



FOSTER HANDBOOK

Updated October 2024

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Our Mission

Our mission here at *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* is rescuing dogs and cats from the streets and shelters of Houston then pairing them with their loving "forever" families. Bonds are created with every dog and cat we take in, but our goal is always to see them on their way home.

Our Story

Our story starts with a handsome four-legged friend by the name of Spencer. Our founder, Stacey Jones, received a call about a dog who had been hit by a vehicle and needed urgent medical attention. Many times rescues and fosters are nervous to take in animals with medical needs because of their high costs but she could not look away as he suffered from his injuries.

Unfortunately, by the time we got Spencer to our vet, his injuries were just too severe to save him. What eased our heartache was the fact that Spencer did not die in a shelter or alone on the street, but was surrounded by all of us while we held his paws and he journeyed across the Rainbow Bridge.

Our experience with Spencer showed us the urgent need for a rescue that would not turn away dogs and cats that were in desperate need of medical attention. This is how *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* was born, out of a strong desire to save those dogs that others are hesitant, unable or unwilling to take in.

We hope that our successes will also encourage other rescues and shelters to follow suit, rescuing dogs and cats off the street that might incur those potentially higher costs but still deserve our care and compassion.

Why Should You Foster?

When you open your heart and home to an animal in need, you are giving them a second chance. Your love, care and attention can help an animal flourish given the appropriate time. Through your attention and care you learn who the animal is, their personality and their specific needs, which helps Saving Pups of Texas in finding their “forever” home.

“Fostering an animal isn’t a lifetime commitment; it is a commitment to saving a life.” - Anonymous

Our network of foster families works tirelessly to rehabilitate the homeless dogs and cats rescued through *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)*. These beautiful humans provide a safe place for these animals to not only physically heal, but also emotionally heal.

Fostering with Saving Pups of Texas

Fostering means bringing a pet into your home, to love and care for them until *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* finds them a “forever” home. Some animals come to us ready for adoption, so you will simply give them a home-life experience by providing basic training, love and care until they have a home. Others may be timid, sick, scared, anxious and need extra time, socialization or TLC before they are ready for adoption.

As you care for your foster, we ask that you send us updated photos and behavioral information so we can post those to PetFinder for potential adopters. The behavioral information we are looking for are:

- temperament,
- cat/dog friendly,
- kid friendly,
- energy level,
- food/toy aggression,
- exercise needs.

Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT) will make all veterinary appointments for your foster(s), you will just have to bring the foster(s) to those appointments. We also ask that if there are any Adoption Events scheduled in your area, you will bring your foster(s) to them so they can be seen by potential adopters.

Types of Fostering

Regular Fostering - You foster a pet until it is adopted. Although most fosters find their furever homes, some can take a month or longer. If for any reason you are unable to foster anymore, contact SPOT right away and we will place that pet into another foster home.

Short Term/Temporary/Vacation Fostering - If a pet needs a foster for a short time (usually about 1- 2 weeks), this is where you come in. If a pet's regular foster is going out of town, your help is not usually needed longer than three (3) weeks.

Emergency Fostering - This is for when an emergency comes up and we need a foster immediately. These are occasions where an animal needs to be removed from somewhere as soon as possible. You would be temporary until we found a regular foster, just providing shelter and a safe place for this pet to be. As an emergency foster, you will need your own transportation as well as a separate area for the pet to be until medical intake is able to be performed.

Medical/Special Needs Fostering - This is when you foster an animal with special needs. Sometimes fosters need a little extra TLC or medical attention before they are ready to be adopted. Some of these may include:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| - Broken Bones | - Amputation | - Separation Anxiety |
| - Mange | - Paralyzed Back End | - Diabetes |
| - Ringworm | - Severe Allergies | - Seizure |
| - Heartworm | - Cancer | - Canine Megaesophagus |
| - Blind/Deaf | - Behavioral | |

Mothers, Puppies and/or Kittens - Fosters provide homes for pregnant and nursing moms, as well as newborn puppies and kittens until they are old enough for adoption.

A typical foster stay is two weeks to two months, but can be longer. The time frame of each foster situation depends on the needs of the animal(s) in your care, and will be discussed with you ahead of time.

Preparing to Foster

Make sure to prepare your home for your new foster(s). Check for any electrical wires/charger cords hanging to the floor, pick up and store any small/chewable items and gate off any areas of the home you may not want the pet to have access to. Walk through your yard and make sure the fence is in good shape, watching for smaller gaps/holes a smaller dog/puppy might fit through, and make sure all gates and latches are closed and latched.

What You Will Need

If you need assistance in obtaining any of these supplies (or any others that arise), please reach out to your Foster Coordinator so we can set up an Amazon Wishlist.

Food	Crate or Carrier
Food/Water Bowls	Bed/Blankets
Collar, Harness and Leash	Treats
Toys	Any Medicine the Foster Needs
Litter Box and Litter	Lot of Love
Cat Condo	

You may pick up anything “extra” you would like for your foster(s) while they are staying with you, this is simply a list to help you get started. “Extras” provided by the Foster will not be reimbursed by Saving Pups of Texas, unless agreed upon prior to purchasing those items.

When Your Foster Arrives

Please understand that your foster may have been moved around a lot and may be going through some emotional changes. Your foster will need time to settle in and they may be scared, hide, or anxious and sometimes want to escape. Please be aware when opening any door that leads to outside, sometimes without even realizing it, they could slip out.

