

FOSTERING

for Love on Wheels

Rules of the Road

How is fostering for Love on Wheels different from local fostering?

NO adoptions

At some point you will probably think you want to adopt one of your Wheels foster dogs. After all, they are GREAT dogs! But...don't even ask! The Wheels program **depends** on our sticking to the mission, which is to send as many dogs as possible OUT of Texas. It also depends on our sticking to a schedule, which can't happen if dogs get pulled out of the program midstream. Fosters may not adopt Wheels dogs.

Quarantine

The 2-3 week period of fostering is intended to ensure the dogs we send are not harboring diseases like parvo or distemper that can show up 7-10 days after exposure. While you have the dog in your care, no dog parks, day care, PetSmart, etc. without approval from the foster coordinator.



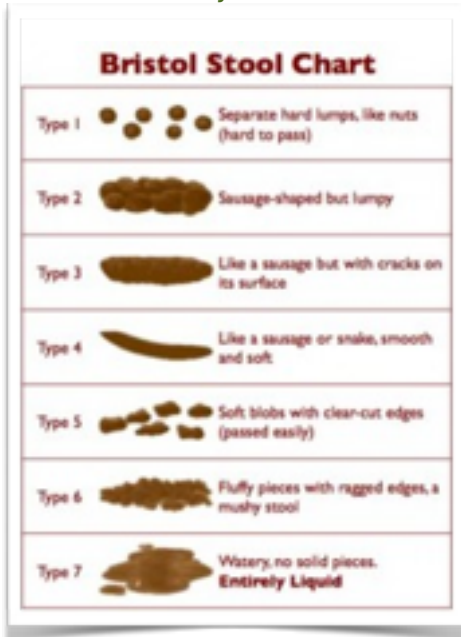
Expectations

What is expected of fosters for Love on Wheels?

Our job as fosters is to get the dogs ready for transport, and to tell potential adopters as much as we can about the dogs so that they can be placed in the right home as soon as possible.

Transport Expectations

You'll need to pick up your dog, usually from our vet clinic in Flower Mound. Dogs will usually require at least one trip back for their spay/neuter appointments, and sometimes you'll need to stop by there to drop off fecal samples or pick up medicine. And of course, you'll need to make sure the dog gets to the truck on transport day! That is usually at around noon on Tuesdays. Dogs can be dropped off the day before or morning of transport if we have sufficient notice and space.



Everything you ever wanted to know about poop

Get used to it—we talk about poop a LOT! That’s because you can learn a lot about a dog’s health from its stool. So watch it, and sometimes we’ll need you to bring us a sample.

Please let us know if you see the following (or anything else that troubles you):

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Runny nose
- Sneezing/coughing
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Worms or blood in stool

A dog’s normal temperature is 100-102. If you call and say your dog isn’t feeling good, we’re going to ask you to take his/her temperature. It’s not hard...we’ll be happy to show you!

Behavior Expectations

Getting to know the dog is the fun part! But remember, he or she has been locked up in a stressful shelter for at least a few days, and sometimes weeks...so that first 24-48 hours should be quiet ones. If possible, house the new dog in a room separate from your resident dogs for the first day or two. Introductions go much easier if a dog has a little time to “detox” from the trauma of being captured or abandoned, kenneled, transported to us, and then given shots, tested for heartworms, etc. When you do introduce dogs, do so slowly and give them plenty of time and space. See our handout on introducing dogs in the Files section of our Facebook group page.

Once the dog is part of the household, we still recommend that you crate him/her when you’re not monitoring closely. Remember, this dog may never have been in a house before, or had any training. We will provide a crate for you to help ensure that your house and belongings are safe from any destructive behavior—but it’s up to you to use it! It’s also important to crate so that the dog is used to being crated—they ride in crates on the truck and are crated once they arrive at the receiving shelter.

The more you can learn about or teach your foster dog, the better his/her chances of finding the right home the first time. Does he know sit? Is she great with cats? Is he great with other dogs except over food or toys? Is she housebroken MOST of the time? Does he have some separation anxiety when you leave? These are

things that will really help our partners find the best possible home for the dog.

The week before transport, you’ll send a profile of the dog to wheels@hsfm.org so that we can include it with the dogs’ records.



Transport Day

Transport Day is SO much fun—but also very stressful! Here are some tips to make things go smoothly for us, Dog Runner, and most of all the dogs:

- Do not feed your dog the morning of transport. Water is fine.
- Bring your foster dog's favorite toy, treats, a note to the adopters, etc...whatever you'd like him/her to take along to remember you by. Put it in a small canvas bag with the dog's name clearly written on it. Fosters often decorate the bags, and adopters love that...if you're not the creative type, we have some junior volunteers who will be happy to decorate one for you.
- The truck arrives at Flower Mound Veterinary Hospital, 1601 Arrowhead Drive, Flower Mound, TX 75028 at approximately 12:30. Transport days are generally the 2nd and 4th or 5th Tuesday of each month.
- Parking is limited. Please park on the street, on the side of the road the clinic is on. Do NOT park in front of the nursery across the street or in the clinic parking lot; we do our best not to interfere with their customers.



- A photographer will be inside the gate taking pictures. Take your dog to get a picture, then go back to your car and wait for the truck. If dogs are out playing and jumping at each other, it gets them very excited prior to loading and increases the chances of a fight or a dog getting loose.

- Make sure your dog has been photographed before loading. He/she should also have a paper collar in addition to a regular collar and ID tag. He/she should also be on a slip lead, not just a leash.

- Keep dogs a safe distance apart and out of the street.

- When we call your dog's name, bring him/her to the back of the truck and let Dave do his thing. He's great with dogs and will take time to get to know them if needed. Some dogs walk right up on the truck and some need a bit of coaxing. This is the hard part for fosters, but never fear—there will be someone crying along with you!

And in a few days, you'll see your foster dog depart from the truck at Helping Hounds and be off to a new life. We promise it will be worth it...and gets easier!