



Foster Care Manual

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue

2323 South Hardy Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85282

(602) 445-6387

www.lostourhome.org

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Overview & Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in fostering with us at Lost Our Home Pet Rescue! By opening your heart and your home to these foster animals that are desperately in need, you are helping to save lives. Here you will find some basic information in this foster manual, but please do not hesitate to contact fostering@lostourhome.org with any further questions. We also have a Facebook group for our foster families to discuss their foster adventures! Join the LOH Foster Family at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1927748237467542/>

As part of our Lost Our Home family you will enjoy several benefits:

- Knowing that your efforts are positively affecting the life of a homeless animal.
- Training classes provided free of charge by our staff behavior and training specialists.
 - Invitations to LOH special events.
- Weekly Volunteer Newsletters giving you the latest shelter news!

Contact List

Foster Care Program Staff - Primary

Ashley Lindsay – Foster Care Coordinator:
(602) 445-6387 / fostering@lostourhome.org

Foster Care Program Staff - Secondary

Emily Vivian – Volunteer Services & Medical
Manager:
(480) 226-3228 / fostering@lostourhome.org

Adoption Assistance

Sandra Rutan – Programs Manager
(602) 445-6387 / sandra@lostourhome.org

Emergency Contact

Tracey Varga – Shelter Director
(480) 861-8367 / tracey@lostourhome.org

General Information

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue is located at 2323 South Hardy Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Main line: (602) 445-6387

Website: www.lostourhome.org

Shelter Hours

We are closed to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays, and major holidays.

Saturday & Sunday 10:00AM-4PM
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11:00AM-6:00PM

Please read thoroughly

Foster Care Program Guidelines and Requirements

How to Become a Foster Parent

There are a few requirements that must be met prior to becoming an LOH foster parent:

- You should have the support of all the individuals living in your home, as their lives will be greatly affected by this decision.
- Personally owned pets must be current on vaccines and we require that cats and kittens be tested for FeLV and FIV. Personally owned pets must be on a flea and tick prevention program. Your dog(s) may be required to come to the shelter to meet other dogs or puppies and be evaluated by staff behaviorists depending on the foster situation.
- If you haven't already, submit a Foster Care Application.
- Schedule an interview with the Foster Coordinator by emailing fostering@lostourhome.org.
- Upon acceptance into the program, you will be asked to sign a Liability Waiver and a Foster Care Agreement.
- **Agree to comply with all LOH policies, procedures, requirements, and recommendations made by LOH staff members.**

Foster Parent Responsibilities

Foster parents are responsible for the care and well being of the foster animals in their homes. The following are some essentials to the care of your foster animal once they are in your home:

- Sanitize properly between every new foster intake and keep their living space sanitary at all times. Foster animals should not be allowed to roam freely throughout the home. They should be kept in a room specifically for foster animals such as a spare bedroom or computer room and one that is easily cleaned.
- Provide a loving, safe, nurturing, stimulating, and sanitary environment for each LOH foster animal.
- Provide adequate food, water, shelter, socialization, habituation, exercise, and attention to each LOH foster animal.
- Foster puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks or doggie daycares under any circumstances. But depending on the type of foster animal you have, adult dogs may be allowed to go to dog parks. Please check with the appropriate Foster Care staff member if you are unsure.
- When necessary, carefully and accurately dispense medication as instructed by LOH staff.
- Accurately follow any behavioral or medical instructions provided by the shelter staff. No experimenting please.
- Be prepared to foster LOH foster animals until they are ready for adoption. The length of time each foster animal will remain in a foster home varies, but generally ranges from 2 weeks to a few months.

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- Schedule all visits to the shelter with the Foster Care Coordinator. This includes visits to pick up supplies and medications or dropping off and picking up foster animals. Emergency situations are the exception.
- Always transport foster animals in carriers, whether to and from the shelter for regular visits (generally every 2 weeks), emergency situations, or in the event they become ill.
- Always keep animals in carriers while waiting for your appointment.
- You must closely monitor the health, physical appearance, and activity level of the foster animals in your care and contact the Foster Care staff if signs of illness are evident.
- Notify the Foster Care staff within 24 hours of any major change in the fostered animals' health.
- Agree to be respectful to LOH staff and volunteers.
- Do Not Transfer the care of LOH animals to a third party.
- The foster parent may foster for other rescue organizations. However, in order to prevent cross contamination and to fully safeguard the animals' health, the foster must agree, while fostering LOH animals, and not mix other organizations' foster animals.