Please also go over the *Rescue 3-3-3 Rule of Adopting*, as it can also apply when fostering:



IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3-3-3 RULE OF ADOPTING

3 DAYS TO DECOMPRESS

- Feeling overwhelmed
- May feel scared/unsure of what's going on
- Not comfortable enough to be himself
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shuts down, maybe hides under furniture
- Tests boundaries



3 WEEKS TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE

- Starts settling in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realizing this could be his "forever" home
- Figuring out his environment
- Gets into a routine
- Lets his guard down
- Begins to show true personality
- Behavior issues may start to appear

3 MONTHS STARTS FEELING AT HOME

- Finally feels completely comfortable in his home
- Begins to build trust and a true bond
- Gains complete sense of security with family
- Sets into a routine



 www.savingpupsoftexas.org  hello@savingpupsoftexas.org

Day-to-Day Care

Care for your foster(s) the same way you would your own pet. Always make sure they have proper fresh water and food daily and keep them stimulated by playing with them. If socialization is required, introduce them to new environments, noises and experiences slowly. Dogs will need to spend plenty of time outside. ***Puppies are not allowed to leave the house without completing the first three (3) rounds of vaccines. This includes places such as dog parks, playdates with other puppies, pet stores and other places frequented by animals.***

Recommended Feeding Instructions for Dogs/Puppies

Puppies: 0-5 lbs	Continuous access to wet and dry food PLUS milk substitute depending on age
Puppies: 5-10 lbs	1 to 2 cups per day
Puppies: 10-15 lbs	2 to 2 ½ cups per day
Puppies: 15+ lbs	2 ½ - 3 ½ cups per day
Adults: Up to 10 lbs	½ cups per day
Adults: 10-25 lbs	1 to 2 cups per day
Adults: 25 - 50 lbs	2 to 3 cups per day
Adults: 50+ lbs	3 to 4 cups per day

Recommended Feeding Instructions for Cats/Kittens

Kittens: 0-5 lbs	Continuous access to wet and dry food PLUS milk substitute depending on age
Cats: Up to 10 lbs	⅓ to ½ cup per day
Cats: 10-12 lbs	½ to 1 cup per day
Cats: 12+ lbs	1 to 1 ½ cup per day

*Many cats are free-feeders and that is okay.

Transitioning from Old Diet to New Diet

When pets suddenly switch from one diet to another, it can cause gastrointestinal upset and other issues. That's why it is important to slowly introduce your pet to a new diet over the course of 7 - 10 days.



This gradual process may seem slow at first, but be assured, it is for the best. A dog's diet is not like a human's diet. People vary their diet on a daily basis. Sometimes we stir things up from meal to meal. Your dog's diet is best when it is consistent. Do not change brands or feeding methods frequently.

Potty Training

If they are already house-trained, they will let you know when they need out. Keep in mind that not all "cues" are the same so watch your new foster to see how they alert you of their need to go to the bathroom. If they are not house-trained, you will want to begin working on Potty Training. Keep reading for some Potty Training tips from our Community Partner, *Cultivated Canine Dog Training*.

> Start by taking your dog outside every 20 minutes. When they DO go potty outside, make sure to let them know they did a good job with a "Yes!" and a treat! We call them "Potty Parties!"

> Slowly increase that time, maybe move up to 40 Minutes, 1 hour then 2 hours, always making sure to let them know they did a good job when they do potty outside. Keep up with Potty Parties!

> It's always a good habit to take your puppy out right after waking up in the morning/from a nap, playing, eating, or drinking.

> Use the crate as a tool for Potty Training. If your dog does NOT potty when you go outside, let them rest in the crate for about 15 minutes then take them back outside to try again. Feel free to set a timer (we use Alexa) to help keep track of time, and remember that the crate is never a punishment but simply a place for them to chill/relax until they go back out and try again. If they DO go potty, then of course let them know they did a good job with a "Yes!" and a treat! Don't forget the Potty Parties!

> Make sure to always be on the lookout for any clues or signals that your dog needs to go potty. Most dogs will sniff, make circles, wander off, whine, or sit by the door to indicate they need to go to the bathroom. You can use a long line in the house if they have a habit of wandering off, so you feel that tug on the line when they get too far away.

>> Don't have a long line? Get one on Amazon here: <https://amzn.to/45KXrZ9>

> Record any accidents inside and potties outside, focusing on what *time of day* they happened. Draft a schedule for the day involving potty breaks (based on that record you took), free time in the house, down time in the crate, play time/training sessions, etc.

> Take any poop accidents and place them outside in your yard where you want them to poop. Take them out to potty on the leash and stand at that spot for about 5 - 10 minutes. Ignore them until they potty, then throw a Potty Party.

You can find more information and tips on **Potty Training** from the American Kennel Club [here](#).

Crate Training

Crate Training is crucial with *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* as many of our adopters are not local, but all around the country. Your foster(s) will need to be crated during their transports and it makes it easier on the pets if they are used to being crated. Keep reading for some Crate Training tips from our Community Partner, *Cultivated Canine Dog Training*.

- > Start by sitting with your dog next to the crate and toss treats inside to try to entice them inside. Anytime they go inside their crate, of course throw a "Party" just like you did with Potty Training. Whenever you do have to place them in the crate, make sure to reward them with a treat.
- > You want the crate to be a positive experience, so you can try feeding them breakfast/dinner in the crate. This will give them a positive association, crate = food.
- > Over the next few weeks you can fill Kongs or Licki-Mats and give them to them in the crate. You can find oodles of recipes for both online. Make sure to supervise, as some dogs will tear them up once the goodies are gone.
 - >> Don't have a Licki Mat? Get one on Amazon here: <https://amzn.to/3zqzM6l>
 - >> Don't have a Kong? Get one on Amazon here: <https://amzn.to/4dKZ77m>

You can find more information and tips on **Crate Training** from the American Kennel Club [here](#).

Basic Obedience

We also recommend working with your foster(s) on some basic behaviors. You can read an article from the American Kennel Club with information and video tutorials on how to start working on these basic behaviors: sit, down, stay, coming when called and loose leash walking [here](#).

