



# Foster Care Manual

This manual is provided as a reference guide for the volunteers of the foster program to aid in the care and needs of animals associated with Wolf Trap Animal Rescue.



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# Points of Contact

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## Introduction & Mission of the Foster Program

Welcome to the Wolf Trap Animal Rescue foster program. Your volunteer contributions allow us to continue our fight against the euthanasia of adoptable animals and to make a difference in the lives of companion animals.

Wolf Trap Animal Rescue is a life saving partnership developed between several shelters and other transport organizations in Mississippi, and PetSmart Charities®. This partnership serves to rescue animals in Mississippi from situations that are not manageable in a shelter setting, and hopefully, intersect animals from being taken to a shelter as a last resort. Once rescued, animals are transported by volunteers of Wolf Trap Animal Rescue from Mississippi to Virginia, where they will reside in foster homes until they find their forever home through on-site adoption events provided by PetSmart Charities®.

The primary reason for foster care is to provide a temporary home for a potentially adoptable animal. Although previous fostering experience is not required, the ideal foster care provider will have basic knowledge of animal care and training and be committed to finding their foster animal a safe and loving “forever home.” As a foster care volunteer, you are expected to provide the animals with care including food, water, shelter, training, grooming and medical treatment when necessary.

The mission and goal of the Foster Program is the placement of adoptable animals, largely through the efforts of the Foster Program. The Foster Program is a cornerstone program for the Rescue and will save thousands of animal’s lives. As the numbers of unaltered and unwanted pets increase, so does the euthanasia rate of thousands of pets every year. Our numbers of rescued animals will continue to grow, as will the need for volunteers to help save lives. Foster Volunteers, you have given the animals you have cared for and loved a very special gift– a second chance at a full and wonderful life.

**As Foster Volunteers, you have given the animals you have cared for and loved a very special gift– a second chance at a full and wonderful life.**

**THANK YOU FOSTER VOLUNTEERS!**

# The Foster Experience

**Placement.** The need for foster volunteers is published on the WTAR Facebook page. Fosters must fill out a foster application and sign up on the calendar or WTAR App to reserve a foster spot. You can specify the type of animal you would like to foster, i.e. dog, cat, gender, breed mix, size, age, etc., when you sign up on the calendar or WTAR app. WTAR will try their best to match the foster up with the closest animal that meets these preferences, but there are no guarantees. If you live a good distance away from the Tysons Corner Animal Hospital. WTAR will do their best to assign an animal to you that has already been spayed or neutered. It will depend largely upon what animals are available at the time. The Rescue will contact you prior to the Intake date to ensure that you are still able to foster. You will also receive a “Foster Logistics” email sometime during the week prior to picking up your foster animal.

One of our most common needs for foster care is for puppies between the ages of 4 - 12 weeks. Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old to be placed for adoption. Young puppies are usually placed into foster care with a littermate, but occasionally we will separate a large litter or have a single orphan puppy that needs care.

**Mandatory Online Training.** All new fosters must watch a Puppy 101 and medical briefing video before fostering.

**Length of the Foster Period.** The duration of the foster period is usually 2 to 3 weeks, and is considered a quarantine period. This time allows the animals to mature, socialize and begin their vaccination series. It also gives the foster time to observe the animal and identify any medical or behavioral issues.

**Foster animals must stay in the immediate care and residence of their assigned foster volunteer during the entire foster period.**

**If you cannot fulfill your obligation for the entire foster period, due to unforeseen circumstances, contact the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to place the animal in another foster home. The WTAR staff will do their best to find a suitable replacement foster as soon as possible. Leaving your foster in anyone else’s care, without approval from the WTAR staff, is PROHIBITED!**

## The First 24 Hours

Your foster animal has just completed a long journey from Mississippi to Virginia. Oftentimes, they are hungry, tired and scared. Therefore, the first 24 hours is a reset/adjustment period for the animal. They must be given the opportunity to adjust to new surroundings, new food, etc.

Each animal is offered food and water upon arrival. However, due to the fact that they may be car sick or have eaten too fast, they may vomit and/or not show much interest in food right away. If this continues throughout the day, you can give your animal 1 Pepcid tablet, wait 1-2 hours for the Pepcid to take effect, then offer your animal dinner.

You may also notice that your animal has diarrhea. This can be caused by the stress of having made the long trip north or due to the fact that they were given a dewormer upon arrival.

About that...worms that is...regardless of whether your animal has diarrhea or not, you may notice worms in their stool (dead or alive). This is completely normal. The dewormer causes the worms to detach from the intestines and are discharged through the bowl. There are two types of worms that are visible to the eye: Round Worms (they look like long, thin pieces of spaghetti and Tapeworms (they look like granules of white rice). Any worms that your animal has passed should all be gone in 24-48 hours. If you are still seeing worms after 48 hours, you should contact the rescue, as your animal might need another round of dewormer.

You may see fleas and/or ticks on your animal. They were given a flea and tick preventative upon arrival, but it takes a little while for the critters to die off. You should give your pup a bath, when you get them home with a mild puppy shampoo. If you are still noticing live fleas on your pup, after a couple of days, you can give them a bath with Dawn dish liquid. Do not use Dawn repeatedly, as it has a tendency to dry out the animal's skin, which could lead to other problems.

Your animal may also be tired, when you get him or her home. Again, they have just completed a big journey. Give them time to rest during this reset period.

**If after 24 hours, your animal is still not eating (You have given Pepcid); is vomiting; lethargic; has explosive, watery and/or bloody diarrhea; contact Dr. Burton immediately.**

A good rule of thumb for the first 24 hours, and throughout the duration of the foster period, is to observe and report any medical problems with the animal to the rescue's vet, Dr. Burton immediately. If you do not get a response after 2 hours, or the situation escalates rapidly, please contact the Foster Coordinator or Admin Staff. Under no circumstances should foster pets be taken to another vet, clinic or animal emergency facility unless approved by Dr. Burton or another WTAR staff member.

## Foster Volunteer Duties/Responsibilities

**\*\* Your animal must go home from Intake in a travel carrier or on a leash \*\***

### **Daily**

Feeding – It may be necessary to feed your animal 2 to 4 times a day (generally, 1/2 to 1 cup per feeding unless instructed otherwise).

Supply fresh food and water Wash food and water bowls.

Clean area where foster pet urinates and defecates; check for problems (bloody urine, bloody stools, runny stools, worms).

Observe the foster pet for symptoms of health problems.

Ensure the animal's safety and respond to the animal's needs.

Isolate foster animals from your own resident animals when necessary.

Play with and socialize your foster pet. Familiarize the animal with being handled  
Supervise your animal both inside your home and outside.

Travel in the car with your animal in its travel carrier.

Walk your animal on a leash. Do not allow it to walk outside without one.

**Ensure that your resident animals are current on all vaccinations and spayed or neutered. \*The Rescue will not be held liable if your resident animal contracts any illness or injuries due to a foster pet. \***

Check your email. This is the primary means of communication used by WTAR to inform you of Meet and Greet Requests, and provide you with useful information during the foster period.

Maintain confidentiality regarding foster animals and their situations. Return the animal to the Rescue at the appropriate Adoption Day time.

Comply with the Rescue's philosophies and policies, and act as a Rescue representative.

## **As Needed**

Clean bedding

Trim nails (see nail trimming on page 30) – Familiarize the animal with having its paws touched.

Schedule spay/neuter surgery, when prompted via e-mail from the WTAR.

Bring your animal to their spay/neuter appointment.

Join the WTAR Fosters page on Facebook and post pictures of your foster. These photos will be shared on Instagram as a means of advertising your foster.

