



# Dog Foster Care Manual

Logan's Heroes Animal Rescue Inc. Dog Foster Care Manual has information on preparing for, bringing home and caring for a foster dog to prepare him or her for a forever home.

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## **Section 1: Introduction**

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering pets for Logan's Heroes Animal Rescue Inc. By opening up your home to foster pets, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention and love these dogs desperately need.

Once you have completed your foster application online, our foster coordinator will get in touch with you to sign you up for one of our scheduled orientation and training sessions. In the session, we'll go over this manual and answer any questions you have about the program.

Our dog foster program is designed to help dogs and puppies get a chance at finding a home. Some of the dogs who need foster homes require extra care and attention. In a loving foster home, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family.

Foster homes are asked to provide care for the dogs, as well as transportation to and from veterinary appointments as scheduled by Logan's Heroes. We currently partner with vets in New Britain, Lansdale and Quakertown. Care for foster dogs includes feeding according to size and needs, exercise according to energy levels, and lots of play time and positive socialization.

Fostering is a very rewarding experience. By participating in this program, you are saving lives and helping many different types of dogs find the families they've been longing for. Through fostering, we can work together to save many lives.

## Frequently asked questions

### Where do the foster dogs come from?

The dogs who are in need of foster care come to us from two different situations:

- Retired Breeders – many of our dogs have come to the end of their profitable breeding days and are no longer wanted to produce puppies but have many years left to live. Some of these dogs have not had much human contact and their foster will be the first home environment they experience.
- We partner with shelters in other parts of the country and transport needy dogs into foster care homes in Pennsylvania. Many of these puppies would be euthanized due to overpopulation in the areas from which they come.

### What do foster families need to provide?

Foster families need to provide:

- A healthy and safe environment for their foster dogs
- Transportation to and from all vet appointments as needed
- Socialization (exposing your fosters to various situations including people and other dogs in a positive manner) to help teach dogs family and pet relationships (ex. Sunday Dog Walk, taking to pet store, etc.)
- Lots of exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop into great dogs

### How much time do I need to spend with a foster dog?

As much time as you can. With that said, the amount of time will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the dog you are fostering. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

### Can I foster dogs even if I have a full-time job?

Yes. The foster application is designed as a survey to help the foster coordinator match you with the best animal for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a dog that may be okay alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample exercise before and after your workday.

### Can I foster a dog if I don't have a fenced yard?

Yes. Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with the foster dog. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you're on walks.

### How long will the dog need to be in foster care?

Ideally, foster dogs stay in their assigned foster homes until they get adopted. We do not have a boarding location house animals, so these dogs rely on foster homes as their home before their forever home is found.

### Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?

While we do our best to ensure that we are aware of all the conditions that a foster dog may have prior to going home, many illnesses have incubation periods, meaning symptoms can arise after you take a dog home. So while some dogs do not require any medicine, others may. If your foster dog needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take the animal home.

### **Can I let my foster dog play with my personal pets?**

There are a few guidelines that we ask foster families to adhere to regarding their personal pets. While foster dogs playing with other pets are often fine, we advise that you consult with your veterinarian before fostering to ensure that all of your personal pets are healthy and up-to-date on all vaccines. Dogs in shelters are very susceptible to illness and can carry or catch different diseases. If, for any reason, your personal pet becomes ill while you are fostering a Logan's Heroes pet, we cannot provide medical care for your personal pet.

### **What if I want to adopt my foster dog?**

If you want to adopt a foster dog, you will need to complete an adoption application and follow the full adoption process. If you do decide to adopt your foster dog, please contact the foster coordinator right away because once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, including the foster parent.

### **Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?**

If you have travel plans while you are fostering a dog, you will need to contact the foster coordinator to find a place to house your foster dog until you return. Please provide at least one week's notice to ensure that we can find a place for your foster dog. If your trip is over a holiday, please provide a minimum of two weeks' notice. If adequate notice is not given, you may be asked to provide payment for your foster dog's boarding.

You cannot leave your foster dog with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. We have specific training for foster parents, and pet sitters have not undergone that training or signed the release waivers for the foster program.

