



**PAWS**<sup>®</sup>  
CHICAGO

**CANINE FOSTER PACKET**

[pawschicago.org/foster](https://pawschicago.org/foster)

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# Thank You

By fostering a homeless pet,  
you open space at PAWS Chicago,  
allowing us to rescue more animals.

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5. Welcome

6. Preparation

12. Care

16. Moms with Puppies

17. Emergencies

## ARE YOU READY TO SAVE SOME LIVES?

- a. In the event of a medical emergency from 8:30AM – 5PM Monday-Sunday, are you able to bring your foster pet to our Medical Center at 3516 West 26th Street in the Little Village neighborhood?**

We are the only shelter in the Midwest with a robust shelter medicine staff devoted to the care of our animals. Having a medical team on staff allows us to save the most lives possible. **From 5:00pm – 8:30am**, use Vidaah for any medical concerns, and if given approval by Vidaah, head to one of the two approved Veterinary Emergency Groups.

- b. Do you have the time to spend with your foster puppies/dog(s)?**

We recommend that you spend at least two hours per day with your foster pet(s) giving individualized socialization, training and play time. This doesn't include feeding and cleaning, but don't worry; watching your foster pet enjoy the comforts of a home and learn new things will make the time fly by — we promise!

- c. Can you commit to keeping your foster pet for the entire foster period?**

Life happens! Once in a while, you may need to bring a foster pet back early, but we strongly encourage you to keep your foster pet for the duration of the foster period. This will significantly reduce the dog/puppy's stress and help them stay healthy. PAWS can provide both medical and behavioral support for any concerns that arise during a foster period.

- d. Are you willing to work within our veterinary program?**

Our vets know your foster pet's history and current course of treatment. Taking your foster pet to a vet outside of PAWS could jeopardize their safety. In addition, treating through PAWS costs less money, enabling us to save more animals!

- e. Can you commit to bringing your foster pet in for various veterinary re-checks?**

Depending on the animal, we may need you to schedule occasional appointments with our veterinary team. These appointments may be weekly or once every two to three weeks.

- f. Are you able to keep your pets separate from your foster pet(s)?**

We encourage you to keep foster dogs/puppies in a bathroom or spare bedroom away from your pets for everyone's safety and to avoid illness transmission.

- g. Are you prepared for the mess?**

Fostering comes with a great deal of clean-up and potentially (although we hope not) damage to your home. Foster pets can sometimes ruin carpeting, rugs and furniture. **PAWS Chicago is not responsible for any damage incurred while fostering one of our animals.**

- h. Will you be able to bring your foster pet back at the end of the foster period?**

Letting go can be hard! We understand, but because of foster parents like you, we can save more lives.



## FAQS

### a. What kinds of dogs need foster?

We have a variety of dogs in need of foster homes and we will work with you to find the animal that fits best with your home environment and lifestyle! We regularly have a range of needs including nursing moms and puppies, adult dogs recovering from illness, weaned puppies awaiting vaccines, dogs or puppies in need of socialization, and animals whose owners are in the midst of a crisis. Occasionally we also need fosters for healthy animals who are scheduled for future adoption events.

### b. Will I need to give medications?

Almost every pup who leaves our Medical Center will be on medication, but we show you everything you need to know to correctly administer the medications. If you are unable to give medications, we recommend trying our socialization foster program with healthy dogs.

### c. How long is a typical foster period?

Depending on the type of foster you have, the time will vary. For example, puppies typically require a two-week period while sick dogs and puppies need 1–2 weeks. Special animals like neonates/moms and babies need up to eight weeks and animals needing socialization/behavior medication can average 30 days. Healthy animals who are preparing for a special event can range from one night to several weeks.

### d. How much time should I plan to spend with my foster pup?

We ask that you spend at least two hours a day with your pup. But of course, the more positive exposure he has with people and experiences, the happier and better-adjusted he'll be when he becomes available for adoption.

### e. Where will I pick up my foster pet?

If you are fostering a dog for socialization, you will most likely pick up your animal at the **Lincoln Park Adoption Center** (1997 N. Clybourn). All other fosters are typically picked up from the **PAWS Chicago Medical Center** (3516 W. 26th Street).

### f. Do I need to find an adopter for my foster animal?

No, you are not required to find an adopter for your foster animal. However, we always encourage you to discuss your foster pet with friends and family as feedback and connections play a large role in finding them homes.

### g. Can I meet my foster animal first?

Perhaps — it depends on the type of foster you are interested in. You will have an opportunity to meet and choose your foster if they originate from our Lincoln Park Adoption Center. However, you will not have this option for animals originating from our Medical Center. However, we do our best to match you with an animal who fits your home environment and lifestyle needs.

### h. How many puppies will I be fostering?

It's best for puppies to learn pup manners from their siblings, so when fostering puppies, we prefer to send them out in groups of two or more. It also helps to have multiple puppies to keep each other busy.

### i. Can my foster dogs play with my resident pets or go to dog parks?

- **We do not allow it.** Puppies and dogs in shelters have stressed and/or weakened immune systems. PAWS Chicago cannot be responsible for the health of your resident pets, so we strongly recommend that your foster puppies remain isolated from household pets, unless we advise you otherwise.
- If you are fostering a puppy, **please keep your puppy confined to your home and a small area outside to go potty.** Dog parks and longer walks may inadvertently expose your foster puppy to deadly illnesses.

### j. Can I adopt my foster?

Yes! In most circumstances, you are able to adopt your foster animal(s). If this isn't the case, you will be notified in advance. If you are interested in adopting, please let our foster coordinator know by the end of the foster period, if not earlier. We will arrange for your foster to be spayed/neutered and medically cleared for adoption before you complete the adoption process.