Update PetEstablished with current photos and a bio of your foster. You will receive an email with a link to your foster's records on PetEstablished during the first couple of days of the foster period.

Respond to potential adopters who have submitted Meet and Greet Requests within 24 hours of notification from WTAR that a potential adopter has been approved for a Meet and Greet.

**DO NOT allow quarantine puppies to visit public areas during the foster period. NO DOG PARKS or areas where other animals have been allowed to go to the bathroom (ex. apartment complex dog walks or poop station areas). They should not come into contact with other dogs, except the foster volunteer's own fully vaccinated animals. There is a higher incidence of disease spreading to and from these immune-compromised animals.**

**Quarantine pups can go outside only in the foster parent's private fenced yard. If a private yard is not available, these pups MUST remain indoors and be paper-trained.**



# Foster Supplies

The Rescue has provided you with the following essential supplies: High- quality food, treats, food/water bowls, pee pads, leash, harness or collar, toys, travel carrier, poop bags

## Other Recommended Supplies to Have On-Hand

Dawn Dish Soap  
Soft, non-ravel blankets/towels Newspaper  
Stain/odor remover  
Toys \*\*  
Brush  
Nail clippers  
Water mister bottle, noisemaker  
Pill applicator or pill pockets  
Crate/Kennel  
Baby Gate  
Rehydrating/electrolyte replacement fluids (Pedialyte® ) Pepcid  
Paper Towels  
Canned Pumpkin  
Chicken - that can be cooked  
Rice - that can be cooked

**\*\* Be Cautious.** Avoid or alter toys that are not “dog proof.”

Check toy labels for child safety warnings. A stuffed toy that is labeled “safe for children under 3 years old” cannot contain dangerous fillings. Problem fillings include nutshells and polystyrene beads. However, even “safe” stuffing is not digestible. Ensure there are no items attached to the toy that can be chewed off and swallowed.

**AVOID tug-of-war toys, unless they will be used between dogs – not between people and dogs.**

# Animal-Proofing Your Home

Animals are curious creatures. Many are capable of jumping onto high surfaces or squeezing into the smallest of spaces.

**To protect your foster dog/puppy in its new environment, and to safeguard your belongings, it is necessary to animal-proof your house.**

## Kitchens / Bathrooms

- 1) Use childproof latches to keep little paws from prying open cabinets.
- 2) Keep medications, cleaners, chemicals, and laundry supplies on high shelves.
- 3) Keep trash cans covered or inside a latched cabinet.
- 4) Check for and block any small spaces, nooks or holes inside cabinetry, between cabinets and floors, under bathroom cabinets or dishwashers, or behind washer/dryer units.
- 5) Make sure animals haven't jumped into the dryer before you turn it on.
- 6) Keep foods out of reach (even if the food isn't harmful, the wrapper could be).
- 7) Potential food poisons include: Chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, raisins.
- 8) Keep toilet lids closed.

## Living / Family Room

- 1) Place dangling cords from lamps, VCRs, TVs, stereos, and phones out of reach.
- 2) Keep surge protectors off of the floor.
- 3) Keep children's toys put away.
- 4) Put away knickknacks until your dog/puppy has the coordination and/or understanding not to knock them over.
- 5) Remove dangerous items, like string and pins.
- 6) Move houseplants - which can be poisonous - out of reach, including hanging plants that can be jumped onto from other nearby surfaces.
- 7) Put away all sewing and craft notions, especially thread.
- 8) Secure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, to prevent harm from another animal.
- 9) Make sure all heating/air vents have a cover.

## **Garage**

- 1) A garage usually contains many dangerous chemicals and unsafe items. Foster dogs/puppies should never be housed in a garage unless pre-approved by a Foster Care Coordinator.
- 2) Move all chemicals including gardening fertilizers and insecticides to high shelves or behind secure doors.
- 3) Clean up all antifreeze from the floor and driveway, as **one taste can be lethal to an animal.**

## **Bedrooms**

- 1) Keep laundry and shoes behind closed doors (drawstrings and loose buttons can cause major problems).
- 2) Keep any medications, lotions or cosmetics off accessible surfaces (like the bedside table).
- 3) Move electrical and phone wires out of reach of chewing.

## **Potentially Dangerous Situations**

Closet and bedroom doors

Open doors to the outdoors (escape)

Open dryer doors

Open cabinet doors/drawers

Computer wires (electrocution or strangulation)

Folding chairs

Potted plants (possible poisoning or pulling plant off shelf onto animal)

Never underestimate your foster animal's abilities. Accidents happen!



## Cleaning Suggestions

The most common disease organisms dealt with at the shelter are: viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. It is important to consider all objects with which a foster animal may come into contact and disinfect accordingly. This will help protect your companion animals and any future foster animals.

**Cleaning Agents.** It is important to consider which cleaning agents are safe to use on certain surfaces. All surfaces may not be able to be cleaned, but thorough washing and/or vacuuming helps in decreasing the numbers of environmental pathogens. In order to decide on the effectiveness of a particular cleaner, it is important to determine the active ingredients, strength and proper contact time.

**Using bleach as a disinfectant.** The recommended dilution is 1 part bleach to 30 parts water (1/4 cup bleach to 1 gallon water), and the recommended contact time is 10 minutes. **Color-Safe bleach does not disinfect like regular bleach.** Wash animal laundry in a separate load from family laundry. Don't use a fabric softener. Use **unscented** dryer sheets only to cut down on static cling if desired.

**Reading Labels.** It is important to read the labels on non-toxic, environmentally friendly products, like Simple Green®. **It is not a disinfectant.** The company does make a Simple Green D®, which is a disinfectant. This also applies to newer products, including Clorox Wipes®. **Bleach is not an ingredient in this product!**

**Websites.** Some useful websites are [www.pinesol.com](http://www.pinesol.com), [www.cloroxhome.com](http://www.cloroxhome.com), [www.simplegreen.com](http://www.simplegreen.com), or [www.ddfl.org/behavior/cleaning.htm](http://www.ddfl.org/behavior/cleaning.htm). Products like Febreze® are generally safe to use in a home with animals, although some **animals can have allergic reactions. Use these products with discretion.**

**CAUTION: DO NOT USE TILEX®! IT CONTAINS ANTIFREEZE AND IS DEADLY IF INGESTED BY ANIMALS.**



# Cleaning to Remove Pet Odors and Stains

Has your foster dog left “scent marks” of urination and/or defecation on your floor or furniture?

To successfully retrain the animal to avoid these areas and remove these smells/stains, follow these basic steps:

**Find all soiled areas using your nose and eyes.** (Hint: a black light will show urine stains. Turn out all lights in the room, use the black light to identify soiled areas and lightly outline the areas with chalk.)

## Laundering

- 1) Machine wash as usual, adding a 1-pound box of baking soda to the wash along with your regular detergent. Air dry if possible.
- 2) If you can still see or smell the stain, machine wash again and add an enzymatic cleaner. Follow the manufacturer’s directions carefully.
- 3) To discourage future accidents on bedding, cover the bed with a vinyl, flannel-backed tablecloth. They are machine washable, inexpensive, unattractive to the dog and attractive to you.

