

# Mentor Form for Blue Dot Dog Fosters

Mentee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check each item below to indicate it has been introduced and/or practiced as appropriate.** Please complete this form and leave in the Volunteer Coordinator's office.

## Skills/Talking Points

\_\_\_\_\_ Before leaving the shelter ensure that you have the essential supplies for your foster dog

- Properly fitted martingale collar (2 finger rule)
- EZ-walk harness
- Toys – especially for high energy dogs (kong, nylabone, etc.)
- Crate – always have a crate or somewhere that you can safely leave the dog when not supervised

\_\_\_\_\_ Discuss behaviors observed in the shelter environment vs. home environment

\_\_\_\_\_ Have a plan for introducing the foster dog to current dog(s) in home

- Know your dog's play style
- Slow introduction/monitor body language
- Long walk with current dog(s)
- Leave leash on until comfortable
- Limit free access to toys/bones
- Have plan for keeping separate if need be (crate, separate rooms, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Always keep dog separate from cats or other small animal(s) in the home – the small animal(s) should have an escape route and safe place to relax

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand that some dogs take longer to decompress when transitioning from shelter to home

- Have plan to burn off nervous energy
- Give them space and time to relax
- Don't overstimulate

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand separation anxiety and how to manage and/or work on the behavior

- Is aware of the benefits of crate training/use and how to develop a positive relationship
- Protect your personal belongings – don't leave a fearful dog loose in your home alone

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand how to work with jumpy/mouthy/high energy dogs

- Basic training skill set (sit, stay, down, look, touch, recall)
- Have helpful tools (Kongs, laser pointer, pet corrector, metal leash, play nose games)
- Don't overstimulate/use timeouts

\_\_\_\_\_ Discuss how to work with fearful dogs

- Slow and steady
- Build trust
- Recognize body language
- Work on introducing dog to new people and situations
- Watch exits! Fearful dogs can be flight risks

- \_\_\_\_\_ Knows what to do with a leash reactive dog if out on walks (e.g., get attention/treats, turn and avoid conflicts/engage-disengage game, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is aware of resource guarding and has skill set to manage and/or work on issue
  - Remove the resource (toys, food, etc.) especially if other animals are around
  - Trade resource for treats/praise
  - Safety first! training vs. provoking (don't test food guarding by sticking hand in dog's food bowl)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is aware of techniques to separate dogs if involved in conflict (own pets or as on walks)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Know that you're not alone and there are resources to help – don't be afraid to ask!!!
  - Volunteer trainers
  - Shelter staff
  - Blue dot foster mentor
  - FB group
- \_\_\_\_\_ Understanding of procedures for adopting from foster care and the proper way to introducing foster dog to potential adopters and other pet(s) in the home
  - What to do when more than one adopter wants to meet the dog
  - Where to meet (shelter may not be the best place to show the dog)
  - How to talk about the foster with potential adopters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Knows what to do in case of emergency and have phone numbers programmed into your phone
  - Always have the pet's shelter 3A# with you!
  - Medical emergency - call Pender (703) 591-3304 and the Foster Coordinator
  - Bite report – call Animal Control (703) 691-2131 and let Amanda know immediately
  - Lost dog – call Animal Control (703) 691-2131 and let Amanda know immediately

## Feedback

In your opinion, does this conditional Blue Dot foster:

- 1) Listen to input/follow advice and show good independent problem solving skills? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Ask questions when he/she seems confused? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Follow all safety procedures and guidelines? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Understand that he/she needs to observe behavior? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If no, why: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Need another mentoring session? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
If yes, why: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Handle walking big, energetic dogs well? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Other comments or concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_