Personally-Owned Pets

For health reasons, your pets should be current on vaccines and flea and tick preventions. We require that your feline companions be tested for FeLV and FIV. If you have not had your cats tested, we can test your personal cat(s) for \$15 per cat by appointment only. LOH foster animals should be isolated from your pets for at least 2 weeks. You should always wash your hands before and after handling your foster animals. This small step may help in preventing the spread of illness to your own pets and to foster animals. **LOH is not responsible or liable for any medical care to personally-owned pets resulting from fostering LOH animals. Any and all veterinary expenses for personally-owned animals are the sole responsibility of the owner.**

Foster Animal Ownership

All foster animals are the legal property of Lost Our Home Pet Rescue.

Changes in Contact Information

The Foster Care staff must be immediately advised of any changes in your name, address, or telephone number.

Vacations

In the event that you are going out of town while you are fostering animals, you must do the following:

- Notify the Foster Care staff of the dates you will be gone and your intended return date.
- LOH foster animals should be returned to the shelter for alternative foster home placement. Any other alternative foster home placements (pet sitter, friend, and so on) will be decided on a case-by-case basis and must go through a screening process by the Foster Care staff.
- LOH foster animals are not under any circumstances to be placed in boarding facilities including veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, or doggie daycares.

Household Hazards

Hazard proof the area your foster animals will be residing in to ensure there is nothing that could potentially cause them serious harm, such as electrical cords, plants, or flowers. Remember that you may intake a foster animal that does not feel well and is not very mobile initially, but may easily fall prey to something harmful when he or she is feeling better. A list of hazardous foods, desert plants, and wildlife can be found later in this manual.

Children

Children should be supervised at all times when in the presence of foster animals. Children should be educated on how to properly handle the animals and have a hand washing protocol.

Safety

In the event that you are bitten, severely scratched, or otherwise physically harmed by an LOH foster animal, contact the Foster Care staff immediately after attending to the wound. Clean and disinfect the wound thoroughly. Seek out the advice of a medical provider or physician as soon as possible. Animal bites and scratches can be serious if you have allergies or if the wound is left unattended. The foster animal should be returned to the shelter immediately for an exam and possible quarantine period. You will be asked to fill out an Incident Report documenting the incident. **LOH is not liable or responsible for any injuries or damages to humans, personal pets, or personal belongings inflicted by foster animals.**

Indoor Policy

Foster animals are to be kept indoors only. Foster kittens and adult cats are to be kept indoors at all times. Foster adult dogs are permitted outdoors when taken on a leash. They are permitted outdoors off leash only when in a secure, fenced yard and always while under adult supervision. Puppies can only be in your yard and must be under adult supervision. They should NOT be walked in public areas or parks, where they could be exposed to life threatening diseases.

Lost or Stolen Foster Animals

In the event your foster animal is lost or stolen from your property or care, the Foster Care staff should be notified immediately. You may be required to fill out a police report in the event the animal is stolen.

Picking Up Foster Animals

Please schedule an appointment with the Foster Coordinator when you are picking up foster animals. Be prepared to fill out a Foster Home Intake Contract with every new foster animal.

Dropping Off Foster Animals

Please schedule an appointment with the Foster Coordinator when you are permanently dropping off your foster animals. There is no return paperwork to be completed; however, we do ask that you write a bio for each foster when applicable.

Foster Animal Information

Foster animals are commonly scared and stressed when relocating to a new foster home. Many are dealing with a change in diet, new surroundings, and new faces. Some have had little exposure to people and day-to-day things like vacuum cleaners and TVs. Therefore; it is not uncommon for them to have reduced appetites and diarrhea the first few days in your care. It may take a few days for them to acclimate to their new surroundings and your caring face. However, if these symptoms continue, please notify the Foster Care staff immediately. The following are a few more things you need to know about your foster animal:

- **Kittens** less than 6 months of age have tested negative for Feline Leukemia (FeLV). Kittens 2 - 4 weeks of age have been treated for worms. Kittens over 6 weeks have had at least one series of vaccines. Flea and tick treatment as needed.
- **Cats and kittens** over 6 months of age have tested negative for FeLV and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). They are up-to-date on vaccines. Flea and tick treatment as needed.
- **Dogs and puppies** over 6 weeks of age have been vaccinated. Flea and tick treatment as needed.
- Your foster animal may not have been sick when you picked him or her up from the shelter, but it is possible that your foster animal may become ill while in your home. This is very common. Often, animals appear symptom free at intake, but may be incubating a viral, bacterial, or fungal infection. Please be aware of this and report any symptoms to the Foster Care staff immediately. A list of symptoms to watch for is listed later in this manual.
- All LOH foster animals have passed a preliminary behavior and temperament evaluation. Dogs and puppies placed into foster care will be further evaluated on returning from a foster home.

The Basics

What do foster families need to provide?

- A healthy and safe environment for their fosters.
- Transportation to and from Lost Our Home, as well as to the veterinary office as needed.
- Socialization and cuddle time to help teach the kittens about positive family and pet relationships.

What does the shelter provide?

- Food (wet and dry)
- Litter
- Bedding, blankets, and towels
- Toys
- Veterinary care (with prior authorization)
- Other needed supplies that are available

- **Cats:** Kittens should have dry food available at all times. Each kitten can have 1/8 of a can of wet food twice daily. Adults should be fed 1/2 to 3/4 cup of dry food daily. An adult cat can

have 1/4 can of wet food twice daily. The exception to these guidelines is if the feline is on a special diet. In which case, specific instructions will be given at the time of foster intake. Nursing moms need double the amount of food and must be fed kitten food.

- **Dogs:** Puppies should have dry food available at all times. Each puppy can get 1/3 of a can of wet food twice daily. Guidelines for adults and those with special diets are determined by weight and activity level. The proper feeding amount will be suggested when picking up your foster animal.

Adopting Foster Animals

If you have decided that you would like to adopt one of your foster animals, please follow up with the Foster Care Coordinator and let her know of your interest so arrangements may be made. Foster parents do not receive a discount on their foster animal adoption.

Medical Emergency Situations

1. **If it is between the hours of 9:00AM-5:00PM, please call Foster Care Coordinator Ashley Lindsay at (602) 445-7387.**
2. **If it is between the above hours but no one can be reached, please call the Medical Manager Emily Vivian at (480) 226-3228 (personal cell phone for foster use only).**
3. **If it is outside of those hours, contact Shelter Director Tracey Varga at (480) 861-8367 (personal cell phone for foster use only).**
4. **If you cannot reach Tracey Varga, please contact the Executive Director Jodi Polanski at (480) 688-7899 (personal cell phone for foster use only).**

Please utilize the following guidelines when calling the clinic for a foster emergency:

1. When calling the LOH line, you may need to leave a voicemail. Please speak clearly, be as detailed as possible. Don't forget to leave your name and full phone number.
2. Please try to call as early in the day as possible.
3. If your emergency occurs after shelter hours, you will need to wait until the following day for a call back. LOH is not staffed around the clock nor do we have "on call" staff.
4. If you choose to take an LOH foster animal to a non-authorized private veterinarian, animal hospital, clinic, or emergency facility, you will **not** be reimbursed for the visit or any medical treatments or medications provided by that facility.

Emergencies

The shelter should be notified of the following conditions **immediately:**

- Blood from any orifice/opening
- Blood in vomit or vomit that is dark in color
- Blood in the urine, or if the foster animal is unable to urinate at all
- Blood in the stool, especially with diarrhea
- Congestion, wheezing, or labored breathing
- Fever (often accompanied by lethargy)

- If an accident has occurred and the foster animal appears to be injured
- Lameness that appears severe and painful
- Pain – irritability when handled or touched, particularly if it seems out of character for that animal
- Seizures or convulsions
- Trouble eating, mouth pain, or drooling
- Lameness that appears severe and painful
- Lethargy or decline in activity level normal for your foster animal for more than 24 hours