## For carpeted areas and upholstery

- 1) Soak up as much urine as possible with a combination of newspaper and paper towels. The more fresh urine you can remove before it dries, (especially from carpet), the simpler it will be to remove the odor. Place a thick layer of paper towels on the wet spot and cover with a thick layer of newspaper. Stand on this padding for about 1 minute. Remove the padding; repeat until the area is barely damp.
- 2) If possible, take the FRESH, urine-soaked paper towel to the area where it belongs – such as your dog’s designated outdoor “bathroom area”, and let the dog watch you do it. **Act happy!** This will help to remind your animal that eliminating is not a “bad” behavior as long as it is done in the right place!
- 3) Rinse the affected zone thoroughly with CLEAN, COOL WATER. After rinsing, remove as much of the water as possible by blotting or by using a vacuum designed to pick up liquids.
- 4) **Neutralizing (enzymatic) cleaners will not be effective on the area if you have previously used cleaners or chemicals of any kind on it until you have rinsed every trace of the old cleaner from the carpet.**

- 5) To remove all traces of an old chemical, consider renting an extractor or wet- vac from a local hardware store. This machine operates much like a vacuum cleaner and is an efficient, economical rinsing method.
- 6) Now that the area is clean, use a high-quality pet odor neutralizer available at pet supply stores (look for “enzymatic” cleaners). Test the affected surface for staining first, then read and follow the instructions carefully.
- 7) If the area still looks stained after it is completely dry from extracting and neutralizing, try any good carpet stain remover available.
- 8) If the urine has soaked down into the padding underneath your carpet and /or into wooden baseboards, cleaning will be more difficult. You may need to remove and replace that portion of your carpet padding.
- 9) Make the appropriate “bathroom area” attractive and teach the dog where you want it to urinate/defecate. The retraining period may take a week or more. It took time to build the bad habit, and it will take time to replace that habit with a new, more acceptable one. Treat your foster dog with patience and lots of encouragement!

### **For Floors and Walls**

If the wood in furniture, walls, baseboards or floors is discolored, the acid in the urine has affected the varnish or paint. The layer of varnish or paint may need to be removed.

Washable enamel paints and some washable wallpaper may respond favorably to enzymatic cleaners. Read the instructions carefully and test in a less visible area.

# Safety

## Pet Safety

**Fire Safety** – Include your foster pets in the family fire safety plan, evacuate with your foster on a leash or in a travel carrier, know their hiding places, if you leave your animal... inform firefighters of last known location and hiding places

**Potential Food Poisons** – Chocolate, onions, garlic, grapes, raisins Toxic Plants and foliage

**Harmful Household Liquids** – Detergents, bleach, cleaners, glues, paints, automotive fluids, gardening fertilizers and insecticides

**Dangerous Household Items** – power cords, surge protectors, rubber bands, string

**Medications Intended for Human Consumption** – Pain relievers, Antidepressants, ADHD medication, sleep aids, birth control, beta blockers, blood pressure medications, cholesterol lowering medications

**High Heat and Freezing Cold** – The pads of a dog's feet can become burned or frost bitten from the pavement. Animals can suffer from heat stroke and hypothermia.

**Holiday Hazards** – Poinsettias, hollies, lilies, daffodils, tinsel, Easter grass, Halloween and Easter Candy

**Vehicle Safety** – Animals left in hot cars, use of safety harnesses / carriers / booster seats, keep pet's head and paws inside the vehicle, don't let dog ride in an open truck bed

**Skunks and Scorpions** – spraying from skunks, scorpion sting can cause neurologic, cardiovascular and pulmonary collapse

**Nicotine Poisoning** – Nicotine can cause illness even death in small amounts

**Summer Cookouts** – Keep away from the grill, charcoal, matches, lighter fluid, citronella candles

## Your Safety

**Do NOT put yourself in a compromising situation. Practice safe animal handling and disease control.**

**Report aggressive behavior or a bite that breaks the skin.**

### **Checklist for dealing with a bite incident**

- Clean and flush the wound immediately with soap and water.
- **Report the incident to the Rescue Department.** They will need to know which dog was involved and the circumstances of the bite.
- **See your doctor.** Receive tetanus prophylaxis and antibacterial treatment when required. It is not advised to have sutures or wound closure unless unavoidable. Receive rabies immune globulin and/or vaccine if needed.

**Virginia State law requires any dog or cat that bites and breaks the skin to be placed on a 10-day quarantine for rabies observation.**

During this time, the dog may be quarantined in your home, unless you aren't comfortable with this arrangement. If you prefer, the dog may be returned to the Rescue and placed in a non-public area for the duration of the quarantine.

### **When a Bite is Not Reported:**

**It creates a hazard for others handling that dog.** A dog that has bitten once is usually less inhibited in biting a second time.

**If the bite is never reported, we might release a rabid dog into an otherwise-healthy population.**

**If the dog is rabid,** it could mean the death of the bitten individual and post-exposure treatment for those who have had close contact with the victim. This can include parents, spouse, children, neighbors, and pets.



## Fostering Ill, Injured or Surgery-Recovery Animals

Shelter animals are frequently exposed to diseases that can be contagious to other animals. These illnesses can affect dogs of all ages and can include kennel cough, mites, intestinal parasites, distemper, and Canine Parvovirus commonly known as Parvo. Due to the severity of Canine Parvovirus and the need to seek medical attention quickly, a separate section can be found about Canine Parvovirus on page 28.

On occasion, the Rescue receives animals in need of medical care. The foster care period for a dog recovering from illness, injury or surgery may vary from a few days to months, depending on the severity of the illness/injury and treatment involved.

These animals may require **daily medications or special diets**, as well as regular visits to our clinic and/or veterinarian.

**Facilities Needed.** An easily accessed, easy-to-clean area, separated from your own companion animals, as necessary.

**It is important for injured dogs/puppies to be supervised when outdoors and when interacting with other animals.**

### Suggested Supplies

The Rescue will provide medications and special equipment.

**Food.** The rescue will provide special diets when needed. Appropriate food for the age of the dog or puppy.

### Daily Duties

- 1) Administer medications/ointments, as required
- 2) Exercise animals, as required, for therapy
- 3) Provide "bed-rest" conditions, if required

### As-Needed Duties

- 1) Attend Check-up appointments
- 2) Observe the animal for signs of improvement/deterioration
- 3) Inform the Foster Coordinator immediately, if a problem occurs

Use caution when tending to a sick or injured animal. Do not allow children or other animals to interact with a sick or injured animal.

## Medical Problems

**All animals are evaluated for age, health and temperament before being placed in a foster home.**

**Diseases.** Several diseases are commonly seen in a shelter environment. Diseases have incubation periods before symptoms appear. **Your foster animal may have been infected with a disease before going out into foster care, but not show symptoms until after you have brought it home.**

If the foster animal is showing signs of disease at the time you come to take it home, Dr. Burton will send medications and instructions with you. If symptoms occur once the animal is in your care, please call **Dr. Burton immediately** to schedule a check-up. Please **DO NOT take foster animals to your own veterinarian, unless authorized to do so by Dr. Burton.** *The RESCUE is not able to reimburse volunteers that take foster animals to their own veterinarian.*

**Symptoms.** Symptoms should lessen within a few days of starting medication. If the symptoms persist, call the Foster Coordinator immediately. **It is extremely important to administer all medications and finish the entire prescription.**

**Instructions.** You may be given specific instructions when picking up each foster animal. **Please follow them closely.** These instructions are designed to protect the foster animal, your own animals and those animals belonging to your friends and neighbors. Many diseases are extremely contagious and can live for long periods outside of the 'host' animal.

**Awareness.** Be aware of the animal's general well-being as you feed and play with your foster animals. If you have any health-related concerns, please contact the Foster Coordinator as soon as you notice a problem. **Do NOT wait until a crisis occurs.**

**Know the details.** The Foster Coordinator will want to know details, such as the color or consistency of feces, if the animal is eating, if it is vomiting, is active or listless, are there any changes in behavior.

