



Foster Handbook

Welcome to our Family!

MISSION

To find loving homes for the lost souls that fall into our hands



SPACAR Admins



PAIGE

President
Started SPACAR in October of 2013 and is the current Board President



AMBER

Board Member
Started fundraising for SPACAR in November of 2014 and joined the Board in 2018



CHRISTY

Board Member
Started as an Admin in January of 2014 and joined the Board in 2018

FOSTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing a safe, loving home for your foster until they find their forever family
- Keeping your foster healthy while socializing and providing early potty and crate training
- Transporting them to vet appointments, adoption events, and meet-n-greets
- Staying in contact with your admin about your foster's health, behavior, and ideal future home
- Sending your admin pictures of your foster to post on social media

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Paige: 918-639-1720
- Amber: 918-724-7394
- Christy: 918-407-3485

01 Get Prepared



BEFORE YOU PICK UP YOUR FOSTER

- Get their designated space within your house prepared and animal proof your home
- **Their space should be an area that is:**
 - » easily cleanable
 - » free from harmful chemicals or valuable items
 - » adjacent to outdoors, if potty training
 - » temperature controlled
 - » sound controlled if needed
 - » secured from other pets if needed
- Make sure these items are ready to go:
 - » crate located with towels, pee pads, etc. (dog)
 - » litter box (cat) and bedding
 - » food and water
 - » cleaning supplies and disinfectants

SUPPLIES SPACAR PROVIDES:

- Food
- Pet carrier for cats and kittens
- Crate for dogs and puppies
- Collar with SPACAR foster ID tag (must be worn at all times) and a leash for dogs
- Food and water bowls
- Litter box and scoop for cats and kittens
- Any medication the animal may need
 - » they'll also need to stay current on heartworm prevention + flea and tick treatment
- Donated items such as toys and blankets when available

02 Pick-up Day

- Before heading out to pick up your foster from SPACAR, make sure you grab these items for your foster's ride home
 - » crate or carrier with towels
 - » paper towels and a trash bag in case there's an accident (some animals don't ride well in vehicles)
 - » a leash (or we can provide you one)
- **If you have current pets, make sure they're put up**, so that you can properly introduce them to your foster after they're acclimated (see '03 At Home')
- Your Admin will give you any known history, medical conditions, future vet needs such as spay/neuter, along with their contact info for coordination
 - » make sure your foster potties before getting into the car and before going into your home



03 At Home



INTRODUCE THEM TO EVERYONE

START SLOW

Prior to introducing your foster to kids or pets, let them explore your yard and home (on a leash for dogs) so they understand their surroundings without potential 'threats'.

If you have kids, establish clear rules for introductions and interactions with your foster i.e. no grabbing, yelling, or chasing.

Next, let them see your kids from a safe distance without interaction until they appear relaxed. Once relaxed, they can be introduced to kids, one at a time (dogs on leash).

» Video - [Safe Interactions with Foster Dogs and Children](#)

If you have other dogs, introduce them to your foster one at a time. Start by getting a helper to walk both dogs outside in a neutral area. Don't allow interactions until the dogs appear relaxed, then brief sniffing is fine. Continue brief interactions until the initial excitement has worn off, then walk both dogs home. If they still appear calm, monitor them off-leash in the yard or house.

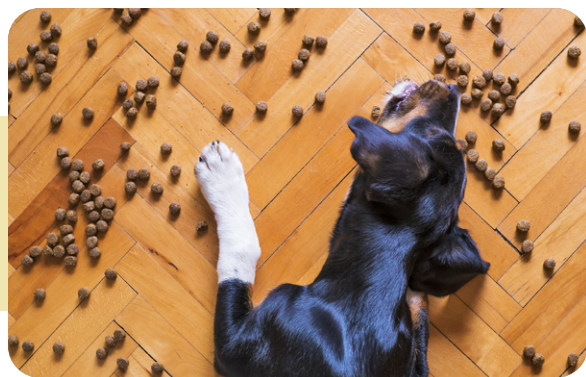
» Article - [Introduce Foster Dog to Resident Dog](#)

Make sure your foster always has a safe place to retreat to until they are comfortable having consistent interactions with kids, pets, and other people. (see Training Pages)

➔ KEEP SOCIALIZING THEM!