Non-Emergency Situations

- Any change in the appearance of the eye: squinting, winking, tearing, swelling, redness, yellow, green, or crusty discharge or vision loss
- Coughing for more than 24 hours
- Diarrhea or diarrhea accompanied by lethargy for more than 24 hours
- Excessive drinking for more than 48 hours
- Increased appetite for more than 1 week, especially when accompanied with weight loss
- Increased scratching at any part of the body including head shaking
- Increased urination or sudden accidents in the house, difficulty urinating, and straining for more than 24 hours
- Nasal discharge – white, yellow, or green
- No apparent weight gain, especially with puppies and kittens during a 72-hour period
- Poor appetite for more than 48 hours
- Sneezing for more than 24 hours
- Unexplained lameness that does not improve with rest within 24 hours
- Vomiting more than three times
- Weight loss is observed over a 48 hour period, especially with kittens, puppies, or nursing mothers – when weight loss is accompanied with normal to more-than-normal food intake
- Hairloss

Poisoning

Pet poisonings occur in many ways; the most common are the ingestion of medications, foods, plants and toxins, and encounters with poisonous animals. Many pet poisonings can be avoided through some simple precautions. Prior to bringing your foster animal home, be sure to poison-proof their living space and any other space they may be allowed, indoors and outdoors. If you suspect your foster animal has been poisoned, call the shelter immediately or the poison control center for assistance.

Common Poisonous Household Plants

This is only a small list of poisonous plants that are native to Arizona. The poison control center receives the most calls about the following plants:

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- Candelabras Cactus
- Carolina Jessamine
- Castor Bean
- Century Plant (Agave)
- Chinaberry Tree
- Dumbcane
- Eucalyptus
- Foxglove
- Jimson Weed
- Lantana
- Mexican Bird of Paradise
- Mistletoe
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Pothos
- Silver Leaf
- Texas Mountain Laurel
- Tree Tobacco
- Virginia Creeper
- Yellow Oleander

If you suspect your foster animal may have ingested one of these plants or another poisonous plant not listed here, call the shelter immediately or the poison control center.

Common Harmful Foods

The following are some known foods that can be harmful, even fatal to animals:

- Raisins can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and kidney failure in dogs.
- Grapes can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and kidney failure in dogs.
- Chocolate – the darker the chocolate, the more harmful it is to dogs. It can cause diarrhea, muscle tremor seizures and increased heart rate.
- Sugarless gums and candies can cause a rapid drop in a dog's blood sugar. (anything with xylitol)
- Onions can cause damage to blood cells and can cause anemia in dogs. For some dogs, even in small amounts, it can be fatal.
- Macadamia nuts can cause severe weakness in a dog's hind legs, tremors, and depression.

If you think your foster animal may have ingested one of the above foods, call the shelter immediately or call the poison control center.

Harmful Arizona Wildlife

Below are some wildlife animals that can be harmful to domestic animals:

- Sonoran Desert Toad
- Black Widow Spider
- Rattlesnakes
- Pinevine Swallowtail Butterfly
- Hawkmoths
- Desert Millipedes
- Pinacate and Bombardier Beetles
- Giant Mesquite Bugs
- Vinegaroon Scorpions
- Horse-Lubber Grasshopper
- Coyotes
- Bobcats

If you think your foster animal may have ingested or was bitten, attacked, or stung by one of these animals call the shelter immediately or call the poison control center.

Allergies

Cats, like people, can have allergic reactions to medication. Most medications are not given first at the shelter. If some sudden, adverse reaction happens after giving a new medication, such as wheezing or eyes being more inflamed, do not give any more medication and call the foster department.

Fatality

In the unfortunate event that an LOH foster animal passes away while in your care, you must notify the Foster Care staff immediately. Deceased foster animals must be returned to the shelter as soon as possible. If you are unable to bring the deceased foster animal to the shelter immediately we recommend you wrap the animal in a towel or cloth and place in a plastic bag, then store in a cold location such as a freezer or cooler with ice until you are able to bring the remains to the shelter. This will allow our medical staff to exam the remains, if necessary.

Behavior Problems

Our staff is available to offer any assistance with behavioral issues that may arise with your foster animal while they are in your care. Please notify the Foster Care Staff of the problem then call the helpline directly for advice on how to proceed.

Fun Fact:

- **Food is your best socialization tool, so become familiar with these simple techniques: [ASPCApro.org/resource/saving-lives-behavior-enrichment/using-food-successful-kitten-socialization](https://www.aspca.org/resource/saving-lives-behavior-enrichment/using-food-successful-kitten-socialization)**

Cat and Kitten Care

General Care

The first thing a foster parent should do is kitty-proof the foster animal's living space. Kittens should not be allowed to roam the home freely. Foster animals should have a room (with windows) set up specifically to meet their needs. This room could be a spare bedroom or computer room. Cat and kitten foster rooms should have plenty of soft places to rest, scratching posts, and different surfaces (carpet, tile, etc.) whenever possible. Remove things such as electrical cords, cables, wires, and any items of dollar or sentimental value. Kittens should be socialized on a daily basis.