### **What if my foster dog bites me?**

If any of your foster pets bite you and break skin, causing you to bleed, you need to report the bite to the foster coordinator within 24 hours of when the bite occurred. The law requires that we report all bites. The teeth of the animal, not the nails, must have broken the skin. If you are unsure, then please report the bite anyway.

### **What if my foster dog is not working out?**

You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it's not working out. However, we may not have an immediate alternate foster home for the dog. As mentioned above, we don't have our own facility so we rely on foster homes. We will work on moving your foster dog out as soon as possible, but ask for your understanding and patience. Please call the foster coordinator during business hours if this situation arises.

### **Can I foster a dog to fulfill a community service obligation?**

Logan's Heroes cannot sign off on court-ordered community service hours for fostering. Community service must be supervised work, and fostering is unsupervised, since it takes place in your home.

## Section 2: Preparing for your foster dog

When you take your foster dog home, he may be frightened or unsure about what's happening, so it's important not to overwhelm him. Prepare a special area for the foster dog to help ease his adjustment into a new home environment. Sometimes it is better to confine the foster dog to a small room or area at first, to let him adjust before giving him free rein in your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate for the dog and should allow the dog access to his food and water dishes and toys.

We request that all foster dogs be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster dog.

During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster dog, so that she is only meeting immediate family and your personal pets. If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to give your foster dog a space of her own where she can stay while getting used to all the new sounds and smells. Don't leave your foster dog unattended in your home with your personal pets until you are comfortable that all of the animals can interact safely.

### Supplies you'll need

Logan's Heroes will provide you with any supplies that you may need. However, we greatly appreciate any help that you can provide in supplying items for your foster dog. Here's what you'll need to help your foster dog make a smooth transition to living in your home:

- At least one bowl for dry food and one for water: Stainless steel or ceramic work best.
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well.
- A crate: The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that.
- Dog treats: Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster dog.
- Dog toys: Make sure the toys are durable and appropriate for the size of your foster dog.
- Grooming supplies: A well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted.
- A baby gate: This comes in handy to keep certain areas of your home off-limits.

### Dog-proofing your home

We don't always know how foster dogs will react in a new home. So, before bringing home a new foster dog, you'll want to survey the area where you are going to keep your foster dog. Remove anything that would be unsafe or undesirable for the dog to chew on, and latch securely any cupboards and doors that the foster dog could get into. People food and chemicals can be very harmful if consumed by dogs, so please store them in a place that the foster dog cannot access.

Never underestimate your foster dog's abilities. Here are some additional tips for dog-proofing your home:

- Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
- Keep the toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move house plants or secure them. Some dogs like to play with them and may knock them over.
- Make sure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, are securely out of reach of your foster dog.
- Remove medications, lotions or cosmetics from any accessible surfaces.
- Move all electrical and phone wires out of reach and secure. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster dog if consumed.
- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster dog could knock down.

### **Section 3: Bringing home your foster dog**

Taking care of a foster dog requires a commitment from you to make sure the dog is happy and healthy. Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to these dogs that need your help. Without you, we could not save as many as we do.

#### **Choosing a foster dog**

The foster coordinator will work with you to select a foster dog who meets your specific requirements. We will always do our best to match you with a dog that fits your lifestyle and schedule.

When you and the foster coordinator have decided on a foster dog, an appointment will be scheduled so you can pick up the dog and any supplies that you will need. The appointment will typically be in the Coopersburg area.

The foster coordinator will meet you at the shelter and introduce you to the dog. Together, you and the foster coordinator will decide if the dog is the right fit for you. If you aren't comfortable with anything about the animal you may be fostering, please tell the foster coordinator before you take the animal home.

Please note: Once the animal is placed in a foster home, if you feel you can no longer foster the dog, a new foster home must be found.

