

10 WAYS TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL FOSTER PARENT



**Citizen Canine
Senior Dog Rescue**

1. Give your foster animal lots of attention and affection. The animal you are fostering likely has special needs that require time and energy. The animal may have lived a difficult life before coming to your home; your love and attention will help to heal the animal's physical and psychological wounds.
2. Learn as much as you can about pet care. Before you bring your foster animal home, learn as much as you can about caring for that animal. Read about feeding, grooming and training. Study the warning signs that may indicate the animal needs veterinary attention.
3. Be prepared to make a financial commitment. Before volunteering to foster an animal, find out from PNCI what costs you will incur. You will not be asked to pay for food, vaccinations or spay/neuter services.
4. Make your home pet-friendly. Before you bring your foster animal home, make sure you "pet proof" your home. For example, remove poisonous plants and protect furnishings. Keep the animal's room warm and comfortable. Also, take steps to prevent the animal from escaping.
5. Keep your pets up-to-date on their vaccinations. All animals should be current on the vaccinations that protect them from diseases. Before you bring home a foster animal, consult with your veterinarian to make sure your own animals have received the preventive treatment they need.
6. Keep foster animals away from your own pets for a while. Although all Citizen Canine Rescue animals are current on their vaccinations prior to being fostered, it is a good idea to wait awhile on integrating your new pet with other animals in the home. It will take a while for them to socialize with one another.
7. Recognize your limits. Fostering requires a great deal of time and energy – both emotional and physical. Don't over-extend yourself by fostering animals too frequently; you may burn yourself out.
8. Return the animal to Citizen Canine Rescue when requested. Citizen Canine Rescue depends on you to make its program work. Be sure to return the animal to the Citizen Canine Rescue at the scheduled time. If you decide to adopt an animal you foster, go through the normal adoption process. If a friend or relative wants to adopt your foster, that person must go through the Citizen Canine Rescue adoption process – not yours.
9. Understand that some foster animals may not survive. Despite your best efforts, the animal you foster may develop a severe illness that cannot be treated. Do the best you can to help the animal, but accept the fact that you cannot save them all. Fostering can be an incredibly rewarding experience so enjoy being a foster parent.
10. Enjoy your foster animal. He/she appreciates you taking them into your home and keeping them safe until they can find their forever home!