

PAWS Humane

Puppy Foster Guide



Everything you need to know about fostering puppies!



Table of Contents

Welcome & Introduction	1
Important Notice For Foster Parents	2

PART ONE - Helping Your Foster Pups Develop

Guide to 4 - 8 Week Old Puppies	3
---------------------------------------	---

PART TWO - Housetraining & Crate Training

Housetraining Checklist	4
Crate & Confinement Training Pointers	5
Puppy Mouthing / Biting	6

PART THREE - Emergencies & Emergency Protocol

General Criteria For Emergencies	7
--	---

Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the PAWS Humane Foster Care Program!

The Foster Care Program allows PAWS Humane to take in about more puppies per year than could be housed in the shelter due to limitations of space and resources. Your help will save the lives of many puppies who would otherwise not have homes and possibly be euthanized.

Generally, puppies in the Foster Care Program are those who have not yet received their second set of vaccinations and would be medically safer in a foster home than here in the shelter. After receiving their second set of shots, they are ready to return to the shelter where they will begin the journey that will lead to adoption and to their forever home!

Fostering requires a flexible schedule and a personal commitment to the puppies. In a typical day you can expect to give food and water to the puppies at least twice. The pee pads will need changing and don't forget to make time for playing and snuggling! The expected minimum time commitment is about 2 hours a day caring for your puppies.

If the puppies you are fostering are sick, you will need to medicate your puppies as well.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. You will help puppies grow from helpless little beings to confident, well-adjusted family pets. You also get the fun of raising a puppy without the responsibility of lifetime care. Most importantly, you are saving lives!

Foster family is asked to supply...

- Healthy & safe environment
- Transportation to & from PAWS Humane
- Socialization (family & pet interaction, leash walks)
- Puppy food (unless special dietary need)
- Pee pads
- Activities (potty training, correcting behavior, etc.)
- Interactions with toys & different noises around your house

PAWS can provide...

- Bowls (food & water)
- Toys
- Crates
- Newspapers to line crate bottoms
- Blankets, towels, and appropriate disinfectant



Important Notice for Foster Parents

One significant aspect of fostering underage puppies is that you are dealing with animals that have not yet developed immunity to a variety of potentially fatal canine diseases. While you might be anxious to play with the puppies in the park, etc., the puppies must not walk on any surfaces (such as parks or sidewalks) where another dog may have urinated or defecated in the past. Even if it appears clean it may still be harboring contagious diseases. It is imperative for puppies to stay in the home until they have been fully vaccinated — which is usually around 4 months of age.

The most common symptoms of illness in a puppy are vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and lack of appetite. These may appear in any combination. If your puppy exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact the PAWS Humane Vet Clinic at (706) 565 - 0035.

Thank you for helping PAWS Humane save the lives of animals in need. You are invaluable to us, and we appreciate you opening your hearts and homes. Please feel free to contact us with any questions — our staff is here to support you.



Guide to 4 - 8 Week Old Puppies

Things you can do to help your foster puppies develop

- **Socialization**

Between the ages of 3–12 weeks, puppies are forming bonds towards people, dogs and other animals which will last them a lifetime. Puppies who are not exposed to and/or do not have good experiences with people, dogs or other animals during this period can end up with fear and aggression problems later on. As much as possible (and keeping the puppies' safety in mind), get the puppies around all kinds of people — including children, big, uniformed men, etc . and make sure they have good experiences (play, petting and treats) . It's also a good idea to expose the puppies to cats to maximize their chances of growing up to like cats.

- **Sights & Sounds**

Puppies are cataloguing other things in their environment besides people and animals. Make sure they see and hear common household things like vacuum cleaners, TV's, etc . Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they have positive associations with these experiences.

- **Crate training**

Teach the puppies to enjoy being in a snug, comfy crate by putting them in for naps and keeping the crate close to you so they doesn't associate it with abandonment.

- **Housetraining**

Put the puppies on the pee pads as soon as they wake up, right after eating and at last once an hour to start. Reward him with enthusiastic praise EVERYTIME he urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently and encourage them to use it.

- **Handling**

Handle the puppy ALL THE TIME all over his body, play with his feet, brush him, hug him and give him treats/food while you do it so he learns to love it .

- **Training**

Even at this age, you can teach puppies sit, down and other things provided you use gentle lure-reward or clicker methods and keep the training sessions short and fun!

If you have any questions or would like more handouts on behavior and training, please visit the PAWS Humane Resource Page of our website www.pawshumane.org.