- >> Don't have a treat pouch? Get one on Amazon here: <https://amzn.to/4ce9uRc>
- >> Unsure what treats to use? Here are some we like: <https://amzn.to/45CykHP>

Introducing Your Foster to Your Pet

Depending on the situation, you may want to introduce your foster(s) to your pet(s). If you choose to do so, please allow the animals to take their time with each other, any rushed interaction could result in harm, to each other or to you. Here are some tips on introductions with adult dogs:

1. Let them get to know each other slowly and carefully on neutral ground such as a dog park, any park in general, or the sidewalk.
2. Have the dogs meet on a leash, this way if something were to happen, it is easy to grab ahold of the leash, if you just throw them with each other, this could lead to a dog fight.
3. Try letting the leash go after a few moments of each sniffing each other. Letting the leash drag on the ground (this would be best at a dog park or neutral yard where there is a fence).
4. Have the dogs meet at home, first in the yard and then in the house. If any sign of tension arises, separate the dogs immediately.
5. Keep the dogs separate when you are away, this will ensure the safety of all pets in the household.

Puppies are a little easier, but still introduce them slowly. Puppies can get a little annoying to any adult dogs in the house, as all they want to do is play and they haven't learned boundaries yet.

Find more information and tips on dog/dog, cat/cat and dog/cat introductions in the [Resources and Information](#) section on page 32.

Socialization

When first receiving your foster, you might be unsure of their personality and temperament. In some cases, *Saving Pups if Texas (SPOT)* may also be unsure of their temperament around certain stimuli such as men, children, and even other animals. You will be informed of any information we do have on your new foster before placing them in your home, but once they are placed you are our eyes and ear when it comes to your foster.

When caring for your foster, you may notice they have some socialization problems such as being shy, timid, anxious, afraid, and sometimes uncertain on how to behave like a dog or a cat. This is where slowly, and calmly, you start taking your pet places, such as dog parks (if they are dog friendly), pet stores, parks or walks around the block. Do keep in mind, we want the dog as comfortable as possible, so if they are unsure of new people, introduce slowly and *never* push them out of their comfort zone where they may bite if forced into something quickly. This also means refraining from allowing people to pet your foster if they are nervous of new environments and people. If you are unsure on how to proceed, reach out to your Foster Coordinator to develop a plan for socialization.

Check out the [Socialization Scavenger Hunt](#) from *Cultivated Canine Dog Training* on the following page.



Socialization Scavenger Hunt

CULTIVATED CANINE EDITION

List does not need to be completed in order. If your dog struggles with a few, no worries, let our trainers know and we will work on it with you and your dog.

- ☐ Go for a ride in the car
- ☐ Hear construction sounds
- ☐ See and hear a motorcycle
- ☐ See and hear a new household appliance, like the dishwasher
- ☐ See someone carrying something in hand, like an umbrella
- ☐ Walk by someone carrying something in hand, like an umbrella
- ☐ See and hear children playing in the distance
- ☐ Meet a child
- ☐ Meet another dog
- ☐ Meet a cat
- ☐ See and hear a screaming/crying child
- ☐ See and hear a large truck or bus (can be from a distance)
- ☐ Have visitors in your home
- ☐ Take your pup to a friend's or relative's house (no dogs)
- ☐ Take your pup to a friend's or relative's house (with dogs)
- ☐ See a new animal, like a duck, goose, squirrel or horse
- ☐ Meet at least five (5) new people using "Go Say Hi"
- ☐ See and hear lawn equipment
- ☐ Watch a fireworks video
- ☐ Walk, play and/or swim in water
- ☐ See and hear a rain/thunder storm
- ☐ Play with a puzzle toy
- ☐ Eat dinner with a snuffle mat
- ☐ Meet a person in uniform



Take A FUN
visit to the Vet
or Groomer

Nothing scary, just
pets and treats!

