City of SACRAMENTO
Front Street Animal Shelter

Short Term Foster

Project supported by Maddie's Fund
Short-Term Foster Care

There are lots of great reasons why short-term foster care is great for shelters. It helps get dogs out of the shelter and reduces kennel stress. It enables more of the community to get involved with the shelter in a fun way. It enables shelters to learn more about the behavior of the dogs in their care and to market them in new ways.

Short-term foster care options make it easy for people to make a commitment. With busy lives, many people like the flexibility of having short-term foster options, and you will find a much larger pool of fosters if you give this a try. Better, what we found is that when short-term foster is tried, families often realize that they’re also suited for long-term foster care as well.

There is a perception held by some of the public that shelter dogs are “unknown.” Short-term foster care does much to combat this stigma. The better our shelters get to know the animals in their care, the better things will be for all shelter dogs.
Weekend and Overnight Foster Care

Weekend or overnight foster care is a great way to get to know shelter dogs better, reduce kennel stress and find new ways to market them for adoption.

Sample Guidelines

Consider these sample guidelines for weekend foster care:

- Only dogs who are on the adoption floor and have been altered are eligible to go, unless a manager gives approval.
- Fosters must have shelter’s emergency contact numbers programmed into their phone.
- Dogs must have had a rabies vaccination.
- List the day(s) and time(s) that the dog should be brought back to the shelter.
• Foster must read and sign the shelter’s Foster Contract.
• Advise that foster dogs be kept separate from other pets in the home, especially small animals, cats, and smaller dogs. The foster family should have a plan in place if they do wish to introduce the foster dog to their dog (or other animal) and it doesn’t work out – i.e., a place to keep their animals separated from the foster dog.
• Dogs must:
  o At all times wear a collar with foster dog tags attached.
  o Be walked using a leash.
  o Off-leash areas, including dog parks, are not permitted.
  o You might need the following supplies to weekend foster, please let us know what you may need:
    ▪ Bowls
    ▪ Crate
    ▪ Toys
    ▪ Treats
    ▪ Bed/towels
    ▪ Dog food, dry and wet. (Note: remember to check for special diets!)
  o Ensure that you give any medication the dog may be taking at time of foster

**Overnight and weekend Foster Process: Front Street Animal Shelter**

All customer service staff are trained to process fosters, and they’re managed just like adoptions. The shelter makes it just as easy to provide foster care as it is to adopt. When they kick in to emergency foster mode during population surges, the shelter invites the public to come and meet dogs. Staff help them find what they believe will be a good match for their family. They counsel fosters just like they would an adopter. People can typically become fosters and leave the same day with a dog.
Power Hour and Field Trip Fostering

Power hour fosters take a dog off the shelter grounds for a day trip outing, which can last from an hour to all day. The short timeframe makes it easy for busy volunteers and fosters (who may not have the ability to take a dog overnight) to take a dog out of the shelter and get to know them better.

Fosters should be aware that the purpose of the outing is to learn more about the dog’s behavior outside the shelter and to get the dog adopted by documenting what is learned through photos, video and text. Fosters should take the dog to fun places that will make for great pictures. It may be helpful if they bring a buddy so that one person can take pictures while the other is handling the dog.

Suggested Items to Bring:

- Disposable water bowl
- “Adopt me” Leash
- Treats
- Dog waste bags
- Leash
- Properly fitted harness
- Foster dog tags
- Properly fitted martingale collar (snug-fitting with room for no more than two fingers between the collar and the dog’s body)
Front Street Shelter’s Phone Numbers and Contacts

Front Street Shelter Foster Team:
916-808-7823, 916-709-7991

For general question/info/scheduling:

lrhoades@cityofsacramento.org
foster-rescue@cityofsacramento.org

Shannon Quinn  Jason Roberson
ACT Supervisor  ACT Supervisor
916-215-4254  916-215-4254

Email: slquinn@cityofsacramento.org  Email: jroerson@cityofsacramento.org
Available: Wednesday - Saturday  Available: Sunday - Wednesday

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Please call (916) 709-7991 and return dog to FSS immediately during day hours
For after hours (7pm-7am) please call Dr. Warner 916-808-4734 or Dr. Rinaldo 916-584-5433

(Please use for emergencies only)
Gina Knepp 916-230-4533

***After manager approval, you may be directed to the following clinic***

VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center
7625 Freeport Blvd
Sacramento 95832
916-428-9202
Emergencies that require immediate attention:

- Sudden or blowout diarrhea where dog has no control at all
- Temperatures over 104 degrees
- Extreme dehydration – If you pinch the skin and the skin remains tented for 5 seconds. (The eyes may appear to be sunken in. The gums will feel dry or tacky.)
- Excessive vomiting or vomiting blood or green or yellow bile
- Vomiting combined with diarrhea and lethargy
- Difficulty breathing or very shallow or labored breathing
- Extreme lethargy - dog is barely moving or not moving at all
- Swelling of the face or eyes
- Ingestion of something toxic
- Swollen or broken limbs
- Seizures
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Sudden disorientation or incoordination
- Anything else that makes you think that your dog is in pain or in danger of passing away

Any other concerns can be noted at the time of drop off
Before you pick up your day companion

1. Be prepared for anything. Remember, we don’t know what many of these dogs have been through. We don’t know their past. We don’t know how they have been treated. We don’t know how their living situation once was. Most importantly, we don’t know their true personality. All we do know is what we see here at our facility and what little (if any) information the previous caretaker provided. We try our very best to match you with a dog that we think will do well with you, but your dog may have a very different personality once they are comfortable.

2. Ready your car with the appropriate amount of space for your dog. Depending on the dog, you may need enough space for a size appropriate crate, a friend to help contain the dog to the back seat, or a barrier to prevent the dog from getting to the driver and passengers seat.