Be ready to state when the problem began, how often it occurs and whether the condition tends to arise at specific times, (e.g., mealtime, bedtime, after exercise). Watch the clock.

**Emergencies.** If you have a medical emergency (puppy or kitten not breathing, not responsive), contact Dr. Burton immediately. If you do not get a response, contact the Foster Coordinator or Admin Staff. Again, under no circumstances should foster pets be taken to another vet, clinic or animal emergency facility unless approved by Dr. Burton or another WTAR staff member. *The RESCUE is not able to reimburse volunteers that take foster animals to their own veterinarian.*

# Symptoms of Medical Problems – What to Look For

It is important that foster volunteers be able to interpret changes in an animal's appearance, bodily functions and behavior in order to detect signs of illness.

**If you have questions about an animal's health, call the Foster Coordinator and describe the animal's condition over the phone.** Home care instructions can be given and/or an appointment made to have the dog visit the veterinarian.

**The following are some symptoms that require IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:**

**Labored breathing, excessive panting or incessant coughing**

**Vomiting of blood or bile**

**Severe diarrhea, especially when accompanied by vomiting**

**Pronounced limping or paralysis**

**Unconsciousness, seizures, uneven pupil dilation or fainting**

**Marked behavioral changes**

Listed below are symptoms of illness:

## **Eyes**

Yellow or green discharge

**Uneven pupil dilation – seek immediate attention**

Swollen conjunctiva, including 3<sup>rd</sup> eyelid

White film or cloudiness over eye

Yellowing on white part of eyes

Red or blinking eyes – eye irritation, conjunctivitis, injury

## **Ears**

Dark, flaky debris

Dark, waxy discharge with yeasty smell

Yeasty smell with no discharge

Painful when rubbed or cleaned

Frequent scratching at ear

## **Nose**

Yellow or green discharge

Scabs or skin loss

Bleeding from nose

Excessive sneezing

**Nose can be wet or dry. This is not necessarily an indication of illness.**

## **Mouth**

Loss of appetite – in adults, for more than a few days; in puppies, for more than one day

Increased appetite for over a week

Vomiting, usually more than three times

Coughing and/or gagging accompanied by phlegm. Coughing after pressure is placed on the trachea by collar.

Trouble eating or chewing, painful gums or teeth

Bright red gums

Pale gums

Ulcers or lacerations on gums or lips

Excessive salivation, especially a change in the amount of salivation

Altered respiration (labored, shallow or “crackling”)

Panting, with red skin and/or gums – dog is too hot. Cool by taking indoors or shady area and giving slightly salted water or electrolyte solution, like Gatorade®.

**Labored breathing with pale or bluish gums, call the Rescue Veterinarian immediately.**

## **Skin**

Redness

Lacerations

Lumps

Hair loss

Scabs

Frequent scratching

Dry coat - If coat is dry and lackluster, it can be due to illness or improper diet.

**Dehydration is a dangerous condition and will need immediate attention.**

Dehydration is indicated by dry skin, lack of skin elasticity, dry mucous membranes or darker yellow-colored urine. To detect dehydration, follow these steps:

- Gently grasp the loose skin above the dog’s shoulders or along its rib cage, lift the skin and let it drop back into place. If the skin drops back slowly or remains bunched up, the dog may be dehydrated. (Not always accurate in infant animals.)
- Check gums. Dry, sticky and/or pale gums could indicate dehydration.

## **Anal/Genital Area**

Diarrhea - **Bloody, liquid diarrhea, seek immediate attention.**

No bowel movement for more than 48 hours

No urination for more than 24 hours

Discoloration/changes in feces

Hematuria (blood in urine)

### **Gait**

Sudden lameness/limping that doesn't improve with rest within 24 hours Animal experiences pain upon walking or handling.

### **Temperature**

Rectal temperature below 99.5 F or higher than 102.5 F at rest

***Call the Foster Coordinator immediately if rectal temperature is 104 F or higher***

### **Enlarged Lymph Nodes**

Neck

Front legs

Rear legs

### **Behavior**

Lethargic, weakness

Restlessness

Poor appetite

Increased appetite with weight loss

Excessive drinking

Increased urination or accidents in the house

Straining to urinate or defecate

Frequent scratching at ears or skin

Crying, whining, growling

Head-shaking

**Seizure or convulsions, seek immediate attention**

**Call Dr. Burton if your foster puppy/dog exhibits any unusual symptoms. If you are uncertain about any aspect of your foster animal's health, CALL US!**

**When it concerns the health of foster animals, there is no such thing as a "stupid" question!**

# Management of Common Puppy Medical Problems

## How to Take a Temperature

**A dog's normal temperature is from 101 to 102.5** You will need a rectal thermometer to take your foster dog's temperature. Digital thermometers are best. Use petroleum jelly to lubricate the end of the thermometer. Place the thermometer gently into the animal's rectum, (about 1/2 inch for large dogs and about 1/4 inch for small dogs), and leave it there until the digital model beeps. Leave a glass thermometer inside the rectum for about 1 minute.

**Caution: Damage may be done to the rectum of a very small animal if the thermometer is inserted too far into the rectum.**

**Contact the Foster Coordinator immediately if the temperature is over 104 F.**

Decreased activity, limpness and crying for more than 15 minutes can be signs of hypothermia or hypoglycemia.

## Hypothermia

Respiration and heart rate will be decreased. Slowly warm the animal to 97-98 F by wrapping in a blanket, gently rubbing or using a hot-water bottle. Check the hot water bottle frequently to ensure it hasn't lost its heat and is unintentionally cooling the animal. If the dog does not warm in 1-2 hours, it will probably not survive.

## Hypoglycemia

Feed water with Karo® syrup or sugar dissolved in it. Do not use honey. Sports drinks, like Gatorade® may also be used.

## Constipation

Diets rich in fiber can be used to aid in the treatment of the dog's constipation. The fiber increases water retention in the intestines, which softens the stool. The increased bulk also increases the peristaltic movements of the intestine, helping to alleviate the constipation.

If it is determined that the dog's condition is a result of lack of dietary fiber, a diet containing at least 10% fiber should be fed to the dog twice a day. Do not give the animal bones or snacks.

## Diarrhea

Diarrhea can be a simple problem and may only take a consistent diet to improve. If left unchecked, a puppy can die from diarrhea. Call the Rescue Veterinarian if diarrhea persists or contains blood.

# The Meet and Greet Process

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Meet and Greet is for potential adopters to have an opportunity to meet with the puppy(s) they are interested in adopting prior to the adoption event, to determine “if the puppy in the picture” is the puppy for them. It is also an opportunity for puppy foster parents to meet and screen potential adopters, with the hopes of finding the right fit between adopter and puppy.

## **How do I know someone wants to meet with my puppy?**

A potential adopter will contact Wolf Trap Animal Rescue (WTAR) by emailing [foster.adopt@wtarescue.com](mailto:foster.adopt@wtarescue.com). WTAR will instruct them to fill out the online adoption application and to email them back once they have done so. WTAR will send them a Meet and Greet form to complete and return. WTAR will then e-mail you to let you know that an approved adopter has requested a Meet and Greet with your foster puppy and provide you with the potential adopter’s contact information. It is up to you, as the foster parent, to contact the potential adopter to schedule the Meet and Greet. Please contact the potential adopter as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours, after you have received the email from WTAR. Most potential adopters are very excited and eager to meet your puppy. A few minutes seems like an eternity to them.

**NOTE:** If anyone expresses an interest in your puppy through social media, instruct them to email [foster.adopt@wtarescue.com](mailto:foster.adopt@wtarescue.com). Please do not arrange to meet with them without the rescue’s knowledge.