04 Feeding



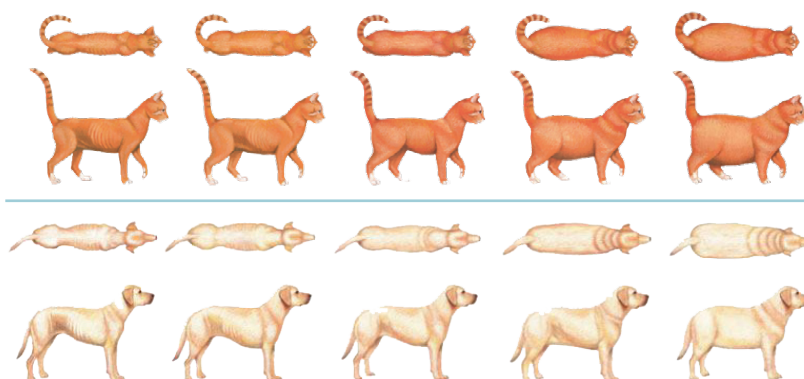
Dog's Weight	Puppy	Average Adult	Athletic Adult
3-12 lbs	$\frac{2}{3}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups per day	$\frac{1}{3}$ - 1 cup per day	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{3}$ cups per day
13-20 lbs	$1\frac{3}{4}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ cups per day	1 - $1\frac{2}{3}$ cups per day	$1\frac{1}{3}$ - 2 cups per day
21-50 lbs	$2\frac{3}{4}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ cups per day	$1\frac{2}{3}$ - $3\frac{1}{3}$ cups per day	2 - $4\frac{1}{4}$ cups per day
51-100 lbs	$5\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ cups per day	$3\frac{1}{3}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ cups per day	$4\frac{1}{4}$ - 7 cups per day
100+ lbs	* $9\frac{1}{4}$ + cups per day	* $5\frac{1}{2}$ + cups per day	*7+ cups per day

* +1/2 cup per day for each additional 20lbs

Cat's Weight	Kitten	Weight Maintenance	Weight Reduction
1-3 lbs	$\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per day		
4-7 lbs	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 cup per day	$\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per day	$\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per day
7-10 lbs	$\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 cups per day	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ cup per day	$\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ cup per day
10-15 lbs		* $\frac{2}{3}$ - 1 cup per day	* $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup per day

* +1/4 cup per day for each additional 2lbs

very thin | underweight | ideal | overweight | obese



05 Sleeping and Crating



If you have a puppy foster, crate training will help them work on several things including potty training. At night, it's a great place to keep them safe and help them settle down. While they're young, it may help to keep the crate near you at night. If whining/crying is a concern, they can be placed in another room. Remember to follow the guidelines below for nighttime crating, since puppies will need potty breaks at night. **See '13 Puppies - Training & Behaviors' for more info.**

» Video - [Crate Training Why and How](#)

	Age 8 weeks	Age 10 weeks	Age 12 weeks	Age 3-6 months +
Day	<p>Place treats in crate often, leaving door open. After the first 2 days, shut door briefly while puppy eats.</p> <p>Max crate time = 10 min. by the end of week 1</p>	<p>5 minute crate sessions 10x a day will get puppy used to the crate. Leave puppy with a kong toy or treat each time.</p> <p>Max crate time = 30min. no more than 3x a day</p>	<p>Teach the puppy to crate on cue with 5 minute training sessions 4x a day.</p> <p>Max crate time = 1hr no more than 2x a day</p>	<p>Keep the crate a happy place! Give frequent rewards for crating on cue.</p> <p>Max crate time = 2hrs no more than 1x a day</p>
Night	<p>Have puppy's crate near your bed for the first 3 nights.</p> <p>Max crate time = 3 to 4 hrs a night - potty break - then back to bed for 3 to 4 hrs</p>	<p>Puppy can sleep in the crate downstairs at night.</p> <p>Max crate time = 5 to 6 hrs - potty break - then back to bed</p>	<p>Most puppies start sleeping through the night. You still need to get up early to avoid accidents.</p> <p>Max crate time = 6-7 hrs</p>	<p>No long lay-ins, but most puppies can last 8 hrs by 6 months old.</p> <p>Max crate time = 8 hrs</p>

* remember to keep a pee pad in your puppy's kennel at night until they can hold it 8 hrs

06 Getting Them Adopted

HELP US MAKE IT HAPPEN !

1

TAKE PHOTOS

Send your admin weekly photos of your foster for posting on social media. Include specifics about their personality and what their ideal home might look like. This will help get them exposure to more people!



2

ATTEND EVENTS

We hold adoption events at our Skiatook facility as well as at other special events in the surrounding area. Attending or dropping off your foster will give people a chance to see and interact with them in person.



3

MEET & GREETES

Many times, a one-on-one meet and greet with your foster and a potential adopter is the best route. Your admin will let you know when an approved application has been received, and then they will walk you through how to set up a meeting with the potential family. You can meet at SPACAR headquarters, your/their house, or a neutral/secure location.



07 Photo Dos & Don'ts

PHOTO DOS

Quality photos help illustrate each foster's personality and are a huge component in marketing each animal. Follow these guidelines to help them look their best!