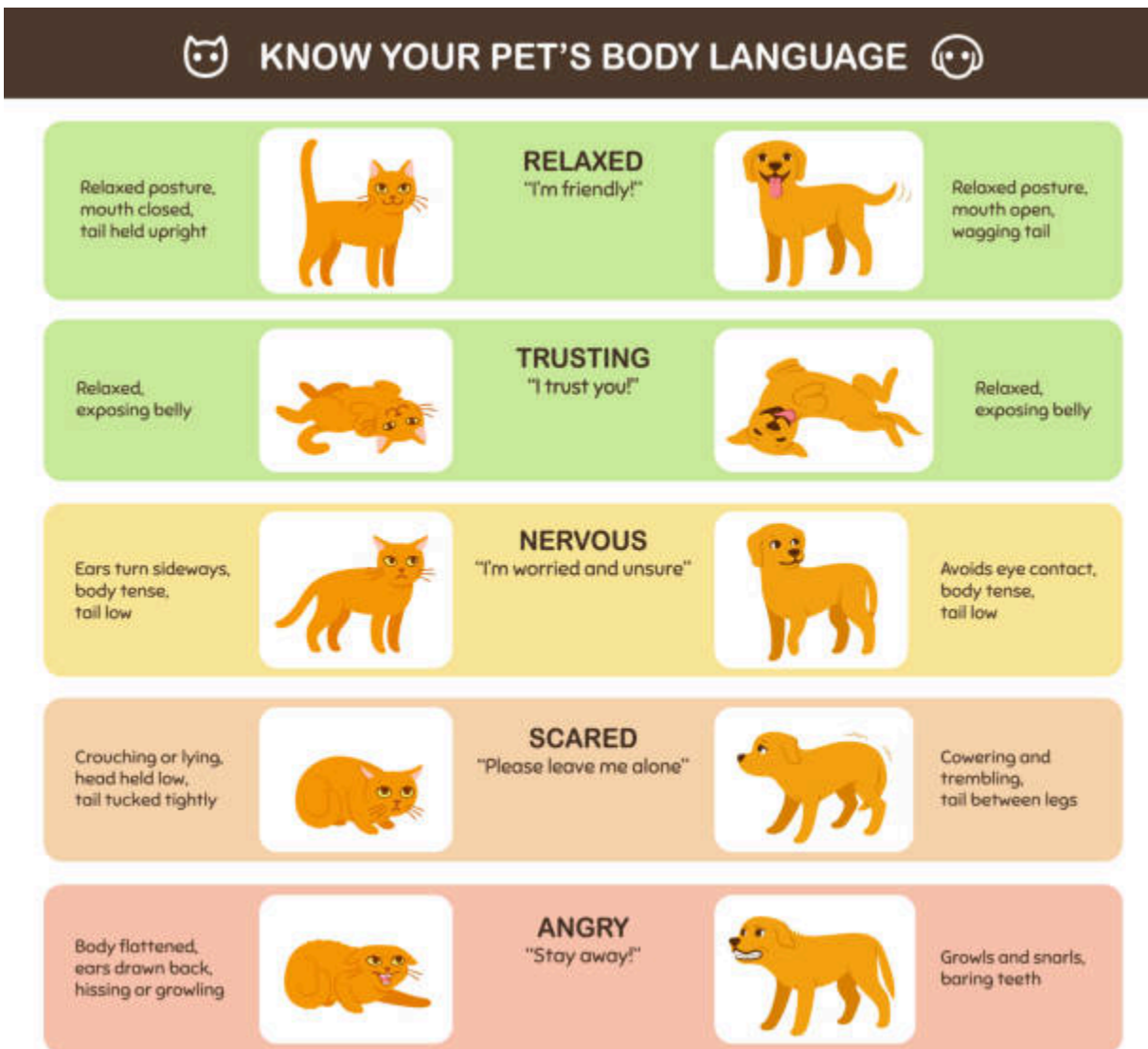
LIFE CAN BE RUFF, TRAINING YOUR

DOG DOESN'T HAVE TO BE!

www.cultivatedcaninepearland.com

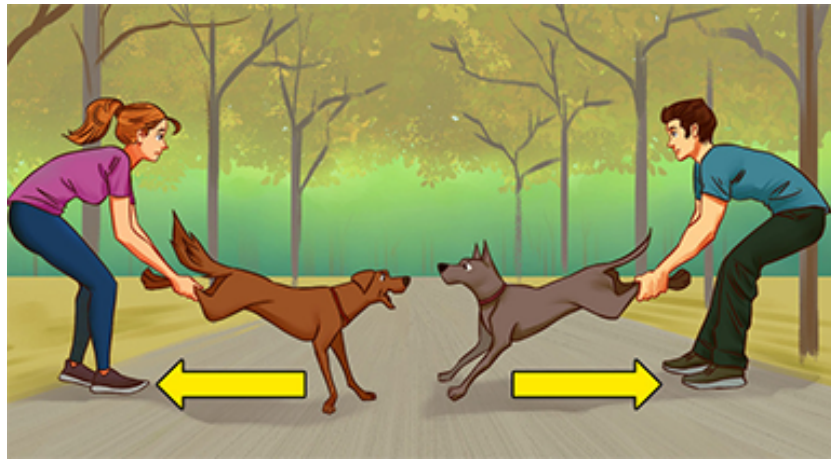
Behavioral Issues

For behavioral issues, such as dog aggression, food aggression, toy aggression, being territorial, chewing furniture or clothes or jumping on counters to steal food, please contact the Foster Coordinator immediately so we can address these issues immediately and provide you with any help you need. Body language is key for both dogs and cats.



If a dog fight ensues, NEVER stick your hands in the middle of a fight. This tends to cause either dog to redirect their aggression onto you, and you can become the primary target.

First thing you want to do is take the *aggressor's* back legs and lift them into the air, this will hopefully stop the fight by causing them to lose attention. At this time, if you are able to, drag the *aggressor* away from the other dog.



Sometimes in a smaller altercation, you may be able to simply clap your hands, bang pots, stomp your feet or do anything loud to pull the dogs attention away from each other.



Immediately separate the dogs and examine for injuries. **If a fight happens, of any size, contact your Foster Coordinator right away.**

Think Your Foster is Sick?

If you notice ANY of the *Warning Signs* below, remain calm and immediately contact your Foster Coordinator to let them know what is happening or what has already happened.

	Good Signs	Warning Signs
General Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bright, alert, responsive - Balanced and coordinated - Interested in surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labored breathing - Lethargic, disoriented - Tilted head, unsteady
Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean and clear - No discharge, redness or irritation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visible 3rd eyelid when not sleeping - Watery, red, discharge - Irregular pupil size
Ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean, both canal and outer ear - Pink and clear - No foul odor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discharge, crusty - Foul odor - Scratching at ears, yelping when touched - Shaking head repeatedly - Red/inflamed
Nose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean - No discharge - No crusty like feel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scabbed - Discharge - Congested or blocked
Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eating/swallowing normal - Gums are pink, return to normal two seconds after being pressed on - Moist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Itching, scratching or swelling - Problems eating or swallowing - Drooling, foul odor, loose teeth - Persistent vomiting
Skin/Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shiny, glossy coat - Oil-free coat - Clean - Pull skin up, it immediately goes back down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bald/thinning spot - Dry and/or flaky skin - Oily/dirty coat - Scabs, fleas, lice - Pull skin, takes more than 5 seconds to go down

Legs/Feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking normally - Healthy pads and nails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limping/swelling - Cracked paw pads - Burns on paw pads - Irregular gait - Pain response when touched
Anal/Genitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Normal discharge - Clean and free of discharge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discharge, foul odor - Abnormal stool (i.e. liquid, bloody, parasitic) - Constipated - Bloated belly

Signs of a Seizure

A first-time seizure can be scary for both the animal and the human, so it is best to clear the room from any other animal and remain calm the entire time. Make sure to document what the animal was doing, how long the seizure lasted and contact your Foster Coordinator immediately to set up a veterinary appointment.

- Collapse to side and running in place
- Wide stance, unsure of surroundings
- Loss of bowel movements/bladder
- Fly biting (looks like they are trying to catch a fly that is not there)
- Uncontrollable movements such as shaking or tremors
- Flailing in place
- Foam at mouth
- Frenzied barking

In the case of a seizure, be sure to talk to your foster calmly and gently and place a blanket or pillow under their head to control their head from slamming to the ground in case of a seizure. Do NOT stick your hands in their face, unfortunately when this is happening, they do not know who you are and may bite you.

What Stools Should and Shouldn't Look Like

Take a peek at the *Bristol Stool Chart* below and compare with your foster's stool, then check below for our recommendations.

