



# Lost Our Home Pet Rescue

## Foster Orientation



Lost Our Home  
PET RESCUE

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# Introduction

- **Lost Our Home Pet Rescue was founded in 2008 as a grassroots response to the thousands of pets in need as a result of the economic downturn and foreclosure crisis in the Phoenix-area.**
- **Our primary mission is to help people going through a crisis in their lives by taking care of their pets in our Temporary Care Program (TCP), ultimately reuniting them.**



# What is a Foster Parent?

- **Volunteers willing to take the following into their home:**
  - Adoptable animals struggling in the shelter environment, and who we need to get to know better in a home setting
  - Temporary Care (TCP) animals waiting to be reunited with their owners
  - Puppies and kittens too young to be at the shelter



**When you Foster with LOH  
YOU provide the love,  
WE provide everything else!**

# Requirements to Foster

- Complete an online application
- Read Foster Orientation - answer questions
- Read and sign Foster Guidebook
- Be available for:
  - Vet appointments/vaccinations (when required)
  - Shelter meet-greets with potential adopters (if applicable)
  - Facilitate virtual meet and greets with adopters as well if they are interested in being a part of the adoptions process
  - Owner visits for TCP (Temporary Care Program) pets (if applicable)
- Have the time and ability to give lots of love and care to a deserving pet!
- All Foster's pets must be altered and current on vaccinations
  - If you are fostering puppies you must provide documentation of vaccine history
- Other requirements may vary depending on the specific needs of the foster pet



# What We Provide

- **Everything you need:**

- Food, dry/wet/treats
- Crate (if needed)
- Bedding
- Toys
- Medication
- Litter box/litter/scoop
- Etc

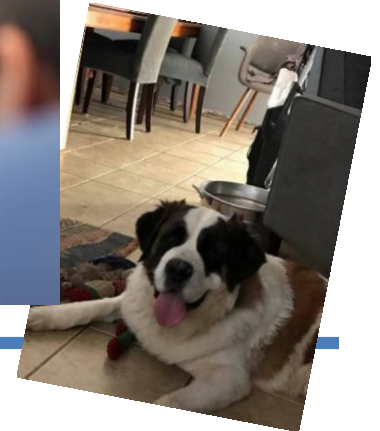
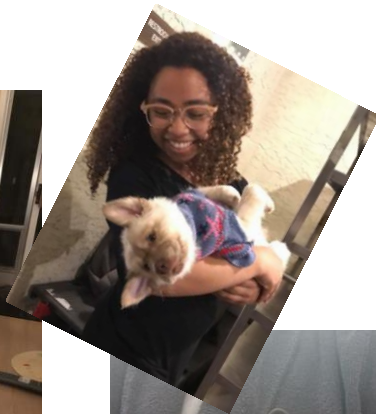
- **What you provide:**

- Love, snuggles, warmth, care, smiles, all the good-feels!



# Extras we love from our Fosters

- Photographs and videos of your foster pet
- Updates about your foster pet
- Completing the surveys you will be sent
- Writing a “Pet Bio” for your foster pet
- Helping us get to know your foster pet better



# Important First Impressions



- If you have dog(s) in your home, it is BEST to bring them to the shelter to meet your foster dog before bringing them home. However, if you are unable, or choose not to do that - you will be responsible for introducing the animals and any challenges that may arise
- If you have roommates or other family members living with you, you are responsible for getting all LOH Foster information to them (Orientation, Guidebook, etc) and confirming that they understand all the guidelines for fostering
- Do not introduce your foster pet to any animals outside your home



# DOs and DON'Ts



## DO:

- Take it slow at first, everything is new
- Give your foster pet lots of love, exercise, play, and snuggles
- **Keep at least 10 feet from other animals outside your home**
- Give them down time, rest is important too
- Keep all foster cats **INDOORS** only
- Let us know ASAP if you have behavioral concerns about your foster pet

## DON'T:

- **Take your foster dog to a dog park**
- **Assume your foster pet will get along with other pets**
- Remove or loosen your foster dog's martingale collar
- **Allow your under-vaccinated foster puppy (under 20-24 weeks) to touch the ground outside of your home**





# Your Foster Pet's Health

- All vet appointments are arranged through LOH staff, and all medications provided by LOH
- Non Emergency Health Concerns:
  - Non-emergency concerns email [fostering@lostourhome.org](mailto:fostering@lostourhome.org) as soon as you notice a problem, DO NOT wait until a crisis occurs
  - Be as detailed as you can and provide photos if needed
  - In the care and treatment of foster animals, there is no such thing as a silly question!



# Examples of Non Emergency Symptoms

- 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
- Excessive drinking for more than 48 hours
- Increased appetite, 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 or sneezing
- Poor appetite for more than 24 hours
- Unexplained lameness that does not improve with rest within 24 hours
- Vomiting - first report
- Pain – irritability when handled or touched, particularly if it seems out of character for that animal
- Hair loss



# Emergency Healthcare

**IMPORTANT: Do not take your foster animal(s) to a veterinarian without the approval of a Lost Our Home staff member**

**Any charges incurred without approval will not be reimbursed**

## Medical Emergency Procedure:

- **Call the Shelter & Medical Director Emily Vivian (480) 862-4406**
  - You will receive paperwork with all contact numbers



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# Examples of Medical Emergencies

- Blood from any orifice/opening
- Blood in vomit
- Unable to urinate at all
- 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
- Seizures or convulsions
- Trouble eating, mouth pain, or drooling
- Lethargy or decline in normal activity level for your foster animal-for more than 24 hours



# Other Medical Concerns

## Vaccine Appointments:

- Kittens and Puppies between 5-20 weeks of age are due for vaccines every 2 weeks and will generally receive 2 treatments of dewormer. We prefer for kittens and puppies to stay in foster care until they have at least two vaccines. We will schedule the appointment with you via call or email. Please plan on 10-20 minutes for each appointment

## Spay/ Neuter Appointments:

- Both kittens and puppies are ready for spay/neuter when they are 2.3+lbs (preferably 2.5)
- We will check with you when a spay/neuter appointment for your foster pet is most convenient for you. Spay/neuter are Monday, Tuesday

**You will receive paperwork with all emergency contact numbers**



# Integrating Your Foster Pet



- **Take it slow**
- **Extra care around children**
- **Expect mistakes, remember everything is new to them**
- **It's up to you to teach them the rules - a pet may be "potty trained" here at the shelter, but they don't know where to go potty at your house!**
- **Ask questions!**

# Foster Failure

It's not a bad thing!!



## Adoptions:

- “Foster failure” happens! If you wish to adopt your foster animal, please email [adoptions@lostourhome.org](mailto:adoptions@lostourhome.org) within 72 hours of the pet being in your home. At that time the adoptions team may give you a specific timeframe in which to make a finalized decision before the pet is placed on our website
- If you know someone who is interested in adopting one of your fosters have them go to our website and apply online at <https://www.lostourhome.org/adopt-a-pet>
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Applying does not automatically guarantee an adoption. Our Adoptions Team will review all applicable applications and choose the best match for the pet

# Questions?



Contact Brandon Algandar: [Brandon@lostourhome.org](mailto:Brandon@lostourhome.org)



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