## **Where do we meet?**

The meeting place is up to you. You can have them come to your home, you can go to their home, or you can agree to meet in a public place. Just remember – No Dog Parks or other establishments that are heavily trafficked by other animals like PetSmart or Petco. Pets visiting these establishments often relieve themselves in the store. You do not know their vaccination history and whether a thorough clean-up occurred.

## **What questions should I ask a potential adopter?**

This is a tough one. Choosing an adopter has a lot to do with trusting your gut instincts, and how well you and the puppy mesh with the potential adopters. You are trying to find the “best fit” for your puppy. The way to do this is by watching the interaction between the puppy and the potential adopter, and by striking up a conversation. Some things you might want to inquire about are things like whether they have other pets in the home and what kind; have they ever had a dog / puppy before; would the puppy be left home

alone during the day; what are their plans for keeping the pup safe; if the puppy will be left alone for long periods of time, will they have a dog walker or be able to come home during the day for puppy potty breaks; what ages are their children, if there are children in the home; what are they hoping for in a dog – running companion, couch potato, cuddler, etc. Even if you have only had your puppy in your home for a few days, you know them better than anyone else does. By asking questions like the ones above, you can get some idea whether your puppy's temperament, energy level, etc. will be a good fit for the person you are meeting with and vice versa.

### **What if I believe I have found the right fit for my puppy?**

If you believe you have found your puppy its forever home, you have the ability to surrender your privilege of having priority to adopt your puppy to that person. This is what we refer to as a "Friends and Family" adoption. You are responsible for notifying the adopter that they have been chosen to adopt your puppy, as well as notifying anyone that was not chosen that they were not selected. You must contact WTAR by emailing [foster.adopt@wtarescue.com](mailto:foster.adopt@wtarescue.com) no later than noon on the Wednesday before the adoption event to let them know that your puppy will be going to Friends and Family and provide them with the name of the adopter. This does NOT mean you can end your foster period early and turn over the puppy to the adopter. The adopter, foster parent and puppy must be present on the scheduled adoption day. Please confirm that the adopter has completed the adoption application, and instruct them to arrive at the Tysons Corner PetSmart located at 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA and line up in aisle 15 between 8:30 and 9:00. They will attend a private adoption event starting at 9:00 a.m. - ahead of those vying for a puppy in the public adoption event. You will need to be there at 8:30, so Dr. Burton can vaccinate the animal, as appropriate, and check the incision site of those animals who were spayed or neutered during the foster period. Please ensure you return all remaining foster supplies. We will ask you to make a donation to the rescue for any missing non-consumable items.

### **What if I am not able to find the right home for my puppy?**

You have two options:

1. Continue fostering until the next Adoption event
2. Ask us in advance for a new foster. Please note: it can take 3-4 days to find a new foster.



## The Adoption Process

The foster has the first right of refusal on whether to adopt their puppy or kitten.

All adoptions are processed on-site at the PetSmart Tysons Corner located at 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182. The adopter, foster parent and puppy must be present on the scheduled adoption day. Please confirm that the adopter has completed the adoption application. The process for the Friends and Family / Private Adoption is outlined above in the Meet and Greet Section. You will check in with your animal at the check-in table located at the back of the store. Once you have checked in, you will be instructed to get in line to see Dr. Burton.



## Spay and Neuter

**Policy.** Wolf Trap Animal Rescue requires that animals put into our adoption program be spayed or neutered. Dr. Burton will send a spay/neuter logistics email approximately one week prior to the available surgery dates. It is mandatory for fosters who have an animal that has not been spayed or neutered to sign up for a surgery date. Failure to sign up, or bring the animal to surgery, will result in denial of future foster opportunities.

**Eligibility.** The animal must be healthy (no upper-respiratory or canine cough). Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old and weigh over two pounds.

**The Night Before Surgery.** Animals should not have food or water after midnight the night before surgery. Adult dogs should not have food after 6:00 p.m. the night before their surgery.

**The Day of Surgery.** Please drop off your animal at the Tysons Corner Animal Hospital located at 8496 Tyco Road, Vienna, VA between 7:30 and 8:00 am the day of surgery. Puppies/dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier. Animals must be picked up from the clinic by 11:00 a.m., unless prior approval/arrangements have been made. If you are unable to keep your dog's surgical appointment, please notify the Foster Coordinator.

### **What to Expect Post Surgery**

Adult female dogs and cats take 10 days to fully recover. Adult male dogs and cats take 7 days to fully recover. . Puppies and kittens take 3 to 5 days to recover, unless problems arise. If young males have undescended (cryptorchid) testes, they will be neutered when the testes descend or when they are 6 months old.

There may be a shaved area on one of the animal's front legs. This is where an IV catheter may have been placed in order to administer anesthesia.

The incision site has been closed with sutures and surgical glue. There will be a small, green line near the incision site. This mark identifies the animal as having been spayed or neutered.

The animal may be a little tired the rest of the day. They may experience some nausea and vomiting from the anesthesia the first couple of days after surgery. They may also experience some diarrhea (most likely caused by stress).

## **Post-Surgical Care**

Your foster animal should be kept as quiet as possible after surgery, with lots of rest away from other pets and active children. No rough housing for 2-3 days. Avoid jumping and stair climbing. Foster dogs or puppies should be walked on a leash and not allowed to run freely through the yard.

Once home, you can introduce food and water slowly. As mentioned before, they may be nauseous and throw up whatever you give them. Do not force them to eat. You can try again later in the evening.

The incision should be kept dry for 10 days (no bathing or swimming during this time). Check the incision daily for excessive swelling, blood, puss, reddening, or anything else unusual. If you notice any of these things, contact the rescue. Do not allow the animal to lick or chew at the incision. This may lead to infection or other serious complications. If licking or chewing becomes a problem, contact the rescue for an “E-collar” to prevent further irritation of the incision.

Check the incision daily. Watch for excessive swelling, blood, pus, reddening, painfulness, or anything else unusual. Do not allow the animal to lick or chew at the incision. This may lead to infection or other serious complications. If licking or chewing becomes a problem, call immediately for an “E- collar” to prevent further irritation of the incision.

# Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs, but unvaccinated dogs and puppies younger than four months old are the most at risk. Dogs that are ill from canine parvovirus infection are often said to have "parvo." The virus affects dogs' gastrointestinal tracts and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces (stool), environments, or people. The virus can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying, and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. Even trace amounts of feces from an infected dog may harbor the virus and infect other dogs that come into the infected environment. The virus is readily transmitted from place to place on the hair or feet of dogs or via contaminated cages, shoes, or other objects.

## Signs of Parvovirus

Most deaths from parvovirus occur within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs. If your puppy or dog shows any of these signs, you should contact Dr. Burton immediately.

## Diagnosis and Treatment

Some of the signs of parvovirus include lethargy; loss of appetite; abdominal pain and bloating; fever or low body temperature (hypothermia); vomiting; and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Persistent vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and damage to the intestines and immune system can cause septic shock.

Fecal testing can confirm the diagnosis. No specific drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs, and treatment is intended to support the dog's body systems until the dog's immune system can fight off the viral infection. Treatment should be started immediately and consists primarily of intensive care efforts to combat dehydration by replacing electrolyte, protein and fluid losses, controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and preventing secondary infections. Sick dogs should be kept warm and receive good nursing care. When a dog develops parvo, treatment can be very expensive, and the dog may die despite aggressive treatment. Early recognition and aggressive treatment are very important in successful outcomes.

With proper treatment, survival rates can approach 90%.

