

DOG FOSTER (DF) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The APA! Dog Foster Program was started in June 2008, before APA! had a shelter, and quickly grew into the largest foster program in the country. The foster program's ability to save so many dogs and puppies was a key factor in Austin becoming a no-kill city. For the first 3 years it was an entirely volunteer function. Although we now have some paid positions we still rely heavily on volunteers (see below).

The number of approved fosters increases monthly but as of 12/31/17 it was 2036. On average about 337 of those have a foster dog in any given month. In 2017 we began with 409 dogs in foster but by December that number had increased to 541 due to the extreme rescue effort following Hurricane Harvey. The number of foster dogs adopted each month also increased in 2017 from 166 in January to 201 in December. However, in September, the month following the hurricane, 401 foster dogs were adopted. The total dollars received for foster adoptions in 2017 exceeded \$320,000.

Austin has maintained no kill status for 6 years and continues to improve, now working on the last 3%. Because of this shift the biggest challenge for the DF Program is recruiting an adequate number of specialized behavior and medical fosters to meet the need.

The #1 priority of the DF Program is saving lives. We accomplish this by moving dogs through as quickly as possible, providing the best care within our means, and providing good customer service and support for our foster parents. We have a simplified application process that screens new fosters in, not out. Foster parents are supported by a team of approximately 90 individuals, 5 teams, 80 volunteers, and 7 staff. Almost everyone on the DF Team is a volunteer.

DF Placement (DFP) Team: dog-foster-pleas@austinpetsalive.org

This is the team who posts the pleas and makes arrangements for you to pick up your foster dog. This is also the team that will help if you need to move your foster dog or if you need a sitter.

DF Care (DFC) Team: dog-foster-care@austinpetsalive.org

While you are fostering a dog this is your primary contact for any questions or concerns, or if you are not sure who to contact for help. The DFC Team will assist you with scheduling spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, and other preventive care or medical treatment for your foster dog. The DFC Team can also assist you with most medical questions, but for emergencies, please contact the Medical Team below.

DF Adoption (DFA) Team: dog-foster-adopt@austinpetsalive.org

This team will assist you with all activities related to the adoption of your foster dog. This includes information on pre-adoption, meet and greets, and making arrangements to finalize an adoption. All foster dog adoptions must be coordinated through this team. They

will also arrange for foster dogs to attend an adoption site and assist with the “surrender” of your foster dog to the shelter at the end of their foster placement.

DF Events (DFE) Team: dog-foster-events@austinpetsalive.org

This team will assist you with getting your foster dog out to events. This extra visibility can help get your foster dog adopted more quickly.

DF Advocate (DFAD): dog-foster-advocate@austinpetsalive.org

The DFAD advocates for the Dog Foster Program, the placement of dogs into foster care, and for foster dog adoptions. The DFAD targets long stay dogs and other high-priority dogs and increases foster and adoption advocacy efforts for these dogs.

APA! Medical Team: medicalreception@austinpetsalive.org

The DFC Team can assist you with most medical questions; however, if you cannot reach them, please email the Medical Team. If you have an emergency (such as seizures, bloody diarrhea, excessive vomiting), please call 512-466-0720 (during Clinic hours 9:00AM-7:00PM) or 888-733-8840 (after hours/on call); follow up with an email to the Medical Team and copy the DFC Team. Always copy the DFC Team on any correspondence with the Medical Team so that they can track your foster dog’s medical care and assist if needed. *The Medical Team provides all medical care for our foster dogs. APA! will not reimburse foster parents for the cost of ANY medical care outside of APA!*

APA! Dog Behavior Team: dogbehaviorfollowup@austinpetsalive.org

Email the Dog Behavior Team if you have any behavior-related question or concern or if you would like assistance with training. Some of our dogs have behavior quirks that may require special handling or care. If this applies to your foster dog, he/she will be noted as a “BC”, and you will get a behavior consult when you first pick up your foster dog.

APA! Dog Marketing Team: dog.marketing@austinpetsalive.org

Email the Dog Marketing Team for help getting your foster dog’s bio, photos, and video on APA!’s website. Once your foster dog is available for adoption and at least 7 weeks old, we’ll feature them on our APA! Website and start marketing your dog to potential adopters.

Dog Foster Manager (DFM): Danica Kubick 202-460-8446

Dog Foster Assistant Manager (DFAM): Regan Goins 937-243-0312 and Jamison Cornett 605-939-9444

Email the DFM or DFAM at dog-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org if you are not able to reach another DF Team Member or if you have a question or concern.