

FOSTERING

Before You Foster

- Please print out, complete and email back to www.michigananimalcrew.org the Foster Agreement.
- It is always a good idea to have an extra collar, leash, and crate (if possible) available.
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When a Foster Becomes Available

- You will be contacted either by telephone or email with any details we have regarding the dog. We do our best to provide as much advance notice as possible, but our dogs often need to be rescued within a narrow time frame.
- We cannot guarantee the temperament of the dog we ask you to foster. We do our best to match each dog with a foster home we feel can best address the issues we are currently aware of but there are always surprises.
- In addition to temperament, we also consider location of the dog, family members, other animals in the home and the home environment.

When the Foster Becomes Available

- When bringing a new dog into your home, it is best to introduce your dogs to the new dog outside—this is neutral territory for most dogs and keeps aggression to a minimum. A slow introduction must be made to all other pets/people in your home. Be aware, there is a “honeymoon” period with the foster and you pets, as well as you, and any “issues” may not surface for a few days until the foster starts to feel more at home. Please supervise the interaction between your pets, children, and the foster dog at all times. Keep the new foster separate from your dogs for a period of time to allow them to de-stress and adjust to the new environment.

- WHAT YOU DO FOR THE NEW DOG YOU MUST DO FOR YOUR DOGS!
This keep all dogs on an equal level and keeps any one of the dogs from adopting the alpha role.
- Please keep track of all paperwork that comes with the dog. That includes any paperwork you receive if you have the dog vetted. Please make copies of this paperwork and keep a file for each pet- the originals will go to **Michigan Animal Crew** 14151 Lakeside Shelby Township, MI 48315 and a copy for the adopter.
- You are not responsible for having the dog fully vetted but if the dog needs to go to the vet we will coordinate with your schedule to get the dog to the vet.

Training and other Issues

- Some of our fosters have never lived inside a house, or been required to signal when they need to go outside, so please be patient as everyone adjusts to the new addition. Males and females alike could potentially "mark", although it is much more common with males. Bellybands are extremely useful to help curb this behavior.
- No question is stupid. There are lots of people in our group eager to help make fostering a rewarding experience for you. Please keep in mind that some have fostered for awhile, so please direct all questions to the website, www.michigananimalcrew.org and they will be quickly answered.
- Keep in contact with the group. The Foster Home Coordinator will do their best to be in contact with you, but if you need something in between please call or email.
- If a situation arises and you feel that you can no longer foster a dog, please contact either Crystal or Jayne. Please keep in mind, any transfer arrangements will take a few days to coordinate and execute.

After One Week

- Please take a few photos of the foster dog and send to Crystal at cgermann26@yahoo.com. Then we ask that you submit a profile as well to Crystal. If there are any questions, you will be contacted. The Profile is a place to "market" your foster. Please be detailed.

Adoption Process

- It is extremely hard to predict how long a dog will be in foster care. We do our best to match the dog with the perfect forever home, not with the first application that is received.
- Applications are screened, home checks are done and vet and personal references will be checked. Once an application has been "approved", the foster home will be asked to bring the dog to a coordinator for transfer to the adopter. It is very helpful and extremely important that you be honest with the coordinator doing the transfer about the dog's positive and not so positive characteristics and habits. We want to avoid the dog being returned to us. The adoption coordinators work hard to ensure a match, but what we see on paper is not always what is relayed to you. If for any reason you do not think that this is the perfect forever home for the foster, SPEAK UP, and talk with the coordinator about your concerns. You have lived with the dog and best know its needs and requirements. This has happened before and is always in the best interest of the dog. ***If for some reason, you do not think this person would be suitable to adopt any of our dogs (i.e. they mention something about hitting a dog, keeping the dog outside in bad conditions, etc) that MUST be immediately relayed to a coordinator.
- We request the potential adopter come and visit with the foster dog at least for awhile before committing to the adoption. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP. Serious adopters will make the effort to complete this requirement. We are doing this for the dog – not for the adopter. This also helps us determine if it is a good forever home match.
- If you meet someone who would like to adopt the dog you are fostering please feel free to direct them to our website(www.michigananimalcrew.org) and have them complete a placement application and specify the foster's name. If you believe that they have the potential to be the "right" family, please email the coordinator so they can be on the lookout for the application. Also, keep in mind that even if you feel this family might be the "right" family all other applications will be considered and processed in the order they are received. Michigan Animal Crew makes no written or verbal commitment to guarantee the adoption of a specific foster dog to an applicant.