Since parvovirus is highly contagious, isolation of infected dogs is necessary to minimize spread of infection. Proper cleaning and disinfection of contaminated kennels and other areas where infected dogs are (or have been) housed is essential to control the spread of parvovirus.

## **Preventing Parvovirus**

Vaccination and good hygiene are critical components of prevention.

Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine parvovirus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally be infected by parvovirus and develop disease. To reduce gaps in protection and provide the best protection against parvovirus during the first few months of life, a series of puppy vaccinations are administered. Puppies should receive a dose of canine parvovirus vaccine between 14 and 16 weeks of age, regardless of how many doses they received earlier, to develop adequate protection. To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's parvovirus vaccination is up- to-date.

Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when bringing their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, kennels, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs. Contact with known infected dogs and their premises should always be avoided.

In spite of proper vaccination, a small percentage of dogs do not develop protective immunity and remain susceptible to infection.

Finally, do not let your puppy or adult dog come into contact with the fecal waste of other dogs while walking or playing outdoors. Prompt and proper disposal of waste material is always advisable as a way to limit spread of canine parvovirus infection as well as other diseases that can infect humans and animals.

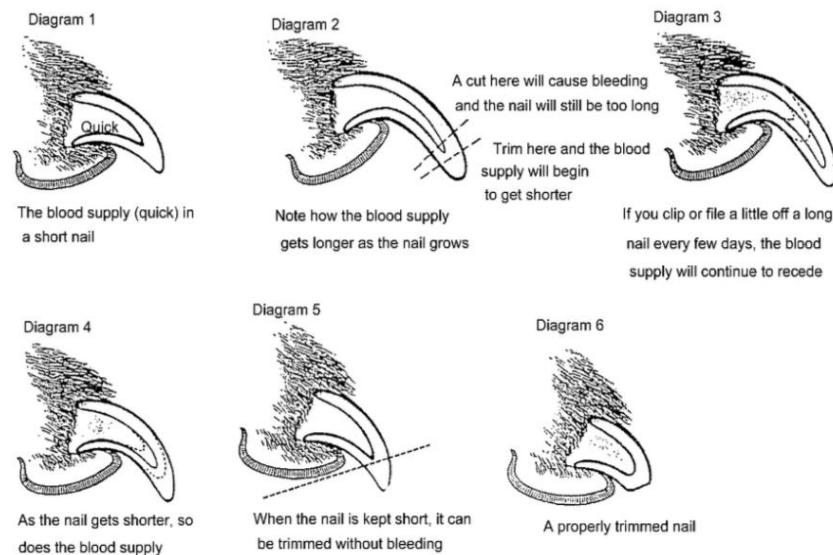
Dogs with vomiting or diarrhea or other dogs which have been exposed to ill dogs should not be taken to kennels, show grounds, dog parks, or other areas where they will come into contact with other dogs. Similarly, unvaccinated dogs should not be exposed to ill dogs or those with unknown vaccination histories. People who are in contact with sick or exposed dogs should avoid handling other dogs or at least wash their hands and change their clothes before doing so.

# Nail Trimming

Nails grow continuously. When nails are not worn down naturally by activity, they may need to be trimmed.

Nail clippers with 2 cutting edges (human toe or fingernail clippers) work best for puppies and tiny dog breeds. Heavy-duty dog nail clippers are best for use on adult dogs.

Lift the dog's paw and gently squeeze one toe between your thumb and finger to extend the nail. Observe where the quick is located. Clip the nail well in front of the quick. Clipping the tip of the nail is sufficient.



The quick may be difficult to see on dark or black nails. If you can't see the quick, cut the nail just in front of where it starts to curve downward.

**If you accidentally cut the quick, the dog will feel pain and the nail will bleed. Apply pressure over the bleeding nail with a cotton ball for a couple of minutes until the bleeding stops.**

Do not apply pressure on the toe by squeezing, as this will cause the nail to keep bleeding. If bleeding persists, dip the nail in flour or cornstarch to aid in clotting. If severe bleeding occurs, a styptic pencil or Kwik-Stop® may be needed. Remember to trim the dewclaws, if present. They grow above the paws on the inner leg.

**If you are uncomfortable trimming your foster dog's nails, do not attempt it. Ask for assistance from the Foster Coordinator.**

# Suggested Phrases to Use When Speaking to Potential Adopters and/or Writing Your Foster Information Sheet

## **If the dog is not good with young children:**

**Don't say:** "He cannot go to a home with children"

**Say:** "...would do best in a mature home"

## **If the dog needs obedience training:**

**Don't say:** "He needs obedience training."

**Say:**

"...enjoys learning and responds well to training"

"...is a dog with a lot of potential; and will do great with some basic training"

"...is ready and willing to start obedience classes at Petsmart"

"...will be easily trained and will quickly fit into your family"

"...is already responding to basic obedience commands."

## **If the dog is hyperactive:**

**Don't say:** "He is hyperactive."

**Say:**

"...high-energy friend"

"...your jogging partner"

"...enthusiastic, spirited, eager to please"

## **If the dog needs to be a single pet:**

**Don't say:** "He doesn't like other animals"

**Say:**

"...looking to be the top dog in a one-dog home"

"...Can't wait for your full attention, and will do best if she is the only dog"

"...Enjoys the status of being the only dog in the home"

**If the dog is nervous:**

**Don't say:** "He is nervous"

**Say:**

"...is eager to find a quiet household"

"...is looking for a patient person who can help her become more self-confident"

"...will do best in an adult household"

**If the dog isn't housetrained:**

**Say:**

"...is working on it"





# Fostering Mama Dogs and their Young Puppies

On Occasion, the Rescue receives nursing mama dogs with their infant puppies. Foster homes are needed to provide nursing mothers a safe, warm environment in which they can raise their young.

In this type of situation, foster volunteers closely monitor the progress of the litter. They also provide attention and socialization to the adult animal and the growing babies. Occasionally, puppies are orphaned and need to be bottle fed and hand-reared by humans.

## **Daily Duties**

Feed and water nursing mothers - observe their overall health and behavior.

Feed orphaned puppies, as often as every 2 hours, depending on their needs, throughout the day and night.

Supplement any puppies requiring extra care with formula, if needed.

Stimulate orphaned babies to urinate and defecate after every feeding.

Clean orphaned puppies after feedings.

While handling puppies, look for signs of development (eyes open, earflaps unfolding, teeth erupting).

Clean and sterilize nursing bottles/syringes and nipples. Help nursing mothers when they are ready to wean infants.

**Facilities needed.** Infant puppies are easily kept in small carriers, baskets, playpens or boxes. As they grow, they will require an easy-to-clean area separate from your own companion animals, yet not isolated from normal activities.

## **Nesting Box Environment**

A clean, warm, dry, quiet site should be provided for the mother dog to raise her young. A whelping box is essential for optimum survival of the mother and her babies.

The box should be large enough for the mother dog to comfortably lie away from the litter if she chooses, but small enough so the babies are easy for you to reach. The sides need to be high enough to prevent the young from wandering, but low enough for the mother to be able to come and go with ease.

The box should be lined with appropriate materials. If you are using a cardboard or wooden box, line the bottom with heavy plastic. Then, several layers of clean newspaper should be laid on the box floor to absorb moisture and odor. Next, clean, dry, soft, non-ravel material should be placed on top of the newspaper (disposable diapers, blankets, mattress pad, etc).

Examine towels or blankets after each washing to ensure they remain free from any holes or frayed edges. Having towels or blankets in the nesting box provides good traction so the young ones can crawl around without slipping.

Never place puppies in deep, loose bedding, (straw, hay, or shavings). These might obstruct breathing or be inhaled and cause respiratory infections.