#### **Dog introductions**

If you have personal pets that are dogs, you'll want to introduce them to your foster dog one at a time and supervise their interactions at first. It's a good idea to introduce them outside in a large yard or on a walk, keeping all the dogs on leash and allowing them enough space to get adjusted to one another. When introducing dogs start them away from one another and slowly decrease the distance until they are close enough to safely sniff the other dog (preferably the butt.) Never allow dogs to meet face to face initially. If you find that either dog is uncomfortable create space between them by moving them away from each other. Begin process again. If you can, schedule a time for your personal dogs to meet the foster dog before you take the foster dog home.

Make sure that high-value items (food, chew toys, plush toys, Kongs, or anything else that your dogs hold in high regard) are put away whenever the dogs are interacting. You don't want to allow the possibility of a fight. Those high-value items are best placed in the dogs' personal areas. Finally, never feed your dogs in the same room as the foster dog; always separate them at feeding time. Feeding in the crate can be helpful in making the crate a positive experience.

#### **Cat introductions**

We can't ensure that a foster dog has been "cat-tested," so if you have personal pets that are cats, you'll need to make the introduction to the foster dog carefully and safely. Start by keeping them separated at first. You can either keep your cats in a separate room (equipped with food, water, litter boxes and beds) or confine your foster dog to a room. Over a one- to two-week period, let the dog and cats smell each other through the door, but don't allow them contact with one another. Exchanging blankets or towels between the dog's area and the cats' area will help them get used to each other's smells.

After a week or two, do the physical introduction. Keeping your foster dog on leash, allow your cat out in the same area. (If you have more than one cat, introduce one cat at a time.) Do not allow the foster dog to charge or run directly up to the cat. Try to distract the dog as best you can so that the cat has the chance to approach without fear. Watch the body language of each animal closely and don't continue the interaction if either pet becomes over-stimulated or aggressive. The idea is to keep the interactions positive, safe and controlled.

Finally, never leave your foster dog unsupervised with any cats in your home.

## **Children and dogs**

Since we don't always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog. Key things of which to remind your children:

- Teach both children and dogs to respect personal space by leaving the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing or sleeping and by not allowing the dog into the child's personal space while they are eating. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
- Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.
- Do not tease the foster dog.
- Don't chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog; it may scare him.
- Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to you.
- Teach your child never to put their face in any dog's face, nor allow them to hug or kiss a dog.
- Teach your child to never pull on the dog including tail and ears. Keep their fingers away from the dog's eyes. Children should not sit or lay on the dog. For bigger dogs do not allow children to ride the dog.
- Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats that cross their path.
- Do not allow your children to feed the dog table scraps.

## Section 4: Daily care

### Feeding

All foster dogs should be fed the Verus dog food provided by Logan's Heroes, unless otherwise specified by the foster coordinator. Please notify the foster coordinator when your food begins to run low so that we may get a fresh supply to you before your current supply is completely depleted. Feed your foster dog once or twice daily; the amount will be based on the age and weight of your foster dog. Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water.

You can give your foster dog natural treats (unless he/she has known allergies); giving treats helps you and your foster dog to bond with each other. Most times you can use the dog's food for a treat or basic obedience training. Most dogs like to chew on things, so try Nylabones or Kongs. Keep in mind, though, that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.

### Daily routine

When you first take your foster dog home, take care not to overwhelm her with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes, too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly toward a person or animal, which is why it's a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of weeks after you bring your foster dog home. It's also important to establish a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on.

Also, on a daily basis, be aware of your foster dog's appetite and energy level. If she's not eating well or seems listless, something may be wrong medically. You might want to record your observations to make it easier to notice any health issues.

### House-training

It's unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take him or her home. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets used to your schedule.

Because a dog has a better chance of being adopted if they is house-trained, please help your foster dog to perfect this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times per day (3-6 times daily, depending on age). Initially, you may need to take them out more frequently to remind them where the door to the outside is and to reassure them that you will take them out for potty breaks. Most dogs will give cues — such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles — to indicate that they need to go out. Keep the dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise them indoors.

If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, don't discipline or punish them. It will only teach them to fear and mistrust you. Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

### Crate training

Crate training, done in a positive way, can be an effective component of house-training. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have "down time" and can also limit their access to the entire house until they know the rules. A crate should never be used as a form of punishment and a dog should never be left in a crate for an extended period of time.

