



Thank You So Much For Becoming A Foster To One Of Our Rescue Dogs. Please Take Time To Read Our Fostering Guidelines Below.

Please contact us through our email with any questions
info@cortezrescue.org

By opening up your home to fostering, you're not only helping save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these dogs desperately need in order to make a smooth transition to their forever home. In a loving foster home, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family.

Care For A Cortez Rescue and Outreach Foster Dog includes feeding according to size and needs, exercise according to energy levels, and lots of play time and positive socialization.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. By fostering, you are saving lives and helping many different types of dogs find the families they've been longing for.

Please read below for some of our most frequently asked questions on fostering a dog with Cortez Rescue and Outreach. Please contact us if you have further questions.

What Do Foster Families Need To Provide?

- A healthy and safe environment for your foster dog.
- Socialization and cuddle time to help teach your foster dog positive family and pet relationships.
- Lots of exercise and pawisitive stimulation to help them develop into wonderful, adoptable dogs.

How Much Time Do I Need To Spend With My 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 total socializing, exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

Can I Foster A Dog Even If I Have A Full-time Job?

Yes. 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 a secure space while you are away and ample exercise before or after you go to work.

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, our foster dogs stay in their foster homes until they get adopted. We understand that there are times when this is not possible and we ask that you communicate with us as far ahead of time as possible regarding a change in your fostering plans.

What If I Want To Adopt My Foster Dog?

In the world of rescue dogs, this is also known as a foster fail. Please understand your foster dog will be advertised on our website and may be invited to attend Cortez Rescue functions such as Pup-Ups or other events. If you decide you would like to adopt your foster dog, you will need to complete an adoption application and follow the regular adoption process.

If you do decide to adopt your foster dog, please email us right away as once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.

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. This is rare but does occasionally happen. Please contact the foster coordinator if this situation arises ASAP.

Preparing For Your Foster Dog

When you bring your foster dog home... they most likely will be frightened or unsure about what's happening so it's important not to overwhelm them. It's good to prepare a special, quiet area for your foster dog to help ease their adjustment into a new home environment. Remember, most of our dogs have never had a home and this is very foreign to them. Sometimes it is better to confine the foster dog to a small room or area at first, to let him adjust before giving him free reign in your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate for the dog (if using) and should allow the dog access to his food and water dishes and toys. We request that all foster dogs be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster dog.

During the first couple of weeks... minimize people and pet introductions to your foster dog so that they are only meeting immediate family and your personal pets. If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster dog a space of her own where she can stay while getting used to all the new sounds and smells. *Never leave your foster dog unattended in your home with your personal pets until you are comfortable that all of the animals can interact safely.*

Supplies You'll Need -

Here's what you'll need to help your foster dog make a smooth transition to living in your home:

- Two bowls 1 for food, 1 for water: Stainless steel or ceramic work best (supplied by the rescue.)
- A supply of dry dog food (supplied by the rescue.)
- A Collar with a Cortez Rescue ID tag and a leash (supplied by the rescue.)
- A Dog bed or soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well. Let us know if you need to borrow a bed.
- Dog Treats: Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster dog.
- Dog Toys: Make sure the toys are durable and appropriate for the size of your foster dog. Let us know if you need toys.

Optional Items -

- A Baby Gate: Handy to keep certain areas of your home off-limits.
- A Crate: The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that. Not all dogs use or benefit from a crate, please let us know if you would like one.
- Dog Brush: A groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted.

Dog-proofing Your Home

Foster dogs come from a shelter environment, and even if they have previously lived in a home, we don't always know how they will react in a new environment. Before bringing home a new foster, you'll want to survey the area where you are going to keep your foster dog. Remove anything that would be unsafe or undesirable for the dog to chew on, and latch securely any cupboards and doors that the foster dog could get into.

People food and chemicals can be very harmful if consumed by dogs, please store them in a place that the foster dog cannot access.

Never underestimate your foster dog's abilities to get into things around your home...indoors or out.

Here are some additional tips for dog-proofing your home-

- Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
- Keep the toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move house plants or secure them. Some house plants are toxic to dogs. Make sure these are not placed within reach of your foster dog. Some dogs like to nibble the leaves or play with them and may knock them over.
- Make sure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, are securely out of reach of your foster dog.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster dog if consumed.

- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster dog could knock down.

