

“WHAT IS FOSTERING?”

FAQs about becoming a foster home



1. Why does your rescue organization need foster homes?

Foster homes are the heart & soul of Pacific Northwest Cattle Dog Rescue. As a foster-based rescue we rely on our network of fosters and volunteers to care for our rescue dogs. The more foster homes we have, the more dogs we can rescue and re-home. We accept a dog into our program when we have a suitable foster home available.

2. How do find out about cattle dogs needing a foster home?

You will be part of our email list for active fosters. This is where the Intake Team and Foster Coordinators will provide info on dogs currently needing foster placement. There will also be communication about dogs needing transport, adoption events and admin volunteer opportunities.

3. Do I get to pick which dog I foster?

When you see a foster dog in the Facebook group that sounds like a good match, contact the Foster Coordinator. Ask any relevant questions pertaining to your household and abilities, but understand that we may not get all the answers from the current shelter or owner.

4. How long will I keep my foster dog?



It completely depends on the dog and the situation. Some puppies and dogs stay at little as 2 or 3 weeks. Other dogs recovering from illness or needing more time to decompress may stay in foster longer. We ask that our foster parents plan on having their foster dog for at least 8 weeks. Please make the Foster Coordinator aware of any travel plans or time constraints to we can arrange for a temp foster or transfer.

5. If I have my own animals, can I still foster?

Yes, but please make the Foster Coordinator aware of all animals (dogs, cats, small animals, livestock) living at or visiting your home. You will

need to provide your foster dog with their own space (a crate, a spare room) especially at the beginning of their stay. Your foster dog will likely need time to decompress before being integrated with the rest of the household. Keep in mind that it's always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals whether it's walking at parks, vet waiting rooms or other common animal areas. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintains a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young. If you or someone in

your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before fostering since working or with animals exposes humans to a group of diseases called zoonoses. A zoonotic disease is defined as a disease transmitted from animals to humans and also from humans to animals.

6. What supplies are needed to foster?

Foster homes provide shelter, food, exercise, basic training and love. The rescue provides kibble, crates, monthly preventatives for fleas and heart worm, veterinary care and any other supplies. If your dog needs other supplies or equipment (different food, a long-line or harness) contact the Foster Coordinator. PNWCDCR will make every effort to provide you with the supplies and equipment needed throughout your foster experience. We have foster supplies located along I-5 from Burlington Washington to Springfield Oregon.

7. Do I have to crate-train my foster dog?

Most foster parents will need to leave their foster dog alone for some portion of the day. A crate allows a dog to stay safely in at home. Some benefits of crating a dog are:

- prevents fights with other animals in the home
- avoids potential damage to home from separation anxiety
- keeps the dog from getting into food or trash

It is one of the most efficient and effective ways to house train a puppy or re-train an adult dog. Some dogs do not like crates, and most dogs need to be transitioned or “trained” to use a crate, so it’s up to the foster parent to decide whether to crate or not. Putting the dog in a crate while you are gone will give you peace of mind knowing that they are in a safe place, and not doing any damage to your belongings or themselves. For many dogs, a crate can also represent a safe and comfortable place to call their own and provides them with a sense of security, especially in a multi-dog home. We do not permit our foster dogs to be left on a tie-out or home alone in a backyard.

8. Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or expertise?

No, but you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster dog so you will have to be comfortable following veterinarian’s instructions if fostering a sick or injured dog.

9. What happens if my foster dog gets sick or injured?

If your foster dog gets sick or injured, contact the Foster Coordinator. Don’t take your foster dog to the vet without prior approval from the rescue. This applies to both non-urgent and urgent medical situations. We are established clients with certain Banfield hospitals, private practice veterinary clinics, emergency hospitals and speciality practices. Before fostering, check with the Foster Coordinator to be sure that we currently work with a vet in your area. If there’s a local veterinarian that you recommend, let us know!

10. How much time does it take everyday?

Responsibilities depend on the individual dog and situation. It’s essential that foster parents understand that foster dogs will be anxious upon arrival. They will have been through a lot of transition and travel prior to arriving. Foster homes must be willing to be patient and commit to the dog because our goal is to keep them in a stable and consistent environment. Most cattle

dogs have lots of energy and require daily exercise — both physical and mental. [Decompression walks](#) and [meal enrichment](#) are great ways to provide low-stress exercise and mental engagement for anxious, energetic dogs.