You can prevent problems with crate training by setting your foster dog up for success. They should only associate good things with the crate, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging them to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If they are afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far as they are willing to go. After they take the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until they are eating treats at the very back, then feed them their next meal in the crate with the door open, so that they can walk in and out at will.

Crate training a fearful dog can take days, so be patient and encouraging. If a crate is properly introduced and used, your foster dog will happily enter and settle down.

## **Grooming**

A clean and well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted, so bathe your foster dog as needed (no more than once a month unless medically necessary) and brush them regularly if he has longer hair or requires more frequent grooming. Do not bathe your dog if they have stitches from surgery. Use a damp cloth to wash them and avoid contact with the area. Contact the foster coordinator if you feel that your foster dog needs to see a professional groomer. If you are comfortable with it, you can trim their nails. But please be careful because you can cause pain and bleeding if you trim the nails too short. This may cause a permanent negative reaction to nail trimming.

## **Mental stimulation and exercise**

Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he or she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day. Try a variety of toys (balls, tug toys, rope toys, etc.) to see which ones your foster dog prefers. Remember to discourage the dog from playing with your hands, since mouthing won't be a desirable behavior to adopters.

You can also offer your foster dog a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get the treats out. Try a Premier Treat dispensing toys ([petspace.net/premier](http://petspace.net/premier)), Busy Dog Ball ([busydogball.com](http://busydogball.com)) or Kong product ([kongcompany.com](http://kongcompany.com)), available online and at pet supply stores.

## **Safety requirements**

Foster dogs must live indoors, not outside. Please do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised, even if you have a fenced yard. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when he is outside at all times to ensure that he doesn't escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals. Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in an enclosed backyard that is completely fenced in.

When walking or hiking with your foster dog, please keep them on leash at all times. This means that your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash dog areas. We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to ensure that all animals are safe at all times.

Also, your foster dog cannot ride in the bed of an open pickup truck. When you're transporting foster dogs, please keep them inside the vehicle in a crate. Larger dogs may be tethered. Dog should not allowed free roam of any vehicle.

## Section 5: Helping your foster dog get adopted

### Frequently asked questions

#### **How can I help my foster dog find a great home?**

As you get to know your foster dog, we ask that you stay in contact with the foster coordinator so that he/she can update the foster animal's biography online to reflect accurate information about the dog's preferences and quirks. You may be asked to fill out a progress report on certain dogs with medical or behavioral issues. Please make sure you to supply this report to the Foster Coordinator so they can update the foster animal's biography. Some people write their own biography for their foster dogs, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also welcome any quality photos that you take of your foster dog in your home; we can use the photos to create a kennel card and accompany the online biography. Please send the info about your foster dog and photos to [info@LHARinc.org](mailto:info@LHARinc.org).

In addition, we have adorable "Adopt Me" bandannas that can increase the chances of your foster dog finding a home. Simply tie the bandanna around your dog's neck before a walk, and everyone who sees him will know he's looking for a home. Please keep in mind that anyone who shows interest in adopting your foster dog will need to go through the adoption screening process and speak with a staff member before being considered for adopting your foster dog.

#### **What if I know someone who's interested in adopting my foster dog?**

If someone you know is interested in adopting the dog, please contact the foster coordinator and give her the details. Also, tell the prospective adopter to complete the adoption application which is available on our website [LHARinc.org](http://LHARinc.org) under the adopt tab as soon as possible. Once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, but we do want to accommodate referrals from foster parents if we can.

#### **Will it be hard to say goodbye to my foster dog?**

Saying goodbye can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that many more dogs need wonderful foster homes like yours. Remember, you are playing a crucial role in helping to save lives.

## Section 6: Behavior support

One of your goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. So, we ask that you help your foster dog to develop good habits and skills through the use of balanced training, which builds a bond of trust between you and your foster pet. This approach will encourage good behaviors while helping to reduce the occurrence of undesirable behaviors by providing clarity to your foster dog. Positive reinforcement used in conjunction with corrections will allow your foster dog to understand what is and what is not acceptable behavior. A correction may simply be telling the dog “No” or “Eh Eh. You must not use punishment alone on a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because punishment alone is ineffective at eliminating unwanted behaviors. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dogs, which will help them to learn faster.