3. Please plan to leave your own dog at home! The goal of our day trips is to give the dog a break from the shelter and some one-on-one time with humans. Although most of our shelter dogs do well with other dogs and enjoy doggie playtime, we prefer these field trips be geared towards interacting with humans and not other dogs. **FSS is not liable for the treatment or cost of vet bills incurred for your own pets at your private veterinarian.**

4. If you plan to take the dog home, please check your fence line and property for holes, loose planks, poisonous plants, foxtails, and dangerous household items. Even if you have/ had a dog that has never gotten loose, please don’t assume that your property is secure. We don’t know the history of most of the dogs we place and the majority of them were strays.

**FSS will provide you with a collar, harness, tag, and an adopt me leash!**
IF THE DOG GETS LOOSE:

Sometimes despite our best intentions, a dog will get loose. Please try not to panic. If you can see the dog, try calling them. Some of our more social guests may come right to you, but very often even social dogs get frightened once they get loose. You may be more successful calling them to get their attention and then walking the opposite direction, kneeling down and digging in the dirt like you've just found something extremely interesting. Reaching for a scared dog will often cause them to bolt and can also result in a bite, so please use caution and only reach for the dog if you feel you can safely do so. If the dog is in an area that is secured but is so scared that they are growling at you, please call us so that we can help! If the dog is already in a flat out run and is panicked, they may not respond to you at all. Please try following them from a distance so that you can see the direction they are going and hopefully catch up to them once they have slowed down. If they enter a yard, garage, etc., please secure the area to make sure they can't bolt again before attempting to lure them to you. We understand that every circumstance is different and that luring the dog to you may not be possible, please call us if this is the case!

IF A BITE OCCURS:

If the dog bites anyone (you included) we need to know right away. If the dog bites a stranger, please take all their information so that we can contact them to fill out the appropriate paperwork. We will need you to document what happened and the location and severity of the wound. We are required by law to report any bites that break skin to the appropriate animal control agency. We will also need to quarantine the dog for ten days in accordance with California law. A bite is not an automatic reason for euthanasia, so please do not hesitate to report it. If you are seeing any signs of aggression, even if it is very minor, please contact your coordinator immediately. If possible, take photos of the injury.

IF SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN ADOPTING

If you encounter someone who is interested in adopting the dog, please give them the shelters contact information so that they may follow up with us. You can also direct them to your coordinator. In general, the adoption fee for adult dogs is $85.00 and $100.00 for puppies. This includes spay or neuter, vaccines, de-worming, heartworm testing, a microchip, and an ID tag. Most of our adoptions occur because of the dogs being seen on our website. It is very important that we have adorable photos, and if possible a great video of your dog. Please download the AdoptMeApp. We need your help to make sure your dog is seen as much as possible, this app allows you to download the photos you take directly to our website. The more photos and videos you have the more marketable your dog is. You could be the one who is responsible or your dog finding his or her forever home.
Rules:

- Foster must read dog’s biography before checking dog out
- Only dogs on the adoption floor and have been altered are eligible to go, except with manager approval.
- Dogs must have had a rabies vaccination.
- Foster must read and sign shelter’s Foster Contract.
- Dogs need to:
  - Be wearing a collar with foster dog tags attached at all times.
  - Be walked using a leash.
  - Not go to any off-leash areas, including dog parks.
  - Be wearing an ‘Adopt Me’ vest.
- Put a ‘Power Hour’ sign on the dog’s kennel.
- No interaction with other dogs except with manager’s approval.
- Fosters must have shelter’s emergency contact numbers programmed into their phone.
Power Hour: Front Street Shelter

The people who take dogs on short outings may already be volunteers, fosters, staff members, or members of the public. Weekend or overnight fosters can be managed in the same way with oversight from the foster coordinator.
Power Hour Location Examples

Here is a list of suggested locations for power hour fostering. The following is an example of locations near the Front Street Animal Shelter in Sacramento, CA. The locations are listed from closest to the shelter to farthest, and include parks, outdoor shopping areas and stores that allow dogs.

Old Sacramento-
- Less than 5 minutes away
- Expansive wooden sidewalks, many streets and alleys to explore
- Close to take a walk by the river

William Land Park- Sacramento, CA
- Approx. 10 min away from shelter
- ¼ mile loop around park.

McKinley Park-Sacramento, CA
- Approx. 10-15 minutes
- Running trail, rose gardens, duck pond to walk around

See additional list as attachment
Dog Walking Groups

A dog walking, hiking or running group is a great way for shelter dogs to expend energy and practice walking on leash with other dogs. The best part is, even very reactive dogs tend to walk calmly after the first half-mile or so with the pack.

Pack walks are easy to set up and run. They can be designed with formal rules or a more informal style. Shelters can schedule offsite walks for volunteers, and volunteers can be trained to lead them. Informal groups outside the shelter can create dog walking groups as well.
Appendix A: Resources

Power hour and field trip fostering

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/arin-greenwood/shelter-dog-hiking_b_6041240.html
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/20/dog-eating-ice-cream_n_5514558.html

http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/family/pampered-pets/2015/03/23/doggie-day-trips/


http://www.dailyprogress.com/newslocal/give-em-a-break-program-aims-to-give-dogs-a/article_69ac22c2-b4f4-11e6-b64b-0ba8b51d9539.html

https://www.petsmartcharities.org/blog/take-a-shelter-dog-hiking?utm_source=social&utm_campaign=content&utm_medium=facebook

Weekend/overnight fostering


Dog walking groups

https://animalfarmfoundation.blog/2017/03/22/a-simple-walk-can-teach-reactive-dogs-how-to-make-friends-and-help-owners-find-the-support-they-need/