Choosing a Foster Dog

The foster coordinator will work with you to select a foster dog who meets your specific requirements. We will always do our best to match you with a dog who fits with your lifestyle and schedule. You are invited to attend any one of our scheduled “Pup-Ups” to meet some of our rescue dogs and talk with our “on-site” volunteers that can help you find a dog that’s perfect for you and your family.

Dog Introductions

If you have personal pets who are dogs, you’ll want to introduce them to your foster dog one at a time and *closely supervise their interactions*. It’s always a good idea to introduce them outside, in a large yard or on a walk, keeping all the dogs on leash and allowing them enough space to get adjusted to one another. If you can, it works best to schedule a time for your personal dogs to meet the foster dog before you take the foster dog home.

In addition, make sure that high-value items (food, chew toys, plush toys, Kongs, or anything else that your dogs hold in high regard) are put away whenever the dogs are interacting. You don’t want to allow the possibility of a fight. Those high-value items are best placed in the dogs’ personal areas. Finally, never feed your dogs in the same room as the foster dog, always separate them at feeding time.

Cat Introductions

We can’t ensure that a foster dog has been “cat-tested,” so if you have personal pets who are cats, you’ll need to make the introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely. *Never leave your foster dog unsupervised with any cats in your home.*

Children and Dogs

We don’t always know nor can we predict a foster dog’s history or tolerance level for different types of people, noises and activities. Please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but *you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog.*

Here are some key things to remind your children of while fostering-

- Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing on treats & toys or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
- Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.
- Never tease the foster dog.
- Don't allow your young children to scream loudly or chase your foster dog or run quickly around the foster dog; it may scare him.
- Pick up all children's toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the kids.

Feeding

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of dry dog food, unless otherwise specified by the foster coordinator. Feed your foster dog twice daily; the amount will be based on the age and weight of your foster dog. Ask when picking up your foster as to the amount to feed. Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water and clean both food and water bowls daily.

You can give your foster dog limited treats (unless he/she has known allergies, of course.) Giving treats helps you and your foster dog to bond with each other. Most dogs like to chew on things, so try Greenies, antlers, Nylabones or Dentalbones. Please do not give your foster dog rawhide of any kind. This can be dangerous if a dog swallows a piece. Keep in mind, though, that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.

Daily Routine

When you first take your foster dog home, take care not to overwhelm them with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes, too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly toward a person or animal, which is why it's a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of weeks after you bring your foster dog home. It's also important to establish a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on. Also, on a daily basis, be aware of your foster dog's appetite and energy level. If she's not eating well or seems listless, something may be wrong medically. Please

contact Cortez Rescue and Outreach immediately if you suspect your foster dog is ill or not eating well.

House-Training

It's unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take him or her home. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets used to your schedule.

Because a dog has a better chance of being adopted if she is house-trained, please help your foster dog to perfect this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times per day (3-6 times daily, depending on age). Initially, you may need to take her out more frequently to remind her where the door to the outside is and to reassure her that you will take her out for potty breaks. Most dogs will give cues — such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles — to indicate that they need to go out.

If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, don't discipline or punish her. It will only teach her to fear and mistrust you. Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

Crate Training

Crate training, done in a positive way, can be an effective component of house-training. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have "down time" and can also limit their access to the entire house until he knows the rules. A crate should never be used as a form of punishment and a dog should never be left in a crate for an extended period of time.

You can prevent problems with crate training by setting your foster dog up for success. He should only associate good things with the crate, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging him to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If he is afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far as he is willing to go. After he takes the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until he is eating treats at the very back, then feed him his next meal in the crate with the door open, so that he can walk in and out at will.

Crate training a fearful dog can take days, so be patient and encouraging. If a crate is properly introduced and used, your foster dog will happily enter and settle down.

Mental Stimulation and Exercise

Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he or she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day. Try a variety of toys (balls, squeaky toys, rope toys, etc.) to see which ones your foster dog prefers. Remember to discourage the dog from playing with your hands, since mouthing won't be a desirable behavior to adopters. You can also offer your foster dog a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get the treats out.

Safety

Please do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised, even if you have a fenced yard. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when he is outside at all times to ensure that he doesn't escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals.

Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in an enclosed backyard that is completely fenced in. When walking or hiking with your foster dog, please keep her on leash at all times.

And lastly, your foster dog cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup truck. When you're transporting foster dogs, please keep them inside the vehicle.

Thank You From Everyone At Cortez Rescue and Outreach For Making A Difference In A Dogs Life!!

Please contact us through our email with any questions

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