



Marion County Dog Shelter

What is the Foster Care Program?

What is the foster program?

The foster program helps give dogs that are not currently adoptable another chance for placement into a permanent home. These dogs, for one reason or another, were not adoptable at the time they were released to the shelter or have developed health or behavior problems during their stay at the shelter.

What kinds of dogs are fostered and why are they fostered?

Dogs and puppies are fostered through the Marion County Dog Shelter. We will only place dogs that are potentially adoptable into foster homes. They may be fostered because of minor health problems such as kennel cough or because they're recovering from a surgery or an injury. Sometimes we foster dogs because they are having difficulty coping with the kennel environment. In all instances the expectation is that after a reasonable time in foster care, they will be ready to be placed into a permanent adoptive home.

What is the foster parents' responsibility while the dog is in their care?

As foster parents it is your responsibility to provide reasonable and proper care of the dog while it is in your home. They require the basics of water, food, exercise, adequate confinement, and, of course, lots of socialization and love. You may be required to administer medication according to instructions.

How long does a dog remain in a foster home?

The length of time a dog remains in a foster home depends on the circumstances. If you take home a dog that is only slightly underage, you may have it for only one to two weeks. If, on the other hand, you take home a pregnant dog, you will need to keep them until the babies are old enough for adoption, which is a significant length of time. At the time you are contacted about fostering a dog(s), you will be given an estimated return date.

What happens at the end of the foster time?

The dogs must be brought back to the shelter to be placed up for adoption. We strongly encourage foster parents to give people interested in adopting information about the dog, but adoptions must take place at the shelter.

How do I become a foster parent?

The shelter offers fostering orientations, which are required before you can take home a dog. This also provides a forum for you to ask questions and express your concerns. If you are interested, contact the shelter at 503-588-5233 or email us at MCDSFosterDogs@co.marion.or.us

If I'm unable to take dogs into my home but would like to help the shelter, are there other things that I can do?

Yes! We are, in part, dependent on donations to purchase foster supplies such as medication. You can make tax-deductible donations at the front desk or online at www.mcdogs.net just specify that it's for the care of foster dogs. You can also make in-kind donations of much-needed items like canned dog food, towels, crates, and other items. Contact the shelter to find out what supplies are most needed at any given time.

Do you have special talents or training? You may be able to assist us with special projects. If you want to give of your time and talents, we will find a place at the table for you!