When your foster first arrives limiting free time and providing a calm environment is important until they get used to their new surroundings. Crate training will help reduce the stress experienced during this transitional period and is helpful for housebreaking. The crate will provide a “safe” haven for the dog as well as providing you with peace of mind knowing where the dog is at all times. When interacting with your foster dog, refrain from wrestling or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and “play bite” on your body. Also, try to refrain from inviting dogs up on the couch or bed. Not all adopters find this habit acceptable. Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we may or may not be aware of at the time of their rescue. Some of these behavior challenges are separation anxiety, destruction of property, fear issues or aggression toward other animals. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her particular issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog.

If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the Foster Coordinator during business hours to discuss the issue. We will guide you and help in every way that we can. If the behavior is extreme enough to warrant you will be asked to work one on one with the trainer. If the situation becomes unmanageable for you we will place the dog in a home with a handler more experienced with the dog’s particular issue.

It is recommended that you bring your dog to the Sunday Dog Walk hosted by our trainer, Laura Sobolusky (REHAB Dog Training, LLC) at Nockamixon State Park. For all details go to Facebook page – Sunday Dog Walk and like the page. Schedules and cancellations and some pretty cool pictures are posted here. Many different types of information and questions can be addressed at the walk. This is a great socialization experience for both the dogs and foster parents, while the dogs learn to walk properly on leash.

## Section 7: Medical protocols (non-emergency)

When you pick up your foster dog, you will receive a Foster Care Kit. In that kit there is a sheet that specifies the dates that vaccines are due and any known medical conditions to treat. You are responsible for contacting the Foster Coordinator to arrange for your dog's vaccines on or around the due dates indicated on your Health Record Sheet.

If you are fostering a dog that is on medications, please make sure that he/she gets all the prescribed doses. Do not end medication early for any reason. If your foster animal has not responded to prescribed medications after five days (or in the time instructed by the veterinarian), please contact the Foster Coordinator.

### **Veterinary care**

Logan's Heroes provides all medical care for our foster animals at our approved veterinary clinics. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster dog's well-being, our staff must authorize any and all treatment for foster dogs with our approved veterinary partners.

If your foster dog needs to go to the veterinarian for non-emergency care, please notify the Foster Coordinator by phone or email [info@lharinc.org](mailto:info@lharinc.org). The foster coordinator will schedule the appointment. For these situations, please understand that our veterinary partners book quickly and may not be available for same-day appointments. We ask that you schedule basic non-emergency appointments (drop-off, pick-up, vaccines and supply pick-ups) at least 24 hours in advance.

Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster animal to any veterinarian including our partners without authorization from the Foster Coordinator. Please note: If you wish to take your foster pet to a veterinarian who's not on the Logan's Heroes list, you must first have approval from the Foster Coordinator or risk having to cover the costs yourself.

### **Signs of illness and what to do next**

Dogs generally do a good job of masking when they don't feel well, so determining if your foster dog is under the weather will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. It's a good idea to keep track of these levels in a journal. You'll also want to record any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of illness.

Eye discharge - It is normal for dogs to have some discharge from their eyes when they wake up and some may have more than others, depending on the breed. But if your foster dog has yellow or green discharge, or swelling around the eyes (making it hard for him to open his eyes), or the third eyelid is showing, you need to contact the foster coordinator to schedule a vet appointment.

Coughing and nasal discharge - Coughing can be common if your foster dog is pulling on leash. If the coughing becomes more frequent, however, watch for discharge coming from the nose. If the discharge is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed, but check with the Foster Coordinator to find out if a vet appointment is necessary.

If the discharge becomes colored, contact the Foster Coordinator to make a vet appointment because the dog may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the dog's breathing. If the dog seems to struggle to breathe or starts wheezing, call the Foster Coordinator immediately and follow the emergency contact protocol. Also, once you notice nasal discharge, monitor the dog's eating habits more closely to ensure that he or she is still eating.