### k. Can a friend or family member adopt my foster?

Any friends or family interested in adopting will need to visit the Adoption Center (Lincoln Park) the day the animal is available for adoption. We will coordinate with you on timing to be sure you know approximately when the animal is going arrive. Everyone in the household must be there at the time of the adoption and our standard adoption fees and instructions will apply.

### l. What does PAWS provide? What do I need to provide?

We will provide you with a crate, leash, collar, food and any medications needed. We will also provide instructions on how to administer medications. We ask that you provide food bowls, toys and lots of time and TLC!

### m. Can I foster if I have other pets?

Yes. However, in many cases, especially with sick or injured animals, you must have the ability to isolate the foster animal in a separate room or section of your home to avoid exposure of an illness to your pet or disrupt the healing time of your foster. A spare room can be perfect for a dog or puppy.

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# Welcome

Thank you for becoming a part of PAWS Chicago's Foster Program!

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PAWS Chicago's Foster Program enables us to take in more animals each year than could be housed at our shelter alone. Because of your dedication and commitment as a Foster Parent, we are able to give homeless animals the second chance at life they deserve.

As a foster parent, you will provide love, attention, food and water to a homeless animal. Depending on the animal's health, you may be asked to administer medications recommended by our veterinary team.

We will work with you to ensure that you are comfortable administering any necessary medications and address any concerns you may have. By fostering a sick animal, you are greatly increasing their chances for living a long and healthy life.

Other very young animals may require bottle or syringe feeding in order to survive. Caring for orphaned puppies and puppies or a mother and her litter can be very time consuming. We value your dedication and appreciate your willingness to make this life-saving commitment to these animals.

Some of our homeless animals have lived on the streets and will greatly benefit from a foster home. Many of these types of shelter animals need to learn to rebuild trust in people after being given up or abandoned. Your role as their foster parent will help to socialize these animals. Your devotion will help a dog or puppy become a more attractive candidate for a potential adopter.



We want your involvement with the PAWS Chicago Foster Program to be a positive experience. We will do our best to meet the needs of both the foster animal and your family. If you need support or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again for your time, effort and support of our PAWS Chicago animals. Without you, we would not be able to make such a large impact on the lives of homeless cats and dogs in Chicago.



One significant aspect of fostering underage puppies is that you are dealing with animals that have not yet developed immunity to a variety of potentially fatal canine diseases.

While you might be anxious to play with the puppies in the park, etc., the puppies must not walk on any surfaces (such as parks or sidewalks) where another dog may have urinated or defecated in the past.

Even if it appears clean it may still be harboring contagious diseases. It is imperative for puppies to stay in the home until they have been fully vaccinated.

The most common symptoms of illness in a puppy are vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and lack of appetite. These may appear in any combination.

## PAWS CHICAGO DOG FOSTER AGREEMENT

Thank you for your interest in sharing your home as a PAWS Chicago foster parent! Depending upon your availability and experience, you may be asked to provide care to a sick or injured animal, to house an animal until space becomes available at the Medical Center or Adoption Center, to foster young animals, to support individualized training plans based on the needs of an animal, or to provide respite care to an animal that may be depressed or traumatized by the many changes and losses in her/his life. As a PAWS Chicago foster parent, you will always be provided with information concerning the unique circumstances of each potential foster situation so that you can decide if the fit is right for you.

To help you better understand your role as a PAWS Chicago foster parent, the following constitutes an agreement between you and PAWS Chicago. Please be sure that you understand this agreement in its entirety, and don't hesitate to ask your PAWS Chicago representative regarding any questions you may have.

- On behalf of PAWS Chicago, I agree to provide foster care to the PAWS animal(s) I pick-up on future dates and will promptly return the animal(s) to the location and date/time specified by the PAWS Chicago Foster Team. I understand that any changes to these dates/times can occur only with the express agreement of PAWS Chicago and myself and that newly agreed upon dates/times will be emailed by the PAWS Chicago Foster Team.
- I understand and agree that the PAWS animal(s) entrusted to me will be cared for in my home at the address that I have provided to PAWS Chicago. I understand and agree that I will not move my PAWS animals to any other physical location (in or outside the state of Illinois) without the express written agreement and approval of my PAWS Chicago representative.
- I understand that I am operating as a foster home affiliated with PAWS Chicago and that under the Animal Welfare act, I am required to allow for the Department of Agriculture to inspect my home at the address noted in the PAWS online database, should they deem it necessary. PAWS Chicago shall be responsible for the records and have the obligation of stewardship for animals in the foster home with which it affiliates.
- I understand and agree that I may be required to transport or make arrangements to transport my PAWS animal(s) to various appointments. If I do not appear at more than 2 events or scheduled appointments to which I committed, PAWS Chicago has the right to end this agreement and reclaim the animal.
- I understand and agree that PAWS Chicago maintains legal ownership of the PAWS animal(s) in my care, regardless of the length of time I provide foster care to the PAWS Chicago animals in my home.
- I understand and agree that I have no authority to offer my PAWS animal(s) to any person for adoption or sale. I understand and agree that I will direct any potential adopters to the PAWS Chicago Adoption Center (1997 N. Clybourn Ave.).
- I understand and agree that I will be present for any appointments scheduled for my PAWS animal(s), medical or otherwise, unless giving prior advanced notice of cancellation or a need to re-schedule.
- I understand and agree that I am responsible for always keeping the PAWS animal(s) on a leash and with me when in public. I also understand and agree that I am not to take my PAWS animal(s) to dog parks, dog beaches, or daycare/boarding facilities and that I am to avoid interaction with dogs/other animals or individuals with whom I am not familiar. I understand and agree to always keep Foster cats and kittens as indoor animals with no exceptions. I further understand that I'm agreeing to these stipulations to protect my PAWS Foster animal(s) and community animals from getting lost or from potential injury, illness, or behavioral unknowns.
- I understand that I must use the handling equipment (e.g., leash, collar, etc.) provided by PAWS for the animal(s) I am fostering and not substitute my own equipment. I further understand and agree to contact PAWS immediately for replacement handling equipment should existing equipment break, malfunction or show signs of wear and tear. I understand that this is to protect the PAWS animal(s) and the community.
- I understand and agree that PAWS Chicago cannot guarantee that the PAWS animal(s) is/are housebroken/ litterbox trained. PAWS Chicago will not be financially responsible for any damage done by the PAWS animal(s).

- I understand and agree that I am responsible for cleaning up after my PAWS animal(s) while not on my own property.
- PAWS Chicago will not be financially responsible for any damage done or injuries caused by the PAWS animals(s) while in foster care. I further understand and agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify PAWS Chicago for any liability resulting from my fostering of this animal, and further understand that these duties (to hold harmless, defend and indemnify) apply whether the liability is alleged to have arisen from my actions, the actions of another, or the actions of PAWS Chicago.
- I understand and agree that I am responsible for providing basic care items as outlined by the PAWS Chicago Foster Team and ensure the PAWS animal(s) are living in a clean and safe environment.
- I understand and agree to not take PAWS Foster animals(s) on public transportation, and that I will secure the animal in a carrier/crate as provided for by the PAWS Chicago staff for any type of transport. If PAWS Chicago has loaned me a carrier, I will return it when I return the animals(s).
- I understand and agree that I will administer any and all medications and dietary supplements to my PAWS animal(s), as directed by my PAWS Chicago representative or the attending PAWS veterinarian. I understand that I am not responsible for purchasing said medications and supplements. I understand and agree that I will not administer any medications, supplements, or treatments to my PAWS animal(s), except those which are prescribed or recommended by the PAWS veterinarian or my PAWS Chicago representative.
- I understand and agree that I will contact PAWS Chicago immediately should I suspect that my PAWS animal(s) requires medical attention.
  - If the situation is not life-threatening, I will contact the Medical Center (3516 W. 26th St.) to arrange an appointment during office hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm, 7 days a week). Phone number is **773-475-9464**.
  - I understand I may be required to transport my PAWS animal(s) to a PAWS Chicago approved emergency hospital to receive emergency care. I understand that I am not financially responsible for medical care provided to my PAWS animal(s) at the Medical Center or if authorized to seek treatment at an approved hospital. However, I also understand that if I seek treatment for my PAWS animal(s) at any medical facility, **without the approval** of PAWS Chicago, I will not be reimbursed for my expenses.
- I understand and agree that I am responsible for maintaining routine phone/email contact with my PAWS Chicago representative, and for responding to phone calls from my PAWS Chicago representative in a timely fashion, for the express purpose of sharing information regarding the adjustment, health, and behavior of my PAWS animal(s) while in my care.
- I understand and agree that, if for any reason, I can no longer meet the terms of this agreement, I will notify my PAWS Chicago representative immediately in order that alternate plans can be made for my PAWS animal(s).
- I understand and agree that, if for any reason, my PAWS Chicago representative determines that this foster arrangement should end prior to the predetermined date, he/she has the authority to remove my PAWS animal(s) from my home immediately.
- I understand and agree that PAWS Chicago cannot guarantee the health of its animals and will not be able to pay for veterinary expenses of my own pets if they were to become ill from exposure to a PAWS Chicago animal or otherwise.
- I understand and agree that due to recent changes in the law, liability extends to persons who are not “legal owners” but also “owners” who are providing care, custody and/or control to the animal (i.e., foster parents) as defined by the Illinois Animal Control Act and the Chicago Municipal Code.
- I understand and agree that, as a PAWS Chicago foster parent, I am responsible for the wellbeing of a precious PAWS Chicago animal life and that I take this responsibility seriously.

- I understand and agree that while it is possible for me to adopt my foster animal(s) at the end of the foster period, the main focus of fostering is to provide care for the animals until they can be transferred to the Adoption Center. I understand that being a PAWS Chicago foster parent does not guarantee that I will be allowed to adopt this animal(s) at the end of the foster period. I understand that if I decide I am interested in adopting the animal(s), I will be required to cooperate with the same interview process, application process, and adoption fee that any other PAWS Adopter would go through. I understand that PAWS Chicago retains the right to deny my adoption application.
- I understand that if I am in a foster-to-adopt situation I must formally notify a member of the PAWS Chicago Foster Team with my adoption decision prior to the animal(s) final appointment, knowing that it may not guarantee I can adopt the PAWS Chicago foster animal(s) in my care. I must then contact the proper representative at the PAWS Chicago Adoption Center to finalize the adoption.
- I recognize and understand the inherent risks associated with the care of foster animals, including but not limited to the possibility of any injury to person(s) and/or property which I may suffer as a result of the unpredictable nature and/or provocation of animals. I understand the purpose of fostering a PAWS animal is to support the PAWS organization and its mission and not to promote or solicit PAWS Chicago in any way for my individual or business interests.
- I understand that while providing care for a PAWS Chicago foster animal, I will not foster for another organization, shelter, or rescue. If I am fostering a non-PAWS Chicago animal, I will immediately notify the PAWS Chicago Foster Team. I understand that this is to protect the medical health of the Foster animals, as not all organizations have the same protocols.

Check here to indicate that you have read and agree to the terms and conditions laid out in this agreement.

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Foster's Name (please print)

Phone Number

Email

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Foster's Signature

Date

PREPARATION

**a. Things You'll Need:**

Food & water bowls, towels for bedding, toys, pee pads (optional).

**b. Providing a Safe Space**

Choose a room in your home that can be easily temperature controlled (no drafts or open windows). The room should also be able to withstand messy puppies and playful dogs who may knock over a food dish, spill their water or tear up their pee pads. **We highly recommend that you have dog safe floors that are easy to wipe up and mop.**

**c. Puppy Proofing**

Puppies and dogs are curious, playful and often mischievous. Don't be surprised if they try to get into everything! **Don't leave anything out that your foster pet can chew, swallow or break** (electrical cords, hair ties, glassware, etc). Look for places where your foster can hide and be sure to block access to those areas. One thing to try is to lie down on the floor and look at your safe space from your new foster's point of view.

**d. Setting up Your Foster's Space**

This where your foster will be spending the majority of his time. This is the place where your foster pet will eat, drink, eliminate, sleep and play.

- 1. Eat:** You will need three bowls – one for wet food, one for dry food, and one for water. The more puppies you have, the more bowls you will need so that everyone can have access to their food! They will need access to fresh food and clean water multiple times a day, but remember: what goes in, must come out!
- 2. Sleep:** Old towels make the best bedding! We suggest making a nice, warm sleeping area in your foster pup's crate.
- 3. Eliminate:** most foster dogs will need some help being housetrained. Pee pads next to the door often help isolate unwanted elimination to one area.
- 4. Play:** Disposable and easily sanitized toys are a must!

**Toys for Kibble & Dry Treats**

Make sure that the food pieces are smaller than the hole for puzzle balls and the like.

**Molecuball**

Fun because it bounces unpredictably.



**Twist'n'Treat**

Untwist to make it easier, then tighten it once puppy gets better at unpacking.



**Tricky Treat Ball**

Soft rubber makes it quiet.

**Edible Toys for Chewing**

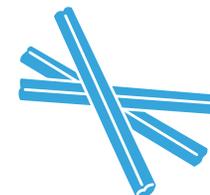
Monitor the puppy to ensure that small pieces are not ingested. Throw these toys away when they get down to 1inch.

**Pressed Rawhide**

No strips or ground rawhide.



**Bully Sticks**



**Toys for Canned Food, Canned/Kibble Combo, & Peanut Butter**

**Hollow, Sterilized Beef Bones**

Kong: Medium Sized



**Toys that Satisfy "Dissection" Urges**

Stick pieces of chicken or (non-salty) lunchmeats inside, so the puppy can practice extraction.

**Kong Stuff a Ball**

Spheron





### a. Pick-Up

1. First we'll ask you to fill out our foster application online at [pawschicago.org/foster](https://pawschicago.org/foster). This is a one-time process unless you move or your information changes.
2. Email us at [fosterplacement@pawschicago.org](mailto:fosterplacement@pawschicago.org) or [acfoster@pawschicago.org](mailto:acfoster@pawschicago.org) when you are ready to be matched with a foster animal. Or, you can self-schedule a pick-up appointment using the Calendly link in your application acceptance email.

### b. Rechecks and Returns

- Depending on the medical situation, we will work with you to schedule a time for your foster pet to be seen by our veterinary team.
- Before returning your foster, we will ask you to complete a background report so that we can communicate all of your foster pets' quirks and favorites to potential adopters.
- If you are bringing your foster in for surgery, **don't forget to fast them (no food after midnight, water is okay)!**

### a. Monitoring your Foster's Health

It is crucial that you monitor your foster canine's appetite, attitude and appearance every day. **We encourage our foster parents to keep a log of their foster pet.** If something seems off or different, it's easy to go back and review your log to see when the problem began.

### b. Weighing Puppies

We ask that you weigh your puppy(s) at the same time each day and keep track of any gains or losses. **Ideally, puppies gain 0.25–0.5oz per day.** If your puppy is not eating for 24 hours or is losing weight, please contact our foster team immediately for next steps. It's likely that we may need you to bring your puppies in for a medical check immediately.

### c. Feeding

- Please feed your foster puppies the food that PAWS Chicago provides. Digestive systems can be irritated by the introduction of new or different foods. If your foster's are refusing to eat the foods that they're given, please contact us at [foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:foster@pawschicago.org). We will help you determine your next steps.
- If you have multiple foster pets, **always be sure to feed them in separate crates or separate parts of the house.**
- If your fosters (or your foster and your owned pet) are fighting over food or toys, contact the foster department immediately. **Don't attempt to take a toy or food away from a puppy if they are growling.** Wait till the toy or food is abandoned, then pick it up and put it away. Call the foster department for advice.



## DAILY ROUTINE

- a. Feeding**
- Puppies should be fed at least twice daily, **three times is preferable**.
  - Wash wet food dishes between each serving.
  - Monitor appetites
- b. Health Check**
- Look over your foster pet every day for any changes or potential medical concerns.
  - Check over their body and fur
  - Weigh puppies
  - Note your foster's energy level
- c. Enrichment / Training**
- All foster dogs crave playtime. Please make sure to have minimally **four 20-minute play sessions spread throughout the day**. We highly recommend games of fetch, hide and seek, scavenger hunts and most importantly, **training!**
  - Change your foster environment **daily** by adding new objects and toys.
- d. Mouthy Behavior**
- In play, dogs bite each other continuously! They communicate with one another by yelping and stopping the play if the bites become too much. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite when playing with other dogs. **Mouthing is natural and a way dogs have learned to communicate, but mouthing should never be painful!** Probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth...if a puppy is never allowed to mouth, she will grow up to have a rude/hard mouth.
  - The best technique for hard bites is to remove the thing the puppy wants most — human interaction! **Until a dog or puppy is effectively taught to inhibit their bites, all play session must start with a collar and leash.** When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp **“OUCH!”** If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, praise and continue the play. If they do not immediately stop the hard mouthing, say **“No”** then quickly take hold of the end of the leash, extend your arm, holding the leash (and puppy) away from you; turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Count to 5-10 slowly. After just 5-10 seconds, resume interacting with the pup where you left off. Do not turn back around start engaging if the dog is still jumping up on you or trying to solicit attention. Wait until they are calm and ready to play again!
  - You can teach gentle treat taking by offering dry kibble or small treats and only releasing when they take it gently. If they attempt to take it forcefully, say **“No!”** and withdraw the food. Offer the treat again and relinquish it once they take it gently **with all four feet on the ground. Remember:** this is another exercise where a leash and collar are necessary!
- e. Socialization**
- Encourage affectionate behavior with food treats or play sessions.
  - Puppies should meet new people **as often as possible**.
- f. Socialization Check List (on next page).**

## Potty Schedule

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### Adult Dogs

Take them outside 20 minutes after they eat or drink, and every hour that you are home to start. Take them to a designated “potty spot” and praise them every time they go with a happy voice and a treat. **If you can't supervise your new foster dog, they should be crated.**

### Puppies

Put the puppies on the pee pads as soon as they wake up, right after eating and at last once an hour to start. Reward them with enthusiastic praise **every time** they urinate or defecate on the pad. Change the pads frequently and encourage them to use it.

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**Note stool consistency (refer to stool chart on page 19)**

# SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

A couple of weeks may not seem to be a long enough time to help acclimate a puppy to the ways of the world, but it is certainly enough time to help a puppy get started on the road to becoming a well-rounded dog!

Please use the following system to complete the checklists:

1-3 Needs Work

4 Going Well

## Scoring System:

- 0 Unknown
- 1 **Over-Arousal:** growl, nip, bark, struggle (for handling), lunge.
- 2 **Avoid:** struggle, hide, try to get away, won't approach or hesitant to approach.
- 3 **Freeze:** holds still, non-explanatory, moving slowly or acting sleepy when they shouldn't be tired.
- 4 **Calm/Relaxed:** explores the object or environment, playful.

	Specific Socialization	Score
Handling	Touch ears	
	Touch mouth	
	Squeezing the paws	
	Wiping body with a towel	
	Touch nose	
	Cradling puppy in your arms on its back	
	Holding puppy in your lap	
	Holding puppy on its back while giving a belly rub	
	Hugging puppy	
	Touching collar	
Scary Sounds	Touching all over body	
	Traffic (like downtown in a city)	
	Fireworks	
	Alarms	
	Dogs barking	
	Doorbell ringing	
	Thunder	
	Construction equipment	
	Vacuum cleaner	
	Sirens	
Unfamiliar People	People wearing sunglasses	
	People with canes, walking sticks or walkers	
	Teenagers	
	Children standing as well as playing	
	Toddlers (walking and squealing)	
	Infants (crawling)	

	Specific Socialization	Score	
Unfamiliar People	Women		
	People of many ethnicities		
	Tall men		
	Men with deep voices		
	Men with beards		
	Elderly people		
	People wearing hats/helmets		
	People wearing hoodies		
	People wearing backpacks		
	New Surfaces	Concrete	
Slippery floors (hardwood, linoleum, marble)			
Metal surfaces (manhole covers, vet hospital scales etc.)			
Stairs			
Wet grass			
Mud			
Ice, frost, or snow			
Objects with Wheels		Skateboards	
		Rollerblades	
		Garbage cans outside	
	Shopping carts		
	Baby strollers		
	Wheel chairs		
	Bikes		
	Cars		
Buses			
Motorcycles			

	Specific Socialization	Score
Man-Made Objects	Pots & pans	
	Blankets/ rugs being shaken	
	Brooms	
	Balloons	
	Umbrellas	
	Plastic bags blowing in the wind	
	Sidewalk signs	
	Garbage cans in the house	
Other Animal Species	Cats	
	Horses & livestock	
	Any types of pets you may have	
New Environments	Suburban neighborhood	
	Residential city streets	
	High traffic city street (such as downtown)	
	Inside buildings	

Please include any additional information you would like a future adopter to know about your foster puppy:

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## VACCINES

Foster puppies will need routine visits with our veterinarians regardless of their health. Puppies need to be vaccinated every two weeks. Please check with your foster coordinator to find out when they need to be brought in for their next vaccine. **We are unable to send appointment reminders so please keep track of important dates!**

## PREPARING FOR YOUR NEXT FOSTER!

Dogs and puppies might leave behind germs that can jeopardize your next foster pet. For this reason, we ask that you follow specific cleaning protocol before bringing your next foster home:

- i. Remove anything that your foster slept on or played with.
- ii. Scrub everything that your foster could have touched with diluted bleach solution. Don't forget to scrub the walls too!
- iii. Food and water dishes can be washed in the dishwasher or soaked in diluted bleach for 10 minutes.
- iv. Clean all toys and litter boxes with diluted bleach as well.
- v. Wash all bedding in hot water and dry on a hot setting.
- vi. **Throw away anything that cannot be bleached.**

### Diluted Bleach Solution

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1/4 Cups Chlorine Bleach

2 1/4 Cups Warm Water



## MOMS AND PUPPIES

Caring for a mom and her puppies is a very rewarding experience. And the best part is — mom does it all! She cleans up after her babies, keeps them warm and maintains their feeding schedule.

### a. Caring for the Mother

More than anything else, a mother dog needs a calm, quiet environment to raise her family. If the mother dog is healthy, chances are, she will be able to take care of her babies without much assistance from you. Your goal as the foster parent is to make sure she stays healthy and serve as a back-up if there is a part of parenting she cannot do on her own.

### b. Give the Family Space

Even the sweetest dogs can be protective of their babies, so give the mom time to trust you. For the first couple days, only visit the family a few times to ensure the babies are nursing and the mom appears healthy. Once you have earned the mother's trust, you can start interacting with her babies.

### c. Allieciate Stress — Keep the Family in Your Home

The more stress the mom endures, the less she will be able to do for her babies. This includes feeding them and caring for them properly. To minimize stress on the mother, never take the family out of your home or your designated foster space. Ask that only the people directly involved in her foster care interact with the family.

### Daily Baby Check:

What to Monitor	Positive Signs	Negative Signs	How to Minimize the Negative
<b>Weight (take and record daily)</b>	Weight increases	Weight stays constant for more than 3 days or decreases in 24 hours	Increase food intake by feeding the baby more often and/or provide more food during each feeding
<b>Urination and Defecation</b>	Stomach is soft to touch	Stomach is firm to touch	Stimulate urination and defecation by wiping the genitals and the anal glands with warm, damp cloth until the animal alleviates itself
<b>Energy Level</b>	Energy level stays constant or increases. (If already sick, energy level must increase.)	Energy level decreases. (If already sick, energy level must not stay constant or decrease)	N/A
<b>Congestion</b>	Congestion decreases	Congestion increases	Use humidifier or steam of the shower to clear up congestion
<b>Eye and Nasal Discharge</b>	Discharge decreases	Discharge increases	Wipe eyes and nose with a warm, damp cloth two or more times a day as needed

### Daily Mother Check:

What you should pay attention to and how you can help.

What to Monitor	Positive Signs	Negative Signs	How to Minimize the Negative
<b>Weight (no noticeable weight loss)</b>	Weight stays constant or increases	Weight decreases	Increase food intake by feeding more often and/or providing more food during each feeding. Also consider heating up food, adding water to food, or trying a different brand of food.
<b>Firmness of Mammary Glands</b>	Mammary glands are soft to the touch	Mammary glands are firm to the touch	N/A
<b>Energy Level</b>	Energy level stays constant or increases. (If already sick, energy level must increase)	Energy level decreases. (If already sick, energy level must not stay constant or decrease)	N/A
<b>Congestion</b>	Congestion decreases	Congestion increases	Use a humidifier or steam from the shower to clear up congestion
<b>Eye and Nasal Discharge</b>	Discharge decreases	Discharge increases	Wipe eyes and nose with a warm, damp cloth two or more times a day as needed

If negative signs are seen, please email us at [foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:foster@pawschicago.org)

### Caring for Puppies

To help the mother care for her puppies, keep an eye on them regularly and make sure to jump in when the mother is not able to do it all.

The Mom's Role	What to do if the Mom is Not Able
Bathe the babies by licking them	Wipe the eyes and nose with a warm damp cloth to clean discharge
Stimulate the babies' urination and defecation by licking their genitals and anal glands	Wipe the genitals and anal glands with a warm damp cloth until they urinate and defecate
Nurse the babies every 3-4 hours	Bottle or syringe feed the babies every 3-4 hours

## PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCIES

- A. The Vidaah Vet Chat is to be used only for **non business hours Medical Emergencies from 5:30pm-8:00am CT**
1. Log on to [pawschicago.org/vidaah](https://pawschicago.org/vidaah)
  2. Please enter the login and password information you created at the time you picked up your foster pet
  3. Begin the chat with the Vidaah Vet
  4. The Vet will provide you with information on how to handle the situation you are chatting about
  5. If you have been advised to seek emergency medical care for your foster pet you will need to immediately proceed to one of the following hospitals for care:

Veterinary Emergency Group - 1114 S Clinton St. Unit B, Chicago, IL  
 Veterinary Emergency Group – 755 W North Ave Chicago, IL

- Please do not proceed to any veterinary clinic unless the Vet service classifies the issue as an emergency and advises you to seek immediate medical care. Without this direction and authorization you will be responsible for any charges you incur during an unauthorized vet visit.
6. If the Vet service deems the issue critical vs. an emergency, please follow the medical advice given and then drop off your foster pet between 9am-10am the following morning to the Medical Center located at 3516 W 26th Street Chicago, IL. Please also email [Foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:Foster@pawschicago.org) to alert us that you will be dropping off your foster pet.
  7. If the Vet services deems this a possible medical concern please follow the medical advice given and email [Foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:Foster@pawschicago.org) for follow up the next day.
- B. Emergencies and Medical Concerns **during the hours of 8:30am-5:00pm** should be reported to the foster team by emailing [Foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:Foster@pawschicago.org). Subject line; Emergency \* Foster Pet Name\* or Medical Concern \* Foster Pet Name\*. Please Also call **773-475-9464** and leave a detailed voicemail.
- Please do not proceed to any veterinary clinic unless PAWS Foster/Medical Team classifies the issue as an emergency and advises you to seek immediate medical care. Without this direction and authorization you will be responsible for any charges you incur during an unauthorized vet visit.

