



# Foster Information Session



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming an EPCCR foster home for dogs in need!

Orientation objective is to review the policies and tasks associated with being a foster home.

# Topics To Cover



- EPCCR Basics
- Compliance and PACFA Requirements & Licensure
- Foster Basics
- Home Inspection
- Fostering - What to Know
- Fostering – Timeline
- Do's & Don'ts of Fostering
- Questions

- EPCCR launched operations in the Spring of 2019
- EPCCR's mission is to rescue dogs from Texas, Kansas and New Mexico that are in danger of euthanasia in high-kill shelters and finding them loving homes within Colorado.
- EPCCR is a 501c 3 non-profit licensed in Colorado by PACFA
- EPCCR is 100% volunteer operated and 100% foster based organization
- 95% of the operating budget for EPCCR comes from adoption fees, while only 5% comes from outside donations

# EPCCR Compliance



- EPCCR is licensed by the State of Colorado Department of Agriculture's PACFA standards (Pet Animal Care Facility Act) as a Rescue Organization
- EPCCR is also licensed to raise money as a charitable organization in Colorado
- PACFA sets forth MINIMUM standards for organizations caring for and housing pet animals by including dogs, cats, captive birds, reptiles and fish
- These organizations include shelters, rescues, breeders, pet stores, groomers and vets. As a rescue organization licensed by PACFA, EPCCR must conduct home inspections for all foster homes initially and then annually and maintain the minimum standards in each home
- EPCCR also has record keeping requirements and is audited annually by PACFA

# Foster Basics



## EPCCR Responsibilities Include:

- Transportation from shelter (or another foster home) to your home or a predetermined location
- Provide food, kennel, and when needed- puppy pen, whelping supplies, puppy formula, puppy pads, blankets & towels
- Pay for all authorized medical expenses
- Maintaining ownership of all dogs until properly adopted
- Removing dogs from foster homes not abiding by EPCCR rules
- All decisions regarding foster dogs including but not limited to adoptions and medical care

# Foster Basics



## Foster Responsibilities Include:

- Transportation to veterinary appointments
  - Partner vets are:
    - *Red Rocks Animal Center, 620 Miller Ct, Lakewood, CO (303) 987-2026*
    - *Performance Equine Dentistry, 12375 Conestoga Trl, Elbert, CO (719) 495-8601*
    - *Hamlett Spay & Neuter Clinic, 3660 Citadel Dr N, Colorado Springs, CO (719) 475-1800*
- Provide water, proper socialization with people and other dogs (unless instructed otherwise)
- Notify EPCCR of any medical concerns immediately
- Provide a clean, proper and safe environment
  - At NO time should a EPCCR foster dog be chained up outside unattended, ride in the bed of a pickup truck; even in a kennel, left unattended with other dogs or small children, taken to another person's home for short or long term care.
- Provide updates and photos of the dogs to EPCCR
- Transport fosters to or make available for transport to weekly adoption events

A group of several dogs, likely beagles, are behind a chain-link fence. They are looking towards the camera with various expressions. The fence is in the foreground, creating a grid pattern over the image. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the dogs and the setting.

# Home Inspections

- As a foster your home will be inspected by appointment on an initial and annual basis by EPCCR staff per Colorado Department of Agriculture's PACFA regulations
- Please note that this is not a "white glove test," but an assessment of general cleanliness, safety and environment appropriateness for the dogs in your care
- In addition, all animals in the foster home must be up to date on all vaccinations and EPCCR may request these records be provided prior to becoming an approved foster home

# Fostering—What to Know

- As a foster, you need to determine what situation is right for you, your family and your current animals
  - *You can choose to foster an adult dog, puppies, nursing or pregnant dogs, a dog in medical rehab, dogs with behavioral or socialization issues, or motherless puppies needing bottle fed*
  - *Please keep in mind your lifestyle- for example, pregnant and nursing dogs need their foster to be home 95% of the time during the first 5-6 weeks after birth and when the mom may go into labor. If you work 40 hours a week, an adult dog or older puppies who can be kenneled may be better suited for you.*
- Be realistic
  - *Introducing a new dog to your home can be stressful for you, the foster dog and your other animals. Very slow and controlled introduction is needed and understand that it could take a few days or up to a few weeks for everyone to get used to one another. Whatever you do, do not be discouraged if your dog and the new dog aren't best friends instantly. Just like people, it can take dogs a while to get to know each other.*

# Fostering – What to Know

- Be realistic continued.....
  - *Many of our adult dogs are not housebroken and our puppies certainly are not. You need to be prepared and committed to crate training and housebreaking adult dogs and starting puppies off down the right track*
  - *Many of our adult dogs do not have any training. As a foster, you will need to teach them not to jump on things (including people), basic commands such as sit and down, and not invite them on furniture if they are not interested. Your responsibility as a foster is to make the dog adoptable by understanding the rules of a home*
  - *The best thing you can do for your new foster dog is to make sure they know YOU are the pack leader and they have to listen to you. Dogs thrive in a pack that has very defined hierarchy and strong leadership. Your foster dog will look to you for guidance and so will your other dogs during introductions*

