

Foster Family FAQ's:

What is the process to become a foster family?

Becoming a foster family is an exciting and rewarding experience! Here's the process:

- 1) Determine you meet the criteria for becoming a foster family (see below FAQ)
- 2) Fill out the Foster Application and email it to therescueinn@gmail.com or mail it to:
The Rescue Inn, P.O. Box 246, North Olmsted, OH 44070
- 3) After your application is received and reviewed, you will be contacted by our Foster Coordinator

Screening our applicants can take a few days, so please be patient. We are a volunteer-run organization and we do our best to get back to the foster applicant as soon as possible.

What is the criteria to become a foster family?

- Be 18 years old or older.
- Have identification showing your current address.
- Have homeowner's or renter's insurance under which the foster dog(s) would be covered.
- Have current automobile insurance with adequate coverage.
- All members of your household must agree to be a foster family and be willing to participate in the program.
- If you rent, be able to provide a written letter of consent from your landlord that you are allowed to foster a dog (letter must specifically state weight and breed of dog).
- Be able and willing to spend the time necessary to provide training and proper care for your foster dog
- Be able to transport your foster to/from medical appointments (or be available to work with our transport team).

As a foster family, am I responsible for the cost of vetting my foster dog?

No, all vetting is arranged by and paid for by The Rescue Inn. Vet & clinic visits will be scheduled by The Rescue Inn. We do ask our foster families to transport their foster dog to and from medical appointments or be willing to work with a member of our Transport Team. Foster are not allowed to schedule vetting appointments.

As a foster family, do I need to provide food and supplies for my foster dog?

The Rescue Inn does our very best to supply all the needs of our foster families. We rely heavily on donations so we ask our foster families to notify us well in advance when they are getting low on food, blankets, preventatives, etc. for their foster animal.

As a foster family, am I responsible for finding a permanent home for my foster dog?

No – each of our rescue dogs is assigned an adoption consultant who handles all phone calls and email inquiries from potential adopters. With the foster family's feedback and input, the adoption consultant will match the dog with an appropriate home. The adoption consultant will also conduct any meet and greets and home visits with potential adopter. Foster families are welcome to join the consultant on meet and greets and home visits. Foster families are expected to keep the adoption consultant up-to-date on their foster dog's behavior, personality and developments.

Can I adopt my foster dog?

Of course! A foster family will have first option to adopt provided the foster family notifies their adoption consultant PRIOR to the animal going on a home visit. Once the animal has been scheduled for a home visit, the applicant will be given the first option to adopt. An adoption fee is required of all fosters/volunteers unless waived or discounted by a member of the Board.

Do I have to attend events with my foster dog?

The foster home must be willing to attend events with their foster animal or make their foster animal available for adoption events so another approved volunteer can take the animal (unless the animal is not allowed to attend an event for medical or behavioral issues).

Can I bring my foster dog to the dog park?

As a new organization, we must be very careful with our foster dogs in public. Foster families can take their foster animals to walk in the park but the foster dog can never be off-leash. Also, no foster dog is allowed to go to a dog park unless expressly approved by a TRI board member or the foster coordinator.

What if I have a business trip or personal vacation scheduled? What do I do with my foster dog?

If you have a business trip or vacation scheduled, please notify your adoption consultant or another member of TRI as far in advance as possible so that TRI can arrange alternative housing for the foster animal. No foster animal is allowed to be transferred to another foster home prior to receiving approval from TRI. The new foster home must sign a Waiver of Liability form prior to taking custody of the animal.

Do I need to buy my foster dog an ID tag?

No, you will be provided with your own TRI foster dog ID tag to keep on your foster dog(s). Your foster dog(s) must wear their ID tag at all times.

What if I need additional supplies for my foster?

If you need additional supplies for your foster animal or your foster needs grooming, contact the foster coordinator or adoption consultant with the need. If TRI does not have your supply on-hand, TRI may ask you to purchase the supply and fill out an expense reimbursement form. Please be advised that TRI can choose NOT reimburse for any expenses that were not explicitly authorized PRIOR to purchase.

What if my foster needs grooming?

If your foster dog needs groomed, please consult your adoption consultant or foster coordinator. A foster dog will need to have its rabies shot prior to any grooming appointment. We have a vast network so we will arrange a grooming appointment with one of our providers, if needed.

How long will I have my foster dog?

We do our best to place each foster dog in a permanent home as soon as possible without jeopardizing the quality and fit of the home. The length of time to adoption can vary depending on the dog's age, breed and other adoptive characteristics. If there is ever a time when you can no longer foster your current foster animal, we ask that you give The Rescue Inn at least two weeks' notice so we can find another foster family. We avoid using boarding facilities whenever possible.

How do I let my foster go?

Fostering tugs on your heart strings but it is heartwarming and truly saves lives. For every dog you foster, you not only save that dog, but you also open up a spot in that pound or shelter which means another dog has that much longer to find rescue. We are here to support our foster families in any way possible. It takes a village to save a dog.