

DAW FOSTER INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES



Thank you for your interest in fostering a rescue dog/cat. Opening your home to a rescue animal is a very tangible way to make a difference. Everyone benefits: the foster parent gets to spend time with a special dog or cat, and the haven gains space for a new animal to get rescued.

However, there are important elements to have in mind before making the commitment of becoming a foster parent, so please take the time to read carefully the information provided below.

1. About fostering a rescue animal

Please help us help an orphaned dog/cat by fostering one of the orphans as a gift of life.

1.1 Fostering for DAW

1.1.1 We endorse the option of foster families because not only does a young/adult get a foster home but also because it will also help him/her become a well-balanced pet. Apart from the active socialization at our haven, fostering one of our orphans helps them become 'domestic', get the feel of being in a home, a family and become accustomed to that, making it so much easier for them to get adopted. Let's call it their 'temporary home.'

1.1.2 And besides the fact that having an extra 'tail' in the house comes with so many benefits, you also don't only change a life but you change a life of another one orphan who has not been privileged of that gift yet and who can now get a second chance in life since the "space" became free at the haven. Although we are Pro-Life, we don't euthanize and helping us foster ones who have not been adopted in a few weeks or months avoids this happening somewhere else.

1.2 What is the role of a pet foster parent?

1.2.1 Foster caregivers care for a homeless pet as if he/she was their own until he/she is adopted. Aside from regular day-to-day care (feeding, grooming, exercise), the responsibilities of a foster home may include basic training (housetraining, walking on leash, sit, down); behavior modification (to correct problems such as jumping, mouthing, barking, destructive chewing, dashing through doors); socialization and temperament evaluation (to determine whether the dog is good with different types of people and other animals); medical care (dispensing medication, taking the dog to vet appointments and of course plenty of playtime and snuggling. PLEASE NOTE YOUR FOSTER PET SHOULD COST YOU NOTHING ALL VET COSTS FOR ANYTHING EMERGENCIES, VACCINES, DEWORMING, FOOD NEEDED, WHATEVER IS FOR DAW'S COST, that is why we actively raise the funds we possibly can but we are always grateful if our foster parents feel they would like to give(donate) their bit apart from providing a DAW rescue dog already with their home and family.

1.2.2 Shelter environments can be extremely stressful for animals. It is much more comfortable for them to stay in a home environment. Also, the foster parent is able to learn about the pet's personality, likes, and dislikes so that he can be better matched to the right forever home. They are able to get more individualized care in someone's home. It also gives them better socialization skills, which makes them a better adjusted pet.

In a nutshell, pet foster parents provide a start to family living, trusting humans by helping erase their past abusive and neglected selves, training and a home 'away from home' and lastly plenty of love! But most importantly, *pet foster parents saves lives! So thank you for becoming a FOSTER PAWRENT and if you wish to adopt your foster we love having to turn the 'tail' end of the foster home to a foster failure coz your foster is just perfect for you and your family.*



Initials :

2. Fostering procedure

Fostering can happen two ways:

2.1 You have found or rescued an animal yourself:

You have found or rescued yourself an animal and you would like him/her to get adopted under DAW's terms and conditions, but instead of putting this animal through the stressful experience of a shelter environment, you offer him/her the possibility to stay with you until we can find a forever home:

- 2.1.1 In this case, we still need you to fill in a Fostering Application Form so that we can have all your details, and we also need you to sign the fostering contract so that the animal becomes the "property" and responsibility of DAW.
- 2.1.2 In certain cases it can happen that we need to conduct a site visit to your home in order to comply with our policies and policies.
- 2.1.3 We also need you to take plenty of photos of the animal and send them to info@deadanimalswalking.co.za ASAP so that we can load it on our website and Facebook page and send out newsletters in search of the perfect home. We do also encourage you to send regular updates and updated photos of the animal (especially in case of a puppy/kitten) as they grow fast and change from one week to the other.

2.2 You would like to foster a DAW Foster:

The second way fostering can happen is if you would like to foster one of our current rescues.

- 2.2.1 In that case you need to fill in a Fostering Application Form so that we can match you with a suitable pet to foster. For example, if you have a female dog who does not get along with other females, we will only have you foster male dogs. If you work full time and cannot care for young puppies, we will only have you foster adults etc.
- 2.2.2 Please note that as part of our procedures and policies, DAW conducts home visits in the foster homes as well.
- 2.2.3 Most of our animals advertised on our Facebook page, are available to go in foster homes, but if you would like to get more information on any specific pet or others at the haven, ask any question about fostering or fill a Fostering Application Form please contact Richelle directly on 072 298 9086 or email info@deadanimalswalking.co.za.
- 2.2.4 Once you have become a foster caregiver, we also encourage you to send us photos and updates on the pet as often as you can so that we can keep updated his profile for advertising in search of forever home.

3. Fostering Terms and Conditions

3.1 How long will I keep a pet?

It's impossible to predict how long an animal will remain in foster care. Some pets are adopted within 24 hours of becoming available. Others wait months for a home. DAW does not euthanize an animal for taking too long to be adopted. Our animals stay with us for as long as it takes. If you cannot commit to this kind of unpredictable long-term care, you might wish to help in other ways. We expect our adopters to never give up on their pets, so we expect the same from our foster caregivers.