### **Maintaining Temperature**

**Drafts/dampness will chill neonates (very young puppies) even when room temperature is sufficient. Do not place cardboard boxes housing the young on concrete; this will draw a large amount of heat away from them. Newborn puppies can be especially challenging to rehabilitate. These tiny puppies are not thermal regulating and must have moist heat to maintain their core body temperature until they are three weeks old.**

It is a good idea to purchase a small thermometer, and place it in the nesting box with the puppies to monitor environmental temperature. **Check the temperature often.**

**The environmental temperature should be maintained between 80° F and 90°F.**

**The temperature level of the puppies should be 85-95F. A heating pad/blanket (set on low) can be used for puppies less than 3 weeks, but be very careful if using these items. They can become too hot and cause burns. If either of these items is used, it should be placed underneath the nesting box and only cover half of the nesting box space. By doing this, puppies can crawl to a cooler spot if they overheat.** The cord can be placed inside a PVC pipe to prevent electrocution from biting the cord. The puppies should be able to maintain their body temperature without any additional heat source by 3 weeks of age, but will still need something to cuddle with, like a blanket or stuffed toy.

An easy way to provide moist heat is to saturate a small washcloth or towel and place it in a zip-lock plastic bag, then close the bag. Use a fork to perforate one side of the bag with many small holes, and then place the bag, perforated side up, under the bedding in the infants' container. Place the container 1/2 on and 1/2 off a heating pad set on "low". The puppies should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.

## **Feeding the Nursing Mother**

Factors that influence the mother's health, labor or delivery will affect the health of the newborn animals.

**Because milk production requires energy, the mother's food and water supply should be increased 2 to 4 times her normal intake, and be available at all times.**

## **Bottle Feeding Orphaned Puppies**

When young puppies are orphaned (bottle babies), foster volunteers are needed to bottle-feed them and provide them with **round-the-clock** care. Foster volunteers must feed, stimulate young puppies to eliminate, take care of their grooming requirements, and monitor their progress closely.

**Please be aware that these are the hardest fosters, requiring the most time and attention. The first few weeks of a young puppy's life can be stressful, and not all survive. These young animals are more prone to developing health and digestive problems. They often require many trips to the veterinarian. However,** the results are rewarding as you watch your bottle babies grow into healthy and active puppies. The length of foster care for bottle fed puppies is typically 2-3 months.

## **Suggested Supplies for Bottle Fed Babies**

Animal nursing bottle with nipple, or syringe with or without nipple.

Tissues, toilet paper, baby wipes, cotton balls (unscented only).

Stuffed toys for babies to cuddle (Heartbeats® cuddle toys).

Thermometer.

## **Recommended Diet and Feeding Techniques**

**NEVER FEED COW'S MILK TO YOUR PUPPY! Cow's milk is not easily digested by puppies and may cause serious medical problems.**

The Rescue will provide canine milk-replacement formula. **Do not feed puppies until they are thoroughly warmed – they cannot digest until the body reaches normal temperature range.**

## **General Guideline for Formula Feeding, Based on Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Time Table</b>	<b>Feedings per Day</b>
0-2 weeks	Every 3-4 hours, 24 hours a day*	6-8
2-3 weeks	Every 4 hours, 24 hours a day*	6-8
3-4 weeks	Every 4-5 hours*	5-6
4-5 weeks	Every 5-6 hours*	3-4
5-6 weeks	Every 6 hours, from morning until 10 or 11 PM*	3-4
6-8 weeks	Every 8 hours*	2-3

**\* All determinations of feeding frequencies are based on the animal's weight.**

Overfeeding will cause bloat and distress, because the formula is not readily absorbed. Whatever the planned volume is for a feeding, stop when the stomach begins to show fullness. **Do not overfeed.**

### **Using Milk Replacement Formulas**

Use a fork or wire whisk to mix the milk powder in small amounts. Both small and large amounts may be mixed in the blender using short pulses, but should be allowed to sit for a few minutes to allow the air bubbles to settle out. Keep refrigerated after mixing

Always warm the formula before feeding. It should feel warmer than your body temperature (100 - 102 F) on your wrist. Heat only enough formula for each feeding and throw away any uneaten formula after each feeding. Do not reuse warmed formula.

Keep mixed formula and formula powder in the refrigerator. Dry formula powder may be kept in the freezer for up to one year.

It is a good idea to use sterile or bottled water when mixing formula, until babies are stabilized on full-strength formula.

### **Tips on Bottle Feeding**

Use a small towel to hold the infant. This will reduce stress on the puppy from cold hands and tight fingers, and will give the puppy something to hang onto. The puppy's forelegs should be unconfined to allow it to "knead" as it would on the mother's abdomen during feeding.

Use a small syringe (3 cc or less) for feeding newborns. Graduate to a larger syringe when the puppy is taking 3 or more cc's at a feeding. 10 cc or larger syringes can be used with larger puppies, but caution must be taken to prevent aspiration.

Feed the puppy in an upright position, body perpendicular and chin parallel to the floor. Support the lower body with the palm of your hand and hold the head steady with your thumb and forefinger. Check the tummy for fullness after feeding 2/3 to 3/4 of the formula to avoid overfeeding.

Once the infant puppy opens its eyes, it may prefer to be fed in a prone position - belly on a flat surface, holding the syringe with its forepaws. Wrap the puppy in a towel or soft cloth when feeding to make it feel more secure and easier to hold.

Carefully control the pressure on the syringe to avoid aspiration. As the puppy gets older, more caution becomes necessary.

A syringe with a sticky plunger should be thrown away, as it may cause the formula to be expressed in sudden spurts, which can lead to aspiration. Throw away stretched catak nipples before the puppy aspirates from a too-large hole in the tip or pulls the nipple off the syringe and swallows it.

Remember to always use proper hygiene practices. Wash your hands before and after feeding. Clean feeding implements after every feeding with warm soapy water.

A human nursing bottle and nipple may be used for larger puppies.

**Do not put more than the amount for one animal's feeding in the bottle at one time. This will help you keep track of how much each animal consumes per feeding and will keep the puppy from overeating.**

**CAUTION: Microwave ovens may be used for warming formulas, but you must be extremely careful. The formula may easily overheat. Feeding hot formula will cause burns to the animal's throat and windpipe. After heating, always stir formulas heated in a microwave to eliminate "hot spots".**

Aspiration of formula can be fairly common. If aspiration occurs, the puppy can be turned upside down and gently shaken once to help the fluid drain out. If this happens with very young puppies, a small bulb syringe or eyedropper can be used to suck the fluids out of the nostrils. **Do not feed any more to the puppy until it has completely cleared the fluid from its lungs, usually by sneezing.**

**Aspiration can be a dangerous situation, and can lead to possible pneumonia and death. If crackling or popping is heard as the puppy breathes, contact the Foster Coordinator immediately.**

The mother dog feeds her babies often, but not much at a time, so the infant's stomach will have to be gradually stretched to accommodate the suggested amounts of formula for each feeding. This can be achieved by feeding small amounts every hour or 2 for the first day and then gradually larger amounts with longer time periods between feedings.

**Feces (Stool).** After the initial 4-day break-in period, if no digestive problems have arisen, the full-strength formula may be given at each feeding. The stools (feces) should be tan to brown, firm and well formed.

### **Weaning and Introducing Solid Foods**

Generally, it is best to start weaning puppies at 3 to 5 weeks of age. Weaning time depends upon the size of the litter, the condition of the mother and the availability of mother's milk. Weaning should be a gradual process.

