foster an animal(s) if I have pets already?

We actually prefer that you have pets at home, well socialized ones of course. We also strongly recommend that your pets be up-to-date with vaccinations. Please keep in mind that the foster my have an unknown vaccination history so it is important to your own pet(s) are vaccinated. We have numerous foster families that have other pets and have no problems with repeatedly taking fosters because their own pets are vaccinated. Your pet will most likely play a big role in helping the foster acclimate as life of a house pet. No matter how well your foster and pet(s) get along, we do require that you separate them, at least initially, when you are not there to supervise. This is for the safety and well-being of all animals.

How will I ever let go once I get attached?

If you get really attached to your foster and you can't imagine your life without them, you do have the option of adopting them. Most foster families are happy to see their fosters finally go "home" though. There's no greater joy than knowing you saved a life then seeing that deserving animal finally getting their very own person/family. Many of our foster homes LOVE the feeling of placing their foster so much that they immediately call and ask for another! Reminding ourselves of the millions of animals that die every year in shelters helps to "let go" of one foster so another can be saved. We like to remind ourselves about the following saying when we are having a hard time giving a foster up:

***On the fence about fostering because
It will be too hard to give them up?
I would rather cry watching them leave
our home to live a life of happiness and
joy in a loving home than cry because
no one stepped up to help them and they
died alone, frightened and sad in the shelter.***

Would I have to review adoption applications or speak with potential adopters?

Not unless you would like to be part of the adoption process. You just focus on enjoying your foster and the adoption counselor will handle all of the adoption details. We believe that our foster families know their fosters best, so we will ask you to provide personality information about your foster for their online bio, or possibly to answer specific questions. If your schedule allow and you want to meet potential adopters, please just let us know.

What will be expected of me as a foster home?

Many rescued animals have had zero training before they land in shelters, so it's up to the foster home to teach good house manners so their foster can be adopted. We find that other pets also teach manners. This is no small project and includes house training, socializing and enforcing basic obedience skills. By making the foster a part of your family during this time with you, you'll help them transition seamlessly into a forever home.

We ask that our foster families make their foster animal available for adoption events. You don't need to be present at the event, but you will need to help us arrange to get the animal there and back. Again, if you would like to be involved in the adoption process, we would love to include you. We also ask that our foster families commit to fostering the animal until it is adopted, unless other arrangements have been discussed in advance.

Do I have to have experience with the breed I am fostering?

We believe that all rescue animals are individuals. While experience with a particular breed can help to understand some of the common characteristics of a particular breed, it's not that important. Each animal will have its own individual personality, and we will help you figure out how to engage and manage your foster. The only exception here is that we require that you own your home or have your property manager's permission for the breed you are fostering. Of course, we will never demand you foster a pet you are not comfortable with.

Is it possible to work full-time outside of the house and still foster?

Yes. Most of our adopters work full time, so the 9-5 routine helps prepare the foster for such a lifestyle. If you work full-time, however, it is important that you make sure you have enough time and energy to give your foster the attention and exercise it needs when you are home.

Who pays for the foster's care?

ITV Rescue will cover all the veterinary expenses as well as crates and any other supplies that we have available. If any vetting is necessary while the foster is in your care, ITV covers the costs as long as ITV makes the appointment with our veterinarians. All remaining vetting (alteration, deworming, vaccines) will be done while the foster is in your care, so we do need fosters that are able and willing to work with scheduling. However, we completely understand that a vast majority of our fosters work, so transportation to appointments can be arranged. Because of our limited resources, many foster homes choose to further help the rescue by providing their own food, litter, or heartworm/flea prevention. We will provide donated food, however, if requested by the foster.

Can I foster short-term?

Sure! We always need relief fosters who can care for our animals when their foster families go out of town, have surgery or just need a little break. We love foster families no matter if you foster once or continuously.

What if I can't keep my foster animal?

If you are having problems with your foster, please contact us, it might be something that we can help fix. We do work with a local trainer that can help also. Although we do have rescue centers, we RARELY have open kennels at them. If an animal is adopted from the rescue center or fostered, the kennel is immediately filled with another animal as the need is so great that we have waiting lists. As such, we request you give us notice if you do have to bring your foster back so we can make proper arrangements. We understand, however, that emergencies do arise and notice is not always possible.

What are other ways I can help?

- Make sure to keep us updated and send in new pictures whenever possible! The more information we have about a foster, the better the chance of placing the foster in an appropriate forever home.

- Help at adoption events or community events. We would love to have your help at these events!
- Share, volunteer and attend our fundraising events. We cannot maintain the rescues without our fundraisers and need the support of our fosters at these events.
- We send out monthly newsletters letting our fosters and volunteers know what is going on with the rescues and where we are going to be. If you are not getting the newsletters, make sure to email us so we can put you onto the list. You can also sign up for the newsletters at itvrescue.org
(<https://itvrescue.org/volunteer/>)
- We update our Facebooks daily. Make sure to follow us there and join ITV fosters and volunteers group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/itvvolunteers>
- Share our dogs through Facebook. Instagram, SnapChat, Tik Tok, and X! The more exposure they get, the better their chance of adoption.
- Collect donations for our Rescue. We have wish list items posted on website at [ITVrescue.org](https://itvrescue.org) and an Amazon wish list is also posted on our website. We also have weekly Wish List Wednesday on our Facebook pages.

It Takes A Village, Inc
Foster Animal Bio Information

Please complete and return to ITV or email information to
info@itvrescue.org

FOSTER ANIMAL NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

How long have you fostered the animal? _____

DOGS ONLY: Is he/she housetrained Y N
() Never soils in House () Sometimes soils () Not Housebroken

How does he/she signal? _____

Is he/she leash trained? Y N (list any leash behaviors we need to know about)

Does he/she know any basic commands? (Please list) _____

CATS ONLY: Is he/she litter box trained? Y N

ALL ANIMALS:

Where does your foster spend his/her day? (Check all that apply)

() Loose indoors () In a crate () Basement () Garage () Fenced Yard

() Kennel Run () Tied outdoors () Other (Please Describe) _____

Where does your foster spend his/her night? (Check all that apply)

() Loose indoors () In a crate () Basement () Garage () Fenced Yard

() Kennel Run () Tied outdoors () Other (Please Describe) _____

Where do you keep him/her when you aren't home? _____

Does he/she come when called? () Always () Sometimes () Never

Has your foster interacted with children? Y N

What is his/her behavior with young children? _____

What about older children? _____

Has he/she been socialized with any dogs? Y N

What is your fosters behavior with dogs of a similar size? _____

Large(r) dogs? _____

Small(er) dogs? _____

Has your foster been socialized with cats? Y N

If yes, what is his/her behavior with cats? _____

Has your foster been socialized with any other animal types? If yes, please list and explain behavior

Regarding interactions with other animals, would you consider him/her to be:

() Dominant () Submissive () Not Sure

Have you had any behavior problems with your foster? (Please explain.) _____

Does your foster have any issues with resource guarding of food, toys, etc? Y N

If yes please explain. _____

Has he/she ever scratched, bitten or snapped at someone? Y N

If yes please explain. _____

What have you been feeding your foster? _____

Please tell us anything else you believe we should know about your foster:
