**Thanks for the interest in fostering!  Fosters truly save lives!**

**What to expect:**  fosters provide all the food, supervision, love, a crate if necessary, and basic needs for the animal.  SFF pays for all approved vetting through one of our approved vets.  Fostering can be a lot of work sometimes, but it's very rewarding.  The dogs come off the streets and in most cases we don't know their complete history. Fosters learn all about the animal and provide occasional updates and good photos for us so we can advertise and promote them to help find them either forever homes or rescues.

There are short term and long term fostering opportunities.  **Short term** fosters are for animals that have designated rescues that will take the animal in a few days or weeks or sometimes a month.  Sometimes these animals go out of state to other rescues.  When this happens, the foster animal will need rides to vet offices for basic vetting that is required prior to transport.  SFF pays for the vetting and transport requirements.  Also the animal will need a ride to their transport drop off spot on the day they leave for transport.  That varies by animal/rescue.  Other volunteers can sometimes help out with drives if you're schedule doesn't work out for drop offs.  In most cases, once an animal is “tagged for rescue,” (has a committed rescue willing to take the dog), then the dog is no longer available for adoption through SFF, and interested parties will have to apply with the tagged rescue for adoption inquiries.

*\*Health Certificates:* Just for your general knowledge, a “Health Certificate” is required by law for animals crossing state lines. We have to obtain a health certificate for any animal we send out of state. It’s basically a piece of paper signed by a licensed veterinarian, stating that the animal appears in decent health and appears healthy enough for entering such and such state. Anytime we send animals to out of state rescues, we have to get a health cert for that animal, plus a rabies vaccination at minimum. SFF pays for all this. Health Certs are valid for 30 days. The foster usually gives the animal a ride to the vet to obtain the health cert before their transport date, if applicable.

**Long term** fosters are also needed.  Long term foster parents keep the animal until the animal gets adopted.  This could be weeks or months, or sometimes even longer; it depends on the dog and it's "adoptability" and how much info, good photos, etc that you're able to provide. Commonly asked questions include: “How is he with cats? Kids? Other dogs? Small dogs? Chickens, goats, horses, my cousin’s brother’s dogs, etc? (LOL).” Other questions are basics about size/weight, overall energy level, temperament, etc. Any negatives should be included as well, such as fence climbing, digging, excessive chewing, etc.   Also, they will also need occasional rides to vet offices that we use, so the dog can get heartworm checked, dewormed, etc, or any other vet care it might need.  SFF again pays for approved vetting through one of the vets we use.  We usually hold adoption events at least once a month, and you and the foster animal are always welcome to attend these events if your schedule allows.  Locations and dates vary by event.

Sometimes fosters are able to conduct the “home visits” with potential adopters. Home visits happen after a qualified applicant completes our required adoption application and are approved to potentially adopt. This home visit can be done at the time of adoption, or before adoption. We just want to make sure that any other dogs in the home will accept the foster dog, and to help ensure the home is suitable for the dog (make sure the home is relatively clean, other pets look healthy, they have a fenced yard (if applicable), no obvious safety concerns for the animal or family, it seems a suitable environment, etc.

We highly recommend providing a large wire crate for the foster while in your care.  Crates are good training tools for new animals as they acclimate to new homes and environments and other animals, especially while you’re away from home.  We highly recommend strong supervision and slow introductions to foster animals with new pets.  In fact, we recommend keeping them separated at least a few days to allow them to slowly acclimate to each other.  Lots of supervision is needed to help prevent arguments between dogs.  Large wire crates can be found at Walmart for around $85. Sometimes you can find them at Ross if you’re lucky for around $60.

We usually don't know if a shelter dog is potty trained with any certainty, since shelter animals are kept in kennels.  The foster will discover that though, and hopefully help train the animal to potty outside if the dog doesn’t already understand this concept.

Shelter animals often arrive neglected.  Many come in with worms or fleas or you name it, and they'll receive whatever necessary treatment for those issues, and we want other pets in your home to be vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and protected from any germs that a foster might have.    
  
Okay, that's a lot of information!  Attached is a foster application if you're still interested.  Let us know what other questions you may have.  Fosters save lives!

Thanks,

Sapulpa Furry Friends