



Foster Medical Guidelines

Updated April 2025

When you pick your animal up off of Transport or Vet Appointments:

Please email vet@pawscoadoptions.org any records you acquire immediately post transport/pickup or vet appointments. All tags (rabies, microchip, PawsCo) must be affixed to the animal's collar immediately off of transport or at vet appointment

Foster Communication:

Please include the PawsCo animal number in all email communications.

Routine Vetting and Policy:

All animals must attend Intake for basic vetting ([Intake Sign Up Sheet](#)):

- If Intake is full, please email vet@pawscoadoptions.org to see if we can extend hours.
- If not, please plan on signing up for an available time slot.
 - No sick animals at Intake without prior approval from the Vet Care Team. This includes sneezing, coughing, ringworm, etc.
 - If a sick animal is approved to come to Intake they must stay in the foster's car and the Vet Care Team will come out for assessment.
- Fosters will receive a Foster Intake Form which should follow the animal to all vet appointments and any future Intake appointments.

All cats must keep separate from other cats, unless they are from the same litter, until they get tested for FeLV/FIV and have attended Intake.

All animals must be up to date on all routine vetting prior to being in a public setting.

- Public settings include, but are not limited to:
 - Dog parks
 - Teddy Cat Cafe
 - PawsCo events
 - Chuck & Don's

NOTE: If you are unsure if your foster animal is vetted but you would like them to attend a PawsCo event, please email vet@pawscoadoptions.org. They can help to determine if your foster is eligible to attend the event.

Routine Vetting:

- Spay/Neuter (8-12 weeks of age – must be cleared by Vet Care Team)
- Rabies Vaccine (12-16 weeks of age –Veterinary discretion)
- FeLV/FIV Test (Feline)
- FVRCP Vaccine (Feline)
- DAPP Vaccine (Canine)

- Bordetella (Canine)
- Microchip
- Dewormed
- Heartworm Test (Canine)
- Heartworm Prevention (Canine)

What to do if your foster has a medical issue?

If you feel your foster is feeling under the weather or is injured, please contact vet@pawscoadoptions.org

- All animal health questions/concerns should be communicated with vet@pawscoadoptions.org

In case of an emergency:

If there is a medical emergency, please call 720-675-7722 immediately.

- If you truly believe it is a matter of life or death, take the animal to the closest emergency/after hours clinic. Call the emergency line as soon as it is safe to do.

What is considered an emergency?

Use the chart below to determine if your foster animal is experiencing a medical emergency and take appropriate action as advised by the chart.

EMERGENCY	URGENT	NON-URGENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A severe bite that requires immediate attention • Uncontrolled bleeding • Major Trauma (hit by a car, fall, severe dog fight, life threatening emergency) • Difficulty breathing – open mouth, heavy abdominal breathing in cats • Ingested something toxic/dangerous • Unable to stand/walk • Seizure/disoriented/drunken walking • Male cats straining to urinate • Diabetic animal not eating • Unresponsive/dramatic drop in energy • Post surgery bleeding, hernias, stitches separating, won't take critical meds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting more than twice in 24 hours • Instances of unusual aggression • Cut or puncture wound that is managed (i.e. not bleeding excessively) • Bite that breaks skin/causes bleeding • Diarrhea for more than 48 hours • Lethargy/low appetite • Blood in urine • Colored nasal/ocular discharge • Limping • Fleas/ticks/parasites in feces or on body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One instance of vomiting/diarrhea • Sneezing/reverse sneezing • Itching • Watery eyes • Broken Nail • Hot Spot/Skin Irritation • Ear issues
<p>IMMEDIATE CALL TO THE EMERGENCY LINE 720-675-7722</p>	<p>SEND AN EMAIL TO VET TEAM (vet@pawscoadptions.org) AND FOSTER TEAM (foster@pawscoadoptions.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Subject Line as URGENT • Include pet's name & number 	<p>SEND AN EMAIL TO VET TEAM (vet@pawscoadptions.org) AND FOSTER TEAM (foster@pawscoadoptions.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include pet's name & number • Expectation: These are not

Setting up Vet Appointments:

All veterinary appointments must be approved by the Vet Care Team.

- Fosters must only schedule vet appointments at a PawsCo veterinary partner, designated by the Vet Care Team.
 - Not all vet partners are appropriate for certain services, so the Vet Care Team will let you know which vet partners are approved for your foster animal's needs after seeing the animal at Intake or reviewing available records for the animal.
- Once approved, communicate the date and location of the appointment to vet@pawscoadoptions.org.
- Please follow the Vet Care Team's instructions at Intake for scheduling additional vetting such as spay/neuter, at an approved PawsCo partner veterinarian.
- PawsCo does not allow any of the basic vetting that was administered by the Vet Care Team, to be performed at a veterinary clinic, unless you have permission from the Vet Team.
- If a Veterinarian has concerns of an ailment the Veterinarian must contact the Vet Care Team to get approval for any diagnostics/treatment they are recommending.
- Post appointment: affix any tags you receive (Rabies, microchip, etc.) to your foster's collar.
- Email vet@pawscoadoptions.org an update and a digital copy of all paperwork you received. Please verify the records are readable before sending, as they become a permanent part of the animal's file.

Notes for Spay/Neuter appointments:

- We recommend bathing your foster (if needed) prior to spay/neuter, as animals cannot receive a bath 7-14 days post surgery.
- If your animal has a complication post surgery (examples include but are not limited to: swollen/bruised scrotum, open incision, infected incision), please contact the vet clinic that performed the operation, and communicate this information to the Vet Care Team.
- Male dogs and cats can stay fertile for up to 2 weeks after they are neutered, therefore please ensure recently neutered males avoid contact with any intact females.

Medications:

Please give all medication as directed by the Vet Care Team or the Veterinarian.

You must log all medications that you give using the [Foster Medication Tracking Log](#) (also located in Foster Resources).

Do not give any medications to your foster without prior approval of the Vet Care Team or the prescribing Veterinarian.

When your foster is adopted:

- Rabies and/or microchip tags should be sent home with the adopter.
- If your foster puppy or kitten received a series of dewormer, please send this home with the adopter.

Thanks for all you do and being a part in saving lives with PawsCo! Please let us know if you have any questions.