If your foster pet is lost or missing please call **773-244-7022**. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. Please note this is only to report a missing/lost foster pet, no other calls will be returned.

## EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

### Emergency Health Concerns

The following are examples of life threatening emergencies:

- Ate a toxic substance (Ex. Prescription medication, household cleaner)
- No urination for 48+ hours
- Unable to stand/rise
- Dramatic drop in energy — lethargy
- Notable seizures
- Active bleeding (constant drip/flow) for 5+ minutes
- Any trauma — hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty in breathing/blocked airway/choking
- Labor: Kitten/puppy stuck in birth canal for >10 minutes or active contractions >4 hours with no puppy/kitten produced.

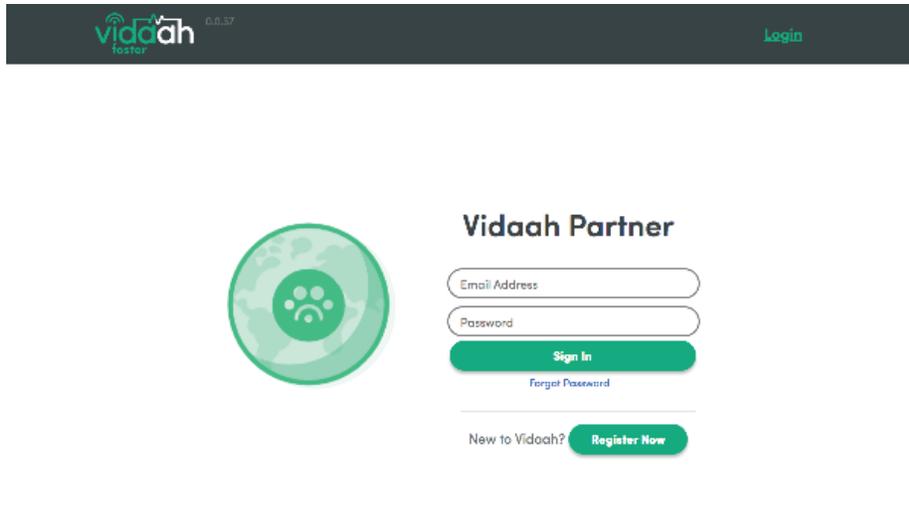
### NON-Emergency Health Concerns

Please contact the foster department as instructed on the opposite side of this certificate

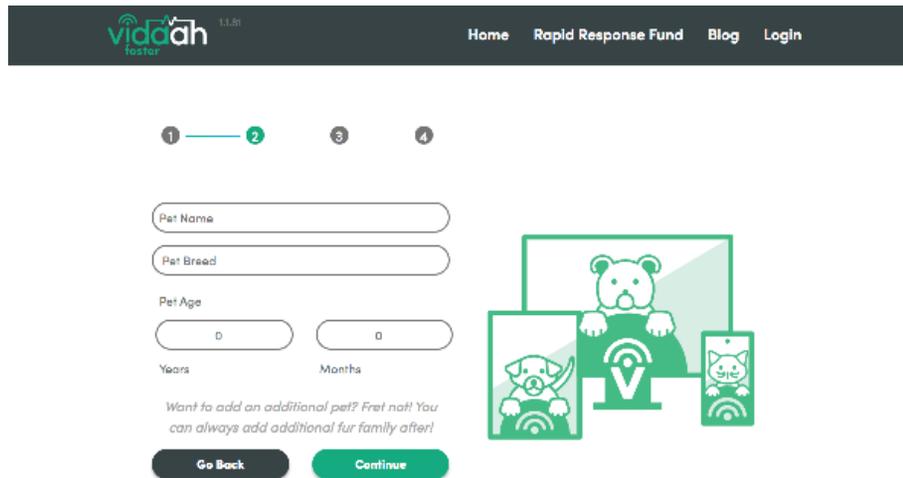
	Animal Needs to be Seen Soon (Not an Emergency)	Keep an Eye on It
<b>Sneezing and/or Coughing</b>	If not already on medication (must be frequent and for more than a couple days)	If it started within the last couple days and there is no eye or nasal discharge.
<b>Sneezing and/or Coughing with Eye or Nasal Discharge</b>	If not already on medication	If medication was started within the last week.
<b>Limping</b>	Continues beyond two days, may or may not be swollen	Infrequent limping that is only noticeable for a day or two.
<b>Not Eating</b>	If accompanied with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop in energy</li> <li>• 24+ hours of anorexia</li> <li>• Vomiting or diarrhea</li> <li>• Sneezing or coughing</li> <li>• Refusing treats/goodies</li> </ul>	Still active, no other symptoms, less than 24 hours between meals.
<b>Activity Level Drops</b>	If accompanied with the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anorexia for two or more days</li> <li>• Sneezing and/or coughing</li> <li>• Vomiting and/or diarrhea</li> </ul>	No other symptoms, still eating, decreased activity for less than 24 hours
<b>Diarrhea</b>	If loose stools persist for two or more days or are accompanied with anorexia, vomiting, energy level drops.	Still eating and active.
<b>Vomiting</b>	Three or more times in a 48 hour period or are accompanied with anorexia, diarrhea, energy level drops.	Still eating and active.