Housetraining Checklist

- Very strongly recommended to crate-train puppy — vital for both housetraining and chew-training
- Crate-training exploits puppy's instinct to keep his bed clean — gradually tones up his flabby little puppy muscles
- Puppy muscles weaker, bladder smaller, frequent meals — much more frequent elimination
- Take your puppies outside:
 - First thing in the morning (very first thing)
 - After eating
 - After waking from a nap
 - Young puppies (8–10 weeks) usually need to go to the bathroom every hour
 - Last thing before bed
- If puppy doesn't eliminate on any particular outing, crate him with a chew toy to avoid an accident (puppy is full or near full!) try again in 30 minutes
- Do not leave puppy in crate too long as this will force him to soil it and may result in a ruining of his tendency to want to keep it clean
- Crate duration rules of thumb (very general guidelines)
 - 8–10 week old puppies: one hour at a time in crate max
 - 11–12 week old puppies: two hours at a time in crate max
 - 13–16 week old puppies: three hours at a time in crate max
 - 17–20+ week old puppies: four hours at a time in crate max
- Use a long-term confinement area for times that are longer than the puppy can hold in the crate
- Kitchen is ideal confinement area — not too large, high traffic, easy-to-clean floor. Confine with pet-proof gates — place pee pad at one end; bed, food, water, toys at other.
- Praise and reward all elimination on the pee pad and especially outside for first few weeks
- Clean all accidents thoroughly with an enzymatic cleanser (e.g. Nature's Miracle). If the puppy makes a mistake never, ever punish.

Crate & Confinement Training Pointers

- Begin crate training right away — first day home
- Practice puppy going in for small, tasty food treats
- When puppy is comfortable going in, practice waiting a few seconds inside before getting treat — then practice closing door
- Gradually extend time in crate to 10 minutes with door open and closed
- Put crate next to sofa, rent video and keep puppy in crate next to you while he works on stuffed Kongs and other approved toys/chewies
- Put puppy in crate for 30 minutes with chewies while you're home going about routine — visit puppy at crate every 5–10 minutes to reassure
- Start leaving puppy alone in crate — the first few times you do this, he should be tired (just exercised), the time should be short (15–30 minutes) and he should have a good chewie
- Get pup out to eliminate as soon as you come home after an absence



Puppy Mouthing / Biting

Puppies are programmed to bite; in a litter of puppies they bite each other continuously. But, when one puppy bites the other too hard, the bitten puppy will yelp and stop playing. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite. Probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth...if a puppy is never allowed to mouth from the very beginning, he will grow up to have a rude/hard mouth. The best technique for hard bites is to remove the thing the puppy wants most—YOU! To do this effectively, the puppy must be on a collar and leash.

When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp “OUCH!!” in a high pitched voice. If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, immediately praise and continue playing. If he does not immediately stop biting hard, quickly take hold of the end of the leash, extend your arm, holding the leash (and puppy) away from you; turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Just before you turn your back, make it a big deal—“OKAY THAT’S IT! I’M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE!”

After just 5-10 seconds, resume interacting with the pup where you left off—without any grudge. Go back to him talking in your happiest, giggliest voice. The important thing is that the puppy learns that there is an immediate consequence for hard bites—being without a playmate and without the freedom to roam! Repeat several times, as needed, until you notice a marked difference in the pressure of the bites. ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND IT’S THE HARD BITES WE WANT TO DISCOURAGE—NOT THE PUPPY’S PLAYFULNESS OR LOVE OF PEOPLE AND LIFE!

You can practice mouthing exercises. Feed the puppy kibble or tiny treats one by one, releasing only for gentle takes. If he takes it hard, say “OUCH!!” and withdraw the food. Say “gentle” and offer him a treat. Do this over and over until he begins to learn that a gentle mouth will earn him a treat.

General Criteria for Emergencies

Emergency situations include:

- Continuous weight loss
- Continuous diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind—nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma—hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty in breathing/blocked airway
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- If the animal has vomiting or diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, it can probably wait until the next day to receive help. however, if the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, it is wise to seek emergency help at the time.
- Coughing or sneezing should pose no immediate problems unless accompanied by blood or symptoms



If an emergency occurs outside of PAWS Humane hours and it needs to be immediately addressed, please contact:

The Animal Emergency
Center
(706) 324 - 6659

You will be reimbursed up to \$200 of the cost. Please contact the PAWS Humane Vet Clinic the following day.

Thank you for fostering
with PAWS Humane and
choosing to save lives!



4900 Milgen Road
Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 565 - 0035
foster@pawshumane.org