



FOSTERING FAQs

Curious about fostering? Let's talk dogs!

Why foster?

Because every dog deserves a chance to show off their personality outside a shelter. You provide a safe place to land, and we get to discover what makes them special so we can find their perfect match. Tail wags are a bonus!

What does a foster parent do?

Pretty much what you'd do for your own dog: provide food, exercise, playtime, attention and a safe place to settle in. You may also help with basic training, vet visits and meet-and-greets with potential adopters. And yes, you'll become our expert on your foster dog's quirks!

Do I need dog experience?

Not necessarily! We'll work to match you with a dog suited to your experience and household. Some dogs need extra patience or guidance, and our team is here to help you navigate the journey.

Where do your dogs come from?

Our dogs come from municipal animal control shelters, smaller and rural shelters, and owner surrenders. We share the background and health information available to us, though sometimes a dog's history is a bit of a mystery.

How long will I have my foster dog?

Every dog is different. Some find homes quickly; others need more time. Age, size, health and individual needs can all affect the timeline. We'll work with you throughout the process.

What supplies does Waggin' Tails provide?

We provide necessary supplies such as food, bowls, crates, collar/leash/harness, toys and preventatives, as appropriate. You provide the home, care and cuddles!

Who pays for veterinary care?

Waggin' Tails pays for veterinary treatment through our vet partners. Fosters will need to transport dogs to appointments based upon your schedule. If you notice a health concern, contact our team so we can help determine the next steps.

Can I foster if I work full-time?

Absolutely! Many of our fosters work full-time. We'll consider your schedule and help find a dog whose needs fit your lifestyle.

Can I foster if I live in an apartment or rental?

Yes! Check your lease for pet policies, size limits and breed restrictions first. We'll work to find a dog who's a good fit for your living situation.

I have my own dog. Can I still foster?

Often, yes! Your dog must be up to date on vaccinations and spayed or neutered. We'll consider compatibility and help guide introductions so everyone gets a fair chance to become friends.

What if a foster dog has medical or behavioral needs?

Some dogs need extra support, whether it's medical treatment, confidence-building or learning household manners. We'll discuss known needs and provide guidance. If something comes up, let us know. We're here to help.

How involved will I be in the adoption process?

Your role is important! You get to know your foster dog in ways we can't from a photo or brief meeting. Your observations help us understand their personality, behavior and ideal home. We may also ask you to help coordinate meet-and-greets with potential adopters.

Do I need to take photos and videos?

Please do! Everyday photos and videos of walks, playtime, couch naps and goofy antics help us show potential adopters what life with your foster dog could look like.

What's the secret to a great foster experience?

Fostering is a team sport! You know your foster dog best, and we rely on your updates to understand how they're doing. Sharing health concerns, behavior changes, progress, photos and everyday moments helps us support you and find the right adopter.

We know life gets busy, and questions or challenges are part of fostering. Stay in touch, reach out when you need help and respond to our messages. We're an all-volunteer team, and working together makes the experience better for everyone especially the dog!

What if fostering isn't working out?

Let us know as early as possible. Whether you're facing a behavior challenge or a change in circumstances, we'll work with you to figure out the next steps and make sure your foster dog's needs are covered.

Won't a dog feel abandoned when they get adopted?

We see fostering as a bridge to a new life. A foster home helps a dog learn routines, build confidence and discover the joys of living with a family. Moving to an adoptive home is another step forward!

What happens when my foster dog gets adopted?

We'll be honest: it can be hard! But helping a dog find the right family is pretty wonderful, too. And once your foster heads off to their new life, there's room to help another dog waiting for a chance.

Can I adopt my foster dog?

Of course! Sometimes a foster and dog are simply meant to be. We love when fosters become adopters.

How do I get started?

Submit a foster application, and one of our volunteers will reach out to chat and answer your questions.

Not quite ready to apply?

Call us at 248-788-7050.

We can help you decide if fostering is right for you.