



PawsCo
Spay/Neuter, Adoptions, Pet Food Drive

P.O. Box 6261 | Denver, CO 80206
www.pawSCO.org

PawsCo Foster Guidebook

The Contacts:

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Foster Support Team	720-307-5000	foster@pawSCOadoptions.org
Shelter Relations Team	720-307-5000	rescue@pawSCOadoptions.org
Transport Team	720-307-5000	transport@pawSCOadoptions.org
Vet Team	720-307-5000	vet@pawSCOadoptions.org
Adoption Team	720-307-5000	adopt@pawSCOadoptions.org

The Communication Flow:

Since PawsCo is completely volunteer-run, we rely on our team structure to get the job done! Members on our teams often work full-time jobs, have families and personal obligations, in addition to volunteering with PawsCo. Since we're all busy people and want to be as efficient as possible and be respectful of everyone's time, below is what the communication process generally looks like.

Who will contact you?

- **Foster Support Team** – will onboard you when you apply to be a PawsCo foster, and will provide ongoing support throughout the time you have the animal
- **Shelter Relations Team** – sends a weekly list of animals in need, reply to that email to tag an animal to foster, we will confirm which animal you are getting
- **Transport Team** – sends you pick up instruction for your new foster pet
- **Vet Team** – sends you vet appointment information and communicates with you on medical needs and plans for your animal
- **Adoption Team** – will reach out to you to schedule a meet and greet when they have an approved applicant for your foster pet

The Process:

1. Once you are an approved foster by the Foster Support Team, you will begin receiving a weekly email from the Shelter Relations Team.
2. Select an animal from the weekly emailed "animals in need list" from the Shelter Relations Team.
3. Transport Team arranges transport for the animal to Denver. Intake is held on Saturdays and – regardless of which day of the week your animal comes in – is required for all fosters and their animals. At Intake the following happens:
 - a. PawsCo Vet Team examines the animal and routine medical is performed: bordetella vaccine, distemper vaccine, microchip implant, heartworm test, heartworm prevention, deworm (precautionary)
 - b. **Note:** Please follow the Vet Team's instructions at Intake for scheduling additional vetting such as rabies and spay/neuter at an approved PawsCo partner veterinary hospital. In addition, PawsCo does not allow any of the vaccines that are administered by



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- the Vet Team to be administered at a vet clinic, unless you have permission from the director.
- c. You can pick up needed supplies for the foster pet (please note: supplies are property of PawsCo and must be returned after fostering and only used for animals in the rescue)
 - d. Our photography team will take a professional photo of your foster pet
4. Take animal home.
 5. Fill out the [foster bio form](#) within 5 days of bringing the animal home: <http://pawSCO.org/bio-sheet/>
 - a. If you are considering adopting your animal, you must let the Foster Support Team know within 5 days of bringing the animal home – once an application is active, you will not have the first right of refusal to adopt, so please let us know as soon as possible
 6. The Bio Team will write a biography and post your animal on the PawsCo website, Petfinder, Rescue Me, and social media.
 7. When an adoption application is received, the Adoption Team reviews the application and calls the potential adopter for a phone interview. They will then check references and schedule a meet and greet for you and your foster animal.
 8. Foster animal is adopted ... repeat!

Tips for the First Week:

- Take a foster dog for a walk around the block. If they get out, it helps them find “home.”
- Give a foster cat a safe room or area, where other animals cannot access them. It is ok to have the cat in this room for a few days to acclimate, before giving them free roam of the house. Even then, a baby gate in the doorway helps keep this room a safe place for the cat to go.
- Your foster may not eat for a couple days – this can be part of the transition, just watch them and keep us informed. You can add a small amount of wet food or cheese to the food to entice them.
- Keep a collar, harness, and PawsCo tag on and be careful not to let them outside unattended – remember this is a new place. The last thing you want is to have your foster escape.
 - If your foster animal escapes, please inform the Foster Support Team immediately
- Help them establish routines – going outside too much at first is better than not enough!
- Love them and treat them as your own! It’s about time for them to receive a little TLC!
- Give them a bath.
 - Please note that you may not bathe them for two weeks following spay/neuter or after a surgery
- It’s common for new dogs to try to escape your home until they know you, so WATCH the door! If you have to have your door open for any reason, put them on a leash – they CAN & WILL run.
- Your foster dog may mark items inside and outside – marking outside is harmless, so allow that. For inside marking, be diligent in watching them the first day or so they are in your home. PawsCo has doggie diapers, if needed. Reward the animal for relieving themselves outside.