There should be at least two low-rise (about 1-2 inches) litter boxes filled with nonclumping, nonscented litter. Litter boxes should be easily accessible and as far away from food and water bowls as possible. Litter boxes should be cleaned at least twice a day. Your new foster cat or kitten will need a few days to adjust to your home. Once your foster animal has had time to explore and adjust to your environment, he or she may need some grooming. This could include cleaning their ears, trimming their nails, giving them a

sponge bath, or brushing their coat. Be sure you ask about what products are used and recommended by LOH.

When trimming their nails, be careful not to cut too close to the pink veins. To be safe, simply clip off the curved tips carefully. Some kittens, especially the younger ones, were not with their mothers long enough to know how to groom themselves, so you will have to teach them. Simply take a washcloth and run it under warm water. Be careful not to make it too hot! A good way to test this is by placing it on your forearm. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. After you have your warm washcloth, gently run it over the kitten in short, swift strokes, much like their mother would do with her tongue. When cleaning their ears, be careful not to go too far into the ear canal as this could be painful and cause internal damage. Only use products specifically for cleaning ears.

Common Medical Conditions

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

This common head cold affects many animals kept in a shelter or multiple-cat household. The incubation period for URI is anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks. So, even if your foster animal appears symptom free when he or she first arrives, illness could be lurking. Symptoms include sneezing, runny eyes or nose, lethargy, loss of appetite, and fever. It is vital that kittens and cats continue to eat or nurse. Cats can go into liver failure from not eating and it can be fatal. If you notice that your foster animal has stopped eating, call the shelter immediately. If a kitten or cat is too congested to smell the food, they will not eat. Keeping your kitten or cat's eyes and nose clean and clear will help relieve some of this congestion. To do this, simply take a washcloth or cotton ball and run it under warm water. Then, gently clean off the eyes and nose. If it does not clean off easily, squeeze a few drops of warm water to help loosen the discharge. Oral antibiotics and nebulization may be prescribed to treat this condition. Many times, eye ointment will accompany those medications if the discharge changes from clear to yellow, creamy, or green.

Vomiting

Cats and kittens may vomit for several reasons. They may have consumed their meals too quickly, gagged on a hairball or may be ill. If your foster animal vomits more than three times, please contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to report the frequency, duration, consistency, and color to the staff member. Subcutaneous fluids and medications may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Diarrhea

Cats and kittens can have diarrhea due to parasitic infestation, bacterial or viral infections, eating excessive amounts of canned food, a change in diet, stressful events, or changes in routine. It is common for your foster animal to have bouts of diarrhea or loose stool when you first bring him or her to your home. If it lasts more than a few days, smells odd, or has blood, call the shelter as soon as possible. If your foster animal has diarrhea but you notice no other changes in behavior, character, activity level, or food consumption, try cutting back or cutting out canned food. If after a day this change brings no relief, contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to describe the consistency and frequency of the stool. The following are some terms to help describe what you see:

- Diarrhea – liquid, watery, puddle
- Loose – soft but formed
- Cow patty – think “mud cakes”, soft, no form
- Normal – firm and formed

You may be asked to bring in a fresh stool sample whenever possible for microscopic examination. Stool should be no more than 6 hours old (can be kept in the fridge for 1 day) and free from litter and foreign materials if possible. Oral anti-diarrhea medication and subcutaneous fluids may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Fleas, Ticks, and Ear Mites

Foster animals are often taken into a foster home the same day they arrived at the shelter. LOH does not knowingly send foster animals into foster homes with these parasites, but it can happen. If you notice any fleas or ticks running around on your foster animal, or see evidence of ear mites, notify the shelter. A dose of flea and tick preventative may be administered to treat this condition.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungal infection that affects the hair follicles. Signs of this infection are hair loss and rough or scaly skin or lesions. Kittens or cats with poor grooming habits, compromised immune systems, and compromised skin issues (trauma, allergies, and matted fur) are predisposed to ringworm; however, it can affect even the healthiest of animals. If you suspect your foster animal may have some of these symptoms, please notify LOH immediately. The foster animal will need to be returned to the shelter for examination and testing. Oral antifungal medication, topical treatment, and Lyme dips will be prescribed to treat this condition.

