Mentor Form for Adult Dog Fosters

Mentor(s) Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________

Mentor: ___________________________

Check each item below to indicate it has been introduced and/or practiced as appropriate. After in-shelter training session, please complete this form and return it to the Foster Coordinator.

Skills/Talking Points

_____ Know where in the shelter you can find 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 – cats and small animals 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, metal leash, play nose games)
   • Don’t overstimulate/use timeouts
   • Practice taking at least one jumpy/mouthy/high energy dog out of the kennel for walking/play time

_____ 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
• Practice taking at least one fearful dog out of the kennel for walking/play time
  ■ 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.)
• Practice these skills with at least one shelter dog
  ■ 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 (practice this technique with at least 1 shelter dog)
  • 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!!!
    • Foster coordinator
    • Behavioral staff or other behavioral support
    • Adult dog foster mentor
    • The shelter’s Facebook volunteer/foster 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 your foster dog’s shelter ID # with you!
    • Foster coordinator- call __________________________________________
    • Medical emergency - call __________________________________________
    • Bite report – call _____________________________________________
    • Lost dog – call ________________________

Feedback
In your opinion, does this conditional adult dog 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:________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________