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- Your foster may be scared of stairs, mirrors, hair dryers, home appliances, etc. – this is normal, as many have not been in a true home environment. Be patient with them – they normally catch on quickly. Routine helps!
- Your foster dog may cry or bark when you are gone or may hate their crate. You can try placing them in an area with a baby gate and placing their bed, some toys and water in the area. You can even leave a shirt that smells like you to comfort them. Try short periods of leaving and coming back and not making a big deal about it.
- Please remember these animals have just been rescued and need a safe environment, a routine and TLC. Do not put the animal in a situation that puts it at risk – it is better to take it slow.
- The foster animal may not be best friends with your animal(s) – having your pet and the foster ignore each other is ok and having them play rough is ok.
- **If there is a medical emergency:** Call 720.307.5000, ext. 11.
 - If you truly believe it is a matter of life-or-death, take the dog to an emergency animal clinic immediately, preferably one of the partner veterinarians, if they are close. If the partner vets are not close or open, proceed to the nearest emergency or after-hours clinic.

PawsCo Foster Policy:

- Once you tag an animal for rescue, you commit to that animal until they are adopted.
- The PawsCo Foster Support Team will not move a foster animal to a new foster home except for extreme circumstances when safety is a concern. Because we are 100% foster-based, we have nowhere to move animals should you no longer feel comfortable with them in your home. We have no shelter available as a backup, so we ask that you carefully consider every possible implication before tagging an animal for rescue.
- The PawsCo Team is a 100% volunteer team supporting more than 120 PawsCo fosters – it may take up to 48 hours to receive a response.
- Taking care of your foster animal may require sacrifices by yourself and your family.
- As a foster, you are responsible for filling out a Foster Bio Form and sharing photos of your foster within 5 days of bringing them home.
- As a foster, you are responsible for attending PawsCo Intake and any other veterinary appointments as directed by the Vet Team. All vet appointments must be pre-approved by the Vet Team and take place at PawsCo vet partners.
- All cat fosters must keep their fosters separate from other cats unless they are from the same litter, until they get tested for FELV/FIV.
- We advise that dog fosters also keep their animals separate until vaccinated, if there is any concern. Any health concerns related to animals in the home that are not PawsCo fosters, is the responsibility of the foster, regardless of reason for the issue.
- Animals must be fully vaccinated and spayed or neutered prior to being in the public, going to dog parks or being at adoption events. Male dogs are fertile for 2 weeks post-neuter.



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- Supplies received from PawsCo are property of PawsCo and are only to be used for your foster animal.
- The PawsCo Adoption Team screens all adoption applicants and has final approval on whether an applicant can adopt an animal.
- PawsCo fosters are held to the highest standard, and PawsCo expects fosters to maintain a high level of professionalism with all PawsCo volunteers and vet partners.

Join Our Community:

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#)

PawsCo Volunteer Facebook Group – you will be invited to join our volunteer group on Facebook; this is a place for sharing PawsCo specific updates and networking with other fosters and volunteers.

Fostering Frequently Asked Questions

What does the rescue pay for?

- Veterinary bills at partner veterinarians – all services must be authorized by PawsCo's CEO and President.
- Supplies provided, if desired: food, treats, crate, dog beds, toys, leash, collar, PawsCo ID tag

What do I do if my foster animal becomes lost?

- Let the Foster Support Team know immediately
- Follow the instructions at <http://pawSCOadoptions.org/resource-center/lost-animal/>

How can I help my foster get adopted?

- Give your foster some experiences and note how they react – that way when a potential adopter asks questions, you will have an answer (adopters most often want to know if the animal is good with dogs, cats, kids, crate trained, and good on a leash). If you have questions about introductions, please reach out to foster@pawSCOadoptions.org.
- Post your foster on your Facebook, Twitter or social media. Share a couple photos or a video and tell people about them. Encourage your friends and family to share your foster's information, too.
- Fill out the [foster bio form](#) within 5 days of bringing the animal home: <http://pawSCO.org/bio-sheet/>
- Take photos and videos and feel free to send updated photos and info to foster@pawSCOadoptions.org.
- Take your dog places that you feel they will be comfortable, and tell people that they are up for adoption.

Are there training or doggie daycare options for my foster pup?

- **Training:** Any behavioral questions can go to the Foster Support Team or your assigned trainer. If you want to go to classes with your foster pup, PawsCo has a training partnership multiple



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organizations and trainers and there are many free opportunities – let the Foster Support Team know and we'll connect you.

- **Doggie Daycare:** U Lucky Dog provides up to three **free** days a week for foster pups through PawsCo that would like a little socialization. Let the Foster Support Team know if you're interested.

Can I adopt my foster animal?

Fosters must decide if they would like to adopt the animal within the first 5 days of bringing the animal home. If the animal already has an active adoption application, the Adoptions Team will move forward with that application first. Please let foster@pawSCOadoptions.org know as soon as you decide if you'd like to adopt your foster animal.

Is there an adoption fee for someone to adopt my foster pet and if so, how much is it?

Yes, there is an adoption fee that helps offset the costs of getting the animal neutered or spayed and up to date on all vaccines so that they are "good to go" when they find their forever home. The adoption fee is \$125 for dogs 6 months and older and \$200 for puppies under 6 months (puppies incur more costs, contributing to the cost difference). Cats are \$50 and kittens are \$75.