3.2 How does it work with costs, etc.?

- 3.2.1 No costs should be incurred except fuel unless the foster home chooses to spoil their foster pet rotten; **however, we take no responsibility to damage of objects, home or garden in any kind of way.**
- 3.2.2 DAW can also provide food for the pet upon request if the foster family can't do so themselves.



3.3 Adoption days

- 3.3.1 We generally ask our foster caregivers to try to bring their foster pet to at least 1 or 2 adoption days every month to help give their foster pet more exposure and a better chance of being adopted, and this is applicable especially to puppies and kittens since they grow very fast.
- 3.3.2 We will of course do our best to notify all our fosters at least 4 days in advance of our adoption days, but with our hectic schedule, unexpected things can always happen.

4. Fostering Guidelines

4.1 Upon arrival

The puppy / dog will come to you having received its first vaccine and will have been de-wormed and de-fleaed unless otherwise specified. In some cases, the animal will have been sterilized, in which case you would need to keep an eye on the wound. Please provide him / her / them with a safe, soft, warm place to recover from the stress of street or township life.

4.2 Feeding

We would be really grateful if you could provide some good food (Science Diet, Vet's Choice, chicken, veg and rice) appropriate for its age and size.

<i>Young puppies (<4 months)</i>	<i>Older puppies (>4 months)</i>	<i>Grown dogs (>1 year)</i>
Please feed small amounts 4 times per day. Don't feed large quantities of food at a time; smaller amounts throughout the day are best.	Slightly larger amounts 3 times per day (as per manufacturer's instructions). Don't over-feed. Puppies don't know when they've had enough!	As per the amounts indicated on the food bag, generally twice a day. If the animal is emaciated, small amounts throughout the day are preferable. Avoid chicken bones and especially pork bones.
As a general rule: Do NOT feed Pro-Nutro, Do NOT give milk, Do NOT overfeed, Do NOT change diet suddenly. Please note consistency of stools: if bloody, or mucousy, please advise us, as we would then need to arrange treatment. Worms are normal in the first few stools in response to the dewormer administered. Feed on a diet of chicken and white rice until stomach improves. Slowly re-introduce pellets to the chicken and rice recipe.		

4.3 Water

Always have fresh water available. Be cautious of large containers of water (buckets, etc.) that young puppies could topple into and drown.

4.4 House training

Chances are your foster child may not be house-trained so please practice patience in helping them to understand that outside is the place to do it. Give a lot of praise when they do their business in the right place (on newspaper / outside). Do not punish the animal for making wee's and poo's inside – rather praise and reward them when they do it in the right place.

4.5 In general, please be careful

- 4.5.1 When opening and closing doors – make sure no heads or paws are in the way.
- 4.5.2 That you don't accidentally step on and squash a little pup.
- 4.5.3 That they don't get hold of small objects that they could choke on.
- 4.5.4 When providing toys that they do not have long strings attached that could result in strangulation.
- 4.5.5 To ensure that the animal does not escape from your property.
- 4.5.6 To ensure that the animal is supervised in the presence of young children and other animals.



Initials :

4.6 Please be on the alert for

- 4.6.1 Loss of appetite
- 4.6.2 Lethargy
- 4.6.3 Diarrhea / vomiting
- 4.6.4 Discharge from eyes / nose
- 4.6.5 Pale gums

If any of these symptoms manifest – please notify us immediately.

5. Getting the animal adopted

5.1 What if I get attached?

- 5.1.1 Getting attached to your foster pet is normal. After all, we do this because we love rescued furkids! The most common question foster caregivers generally are asked is how they can give them up. The answer is simple. It saves lives. It is hard to say goodbye to a pet you've fallen in love with, but the alternative is even sadder. Foster parents get the satisfaction of helping a previously lost, neglected, abused and unwanted animal find a loving forever home. That makes it all worth it. The trick is to get attached with velcro and not glue.
- 5.1.2 If you do decide that you can't give up an animal, that's ok, too. Foster caregivers can go through the adoption process and pay the adoption fee (these fees help us cover our other rescues in our care and bills) just like any other adopter would. The important thing is to think about what is in the animal's best interest. Sometimes, even if we love them, the best thing for the pet is to let them go and perhaps help another.

5.2 Adoption procedure

- 5.2.1 We will screen all adoption applicants by having them fill out Adoption Application Forms and should we find them suitable, we will refer them to you so that you can make arrangements for them to view the animal.
- 5.2.2 In such cases, we also appreciate your input and feedback on potential homes and possible assistance with site inspections as you would know what he or she would need.
- 5.2.3 **No animal is to leave your care without our confirmation that forms have been completed and payment received.**

6. How do I become a pet foster caregiver?

- 6.1 If you feel you can help in any way, please fill the foster application form. If you have specific questions about fostering for DAW, please email info@deadanimalswalking.co.za
- 6.2 Also, DAW has a very good mentoring system for new foster caregivers and a dedicated Foster Caregiver Coordinator can offer sound advice when problems do occur.
- 6.3 Finally, we do have very experienced foster caregivers as well, who are always happy to help with any issues you may be having.

We hope you find your fostering experience an enriching one and we thank you for your willingness to open up your heart and home to an animal in need!