BRISTOL STOOL CHART		
TYPE 1		Separate hard lumps VERY CONSTIPATED
TYPE 2		Lumpy and sausage like SLIGHTLY CONSTIPATED
TYPE 3		A sausage shape with cracks in the surface NORMAL
TYPE 4		Like a smooth, soft sausage or snake NORMAL
TYPE 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges LACKING FIBER
TYPE 6		Mushy consistency with ragged edges INFLAMMATION
TYPE 7		Liquid consistency with no solid pieces INFLAMMATION AND DIARRHEA

- > Type 1 - Your foster may be getting constipated, reach out to your Foster Coordinator about setting up a veterinarian appointment.
- > Type 2 - Normal.
- > Type 3 - Normal, but starting to get loose.
- > Type 4 - Getting closer to diarrhea, concerning.
- > Type 5 - Your foster may be starting an episode of diarrhea, reach out to your Foster Coordinator about setting up a veterinarian appointment.
- > Type 6 - Your foster's stool should not be this loose, reach out to your Foster Coordinator about setting up a veterinarian appointment.
- > Type 7 - This is very concerning, reach out to your Foster Coordinator immediately about setting up a veterinarian appointment.

Handling Illness and Injury

If you determine at any time your foster may be sick, please contact your Foster Coordinator so they can set up a veterinarian appointment. If at any point you believe this is an emergency, contact the Foster Coordinator so you can be given the authorization to go to an emergency veterinarian.

Here are some examples of emergencies:

- Dog/cat fight
- Puppy/kitten lethargy
- Nose bleeds or pale gums
- Collapsed or labored breathing
- Blood in vomit or stools
- Projectile/constant vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Ate something they shouldn't have
- Seizure
- Eye injury
- Suspected toxin
- Sudden paralysis
- Straining to urinate
- Hit by car

We try to work with specific vets who give *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* discounts because they support our mission. Here is a list of veterinarians we use in the area:

First Colony Veterinary Clinic

2505 Williams Trace Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 980-2001

PetCare Express

2501 W Holcombe Blvd B, Houston, TX 77030
(713)592-9977

Houston Animal Hospital

11629 S Texas 6, Sugar Land, TX 77498
(832)999-4151

Big Thicket Animal Clinic New Caney

18403 FM 1485, New Caney, TX 77357
(281) 689-5585

A Couple of Vets

2015 Spring Stuebner Rd Suite 300, Spring, TX 77389
(832)930-7711

Veterinary Emergency Group

2785 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77007
(346)355-6444

Please understand if you go to your own veterinarian, or a different emergency clinic, without our approval, YOU are responsible for ALL expenses.

Fruits and Veggies Your Foster Can Eat

- Blueberries
- Carrots
- Asparagus
- Apples
- Banana
- Seedless watermelon (no skin)
- Oranges (peeled and deseeded)
- Pumpkin
- Brussell sprouts
- Green beans
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Sweet potatoes

Common Foods and Household Items That are Toxic to Pets

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Cleaning products | - Anti-freeze | - Xylitol (aka Birch Sugar) |
| - Heavy metals | - Detergents | - Mothballs |
| - Paint | - Medications | - Insecticides/rodenticides |
| - Fertilizer | - Alcohol | - Dogbane |
| - Garlic | - Grapes | - Cherries |
| - Chocolate | - Raisins | - Nectarine |
| - Macadamia Nuts | - Aloe vera | - Peach |
| - Corn Plant | - Daphne | - Mushrooms |
| - Amaryllis | - Caster bean | - Plum trees/shrubs |
| - Almond | - Apricot | - Chrysanthemum |
| - Batteries | - Marijuana | - Cyclamen |
| - English Ivy | - Foxglove | - Daylily/True Lily plant |
| - Gloriosa Lily | - Golden Pothos | - Hibiscus |
| - Hyacinth and Tulips | - Hydrangea | - Kalanchoe |
| - Lily-of-the-Valley | - Peace Lily | - Mountain Laurel |
| - Oleander | - Poinsettia | - Mother-in-Law Tongue |
| - Philodendron | - Rosary Pea | - Rhododendron and Azalea |
| - Sago Palm | - Stinging Nettle | - Schefflera |
| - Yew Bush | - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Plant | |

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions can be VERY serious. **If you think your foster is having an allergic reaction to something in their environment, immediately contact your Foster Coordinator and discuss going to an Emergency Veterinarian.**

Here is an example of what an allergic reaction may look like:



Symptoms to watch for:

- Hives
- Swelling/inflammation
- Redness
- Runny nose and eyes
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Anaphylactic reaction/trouble breathing

Find the [Recommended Benadryl Dosage for Dogs](#) on page 25. For cats, always consult with a veterinarian before treating with Benadryl.

Vaccine Reactions

If you think your foster is having ANY reactions to their vaccines, immediately contact your Foster Coordinator and discuss going to an Emergency Veterinarian. Vaccine reactions can be VERY serious! Here is an example of what a delayed reaction to a vaccine may look like:



This is Waffles, and he received vaccines earlier in the day (about 8 hours prior to this picture) and his foster mom noticed that there was a bit of swelling around his eyes and they were turning pink.