A person has submitted an adoption application for my foster, now what?

The Adoption Team will call references and talk with the potential adopter, and give you a call to coordinate a time to meet with someone from the adoption team. We love for our foster parents to be at the meet and greet and to be part of the placement of the foster dog or cat – you know the animal better than anyone, so we love for you to be involved. We strive to connect your foster with this person/family within three days from the time the adoption application is approved. Usually this is at the home of the person that wants to adopt or a central location like a park. Adoption Team members often juggle multiple meet and greets in one day, so we ask you to be flexible in scheduling your animal's meet and greet.

What is the adoption process?

All applicants **must** fill out an adoption application

- The Adoption Team reviews the application and calls potential adopter for a phone interview
- The Adoption Team performs reference checks on potential adopter
- The Adoption Team will work with you to schedule and conduct a meet and greet at the potential adopter's home or a central location
- At the time of the meet and greet, the adopter is approved to adopt through PawsCo-we're just ensuring that the dog/cat and the adopter are the right fit for each other. If it's a great match, they applicant can move forward with an adoption from a meet and greet or can arrange to pick up their new companion within 48 hours of the meet and greet if they'd like to move forward with adoption. Before a dog or cat goes home with an adopter, the adopter must fill out an adoption agreement and pay the adoption fee (via cash, check, or credit card.)

If I meet or know someone interested in adopting my foster, what do I do?



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Potential adopters should visit the PawsCo website at www.pawSCO.org and click on the “Adopt” tab for more information. If they are serious about adopting, they can fill out and submit the required adoption application. We will not be able to move forward with an applicant until an adoption application has been completed. The link to the application is near the bottom of the webpage.

What medical care does PawsCo provide for foster animals?

Please work with the Vet Team to get your foster animal to the vet for basic vetting and as needed. Foster animals will be given an exam, spayed/neutered, microchipped, dogs are tested for heartworm (age appropriate) and given heartworm prevention, dewormed (precaution), and brought up-to-date on all vaccinations, including bordetella, rabies, distemper/parvovirus combination; cats are tested for FELV/FIV.

What if I need something for my foster pet, like a certain play toy or more food?

PawsCo supplies everything you will need to foster. If you feel your foster needs additional or special toys, please let us know and we will do our best to provide those things within reason (we are a nonprofit and must be selective with our limited funds). PawsCo asks that you pick up any additional supplies from our weekly intake session, usually Saturdays between 12-2 p.m. Please contact the Foster Support Team to verify the times and location if you do plan on dropping by. **Switching food:** since our food is donated, you might not be given the same type of food when and if you need more. Please do not wait until you are out of food to get more; there needs to be a transition period of about one week to keep the food change from upsetting your foster’s stomach.

I know I am going to be out of town in a few weeks for a couple nights. I still want to foster but I cannot take my foster dog with me. What options do I have?

As soon as you know you will have a scheduling issue, please let us know through email or a phone call so we can set up a sitter through our volunteer network. If you have someone in mind who can watch your foster, please let us know so we can get in contact with them should any needs arise during their time with the foster pet. We ask fosters to refrain from pulling an animal for rescue if they know they will be traveling within the next month.

How do adoption events work with PawsCo?

Our adoption events (along with other events and volunteer opportunities) are listed on the [PawsCo VolunteerSpot Group Page](#). You will be able to visit a list of upcoming events and have the opportunity to sign up to participate via the Group Page. For every event, you will have two sign up options: 1) sign up to attend the event with your foster animal or 2) request a volunteer to transport your foster animal to and from the event for you. If you feel your foster would not show well at the event, please let us know.

How do most PawsCo animals find their forever homes and families?

PawsCo advocates and promotes your foster on their website, Facebook, and Petfinder.com (and at events). We track how our rescue pets find their forever homes and the majority is found via Petfinder.com and our website. However, we also find them homes through sharing pictures and bios on



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social media and sometimes dogs even meet their new person when they are out for a walk or at doggy daycare.

What do I do if I see an animal in need that I want to foster that isn't on the weekly PawsCo email list (on Facebook, online, etc.)?

Email our Shelter Relations Team at rescue@pawSCOadoptions.org. They will work with the shelter or facility where the animal is located to get set up to possibly transfer the animal to PawsCo. All animals must go through the Shelter Relations Team in order to be brought into PawsCo.

I found a stray or lost animal. Can PawsCo take it into the rescue?

Please see our [Lost Animals](#) section on the PawsCo website. Bringing an animal to the shelter is the best way to reunite it with its caretaker. PawsCo unfortunately does not have the resources available to care for lost or stray animals.

*Thank you for fostering! We'd love your feedback on the experience and the process, as we're always looking to improve! Please let your PawsCo leadership team know if you have any questions!
Thanks for all you do!*