

# FOSTER MANUAL



## How will I get a Foster or Fosters?

If you are a newly approved foster your information will be sent to our foster coordinator Marcia Lake who handles both our puppy and adult placements. When we have a puppy, litter or an adult dog that needs a home she will reach out to you to see if you are available either in a private message or on our Save a Lab Fosters/Volunteers Facebook page.

## How long will my Foster be with me?

We ask that you commit to at least a week. Once our puppies and dogs are transported to RI we keep them with their RI fosters for 1 full week before they can be adopted. If your puppy or dog is not adopted after their initial week stay, we may ask if you can hold them longer.

## How and where will I get my Foster?

Normally our puppies and dogs arrive on the weekends but every now and then we do have puppies and dogs that come up during the week. Marcia our foster coordinator will provide you with the transport information that you will need. That information will always include the time and location of where you will need to be to pick up your puppy/puppies or dog/dogs. The name and collar color of the puppy/puppies or dog/dogs you will be getting as well as any medical needs they may have. Adult dogs usually have detailed foster care and behavioral information that will be provided to you as well.

At pickup you will be given medical records for your foster/fosters.

**PLEASE STORE THESE RECORDS IN A SAFE PLACE!** You might also be given medications that the puppy/puppies or dog/dogs may need during their stay with you.

We ask that you please feed our dogs Purina ProPlan Puppy Focus Chicken and Rice for puppies and Purina ProPlan Chicken and Rice for our adult dogs. If the puppy/dog you are fostering requires a different food, our Foster Coordinator Marcia Lake will let you know of that in advance. Should you need a crate or puppy pen to use, please let us know. We always have extra crates and pens for you to borrow.

## I get to take my puppy/puppies/dog home.... now what?

We hope that you will enjoy your time with you pup or dog but there are rules you must be aware of.

Puppies coming into the state for the first time are on quarantine and must stay in your home or yard but may be walked in your neighborhood. They should **NEVER** be taken to public places. Examples:

# FOSTER MANUAL



Petco, Dog Parks, Sports Fields or for Play Dates. This is for their protection since they are not fully vaccinated.

Adult dogs coming into the state for the first time are on quarantine for the first 3 days and must stay in your home or yard but may be walked in your neighborhood. After the initial quarantine period they are free to go on more adventures with you. **Please note\*\*\* They must always be on leash and should only be with other fully vaccinated dogs.**

Please always keep your puppy/dog safe. This includes making sure to slowly and properly introduce your foster/fosters to your current pets. In addition, when fostering young puppies please make sure your home is puppy proofed from any household dangers.

We ask that your foster never be left unattended outdoors and unless they are being exercised in a fully fenced in yard, they must **NEVER** be off leash.

To help aid with communication you will be added on a Facebook PM for either the litter or dog that you are fostering. That pm will include the foster or fosters (for a litter), the foster coordinator, Marcia Lake, the adoption coordinator, Rose Valentim, our Director Beth Stack and our President Rebecca Clark. The PM will be used for all updates, all health concern issues and will also include transport and adoption event information.

## How can I help my puppy or dog settle into our home and stay safe?

Be aware of things that make loud or sudden noises and try to minimize them. Slamming doors, clattering ice makers, and buzzing or ringing appliances can startle a nervous dog.

Take frequent, short walks to introduce your dog to the area surrounding your home and help it feel familiar. In case your dog ever gets loose, it will help if they know your neighborhood.

### **Always keep a collar with a SAL ID tag on your dog.**

Use safe walking equipment. A nylon or leather leash (not a retractable one), a martingale collar, and harnesses are best for walking flight-risk dogs.

If you accidentally drop a retractable lead, your dog could feel like the leash is “chasing” them as it retracts. A martingale collar can help prevent dogs from backing out of their collar. Make sure all walking equipment is properly fitted before each and every outing. Collars should not be able to slip over their ears and harnesses should be snug but not tight.

# FOSTER MANUAL



Flight-risk dogs should be leashed or in a space that is surrounded by a physical fence and always supervised when outdoors.

## While traveling:

Make sure your dog is secured in your vehicle. If possible, please tether the leash inside your vehicle. If you cannot find a place to secure the leash, a quick and easy method is to close the car door with a portion of the leash and leash handle sticking out of the door. That way you can have the handle of the leash in your hand before opening the car door.

Once you have arrived at your home you do not have a way to allow the dog to leave the vehicle directly into a contained area (a garage or fully fenced area), please make sure you have a hold of the leash before allowing the dog to exit the vehicle.

## If your puppy or dog gets loose:

Do not chase your dog. Sit or lie down on the ground and call softly to them. Move slowly to clip the leash back on or use a slip lead to place over their head.

If the dog does not come back, immediately contact any one of our Directors or Coordinators.

## My Puppy or Dog is not feeling well

Once you get your puppy/dog home please examine them closely and let us know of any skin issues, coughing or sneezing, loose stools or if your puppy/dog appears to be limping or hurt in any way. Please also examine their ears for signs of dirt, redness or signs of infection. **Any issue no matter how small must be reported to one of the coordinators.**

Here is the contact information for both.

Rose (Rose n Ryan on Facebook) 401-688-3923.

Marcia Lake (Marcia Lake on Facebook) 401-225-7275.

If you cannot reach either Rose or Marcia please reach out to Rebecca Clark or Beth Stack. Their contact information can be found on the Who's Who list at the end of this document.

