

El Paso County Canine Rescue



RESOURCES – Pet Fostering

What is an EPCCR foster parent?

An EPCCR foster parent provides a temporary home for a dog/puppy prior to adoption. Fostering a dog/puppy is a wonderful and personal way to help save many homeless or unwanted dogs/puppies.

Why do dogs/puppies need foster care?

There are several possible reasons:

- Most need to be saved from being euthanized at high kill shelters
- Foster care can help save lives when a shelter is full
- Some don't do well in a shelter environment because they are frightened or need a little extra care
- Newborn puppies that need to be nursed or bottle-fed usually need foster care
- Some need time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption

Whatever the reason, these animals need some extra love and care before they can be adopted. Providing foster care for a few days, weeks, or occasionally months, can be a lifesaving gift for an animal, and incredibly rewarding experience for the foster.

Would I be a good pet foster parent?

If you want to do something to help dogs/puppies, fostering can be a flexible, fun and rewarding volunteer job. Here's why:

- It's more flexible than volunteer jobs that require you to show up at a specific time for a certain number of hours
- It's a great way to enjoy a pet if you are currently not in a position to make that lifetime commitment right now. Fostering can be an excellent option for college students or military families
- Interested in adding a pet to your household but aren't sure. Fostering can be a great way to find out- and help save a life at the same time

Your role as a foster parent is to prepare the animal for adoption into a loving home. Taking a dog into your home, loving them, and then letting them go, requires a special kind of person. But once you see the joy on the face of someone taking home your foster letting them go is easier than you might think.

How much time will it take?

The specific needs of the animal will determine how much time is involved. For instance, newborn orphaned puppies must be fed every few hours. A frightened animal that needs

socialization or training will also require some extra time. However, normal time is 10-14 days for medical hold and vet visit to become “event” ready. You can discuss your availability with EPCCR staff to determine what you’ll be best suited to foster.

What is required to foster?

EPCCR has a few requirements in order to foster. You must be able to take your foster(s) to the vet for checkups, shots, spay/neuter, etc. You must be able to take your foster(s) to the adoption events. You must provide pictures and personality updates on your foster for potential adopters. Also, EPCCR will do a home inspection to confirm it is a safe place for the foster to stay.

What about food and medical care or supplies?

EPCCR provides all necessary food, kennels, supplies and medication. Should medical care be needed EPCCR has specific veterinary doctors/clinics that are used.

What about my own pets?

As a foster you will want to consider how the animals in your household will adjust to having a foster pet. Some animals do very well with a temporary friend and can help socialize the foster animal. Other pets have a harder time with new animals being added to or leaving the family. You are the best judge of your pet’s personality. Specifics regarding your pet and what might work best in your family can be included on your application.

For the safety of your pets and the foster animal, it is important to keep your pets up-to-date on vaccinations. In many cases the foster pet will need to be isolated from your own pet, either temporarily or throughout the foster period. Talk with EPCCR staff to determine what is best for your situation.

Will I have to find a home for the animal myself?

EPCCR is responsible for finding new homes for fosters, which is done through adoption events, pet finding websites and social media. You can however help by telling friends, family and co-workers about your foster pet, other available fosters and adoption options. Foster parents are required to bring their foster to adoption events that fit into your schedule. These events typically take place on weekends, for a few hours, in pet friendly locations. You are not required to stay at the adoption event but are required to check on the status of the foster and return to pick them up at the end of the event. And leaving details about your foster(s) is helpful for answering questions from potential adopters.

What about when it’s time to say good-bye?

Giving up an animal you’ve fostered, even to a wonderful new home, can be difficult emotionally. Some people like to be there when the pet goes home with a new family. Seeing your foster animal leave will help you remember that he has found a forever home

and that a family has added a new member to their family. EPCCR tries to get updates on adopted animals and posts those updates.

Sometimes a foster home turns into a permanent home. That is one reason EPCCR is always looking for new foster homes.

Is fostering fair to the animals?

Some people are reluctant to foster animals because they are concerned that it is unfair to take in a pet, establish a bond, and then allow the pet to be adopted into another home. Is that just another abandonment?

Rest assured it isn't. Being in a foster home can be a lifesaving bridge for a stray or frightened pet. It gives the animal a chance to get used to a life in a house, and an opportunity to learn that people can be kind, food is available, and there is a warm, safe place to sleep.

Foster care can help prepare a dog for a new life in a permanent home. There is no shortage of animals who need this time before finding their own people.

How do I give fostering a try?

EPCCR has staff on hand to answer any questions you may have. There is an application to fill out and a home inspection. Once you have made the decision to foster the process is quick and easy and you will have a grateful foster in your home in no time.

Foster parents make an enormous difference in the number of animals euthanized each year because shelters don't have the space or resources to care for them. It is important, valuable, rewarding work that truly saves lives.

I can't provide foster care, are there other ways I can help?

ABSOLUTELY!! EPCCR always needs volunteers to help at adoption events and getting the word out about the rescue. Another way to help is donations. The rescue is always in need of toys, blankets, kennels, crates, food, formula and cash to help pay bills such as the vet and transportation costs.