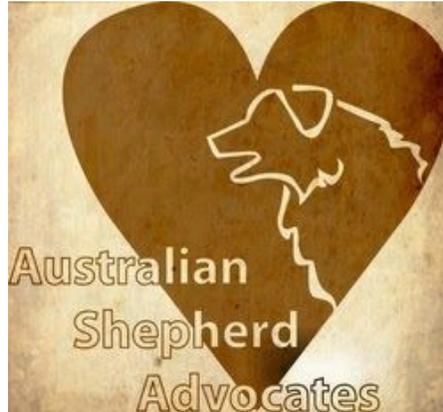


# Australian Shepherd Advocates

## New Foster Frequently Asked Questions



## Where do the foster dogs come from?

The dogs who are in need of foster care come to us from three different situations:

- **Returned adoptions:** Australian Shepherd Advocates makes a lifetime commitment to every animal we rescue. This means that if, for any reason, an adopter can no longer keep a pet he or she adopted from us, we require that the pet comes back to our rescue. If the pet ends up at a shelter, we will pick the animal up and take the animal back.
- **Shelter rescue:** Australian Shepherd Advocates rescues Aussies from shelters local to our foster homes which span across the nation. Our adoption and rescue program is very small but spread out and focuses specifically rescuing misunderstood herding breeds. We want to save as many lives as possible, and the foster program allows us to maximize our resources.
- **Owner Surrenders:** Since we focus on matching herding dogs with the perfect homes, we take in Aussies that owners are no longer able to provide care for. Examples of this situation include families who are moving, are no longer able to provide the exercise herders need to succeed, adopted an Aussie without understanding the needs of a herding breed, or medically unable to care for their dog anymore.

# What do foster families need to provide?

Foster families need to provide:

- Food and a healthy and safe environment for their foster dogs
- Transportation to and from all vet appointments as needed
- Maintaining and reporting vet records and upcoming routine vet care needs (these are noted in the foster packet) for your specific foster dog to the director
- Socialization and cuddle time to help teach dogs positive family and pet relationships
- Lots of exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop into great dogs
- Basic obedience and potty training
- Taking quality photos for adoption posts once a month (Weekly for puppies under 6 months)

# How much time do I need to spend with a foster dog?

As much time as you can. With that said, the amount of time will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the dog you are fostering. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

# Can I foster dogs even if I have a full-time job?

Yes. The foster application is designed as a survey to help the foster coordinator match you with the best animal for your needs and home environment. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a dog who may be OK alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample exercise before or after you go to work. But, understand that we are only able to match fosters based on the shelter description of the dog or the description the owner surrendering gives us.

## **Can I foster a dog if I don't have a fenced yard?**

Yes. Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with the foster dog. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you're on walks.

## **How long will the dog need to be in foster care?**

Ideally, foster dogs stay in their assigned foster homes until they get adopted. We do not board Aussies as the boarding environment is stressful for herding breeds, so these dogs rely on foster homes as their home between homes. If there is an issue with your foster dog, we asked you keep them until we can find an appropriate foster home.

## **Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?**

All of the dogs we have will take a monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventative that must be administered by the foster. If your foster dog needs a special medication for a condition, we can talk you through how to administer it and describe any other needs related to that specific dog's medical condition.

## **Can I let my foster dog play with my personal pets?**

There are a few guidelines that we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets. We ask that any dogs coming into the home are given 72 hours alone before meeting any personal pets. After the 72 hours, introductions should include a baby gates or leashed encounters to maintain controlled interactions and keep all personal and foster pets safe. Lastly, we ask all playtime be supervised to allow you the ability to intervene if anything appears to be out of hand.

## **What if I want to adopt my foster dog?**

We allow the foster dogs three weeks to decompress in their foster homes before posting them for adoption. We would like fosters to take that time to get to know their foster dog and decide whether they would like to adopt. We process foster applications the same way we process adoption applications. Therefore, you will not have to reapply but you will have to pay the dogs adoption fee and sign an adoption contract to adopt.

## **Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?**

If you have travel plans while you are fostering a dog for Australian Shepherd Advocates, you will need to contact the director to find a temporary foster to house your foster dog until you return. Please provide at least two week's notice to ensure that we can find a temporary foster for your dog. You cannot leave your foster dog with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. We have a specific screening process for foster parents, and pet sitters have not undergone that process or signed the contract required for the foster program.

## **What if my foster dog is not working out?**

You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it's not working out. However, we may not have an immediate alternate foster home for the dog. As mentioned above, we don't have our utilize boarding facilities. We will work on moving your foster dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience. Please call director if this situation arises.