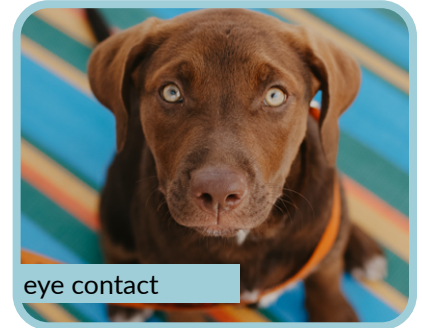


PHOTO DON'TS

Avoid these common photo mishaps. Make sure your pet is in focus, looking happy, and under good lighting to show off their personality.



08 Surgery & Medical

VET DAY

- If your foster has not been spayed/neutered/vetted, you will need to work with your admin to get them vetted and up-to-date on shots.
- Your admin will give you options for taking them to one of our partner vets nearest you for any surgery.
- You will be responsible for transport, but let us know if you need help.
- **Fosters should not eat after 12am the night before a surgery; water is OK.**
- Drop them off at the vet within their preferred window, and let them know you're with SPACAR, and your foster's name. Cats should be in a carrier and dogs on a leash.
- The vet will call you when they're ready for pick-up.

AFTER CARE

- Your foster will most likely be groggy and tired when you pick them up. **Make sure they potty** prior to getting in the car. They may have been holding it a long time.
- Keep them calm when you get home. Give them plenty of water. Give them food in small amounts, since anesthesia may have made them nauseous.
- Give any pain meds as instructed by the vet.
- Strenuous activity should be avoided for 7 to 10 days after surgery.
- **Keep your foster from licking the incision and avoid bathing for 10 days after surgery (a cone may be required)**
- Check the incision daily for any redness or swelling and contact your admin if there is any.

OTHER MEDICAL CONCERNS:

Monitor These Symptoms:

- Mild discharge from nose or eyes
- Lack of appetite; not eating much; skipping meals
- Mild lethargy
- Sneezing and/or coughing
- Diarrhea or loose stool
- Frequent urination
- No bowel movement for 24-36 hrs
- Hair loss; scaly and red skin

**Call your admin if symptoms worsen*

Get Immediate Attention:

- Continuous, repeated vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Any trauma
- Extreme lethargy; won't get up
- Diarrhea lasting longer than 48 hrs
- Bleeding of any kind; nose/urine/stool
- Lots of greenish nasal or eye discharge
- Loss of appetite; will not eat/has not eaten or drank water in 48 hrs

**Call our In Case of Emergency #s on pg. 2*

Food & Plants to Avoid:

- » Article - [People Foods to Avoid](#) Article - [Poisonous Plants](#)



**We have more medical info available as needed for neonate, heartworm, etc.*

09 Tips for Previous Trauma



We don't know the backgrounds of many of our animals, but some come from situations where they were not shown reliable love and care, or they experienced trauma. Abused or neglected animals may have trust issues that will take extra effort and patience to overcome.

*THINGS TO AVOID:

- Sudden gestures and movements
- Raising your voice
- Loud noises
- Raising your hand
- Petting them on top of their head
- Leaning over them
- Touching the animal in a wounded spot
- Grabbing or taking the animals 'resources' such as food

Previously abused animals may exhibit traits and behaviors such as excitability, attachment, rolling in feces, urinating in place, fear or aggression toward strangers, fear of stairs, hyperactivity, persistent barking, or bizarre or repetitive behaviors such as hoarding or circling.

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Be very patient
- Provide them with a safe space
- Provide them with a consistent, reliable schedule
- Let them work at their own pace
- Don't force anything
- Praise them heavily when they demonstrate appropriate behaviors
 - » pick a consistent praise word like 'good' or 'yes'
- Create opportunities to be successful or build confidence like learning to 'sit' or going on walks
 - » use high value treats for positive reinforcement

*If your foster **bites and breaks the skin**, clean the wound, and then contact your admin (required by law) to report the circumstances of the bite and discuss rabies observation.

10 Dogs - Training & Behaviors

INTRODUCTIONS

A

- » To Other Dogs: Video - [Introducing A New Dog to Your Other Pets](#)
- » To Other People: Video - [How to Introduce Your Dog to New People](#)
Video - [Introducing Your Foster Dog to Strangers](#)
- » To Cats: Video - [Introducing Your Foster Dog to Cats](#)

POTTY & CRATE TRAINING

B

- » Potty Training: Video - [7 Quick Tips for Toilet Training](#)
- » Crate Training: Video - [How to Potty & Crate Train a Puppy or Dog](#)
- » Kong Recipes for Crating: Article - [Stuffing Recipes](#)