10. Can I take my foster dog to an off-leash dog park for exercise and socialization?

No. Foster dogs from PNWCDR are not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks. While these parks can be fun for some dogs, there are far too many unknowns for it to be a safe and healthy experience for a foster dog. The temperaments of visiting dogs are unknown, thus creating a huge liability. Taking a leashed dog to a dog park can create barrier frustration and aggression in dogs. As you spend time with your foster dog you will be learning about their temperament, quirks and fears. Socialize your foster dog with dogs and people that you already know. We highly recommend finding a [Sniffspot](#) near you. Please contact the Foster Coordinator about booking a Sniffspot or getting reimbursed.

11. I'm going out of town for the weekend. What should I do with my foster dog?

If you're going out of town for the weekend and going somewhere dog-friendly, you're welcome to bring the foster dog too! If it's not a dog-friendly trip or you don't think the foster dog will do well with traveling, please reach out to the Foster Coordinator to make a plan. With enough notice, we can usually find someone to take them for the weekend. If you want to leave your foster dog with someone that is not listed as a member of the household on your foster application, please talk with the Foster Coordinator in advance.

12. Am I responsible for finding my foster dog its forever home?

No, but we do need your help! You will be asked to schedule meet and greets with your foster dog and potential adopters. Your input on the potential adopters is critical to finding a great match. Many times a foster parent will find a perfect match through their own network of friends, family and colleagues. If you think you have found a perfect forever home for your foster dog, remember they still must go through the application process and be approved.

13. How are foster dogs promoted?

Photos and stories of all adoptable dogs in foster homes are posted on our website, PetFinder, Adopt-A-Pet and across social media. Foster parents are encouraged to participate in events to increase the visibility of their foster dog to potential adopters. Foster parents can also help promote their foster dog to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public through a variety of means including flyers, emails and even just by walking your foster dog in local neighborhoods with an "Adopt Me" bandana around its neck. Please provide the Adoption Coordinator with videos and photos of your dog. These really help bring attention to the foster dog on social media. Videos of the dog interacting or playing with people, other dogs or other pets are always appreciated! Here are some tips on [Getting Great Adoptable Dog Photos](#).

14. What is the adoption process?

All adoptions start with our [Adoption Application](#). The applications are reviewed by our Adoption Team. They may reach out with specific questions about the dog or to get feedback on applicants.

After a phone convo with the Adoption Coordinator, a follow-up email with the dog's medical records and behavioral assessment will be sent to the applicant. At this time they'll also receive the foster home's contact info and will be able to reach to you about scheduling a meet n greet with the foster dog.

Applicants typically travel to the foster parents' neighborhood or home for meet n greets. Some dogs find their forever home in one meet n greet; some dogs have a few meet n greets with different applicants.

After all the meet n greets are done, a potential adopter is selected. A home visit is scheduled and a volunteer (or the foster parent) will bring the dog to the adoptive home. At that point the adoption application is signed and fee is paid. Don't forget to get a photo of the new family!

15. Can I adopt my foster dog?

While we do not have a foster-to-adopt program, we do understand that l-o-v-e happens. A good number of our foster dogs end up as "foster fails." You're welcome to submit an adoption application for your foster dog at any time.

16. What happens if I can't keep my foster dog?

We place dogs in foster homes with the intention of them staying there until adoption (average 8-12 weeks). However, we understand that situations change and it may become necessary to stop fostering a dog. We request that a foster parent provides as much notice as possible so that we can find an alternative foster home to transfer the dog. Prior to committing to a foster dog, please make the Foster Coordinator aware of any upcoming travel plans or potential time constraints so there is time to arrange a temp foster or transfer.



17. How else can I help?

While we don't have a physical shelter where dogs need visits or walks, there are lots of ways you can help! If you're able to make and receive phone calls during business hours, we can always use help with scheduling appointments and record keeping. We're also looking for folks to help with fundraising, transport, grant writing and social media.

18. Where is Pacific Northwest Cattle Dog Rescue located?

PNWCDR is incorporated in Washington state (EIN 82-5180852). We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We do not have a brick & mortar shelter, farm, kennels or sanctuary location. We are 100% foster-based, volunteer-powered and donor-funded. We currently have foster homes in Washington and Oregon. We partner with shelters and rescues locally as well as in Texas and California.

READY TO FOSTER? pnwcdr.org/foster

or email us at foster@pnwcdr.org