Fading Kitten Syndrome

It is not known for sure why some kittens thrive while others do not. Sudden death, also known as Fading Kitten Syndrome, generally occurs in kittens under 6 weeks of age. While it is not known for certain, it is suspected that some kittens are internally under-developed, making it impossible for them to sustain themselves.

Feline Viral Diseases

The following is a list of viral infections commonly found in shelter or kennel environments:

Panleukopenia or Feline Distemper

This virus is transmitted through contact with infected cats/kittens, feces or environmental contamination. Kittens or cats may exhibit some or all of these symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Dehydration
- Sudden death

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

This virus is a mutation of the common corona virus that virtually all felines are exposed to at some point in their life. Normally, the corona virus causes short-term, flu-like symptoms that regress within a week or so. Kittens or cats may exhibit some or all of these other symptoms:

- Lethargy
- Trouble breathing
- Nonresponsive fever
- Failure to grow
- Neurological signs
- Bloated belly
- Fever

Taking small steps like hand washing, sterilizing environments, and simple observation can help catch these ailments before they can spread or escalate to dangerous levels. **Never use any over-the-counter drugs, medications, or herbal remedies to treat your foster animals. Use only what has been prescribed or recommended by LOH staff.**

- **Resource on infection control in the home:**
[ASPCApro.org/infection-control-foster-homes](https://www.aspcapro.org/infection-control-foster-homes)

Dog and Puppy Care

General Care

The first thing a foster parent should do is doggie-proof the foster animal's living space. Remove things such as electrical cords, cables, wires, and any items of dollar or sentimental value. Your new foster dog or puppy will need a few days to adjust to your home. Once your foster animal has had time to explore and adjust to your environment, he or she may need some grooming. This could include cleaning their ears, trimming their nails, giving them a doggie bath, or brushing their coat. Be sure you ask about what products are used and recommended by LOH. When trimming their nails, be careful not to cut too close to the pink veins. To be safe, simply clip off the curved tips carefully. When cleaning their ears, be careful not to go too far into the ear canal as this could be painful and cause internal damage. Only use products specifically for cleaning ears. Remember, puppies and most adult dogs like to chew. Be sure to have chew toys handy. **LOH Foster dogs and puppies are not permitted to go to dog parks, grooming facilities, kenneling facilities, or doggie daycares.** They are permitted to go outdoors when on a leash or in a secure, fenced yard and always while under adult supervision.

Common Medical Conditions

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is caused by a virus and is often seen in kennel and shelter environments. The incubation period is anywhere from 5 to 15 days. So, even if your foster animal appears symptom free when he or she first arrives, illness could be lurking. Symptoms include a dry, hacking cough, sneezing, and green, yellow, or creamy colored nasal and eye discharge. Be sure to keep your puppy or dog's eyes and nose clean and clear, especially if congested, as doing so will help relieve some of that congestion. To do this, simply take a washcloth or cotton ball and run it under warm water. Then, gently clean off the eyes and

nose. If it does not clean off easily, squeeze a few drops of warm water to help loosen the discharge. Oral antibiotics and cough suppressants may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Vomiting

Dogs and puppies may vomit for several reasons. They may have consumed their meals too quickly, gagged or ingested a foreign object, or may be ill. If your foster animal vomits more than three times, contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to report the frequency, duration, consistency, and color to the staff member. Subcutaneous fluids and medications may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Diarrhea

Dogs and puppies can have diarrhea due to parasitic infestation, bacterial or viral infections, eating excessive amounts of canned food, a change in diet, stressful events, or changes in routine. It is common for your foster animal to have bouts of diarrhea or loose stool when you first bring him or her to your home. If it lasts more than 2 days, smells odd, or has blood, call the Foster Care staff as soon as possible. If your foster animal has diarrhea, but you notice no other changes in behavior, character, activity level, or food consumption, try cutting back or cutting off canned food. If after a day this change brings no relief, contact the Foster Care staff. Be prepared to describe the consistency and frequency of the stool.