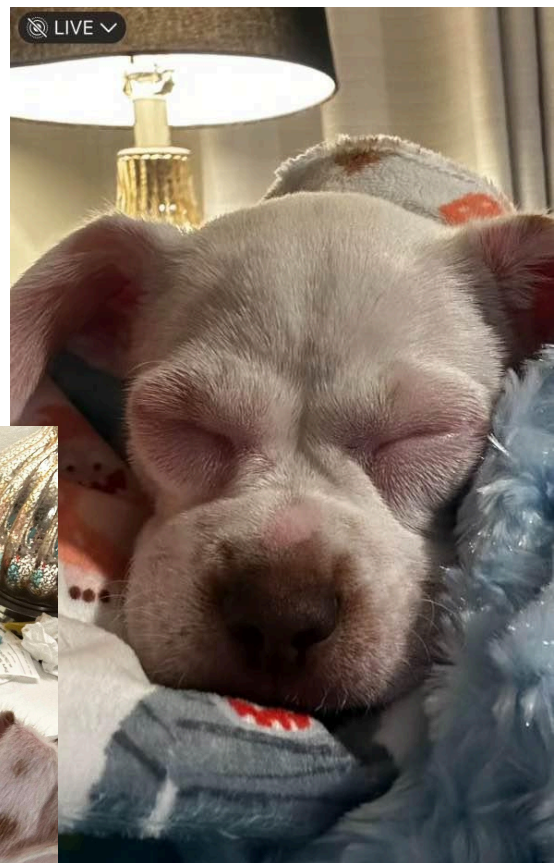
Only 12 minutes later, you can see an increase in swelling around the eyes and a darker pink now presenting. His foster mom is ALREADY in contact with her Foster Coordinator, so they can talk to a veterinarian to confirm the [recommended Benadryl dosage](#).



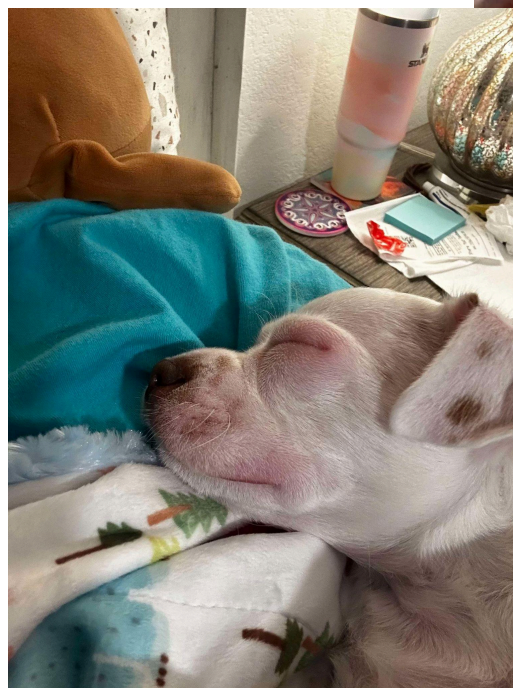


About 10 minutes later, you will see that both the swelling and the pink/redness around the eyes is still increasing.

You will see here that Waffles' nose also became swollen and his eyes eventually swelled shut.



Here is a side view of that swelling.



Medications You May Need to Know

The following is a list of commonly prescribed medications. For dosage, follow instructions from your foster's veterinarian.

Allergies

Claritin	Daily allergy medicine
Zyrtec	Daily allergy medicine, do NOT use Zyrtec-D
Benedryl	Used for allergic reactions/vaccine reactions

Recommended Benadryl Dosage for Dogs

DOG'S WEIGHT (lbs)	LIQUID DOSAGE	TABLETS DOSAGE	MAXIMUM DOSAGE (per day)*
5 pounds	2ml	5mg	10mg
10 pounds	4ml	10mg	20mg
20 pounds	Use tablets	20mg	40mg
50 pounds	Use tablets	50mg	100mg
75 pounds	Use tablets	75mg	150mg
100 pounds	Use tablets	100mg	200mg



Always confirm dosage with a veterinarian, and **CHECK INGREDIENTS FOR ALCOHOL OR XYLITOL** as some forms of Benedryl (usually liquid) will include it. You can read more about Benadryl uses, dosages and side effects for dogs: [here](#).

For cats, always consult with a veterinarian before treating with Benadryl.

Antibiotics

Doxycycline	Used in conjunction with Heartworm Treatment
Metronidazole	Used for diarrhea and Giardia
Minocycline	Used for Upper Respiratory Infections/Kennel Cough

Dewormer

Albon	Dewormer, two doses needed
Panacur	Dewormer
Wormout	Dewormer
Pyrantel (Strongid)	Kills parasites immediately

Gastrointestinal Supplements

Provable	Helps prevent loose stools
Fortiflora	Helps prevent loose stools
Gas X	Helps with gas
Famotidine (Pepcid)	Helps with gas
Kaopectate	Help with nausea/vomiting
Pet Tinic (Geritol)	Iron supplement

Building a Pet First-Aid Kit

Here are a few items you should keep handy when fostering:

- Absorbent gauze pads
- Adhesive tape
- Cotton balls/swabs
- Ice pack
- Disposable gloves
- Scissors with blunt end
- Alcohol wipes
- Saline eye solution
- 3% hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting (get instructions from Vet first)
- Tweezers
- OTC antibiotic ointment
- Oral syringe or turkey baster
- Dawn dish soap (for bathing)
- Towels
- Small flashlight
- Styptic powder (to stop bleeding)
- Artificial tear gel

You can also find a great Pet First Aid Kit on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3C0UeK4>.

Inducing Vomiting with Hydrogen Peroxide

Induce vomiting within two (2) hours if your foster has swallowed antifreeze, chocolate, or grapes. NEVER make a dog throw up after ingesting a sharp object.

Measure out 1 tsp (5 ml) of hydrogen peroxide for every 10 lbs of your dog's body weight.

Use a dropper to put the peroxide on the back of your dog's tongue. You can also soak a cotton ball in peroxide and squeeze it into your dog's mouth.



Helping Get Your Foster Adopted

The goal of fostering is always adoption. From the time the foster comes into your home, to the time it goes to its forever home, you are acting as its advocate beyond the standard of love and care you provide to your foster. Here are some additional steps you can do to help your foster get adopted:

Week 1 to 2

- Let your foster settle into its new environment
- During that time, take photos, videos, as well as jot down any notes/information you are starting to notice about that pet and share those around as well as to the Adoption Coordinator.

Week 3 to 4

- Send a detailed email with photos and a bio of what your foster likes, dislikes, favorite thing, and more to savingpupsoftexas@gmail.com so we can start posting your foster.

After Month 2

- Continue sending updated photos and videos
- Send in an updated bio on the pet of what you think their ideal forever home would be this way we can find the BEST fitted home for that pet.