TRAINING BASICS

C

- » Basics: Video - [Sit, Leave It, Come, Leash Walking...](#)
- » Stay Command: Video - [How to Teach Your Dog to Stay](#)
- » Playing: Video - [Playing With Your Foster Dog](#)
- » Leash Training: Video - [Leash Training a Dog](#)
Video - [Slip Lead Training](#)



BAD BEHAVIORS

D

- » Exercise: Video - [Do This One Thing to Eliminate 90% of Behavior Problems](#)
- » Leash Pulling: Video - [How to Train Your Dog to Not Pull on the Leash](#)
- » Barking: Video - [How to Teach Your Dog Not to Bark](#)
- » Separation Anxiety: Video - [Why Does My Dog Have Separation Anxiety](#)
- » Anxiety: Video - [How to Stop Dog Anxiety Fast](#)
Video - [How to Stop Dog Anxiety, Aggression, Pulling](#)
- » Jumping: Video - [How to Train Your Dog to Stop Jumping](#)

11 Puppies - Training & Behaviors

INTRODUCTIONS

A

- » Parvovirus Tips: Video - [Parvovirus in Dogs: Causes, Symptoms, and Treatments](#)
- » Puppy Tips: Video - [Caesar Millan's Puppy Tips](#)
- » Puppy to Other Dogs: Video - [Introducing a Puppy to the Pack](#)
- » To Cats: Video - [Introducing Your Foster Dog to Cats](#)

POTTY & CRATE TRAINING

B

- » Potty Training: Video - [How to Potty Train Your Puppy](#)
- » Potty Training: Video - [7 Quick Tips for Toilet Training](#)
- » Crate Training: Video - [How to Crate Train a Puppy](#)
- » Crate Training: Video - [Surviving Your Puppies First Night At Home](#)



TRAINING BASICS

C

- » Basics: Video - [3 Easy Things to Teach Your New Puppy](#)
- » Basics: Video - [How to Train Your Puppy 8 Things in 7 Days](#)
- » Listen: Video - [How to Teach Your Puppy to Listen When They Won't](#)
- » Leash Training: Video - [How to Leash Train Your Puppy](#)

BAD BEHAVIORS

D

- » Crying & Whining: Video - [How to Get Your Puppy to Stop Crying and Whining](#)
- » Biting & Chewing: Video - [How to Stop Puppy Biting and Chewing](#)
- » Stop Biting: Video - [How to Train Your Puppy to Stop Biting](#)
- » Separation Anxiety: Video - [How to Help Your Puppy Overcome Separation Anxiety](#)
- » Fear: Video - [Comforting a Scared Dog](#)
Video - [Squeaky Toy Trauma](#)
- » Jumping: Video - [3 Ways to Stop Your Puppy from Jumping](#)

12 Cats - Training & Behaviors

SETUP & INTRODUCTIONS

A

- » Home Prep: Video - [Steps on How to Catify Your Home](#)
- » Kitten Setup: Video - [How to Setup Space for Foster Kittens](#)
- » Litter Box Setup: Video - [You're Setting Up Your Litter Box All Wrong](#)
- » Litter Tips: Video - [Litter Trays; Behavior Guide](#)
- » Carrier: Video - [How to Get a Cat into a Carrier](#)
- » Cat to Cat Intros: Video - [How to Introduce Cats](#)
- » Dog and Cat Intros: Video - [Introducing Your Foster Dog to Cats](#)

BODY LANGUAGE

B

- » Basics: Video - [6 Things Your Cat Is Saying to You](#)
- » Basics: Video - [Cat Language Explained](#)



INTERACTION

C

- » Playtime Tips: Video - [Fix Playtime with Your Cat](#)
- » Petting: Video - [You're Petting Your Cat All Wrong](#)
- » Love: Video - [4 Ways to Tell Your Cat 'I Love You'](#)
- » Training: Video - [The Best and Worst Ways to Train Your Cat](#)
- » Feral Kitten: Video - [Helping a Feral Kitten Become Friendly](#)

BAD BEHAVIORS

D

- » Scratching: Video - [How to Stop Your Cats from Scratching Furniture](#)
- » Declawing: Article - [Position Statement on Declawing Cats](#)
- » Fear: Video - [The Key to Helping Your Shy or Scared Cat](#)
- » Licking & Biting: Video - [Why Does My Cat Lick Me and Then Bite Me](#)

13 Foster Waiver

Please read the foster waiver provided by your admin, sign, and return to SPACAR. Print and return to an Admin on-site, or email to info@skiatookpawsandclaws.com.

We don't know the backgrounds of many of our animals, but some come from situations where they were not shown reliable love and care, or they experienced trauma. Abused or neglected animals may have trust issues that will take extra effort and patience to overcome.



THANK YOU FOR FOSTERING !