Loss of appetite - Your foster dog may be stressed after arriving in your home, and stress can cause lack of appetite. But if the dog hasn't eaten after 24 hours, please notify the Foster Coordinator. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12 to 24 hours, call the foster coordinator to set up a vet appointment. Please do not change the dog's diet without contacting the Foster Coordinator. An abrupt change in diet can cause diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration.

Lethargy - The activity level of your foster dog will vary depending on age and personality. Keeping an activity log and journal will help you notice whether your foster dog is less active than he normally is. If the dog cannot be roused or seems weak and unable to stand, it's an emergency, so start the emergency contact protocol.

Dehydration - Dehydration is usually associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, gently pinch the dog's skin around the scruff area. If the skin stays taut, the dog is dehydrated. Please call the Foster Coordinator to determine the next course of action.

Vomiting - Sometimes dogs will eat too quickly and will immediately throw up their food. Occasional vomiting isn't cause for alarm, but if your foster dog has thrown up two or more times in one day, please notify the Foster Coordinator. It could be indicative of infection.

Pain or strain while urinating - When a dog first goes into a foster home, he or she may not urinate due to stress. If the dog hasn't urinated in more than 24 hours, please contact the Foster Coordinator. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little or no results, or crying out when urinating, please contact the Foster Coordinator immediately because it may be indicative of an infection or an obstruction.

Diarrhea - It is important to monitor your foster dog's pooping habits daily. Soft stool is normal for the first two or three days after taking a dog home, most likely caused by stress and a change in food. If your foster dog has liquid stool, please contact the Foster Coordinator so that an appointment can be scheduled to ensure that the dog doesn't need medications. Keep in mind that diarrhea will dehydrate the dog, so be proactive about contacting the foster coordinator. If your foster dog has bloody or mucoid diarrhea, please contact the Foster Coordinator immediately to start the emergency contact protocol.

Frequent ear scratching - Your foster dog may have a bacterial or yeast infection (or, in rare cases, ear mites) if they scratch their ears often and/or shake their head frequently. These conditions can be treated by a veterinarian **or over the counter medications**, so please call the Foster Coordinator to schedule a medical appointment.

Swollen, irritated ears - If your foster dog has irritated, swollen or red or pink ears that smell like yeast, he may have an ear infection called otitis. This type of infection is more common in dogs that have very floppy ears, like Basset hounds or Labradors. These dogs may need to have their ears cleaned more often to ensure that the infection does not re-occur.

Hair loss - Please contact the Foster Coordinator if you notice any excessive hair loss on your foster dog. It is normal for dogs to have thin fur around the lips, eyelids and in front of the ears, but clumpy patches of hair loss or thinning hair can indicate ringworm, dermatitis or the early stages of mange. It is important to be aware of any changes to the condition of your foster dog's coat.

### **Common ailments in animals in the foster system**

Dogs that come from communal living situations may suffer from kennel cough, giardia or intestinal parasites. Symptoms of kennel cough include a dry hacking cough, often with phlegm discharge, discharge from the nose and/or eyes, decrease in appetite, dehydration and slight lethargy. Symptoms of giardia or intestinal parasites include vomiting, diarrhea (often with a pungent odor) and/or dehydration.

If your foster dog is displaying one or more of these signs, quarantine your foster dog and contact the Foster Coordinator. These ailments can be contagious and can worsen if left untreated.

## Zoonotic Diseases

Diseases that are able to be transferred from animals to humans or humans to animals are called zoonotic. Below is a list of some of these diseases and their symptoms. Logan's Heroes dogs are vetted and vaccinated in every effort to insure that these diseases are not an issue, but you should be aware of any possibility.

