

DOG FOSTER PROGRAM FOSTER COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING (TO FOSTER PUPPIES)

Puppies are fun, cute, and snuggly. Who can resist a puppy? Puppies are also a lot of work. This handout is a general outline of the things of which you should be aware when considering fostering a puppy. If you have any questions about fostering puppies please contact the Dog Foster Placement Team at: dog-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org, and we will be happy to discuss your questions.

- Puppies will not be housebroken and will need your help to learn this.
- Puppies will cry at night and other times when they are left alone and are scared.
- Puppies will play bite and will need your help to learn that this is not okay.
- Puppies will chew things up in your house so they will need to have plenty of toys offered to them to help avoid prized possessions from being destroyed.
- Puppies should be contained at all times when not being closely monitored or they will wreak havoc in your house/apt. We recommend an x-pen/playpen or small gated off area like a bathroom or kitchen where they cannot get ahold of anything valuable or dangerous. The floor should be covered with several puppy pads/newspaper.
- Puppies will need to eat at least 3 times per day, and possibly more based on age and size.
- Puppies will need your help to get them adopted. We put puppies on our website at 7 weeks of age. So for each puppy under 10 weeks, we will need at least 3 great photos for our website, and for each puppy 10 weeks or older, we will need both these photos and a short bio - you can prepare this bio yourself or you can complete this questionnaire: [APA! Dog Info Bio Form](#). And just like any foster dog, you will need to correspond with potential adopters via emails and arrange meet and greets with potential adopters and your puppy(ies).
- Puppies will need your help to bring them to their medical appointments, and you will need to adhere to their strict schedule for vaccinations and preventatives. For example, puppies need dewormer at 2 and 4 weeks of age, and puppies need shots every 2 weeks beginning at 6 weeks of age.
- Puppies cannot be placed on the ground in areas where other unknown dogs have been until they are fully vaccinated. For example, apartment complex parking lots/grassy areas, dog parks, restaurants, coffee shops, pet stores, and vet clinics. You must carry the puppy in these locations.

Puppies are a serious commitment. If you have concerns about any of the items listed above, consider very carefully before offering to foster a puppy. Moving puppies to different fosters can be detrimental to their emotional health, as well as their physical health due to the increased exposure to germs.

On the plus side, puppies are very rewarding and will give back to you with unconditional love!