Do not attempt to treat your foster puppy or dog without getting medical authorization. This includes any changes in diet. If prompted to take your puppy or dog to the veterinarian, please follow the NO PAWS on ground rule for dogs that have not been fully vaccinated. Your coordinator will provide you with this

# FOSTER MANUAL



information, **PLEASE NOTE! In the event of a Life and death situation (Hit by Car/Not breathing etc.) please take your puppy or dog immediately to either Ocean State Veterinary Hospital or Mass/RI ER Animal Hospital.**

## Medications

On occasion you will be given medications at transport pick up for your puppy or dog. That medication will come with instructions from one of your coordinators. Additional medications may also be given if your foster becomes ill during their stay with you. Please make sure to update his or her vaccine records with any new medications. If you are unsure of how to record the medications, please reach out to either one of your coordinators.

**Please keep and store any unused medications in a safe place and return to either Rose or Marcia as soon as possible.**

## Vaccine / Medical Records

The records you will be given are **VERY** important and must be stored in a safe place.

## What can I do to help my foster get adopted?

Take pictures! Face shots in daylight are best. We also love cute sleeping pictures too! Share your puppy/dog on your Facebook page. While we can never promise or hold a puppy/dog until an adopter's application has been approved, we do have adorable puppies all the time who need great homes!

## Something came up and I can no longer keep my foster

We know that sometimes things happen unexpectedly. If you can no longer keep your puppy/dog, please reach out to Marcia and she will be able to assist you

## My Puppy/Dog is getting Adopted!

After staying in RI for 7 days, puppies/dogs that are healthy will be ready for adoption. Our Adoption Coordinator, Rose will provide you with contact information for your adopters. Please reach out to them within 24 hours after receiving their information.

**PLEASE NOTE\*\*** When you reach out to your adopters, we do request that the meet n greet be set up for day 7. If the meeting cannot be scheduled, please reach out to Rose for further assistance.

# FOSTER MANUAL



Puppies or dogs must stay in RI for 7 days before being adopted so if they arrive on Sunday, they will be available for adoption the following Sunday.

**\*\*Please make sure that you have removed their SAL ID tag (adult dogs only) before the adoption and to send with the new adopters any unused medications if applicable.**

Our approved adopters have all gone through a very detailed adoption process and are now ready to adopt if they find the right puppy or dog. SAL adoption events are typically at foster homes. If you are asked to host an adoption event, please know that the adoption process is not difficult and can be a lot of fun! Your adoption and foster coordinators will help you through the 4-step easy process.

Adopters will fill out the online adoption agreement. Our adoption contract will ask for the name of the dog that they are adopting. Please have the adopters use our SAL name for the dog regardless of what they will be renaming him or her. This way our records will clearly show who they have adopted.

**\*\*IMPORTANT Adopters must sign the signature box at the bottom of the form**

Adopters will pay the adoption fee (\$600.00 for puppies \$400.00 for adults) (Please use our SAL name when asked and make sure the adopter chooses the correct fee)

Foster will then give adopter all medical paperwork and medications if applicable

Foster will Take a "Happy Gotcha Day Family picture

When the adoption steps are complete, please reach out to one of your coordinators to confirm that the paperwork has been done correctly before letting the adopters and the puppy/dog leave.

Rose (Rose n Ryan on Facebook) 401-688-3923.

Marcia Lake (Marcia Lake on Facebook) 401-225-7275.

## What if my meet n greet does not go as planned?

Sometimes no matter how perfect the match seems things can go wrong at an adoption event. If for any reason you do not think the adopters, or the puppy/dog are the perfect fit.

Example: adopters' dogs and your foster do not get along

Please reach out to either Rose 4016883923 or Marcia 4012257275 and we will assist you in helping tell the adopters that they will need to pass on the adoption.

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# FOSTER MANUAL



## What if my puppy or dog did not get adopted?

If your foster did not get adopted after their stay with you one of coordinators will reach out to you to ask if you can keep that puppy or dog longer. If you are unable to keep them a new foster will be found.

## My puppy or dog was adopted. How soon can I foster again?

You are welcome to foster as often as you would like! Watch for foster requests on our Facebook page or reach out to our foster coordinator directly.

**Thank you so much for choosing to foster for us.**

**Without you, none of this would be possible!**

SAVE A LAB RESCUE

# FOSTER MANUAL



## Save a Lab's Who's Who Important Fostering Contact Numbers

### Directors

**Rebecca Clark**  
President/Director  
401-855-1580  
nwptrn@yahoo.com

**Beth Stack**  
Vice President/ Director  
802-342-0534  
stackwoodct@aol.com

**Amy Breithaupt**  
Director  
318-381-2254  
abreithaupt@comcast.net

### Adoption Coordinator/ Medical Coordinator

**Rose Valentim**  
401-688-3923  
adoptatsal@gmail.com

### Foster Coordinator

**Marcia Lake**  
401-225-7275  
marciasavealab@gmail.com

### Medication Coordinator

**Beth Sack**  
Stackwoodct@aol.com

### Application Coordinator

**Sue Schouten**  
suesavealab@gmail.com

### RI Animal Hospitals

**NorthPaws**  
564 Putnam Pike,  
Greenville, RI 02828  
(401) 949-5030

**WestPaws**  
1200 Bald Hill Rd,  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 828-5767

**Mt Hope Animal Hospital**  
645 Bristol Ferry Rd,  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
(401) 683-3743

SAVE A LAB RESCUE

# FOSTER MANUAL



## RI Animal Emergency Hospitals (24 hours)

### **Ocean State Animal Hospital**

1480 S County Trail,  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
(401) 886-6787

### **Mass/RI ER**

477 Milford Rd,  
Swansea, MA 02777  
(508) 730-1112