## 11 DISEASES THAT CAN BE CAUGHT FROM YOUR DOG

- Giardia** is Protozoal parasites often from contaminated drinking water. Infected dogs can serve as a source for humans, as can infected humans serve as a source for their dogs. Although very difficult to be sure that your dog never drinks from puddles that could contain the fecal matter of infected wildlife, you can treat and filter water when you are hiking and camping to protect yourself and try to encourage your dog to choose treated water when thirsty.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Diarrhea  
**Symptoms in humans:** Diarrhea
- Roundworm** is technically zoonotic and can cause horrific skin and ocular lesions in affected humans. In our culture with excellent hygiene and careful parasite control for our dogs, we don't hear of these cases often. The incidence is thought to be higher in urban areas where population density puts children more likely to come in contact with the feces of infected pets. There are other intestinal parasites that can cause human disease as well. Careful handling of dog feces is imperative and always washing your hands after handling feces or the dog prior to eating especially.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Diarrhea, visible worms in stool, vomiting, constipation, coughing, bloody stool  
**Symptoms in humans:** Cough, shortness of breath, abdominal pain, blood in stool
- MRSA** Methicillin resistant Staph Aureus is more of a problem from humans to pets. I have treated these infections many times, mostly in ears and wounds. If your pet has non-healing wounds or chronic recurrent ear infections, a culture at your vet would be a really good idea.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Fever, discharge from a wound, skin lesions, skin swelling, slow to heal wounds  
**Symptoms in humans:** Generally start as small red bumps that resemble pimples, boils or spider bites. These can quickly turn into deep, painful abscesses that require surgical draining. Sometimes the bacteria remain confined to the skin.
- Sarcoptic Mange** is often called Scabies, Mange is caused by a tiny mite that burrows deeply into the skin creating severe itching and irritation. Secondary infections are common for infected dogs and it is not only contagious between dogs, but also can infest humans. Humans are a "dead end" host which means the infestation will be self-limiting and infected humans do not lose all of their hair like infected dogs can. But the mites cause profound itching. If your dog is extremely itchy and is missing patches of hair, call your vet right away, especially if your dog has been around other dogs that you don't own or has been boarded or grooming with other dogs.  
**Symptoms in pets:** The symptoms of mange depend on which type of mite is present. Demodectic mange tends to cause hair loss, bald spots, scabbing and sores. Secondary bacterial infections can make demodectic mange an itchy and uncomfortable disease. Sarcoptic mange tends to cause intense itching. It can result in restlessness and frantic scratching, symptoms that generally appear one week after exposure. It also can result in hair loss, reddened skin, body sores and scabs. The most commonly affected areas are a dog's ears, elbows, face and legs, but it can rapidly spread to the entire body.  
**Symptoms in humans:** sarcoptic mange causes a rash of red bumps, similar to mosquito bites. Humans cannot get demodectic mange from dogs.
- Salmonella** is a bacteria that can be found in contaminated and undercooked food. It can make people and dogs very sick with GI signs and I discourage feeding of raw meats in part for this reason. Poultry for example should be cooked to a minimum temperature of 165 degrees to make it safe to eat for pets and people.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Reptile pets and chicks often don't show symptoms  
**Symptoms in humans:** Abdominal pain, fever, vomiting, headache, nausea

6. **Dermatophytosis or ringworm** is a fungal infection of the skin. I see it in dogs and cats, although cats are more likely to be asymptomatic carriers. I think that animals are often blamed for infections in children, but ringworm can be found in soil where children play.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Skin lesions and patches of hair loss with a red mark in the center  
**Symptoms in people:** Red, circular patches on the skin
  
7. **Leptospirosis** is a bacterial infection that is spread through contact with the urine of an infected animal. Potential sources can be wildlife, like mice and rats. Contaminated standing water is thought to be a source. Infected dogs can be a source for their humans handling their urine so if your dog is sick with fever, lethargy +/- jaundice, please contact your vet immediately.  
**Symptoms in pets:** fever, muscle pain, vomiting and diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, depression, and blood in the urine. More serious infections can cause jaundice and blood clotting problems.  
**Symptoms in people:** High fever, headachem chills, miscle aches, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin/eyes) red eyes, abdominal pain
  
8. **Rabies** is a virus that can infect mammals. It is spread in the saliva or contact with infected tissues. Suspected rabies or even any human bitten by an unvaccinated (or past due) dog must be reported to the health department. Bats serve as a source in the wild, as do raccoons and other wildlife. **There are very few human cases that have survived once the symptoms have evidenced themselves.**  
**Symptoms in pets:** Fever, seizures, dropped jaw, inability to swallow, change in bark tone, muscular lack of coordination, excessive salivation or frothy saliva  
**Symptoms in humans:** Temperature of 100.4°F, chills, fatigue, problems sleeping, lack of appetite, headache, irritability, anxiety, sore throat, vomiting. Around half of people will also experience pain and a tingling sensation at the site of the infection.
  