# VIDAAH ACCOUNT INSTRUCTIONS

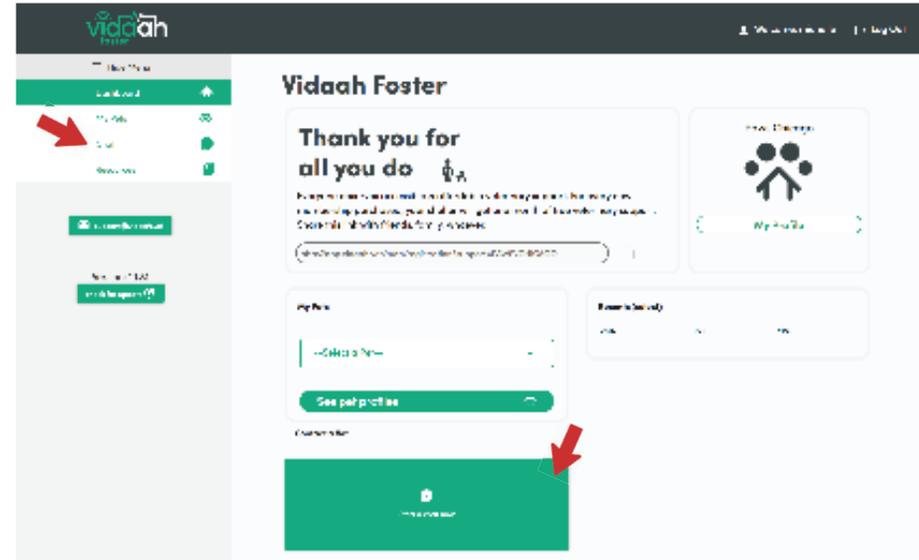
1. Log into your dashboard at [pawshicago.org/vidaah](https://pawshicago.org/vidaah)



2. Fill in your personal information: Once complete, an overview will be displayed, and corrections can be made. You have the option to “go back” to edit or click “complete” to move forward. Additional foster animals may also be added to your dashboard as needed.



3. When you are ready to chat with a vet, log in to Vidaah and click the “Chat” option on the left menu or bottom of the page. Select the foster animal you wish to speak to the vet about and click Start Chat, that’s it! You will be connected to the first available vet, anytime.



# SIGNS OF A SICK PUPPY/DOG

## Healthy Dogs

Adult dogs can sleep a good portion of the day. Most adult dogs will show some interest in play time, but definitely have their favorite games! Their eyes and nose should be generally free of discharge. The stool will be firm and well-shaped. They may sneeze occasionally. They may also scratch a little.

## Healthy Puppies

Healthy puppies have a lot of energy and are aware more than adult dogs. When they're awake they should be playful and spend only short amounts of time in your lap or being held. Just like adult dogs, their eyes and nose should be generally free of any discharge. The stool will be firm and well-shaped. Puppies eat a lot. Puppies may sneeze occasionally. They may also scratch a little. These are normal puppy behaviors.

### a. Diarrhea

Normal stool will be firm and well-shaped. **When you first notice soft stool**, please reach out to the Foster team to coordinate a fecal sample drop off. Diarrhea is completely liquid. It may appear that the puppy is excreting plain water or there may be some color to it. Either way, make a medical appointment with our foster team ([foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:foster@pawschicago.org)). Use the fecal chart (right) to describe the dog or puppy's feces.

### b. URI

- i. **Canine Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)** is similar to a common cold in humans, but it's not transmissible from dog to human! It is especially common in dogs who have been exposed to a lot of other dogs, such as at an animal shelter. URI is very rarely fatal, and usually resolves within one to three weeks. Treatment generally consists of supportive care. In addition, antibiotics are sometimes given to treat possible bacterial infections.
- ii. **How should you care for a dog with URI?** Mild cases of URI can often be treated at home with supportive care. Provide the dog with a quiet, warm place to rest. Be sure the dog is eating. When dogs get stuffy noses, they can't smell their food very well and may not want to eat. Offer smelly, wet food and a variety. Warming it up often helps.

Gently clean the dog's nose and eyes with a soft cloth moistened with warm water. If the dog is very congested, use a humidifier or put the dog in the bathroom and run hot water in the shower for a few minutes a couple of times a day. Moderate to severe congestion is often a sign of a secondary bacterial infection, so contact the foster coordinator to discuss treatment.

**If any medicine has been prescribed, be sure and give the full course as directed, even if the symptoms seem to have gone away.**

- iii. **When should you contact the Foster Coordinator?** Every animal released from the shelter to a foster home has been examined by our vet before leaving the shelter. With rest and good care, many dogs will recover from a mild URI in one or two weeks. Sometimes dogs need additional help, however.
- iv. Contact [foster@pawschicago.org](mailto:foster@pawschicago.org) if your foster dog/puppy is:
  - Not eating for more than 24 hours.
  - Not on medicine and experiencing green or yellow discharge from the nose or eyes (the shelter veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics for this). Gently clean the dog's nose and eyes with a soft cloth moistened with warm water.
  - Difficulty breathing, especially panting or breathing through an open mouth.
  - Depressed or unresponsive dog: a slight decrease in activity is expected, but contact the foster coordinator if the dog is much less active than usual or than you would expect.
  - Vomiting or diarrhea that lasts more than 24 hours.
  - Little or no improvement after a week of foster care.

## Types of Stool



Type 1

Separate hard lumps



Type 2

Lumpy and sausage-like



Type 3

Sausage shape with cracks in the surface



Type 4

Like a smooth sausage/snake



Type 5

Soft blobs with clear-cut edges



Type 6

Mushy consistency with ragged edges



Type 7

Liquid consistency with no solid pieces