

HSYC Foster Program

We need YOU! The HSYC is looking to establish a list of a few good homes that are willing to provide temporary care for a dog while we look for their forever homes. Length of foster care ranges from a few days to a few months depending on the dog and its circumstances. Fostering greatly benefits a dog's temperament, health, and behavior, which makes them more adoptable and more likely to remain in their adopted home.

How does it work?

- The HSYC pays for vet care, food and toys. You provide a temporary home, exercise, socializing, training and plenty of love until the dog is adopted into its forever home.
- If you have one or more dogs, they must come to the shelter to meet the foster dog to ensure that they will get along. And your dogs must be up-to-date on all vaccines.
- Foster homes must have their own transportation and be willing to bring the dog to the shelter to meet potential adopters.

The most common reasons that an animal is put into foster care include:

- Puppies that are too young to be adopted (under 8 weeks of age)
- Mom dogs that are nursing a litter of puppies and would benefit from a home environment in which the puppies are socialized and become accustomed to the noises and routines of living in a home.
- Dogs that are being treated for injuries or illnesses, or that need help working on behavioral issues.

Steps to Becoming a Foster parent

- Complete and submit a canine foster care application.
- Once we have reviewed and approved your application we will contact you to discuss the specific dogs that are currently in need of fostering.
- We will then arrange a time for you (and any other dogs that you may have) to meet with the potential foster dog.
- If all goes well you will take the dog home with specific instructions for the care of the dog (medications that maybe required if it is ill, or behavior modification that needs to be worked on if the dog has behavioral issues).
- We are here to help if you run into any problems or to answer any questions that you may have while fostering your dog.
- When an approved adopter is interested in meeting with your foster dog, we will contact you and arrange a time for you to bring the dog to the shelter to meet with the potential adopters.
- We greatly value any insight that you may have on your dog and will consider any recommendations that you make as to who should or shouldn't be allowed to adopt your foster dog.

Challenges of Fostering:

- Fostering is not always an easy job. It takes time for a dog to settle in and learn what is and what is not allowed.
- Fostering can sometimes be exhausting.
- Letting the dog go can be very hard.

It can be painful to say goodbye to a foster dog when he or she is ready for adoption, but fostering is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things a true dog lover can do to help shelter dogs prepare themselves for a permanent home.