

Buster's Story

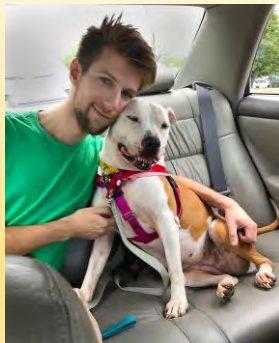
Buster at home



What do we mean when we say 'foster'?

Getting medium and large adult dogs out of the shelter, off the shelter premises for any length of time for one of many reasons including:

- More humane
- Make space
- Prevent dog from dying
- It's fun
- Helps get a dog a home
- See the 'real' dog
- Show the world how cool this dog is
AKA market the dog for adoption



A word about liability....



- Risk is inherent in anything we do with animals because animals are inherently unpredictable
- You can mitigate risk by having clear, defined processes and procedures
- Full disclosure is your duty to any volunteer or foster caregiver
- *A foster caregiver waiver, reviewed by an attorney, helps protect you and your organization*

Background



<http://www.maddiesfund.org/innovative-fostering-saving-more-dogs-with-behavioral-challenges.htm>

Innovative Fostering: Saving More Dogs with Behavioral Challenges

August 2016 by Kristin Auerbach
Audience: Executive Leadership, Foster Caregivers, Shelter/Rescue Staff & Volunteers, Veterinary Staff

Has your shelter struggled to achieve live outcomes for dogs who display common behavioral challenges like kennel stress, barrier reactivity and fear-based aggression? Would you like to turn that situation around and achieve permanent live outcomes for more than 90% of them?

A behavioral foster study in Fairfax County, Virginia, did just that over a two-year period by placing 52 medium and large dogs at risk of euthanasia for behavioral reasons in foster homes.

Whether you're a volunteer, rescuer or shelter worker, you'll be surprised at the study findings when researchers followed up with these dogs' adopters six to eighteen months after their adoption. The study results will change your thinking on behavioral assessments and show you how to push the limits of fostering in order to save more lives.

Join us for *Innovative Fostering: Saving More Dogs with Behavioral Challenges*. The on-demand version is now available, just register to watch the free webcast below.

REGISTER FOR THE FREE WEBCAST HERE

Attendees will learn:

- How to save dogs that display behavioral challenges in a kennel environment.
- How the foster experience does not match up to what we learn from shelter behavior and temperament.

Resources & Links

- Austin Animal Center
- Presentation Handout
- 2015 SAAW Article - Foster Study
- Annual Shelter Foster and Volunteer Facebook Group
- Dog Foster Profile
- Field Trip Foster Guidelines
- Foster Agreement
- Foster Program Manual
- Marketing Tips from Foster Care
- Medium and Large Adult Dog Foster Manual
- Short-Term Dog Foster Manual
- Mentor Form for Training New

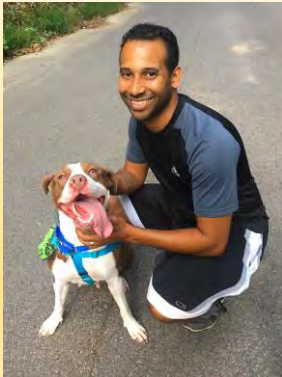
The Maddie's Fund Adult Dog Foster Study

Over a one-year period, animal shelters place 30 medium and large, adult dogs in foster homes, measuring behavior, length-of-stay and outcomes versus a control group of 30 dogs who stay in shelter.

- Louisville
- Austin
- New York City
- Los Angeles
- Tucson
- Kansas City
- Ventura County



Preliminary results of study:



- Dogs in foster for seven days are significantly more: Happy, content, pleased, confident, sure, assertive, fearless, relaxed, calm and easygoing.
- Dogs in foster for seven days are less anxious, worried and show less of the following behaviors: panting, shaking/trembling, circling, jumping.

The Maddie's Fund Foster-Centric Project at PACC



2. Make all your volunteers fosters



3. Talk about foster all the time

4. Make foster pleas public



5. Remove barriers to fostering



6. Make it as easy to foster as it is to adopt



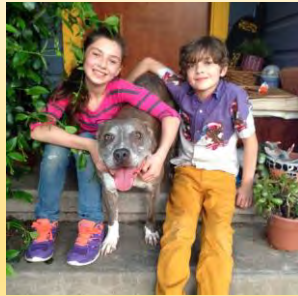
7. Let people foster for any length of time



3. Let your volunteers help you!

Ways your volunteers can help:

- Marketing shelter pets to get them to foster
- Taking foster pets to events
- Marketing foster pets
- Identifying dogs who need foster the most
- Being point of contact for fosters
- Meeting potential adopters
- Providing behavioral support
- Providing post adoption follow-up
- Spreading the word about foster!



4. Communicate with fosters



5. Celebrate their successes



6. Have a foster-to-adopt program



7. Let fosters bring dogs back if it doesn't work out



The bottom line....

Foster is a safe, humane, cost effective alternative to housing medium and large dogs in shelter kennels.

Even the very best shelter is still a place where dogs undergo extreme stress due to living in a near-constant solitary confinement. Foster is the solution to this problem.