IF you decide you want to change the name of your foster from the original name Saving Pupe of Texas (SPOT) gave them, please get approval from your Foster Coordinator first.

Saying Goodbye to Your Foster

When your foster is adopted, you will most likely have mixed emotions. You've spent a lot of time with that foster, and you've treated them like family. You will be overjoyed they have found their "forever" home, but saddened because you will

miss them. This is not uncommon. The first time is usually the hardest, but it does get easier. Just remember, you've helped that animal blossom and now it is time to help another. When it is time to send your foster to their new home, you will want to supply the following:

- Enough food so that the new owner can do a gradual switch (this is easier on their stomach)
- Any special toys, blanket or treats that they have fallen in love with
- A little printed bio that explains what they love, enjoy, any commands they know and what they dislike

Prepping for Your Next Foster

We will NEVER force another foster on you, so take the time to decompress if needed before getting another foster.

Before bringing in another foster you will want to get your home ready. Here are some tips on what you should do when the foster leaves, and before bringing in another:

- Clean the room your foster was in, making sure to disinfect with bleach if they were sick at any point
- Clean all food, water dishes and food container
- Wash blankets, toys, beds, etc.
- Clean/sanitize litter boxes
- Check for any electrical wires/charger cords hanging to the floor, pick up and store any small/chewable items and gate off any areas of the home you may not want the pet to have access to.
- Walk through your yard and make sure the fence is in good shape, watching for smaller gaps/holes a smaller dog/puppy might fit through, and make sure all gates and latches are closed and latched.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I get to pick out the animal I want to foster?

A: Yes, to some extent. When we intake an animal that needs a foster, we will send out a plea and if you are interested you can let us know. However, if the foster is known to be aggressive in any way and needs a foster with behavioral experience, we will find a better match for you.

Q: Will you give me information about my foster?

A: Yes, we will give you any information we have on your foster so you can take care of them as if they were your own. This information includes if there is any area of concern, what we know as well as any tips on how to help you.

Q: How long should I keep my foster separated from my other pets?

A: If your foster is coming directly from the shelter, we suggest a 7-14 day “quarantine” just to be safe. Once quarantine is over, dogs should be introduced slowly to each other. There are tips on how to introduce your pets to each other in [Introducing Your Foster to Your Pet](#) on page 9.

Q: What symptoms do I look for to determine if my foster is sick?

A: You can always ask your Foster Coordinator for warning signs, but you can also peek at [Think Your Foster is Sick?](#) on page 13.

Q: Can my foster go outside or to the dog park?

A: If you have a backyard, yes, but otherwise ask your Foster Coordinator first, sometimes young puppies or dogs found on the street are going through vaccine protocol and can't go outside until they've had all their vaccines.

Q: If my foster gets sick, do I need to take it to the vet?

A: Yes, as soon as you notice your foster isn't feeling well or acting as normal as they would, you will contact the Foster Coordinator to get authorization to head to the vet. *Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT)* will cover all APPROVED medical expenses. If you decide to go to your vet without authorization, you will be expected to pay all the expenses.

Q: If there is an emergency, what do I do?

A: Please refer to [Handling Illness and Injury](#) on page 15 for the list of veterinarians we work closely with. Remember, call your Foster Coordinator to schedule veterinary appointments, or so you can get authorization to take your foster to the emergency vet.

Q: Do I need to take my foster to get vaccines?

A: Yes, we do ask that you take your foster to all routine vet visits while they are in your care. Your Foster Coordinator will let you know when and where you need to take the foster. Sometimes fosters are not fully vaccinated when they come into your home, so make sure to follow quarantine protocols. Your Foster Coordinator will provide you with all vaccination information.

Q: What happens if there is an adoption application and how does my foster get adopted?

A: Your foster will be displayed on our social media platforms and website, as well as our pet adoption site, Petfinder. If we receive an application for your foster, the Adoption Coordinator will begin the adoption process and get in touch with you. Part of the adoption process is a video interview, where the potential adopters can chat with you to learn more about the pet. If the adopter would like to move forward, and their application is approved, we will begin coordinating their medical certificate and transportation.

Q: If I want to adopt my foster, what do I do?

A: Our fosters always get first “dibs” to adopt if they would like to. If you are interested in adopting your foster, reach out to your Foster Coordinator to let them know and learn more about the adoption process.

Q: What if I go on vacation and need someone to care for my foster?

A: Please let your Foster Coordinator know as soon as possible, providing them with those dates that you will be needing a temporary foster.

Q: How can I help the foster program grow so we can save more animals?

A: You can spread the word about our program to your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc. You can tag us in your social media posts so more people see it.

Resources and Information

Our Foster Handbook is always available on our website:

<http://www.savingpupsoftexas.org>

General Information

VCA Hospital, Know Your Pet: <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet>

CATalyst Council: <https://www.catalystcouncil.org/uploads/PDFs/AACM-CATegoricalCare-all.pdf>

Potty Training

American Kennel Club, Potty Training Tips:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/potty-training-puppy-tips/>

Crate Training

American Kennel Club, Crate Training Tips:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/crate-training/>

Basic Obedience for Dogs

American Kennel Club, Teaching Basic Commands:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/teach-your-puppy-these-5-basic-commands/>

Introducing Pets

Best Friends, Pet Care Resources:

<https://bestfriends.org/pet-care-resources>

Humane Society, Introducing Cats:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/how-introduce-your-new-cat-resident-cats>

Humane Society, Introducing Dogs:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/introducing-new-dogs>

AKC, Like Cats and Dogs? Teach Your Pets to Live in Harmony:

<https://akc.org/expert-advice/training/teaching-dogs-cats-live-together/>

Fostering Information

ASPCA, Fostering: <https://www.asPCA.org/search/node?search=fostering>

Humane Society, Fostering: <https://www.humanesociety.org/search?keys=foster+care>

Best Friends, Foster Care Manual: <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/dog-foster-care-manual>