The following are some terms to help describe what you see:

- Diarrhea – liquid, watery, puddle
- Loose – soft but formed
- Cow patty – think “mud cakes”, soft, no form
- Normal – firm and formed

You may be asked to bring in a stool sample whenever possible for microscopic examination. Stool should be no more than 2 hours old and free from foreign materials if possible. Oral anti-diarrhea medications and subcutaneous fluids may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Ringworm

Ringworm is a fungal infection that affects the hair follicles. Signs of this infection are hair loss and rough or scaly skin or lesions. Dogs and puppies with poor grooming habits, compromised immune systems, and compromised skin issues (trauma, allergies, and matted fur) are predisposed to ringworm; however, it can affect even the healthiest of animals. If you suspect your foster animal may have some of these symptoms, please notify LOH immediately. The foster animal will need to be returned to the shelter for examination and testing. Oral antifungal medication, topical treatment, and Lyme dips may be prescribed to treat this condition.

Fleas and Ticks

Foster animals are often taken into a foster home the same day they arrived at the shelter. LOH does not knowingly send foster animals into foster homes with these parasites, but it can happen. If you notice any fleas or ticks running around on your foster animal, or see evidence of ear mites, notify the shelter. A dose of flea and tick preventative may be administered to treat this condition.

Fading Puppy Syndrome

It is not known for sure why some puppies thrive while others do not. Sudden death, also known as Fading Puppy Syndrome, generally occurs in puppies under 6 weeks of age. While it is not known for certain, it is suspected that some puppies are internally under-developed making it impossible for them to sustain themselves.

Canine Viral Diseases

The following is a list of viral infections commonly found in shelter or kennel environments:

Canine Distemper Virus

This virus is transmitted by direct contact with infected dogs or puppies, feces, or environmental contamination. Dogs or puppies may exhibit some or all of these symptoms. Many of these symptoms may come and go.

- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Depression
- Green or yellow nasal discharge
- Green or yellow ocular discharge
- Neurological signs
- Dehydration

Canine Parvo Virus

This virus is transmitted by direct contact with infected dogs or puppies, feces, or environmental contamination. Dogs or puppies may or may not exhibit some or all of these symptoms:

- Diarrhea – blood in stool may be present
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Depression
- Dehydration

- **Learn more about parvovirus:**

- www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-disease-management/canine-parvovirus-timeline

Taking small steps like hand washing, sterilizing environments and simple observation can help catch these ailments before they can spread or escalate to a dangerous level. **Never use any over the counter drugs, medications, or herbal remedies to treat your foster animals. Use only what has been prescribed or recommended to you by LOH staff.**

- **These tips can help keep your home free of infection**

- www.aspcapro.org/infection-control-foster-homes

- **Learn about household toxins that cause seizures:**

- www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-poison-control/most-common-causes-seizures-dog

Adverse Vaccine Reactions

Some animals may experience a reaction to their vaccines after administration. Here are some things to look for immediately after and up to several days following a vaccination visit:

- Local inflammation, swelling, or hair loss (the most common reactions)
- Mild symptoms:
- Sneezing
- Lethargy
- Fever
- Systemic reactions that may be life threatening.
-
- Anaphylactic shock (severe and immediate reaction) symptoms include:
 - Collapse
 - Rapid pulse
 - Difficulty breathing or wheezing
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Swelling
 - Itchy
 - Pale gums

If you see any of these symptoms after a vaccination visit, call the Foster Care staff immediately.

Canine and Feline Behavioral and Temperament Issues

Behavioral or temperament issues may arise while a foster dog or kitten is in your home. Common concerns include the following:

- Scratching face and limbs
- Biting any part of the body
- Housebreaking issues
- Inappropriate litter box issue
- Separation anxiety
- General or unprovoked aggression toward people and littermates

If you notice any of these behaviors, please notify us immediately, email our Foster Care Staff for advice. Some of these problems may be medically-related and need to be ruled out prior to seeking behavioral advice.

Acknowledgement

I am acknowledging that I have carefully read and agree to comply with the guidelines and requirements covered by Lost Our Home Pet Rescue in this manual. I further acknowledge that failing to comply with these guidelines and requirements may be cause for dismissal as a foster parent.

Please, print and sign this page and turn it into the foster department.

Signature: _____

Staff Signature: _____