



SAPA! Foster Zoom Session #1: Puppies **Things to Know Beforehand About Foster Puppies**



1. ***No Paws on the Ground!*** – Puppies **younger than five months of age** can be at risk of illness, especially parvovirus, when allowed outside or in an indoor area where people may walk with shoes on.

2. Puppies must be kept isolated from personal pets, no matter if they are up to date on shots. Other pets may walk on the ground and pick up parvovirus and other illnesses that you cannot see!

3. Please remember that your shoes can carry parvovirus. Remove your shoes when possible!

Puppy Resources:

SAPA! Foster Forum – Melissa Christman & Goldie Coventry can assist!



Setting Up a Puppy Space

1. One method is having a crate, preferably with two doors, blankets, food, and water. You can also attach a fenced area or corral to the larger opening of the crate with more potty pads and toys.

2. Potty training is not a reasonable expectation until after they can have paws on the ground, but puppies will get good at not pottying in their crate when you have the right setup.



SAPA! Foster Puppy (POG) & Dog Protocol

Before You Take This Foster...

1. Do you have a crate or area you can block off or designate as the foster's quarantine area? Do you have a leash and good fitting harness? Harnesses are more effective with a dog who doesn't have leash skills as it adds an extra "handle" for control issues.
2. How is the foster on the ride home?
3. Assume the dog is the "worst" at everything until you see otherwise. Issues are easier to fix when you are prepared.
4. Know your personal pets' abilities and personalities. Do they listen to voice commands and can they be off leash? Your foster dog doesn't know them, so you have to.

You've Got Your Foster... Now What?

Even if the foster and all personal pets are vaccinated and healthy, dogs must go into quarantine for them to decompress and adjust to the home environment. Especially when other animals are present. **Quarantine is non-negotiable.** If you want your foster to succeed, don't thrust them into an unknown environment and expect perfection.

Introducing Your Foster:

- Puppies that are allowed to have paws on the ground are not as strict as older dogs. They more easily adjust to new situations, however, you are required to monitor all interactions with any personal pets for 2-3 days to ensure the safety of all pets in the home. **Never** leave a puppy alone with a personal pet during this monitoring period.



- When you first bring a foster home, ensure that all personal pets are out of the pathway to the foster's kennel or quarantine area. Your personal pets should not be allowed to rush to greet the new foster pet.
- Let your foster pet explore the home on their own without interference from personal pets. If possible, show the foster pet where the "potty area" is without interference of your personal pets.
- When possible, a great way to facilitate a meeting between a foster pet and a personal pet is to meet outside, in front of your home. This acts as a more "neutral" territory and can make the adjustment easier for both fosters and personal pets.
- When introducing foster pets to personal pets, bring out your most welcoming and friendly personal pets first. Do not allow playtime (wrestling and jumping) right away, but calm, polite greeting and sniffing can be allowed.
- In the backyard, you can introduce your personal pets once again. Start with the foster on a leash and, if the foster does not display reactivity or aggression, you can continue to remove the leash.
- **Monitor introductions at all times and never leave foster pets unsupervised with personal pets during the introductory period.** If your foster is overwhelmed, bring them into a safe space, the quarantine area, or their kennel area and allow them to decompress while your personal pets carry on their normal routine.

Additional Information for Puppy/Dog Fosters

1. Get your foster's current medical records from ShelterLuv. You can request paperwork through fostermedical@sanantoniopetsalive.org
2. It is your job as a foster to keep up with your foster dog's preventatives, vaccines, and medication needs! This will ensure that your foster is happy and healthy.
3. To get your foster seen for routine care or emergency care, you can also reach out to fostermedical@sanantoniopetsalive.org or appointment@sanantoniopetsalive.org
4. It is your job as a foster to teach your foster puppy or dog manners and enable them to be their best selves when they are ready for adoption. Parlor tricks like



“Roll Over,” “Shake,” and “Fetch” are extras, while “Sit,” “Leave It,” and walking properly on the leash are all basics that they should learn during their time with you.

5. It is your job as a foster to get your foster dog or puppy adopted. Take great pictures and create a truthful but uplifting bio, submitting them to fostermarketing@sanantoniopetsalive.org.
6. Answer all applications promptly! Even if the applicant is not the right fit, they may be for another dog in SAPA!’s care. Don’t lose a potential adopter just because they aren’t the right fit for your foster dog or puppy.