Detecting Illness

Humane Society, Cat At-Home Exam:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/your-cat-sick-try-home-exam>

Cat-World, Cat Illness - Signs of Sickness in Cats:

<https://www.cat-world.com/au/signs-of-sickness-in-cats>

Humane Society, Dog At-Home Exam:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/my-dog-sick-try-home-exam>

PetsBest, Signs and Symptoms Your Dog is Sick:

<https://www.petsbest.com/blog/im-not-naughty-im-sick>

Benedryl for Dogs

BetterVet, Dog Bendryl Dosage:

<https://bettervet.com/resources/pet-health-care/dog-benadryl-dosage>

Volunteer Agreement and Release Form

In order to be considered as a Foster with Saving Pups of Texas (SPOT), you must be AT LEAST eighteen (18) years of age, have identification showing your current address and be willing and able to spend the time and commitment necessary to provide training, medical treatment, and proper care for your new foster pet. Fostering with SPOT is a volunteer position. This means that, if you accept the role, you will perform all duties on a voluntary basis and you will not receive remuneration or payment for your work, other than reasonable reimbursement for those expenses as outlined in the Foster Handbook.

I agree to be fully responsible for the safety and well-being of my foster pet(s). I will provide a safe, loving, humane environment with adequate food, water, and shelter at all times. Foster animals must be housed in a climate-controlled area that is comfortable and stress-free. I will not declaw, crop the ears, or crop the tail of any fostered pet. **I certify that I have never been convicted of animal cruelty, abandonment, or neglect.** I will adhere to all state and local animal laws and every foster animal will wear a collar with identification. I will promptly notify SPOT of any signs of illness, behavioral issues or concerns, my inability to continue to foster, if the pet becomes lost, and/or if the fostered pet bites/scratches someone. **Initials(____)**

I understand and acknowledge that all of the pets in the SPOT foster program are the property of SPOT. I agree to comply with any request by SPOT or its representatives to return and relinquish possession of the foster pet and will do so no later than (twenty-four) 24 hours after such request. I further agree that SPOT's rights in and to my foster pet are superior to mine. I agree to provide the SPOT Foster/Rescue Coordinator or their authorized representatives access to my home and property to check on the fostered pet at any time while I am in possession of the fostered pet. If an Adopter requests to visit with the foster pet, I agree that I must make arrangements for viewing in a timely manner. Foster parents may be required to bring animals to an on-site or off-site event to promote adoption of their foster animal. **Initials(____)**

I understand that I am welcome to bring the fostered pet to my private veterinarian, however, SPOT cannot reimburse for medical expenses incurred at another facility/vet unless previously approved by your SPOT Foster/Rescue Coordinator. **Initials(____)**

SPOT retains guardianship and control of all animals in foster care. Staff will make all final decisions regarding their placement. Foster animals are NOT to be given away or kept – any adoption of an animal in foster care MUST go through the SPOT adoption process with all applicable and accompanying SPOT forms and fees. Fostered pets will not be transferred to the custody of another person, shelter, humane society, SPCA, or other entity without the express written consent and permission of SPOT. I agree that I will not place the fostered pet in another home without the express written consent of SPOT, whether that placement is temporary or permanent. **Initials(____)**

I understand that there are some risks associated with taking in foster animals. I acknowledge that the health and disposition of this animal has been assessed to the best abilities of SPOT staff, despite the lack of past records for this animal. I agree that my existing family pets will be current on all shots and foster pets will be kept isolated from family pets for a minimum of 14 days for the protection of all animals and to limit the risk of spreading any possible contagious disease. SPOT is not responsible for other pet(s) becoming ill by being exposed to a SPOT foster pet and cannot reimburse any related veterinary medical expenses. **Initials(____)**

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOSTERED ANIMALS DO OCCUR AND MAY RESULT IN INJURIES AND/OR DAMAGES TO HUMANS, OTHER ANIMALS, AND/OR PROPERTY. I AGREE TO DEFEND, HOLD HARMLESS, INDEMNIFY, AND PROTECT SPOT FROM ANY CLAIM OR SUIT FILED BY ANYONE AS A RESULT OF ANY SUCH INCIDENT OR ANY OTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING THE FOSTERED PET ARISING WHILE THE FOSTERED PET IS IN MY CARE. IN ADDITION, I AGREE THAT SPOT WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE IF THE FOSTERED PET SHOULD DAMAGE OR DESTROY PROPERTY BELONGING TO ME, MY HOUSEHOLD, OR OTHERS, OR IF THE ANIMAL TRANSFERS ANY DISEASE, INFECTION, AND/OR PARASITES, INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL, TO ANY PERSON OR ANIMAL WHILE THE FOSTERED PET IS IN MY CARE. **Initials(____)**

Foster homes may be limited to the number of pets fostered at any given time and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We ask foster homes to assist us in promoting adoption of foster animals through friends, family, co-workers, online websites, and off-site adoptions. Foster pets may not be transported outside the Houston area without the express written permission of the Foster/Rescue Coordinator. **Initials(____)**

Every effort will be made to adopt foster pets. If the pet begins to exhibit aggressive or undesirable behavior, a chronic debilitating or painful condition, or is terminally ill, euthanasia may have to be considered. This is rare, but the ultimate decision is reserved for our veterinarian and the SPOT Foster/Rescue Coordinator. **Initials(____)**

I certify that the information provided on my Foster Application is correct to the best of my knowledge. If at any time the information I have provided changes, I will provide updated information to SPOT as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than 72 hours after the information changes. **Initials(____)**

I understand that if I am approved for fostering, this declaration represents a legal contract between me and SPOT. I understand that if I am approved to foster an animal, I must abide by this agreement and that this agreement applies to any and all animals that I foster with SPOT. Any problems/questions encountered during the fostering period should be discussed with the SPOT Foster/Rescue Coordinator.

BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE UNDERSIGNED FOSTER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ AND UNDERSTANDS THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREES TO SAME WITHOUT RESERVATION.

Volunteer's Signature

Volunteer's Full Name

Date