# Fostering—Timeline

- To begin the process of becoming a foster, please fill out an application at [www.elpasocountycaninerescue.org](http://www.elpasocountycaninerescue.org)
- EPCCR will process your application by calling references, verifying home ownership or lease information
- EPCCR representative will call to explain the foster expectations in depth and schedule your home inspection
- Once approved, a EPCCR representative will contract you regarding what dogs/puppies are available to foster that meet your profile. Please note, EPCCR tries to schedule fosters as far out in advance of a confirmed arrival of new dogs so you may be waiting up to 2 weeks in between being approved and your first placement
- EPCCR always has a need for immediate fosters, when another goes on vacation, carry over puppies from one event to the next, or when a foster no longer wishes to foster their EPCCR dog

# Fostering – Timeline

- We ask our fosters to foster their EPCCR dog until he/she gets adopted, especially for adult dogs. Bouncing from home to home is stressful and can lead to separation anxiety for a dog. Remember, many of these dogs came from poor situations to begin with. EPCCR wants to offer our rescues the most stability possible
- This timeline can be 2 weeks or 4 months (for a dog recovering from surgery and needing rehab), depending on the situation with each dog. This will be explained to you when EPCCR contacts you
- If you are getting a foster dog that is arriving direct from a shelter, they will be on a 10 day health hold with you before they are available for adoption
- During the first 5 days of receiving your foster dog you will need to bring him/her to one of our partner vets for spay/neuter and any shots that are needed. If dogs are already fixed or too young you will be told



# Fostering— Timeline

- Adult dogs, especially females, need 3-4 days to recover from their spay/neuter
- During the 10 day hold you will watch for signs of any illness in your foster dog. Please contact a EPCCR representative immediately if you notice:
  - *Diarrhea*
  - *Coughing*
  - *Worms in stool*
  - *Not gaining weight or losing weight*
  - *Yellow discharge from eyes*
  - *Lethargy*
  - *Vomiting*
  - *Any hair loss or lesions on skin*
  - *Just not acting well*



# Fostering— Timeline

- Once your foster dog has completed all their required vetting and passed the 10 day hold without any illness being detected (or if any treatment has ended), they can start attending weekly adoption events
- EPCCR requires and depends on fosters to take their fosters to events for exposure and adoption



# Do's and Don'ts of Fostering



## Do's

- *Do integrate your foster as much as possible into your daily life and family.*
- *Do take them on walks, on car rides, on hikes, etc., to get exercise as long as they are fully vaccinated.*
- *Do use dog treats as a way to train your foster dog.*
- *Do feed your foster dog twice a day (puppies 3 times a day)—in the morning and evening—do NOT free feed.*
- *Do socialize your foster dog with your house guest and your other dogs (unless told otherwise).*
- *Do contact EPCCR if you are no longer able to foster, but you must allow 72 hours for us to secure a new foster.*
- *Do contact EPCCR at least 2 weeks in advance if you are going out town and need a temp foster.*
- *Do refer interested adopters to our Facebook page or give them our contact info for more information.*

## Don'ts

- *Do not introduce your foster dog to your own dogs in an uncontrolled fashion. Please follow our “Dog Introduction” instructions.*
- *Do not allow your new foster dog to have free roam of your house right away. This is dangerous to the dog and to your personal things. We provide a kennel.*
- *Do not allow your children to hug the dog (this is very threatening to dogs), climb on the dog, ride the dog, steal the dog's toys or bones away, or mess with the dog while he is eating.*
- *Do not leave the foster dog unattended with children or other dogs.*
- *Do not ever let the foster dog off leash unless in a contained fence.*

# Do's and Don'ts of Fostering

A photograph showing several dogs of various breeds (including a black dog, a white dog, a grey dog, and a black and tan dog) looking out from behind vertical metal bars in a kennel or shelter. The dogs appear to be waiting or looking for attention.

## Don'ts

- *Do not bring any dog under the age of 4 months or one not fully vaccinated to a dog park. Many diseases can be passed to puppies through the ground of a dog park and the puppy is not yet protected against them. This also includes ANY public area...even the floor at PetSmart.*
- *Do not feed the foster dog (or any dogs) grapes/raisins, avocado, chocolate, citrus, nuts, milk and dairy, onions, garlic, chives, or alcohol. These are extremely dangerous to dogs, especially grapes and raisins that can cause seizures.*
- *Do not ever leave your foster at anyone's else house, even for a few hours. This is a violation of PACFA as your friend or family member's home has not had a home inspection and is not an approved foster of EPCCR.*
- *Do not feed your dog any rawhide bones!!*

# Fostering truly does save a dog's life

According to the No Kill Advocacy Center ([www.nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org)):

- Approximately 7 Million animals enter shelters every year
- Approximately 40% of shelter animals are killed- 2.8 Million
- Roughly 30 million people acquire a new companion animal every year
- 95% to 99% of shelter animals are healthy or treatable/trainable

By opening your home even once a year to foster a dog, one less healthy and adoptable dog is killed. The more you foster..the more lives you save!

Time for Questions!!