9. **Hookworms** suck on the intestinal lining of dogs, causing a potentially life-threatening blood loss, especially in puppies. The eggs found in pet feces could transfer through the skin in pet owners if you happened to, say, step on a dropping with your bare feet in the backyard.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Diarrhea, weight loss  
**Symptoms in humans:** Often none but could include an itchy rash, cough, wheezing, stomach pain, anemia, or loss of appetite
  
10. **Tapeworms** are flat segmented worms that live in the intestines of some animals. Animals can become infected with these parasites when grazing in pastures or drinking contaminated water.  
**Symptoms in pets:** Dragging back end across the ground; rice-like pieces in the pet's stool or longer worms in pet vomit  
**Symptoms in humans:** nausea, weakness, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hunger or loss of appetite, fatigue, weight loss. rice-like pieces in stool
  
11. **Coccidia** are tiny parasites that can cause a disease called coccidiosis in puppies or in sick or stressed-out dogs. Dogs can carry the parasite without showing symptoms. Symptoms most often appear when some other issue compromises the immune system. Dogs can die from severe cases of coccidiosis, though many recover with treatment. There are many different kinds of coccidia that live in many different animals, including humans, but most coccidia are host-specific. In other words coccidia that can live in dogs cannot usually live anywhere else. Humans can catch Cryptosporidium, an incurable form of coccidia, from either dogs or cats.  
**Symptoms in pets:** The primary symptom of coccidiosis is watery stool with mucus or blood, especially in puppies or in already weakened adult dogs.  
**Symptoms in humans:** Human coccidiosis is produced by species of Isospora; in its severe form it is characterized by diarrhea (sometimes alternating with constipation), fever, abdominal pain, 'nausea, headache, loss of appetite, and loss of weight.

## Section 8: Emergency protocols

What constitutes a medical emergency in a dog? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. If your foster dog displays any of the symptoms listed below, please follow the emergency phone protocol. If the animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help.

### Criteria for emergencies

Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing
- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever (above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- A large wound or profuse bleeding that doesn't stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite accompanied with vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Gums that are white or red. Healthy gum tissue is pink.
- Ingestion of medications not prescribed for dog (human and animal), antifreeze, large objects, toys, clothing, towels, leashes, etc. \*
- Ingestion of toxic foods which include Xylitol, an artificial sweetener which may be found in chewing gum, candy, and peanut butter, avocado pits, and bakers chocolate. \*

\* **In the case of possible poisoning it is acceptable to call a partnering veterinarian and follow directions of that vet. Poisoning is a very time sensitive issue in terms of survival of the animal and you must not wait to get treatment. Financial responsibility will be assumed by Logan's Heroes in these situations. Quakertown Veterinary Clinic is open 24 hours.**

### Phone Protocol

If the situation is considered too serious for travel to one of these veterinarians, permission may be given by one of the above listed people to go to the veterinary closest to your location. Your assessment of the situation will be a necessary component to determine the best course of action for the benefit of the foster.

Any person answering at these numbers can give you authorization to contact one of our partnering or permission to go to a veterinarian closer to your location if the situation is considered too serious for travel.

#### Partnering Veterinarian Contact Information

- **Quakertown Veterinary Clinic, Quakertown, PA**      phone **(215) 536-6245**
- **New Britain Veterinary Clinic, New Britain, PA**      phone **(215) 340-0345**
- **North Penn Animal Hospital, Lansdale, PA**      phone **(215) 855-5853**

**Thank you for opening up your heart and your home  
to foster pets.**