**How to Wean.** Begin introducing 3 to 5 week-old puppies to semi-solid "gruel", made from 1 part canned food to 3 parts hot water. Make sure to serve the food at body temperature, (98 to 100 F). Mash the moistened food well with a fork, or puree the mixture in a blender. Place the thick gruel in a shallow pan, (pie tins work well). Feeding puppies in the bathtub helps ease the clean-up process when weaning puppies off the bottle. Offer this mixture 3 to 4 times daily. Remove the gruel after 15 minutes and discard.

**Introducing Food.** The mother dog will usually show her puppies how to eat gruel and solid foods, and drink water. Feed the mother dog before offering gruel to her babies or she will eat it all.

Dip your finger into the gruel and let the puppy lick at it, or smear a small amount on the puppy's lips or on the roof of his mouth. Be careful not to get any of the gruel in the puppy's nose.

At around 5 weeks of age, the young puppies should be reducing their intake of mother's milk and consuming more gruel. Once they are consistently eating gruel, gradually decrease the amount of water used.

**All changes in amounts and consistency of food should be made gradually to promote good digestion.**

Always provide plenty of fresh water in clean bowls. **Never give cow's milk.**

Some puppies take longer to acclimate to supplemental feedings. It is important to always watch the litter to ensure that each individual is eating healthy amounts of food. Check tummies for fullness after they have eaten.

**4-6 weeks** – Gruel 3 times a day.

**6-8 weeks** – Mix canned food and moistened dry food to begin their transition to dry food. Feed this mixture twice a day.

### **Mastitis**

Mastitis is inflammation involving one or more of the mother dog's mammary glands (teats). Mastitis usually presents 6 weeks after giving birth, if it is going to present at all.

Symptoms of mastitis include fever, listlessness, loss of appetite, and neglect of the young. Affected mammary glands are usually swollen, hot and painful to the touch. You can feel firm nodules within the tissue of the teat.

The cause can be from a bacterial infection in the mammary gland and may require antibiotic treatment. If the dog will tolerate it, hot-packing the affected glands will encourage drainage.

**Non-septic mastitis results from milk stasis. It most commonly occurs after weaning**

# Infant Development and Socializing Puppies

A great amount of time and effort is required to properly socialize puppies between the ages of 4 to 12 weeks. Daily socialization sessions are important in shaping the foster puppy's future personality and emotional growth.

## **Neonates**

Neonatal puppies should be pink, firm, plump and generally healthy in appearance.

**Respiration** - Neonates breathe 25-35 times per minute. Their heart rate is greater than 200 beats per minute until they are 2 weeks old.

**Temperature** - Normal rectal temperature for newborns is 96 – 97 F.

**Eyes and Ears** - Closed, but can still hear (poorly) and respond to bright light with a blink reflex.

**Muscles** - Flexor muscles are stronger than the extensor muscles. Healthy puppies will curl their bodies and limbs inward.

## **1 to 2 weeks**

**Temperature** - Normal rectal temperature has gradually increased to 100 F.

**Eyes and ears** - Open at approximately 11-15 days.

**Muscles** - Extensor muscles begin to develop. They can use their front legs to stand and walk shakily.

**Neuromuscular** - Withdrawal to pain stimuli is noticed.

**What you can do** - It is important that the area where the puppies are kept is warm and smooth, so that the area around their umbilical cord does not become infected. You can do gentle handling and cuddling at this point. These sessions should be very short (1-2 minutes) and great care should be taken in the handling process.

- 1) Briefly, rock the puppy back and forth.
- 2) Rub the coat briskly with your hands, and gently finger the webbing in between the toes. Rub ears and muzzle.
- 3) Invert the baby so it is facing the ceiling and gently rock back and forth, up and down.



## **2 to 3 weeks**

**Vision** - Poor even after the eyes open, but continues to develop until 3 to 4 weeks of age. If the eyes fail to open and the lids look sticky, the lids should be very gently wiped with a dampened cotton ball and a little petroleum jelly smeared on them to ease their opening.

**The eyelids should never be pulled apart. If the eyelids still haven't opened by 14 days, contact the Foster Coordinator.**

**Muscles** - The rear legs can now support the body. Puppies are crawling.

**Temperature** - Able to maintain body temperature within the normal range (100.5 F-102.5 F).

**Teeth** - Deciduous incisors erupt at 3 weeks, followed by deciduous canines.

**What you can do** - Be careful not to startle the puppy with sudden movements or loud sounds. Do not overwhelm the puppy at this point. Place a human-scented T-shirt in the sleeping area every day. The den area should have 2 surfaces, one for sleeping and the other for a toilet (away from the sleeping and feeding area.) Provide 5 minutes of handling exercises; the purpose is to stimulate, not to scare the puppy.

- 1) Gently roll the puppy over on its back for 10-15 seconds, and then draw it close to you, stroking and cuddling it.
- 2) Softly pinch in between the toes and then draw the animal close to you, stroking and cuddling it.
- 3) Grooming-Softly and gently brush the puppy's coat a few strokes, touch the ears and mouth and clip nails.

## **3 to 4 weeks**

**Muscles** – the extensor muscles become dominant. By 21 days, puppies can walk with a fairly steady gait. Puppies can sit and have reasonable control of toes.

**Eyes and Ears** - Vision and hearing normal. Blink response disappears, due to the development of accurate pupil control. The puppy is now able to use visual clues to locate and approach the mother. Ears should be completely open by 17 days.

**Respiration** - Slows to 15-25 breaths per minute

**Teeth** - Deciduous incisors and canine teeth erupt.

**What you can do** - Do not permanently remove the puppy animal from its mother or littermates at this time. It is critical to the puppy's development that it continues with its social interaction.

- 1) Be careful not to frighten the puppy - it is experiencing a shower of sensory stimulation and a frightening experience could make a life-long impression.
- 2) It is important to provide a stable home environment to balance the excess stimulation the puppy is experiencing. This would not be a good time to move the whelping box.
- 3) The puppies will start to investigate their immediate environment. Safe, simple toys can be added for them to discover at this time.
- 4) The puppies can be introduced to people at this time, but this should be carefully controlled and limited to family members and close friends. The interaction should be limited to 5 minutes of gentle massage and time spent cuddling.
- 5) The main caretaker should continue grooming and handling exercises: holding, cuddling.

#### **4 to 5 weeks**

**Teeth** - Deciduous premolars erupt.

**Muscular** - Puppies are walking normally. Social play is prevalent.

**Eyes and ears** - Guided paw-placing and obstacle avoidance develop between 3 to 5 weeks. Vision is markedly improved.

#### **5 to 8 weeks**

**Teeth** - Entire set of deciduous teeth by 5 weeks.

**Eyes** - Eye color is determined by 6 weeks.

**Postural reactions** - Fully developed at 6 to 8 weeks. **Adult sleep patterns** - Developed by 7 to 8 weeks of age. **Temperature** - Normal range is 100.5 F to 102.5 F.

**Play** - Play with objects and locomotor play rise markedly around 7 to 8 weeks of age.

**What you can do** – The puppy is totally dependent on the environment you provide for stimulation and development.

- 1) Introduce the puppy to as many different people as possible – people of different shapes, sizes, colors, sexes and ages. Also introduce the puppy to other animals. Supervise the visits (no more than 5 minutes). These visits must be calm and pleasant. A traumatic incident at this stage will have a lasting effect.
- 2) Continue to add appropriate toys to the puppy's environment.
- 3) Expose the puppy to mild sounds.
- 4) Expose the puppy to different areas and surfaces, allowing it to investigate.
- 5) The main caregiver continues handling and grooming exercise.

### **8 weeks plus**

**Teeth** – Change from deciduous (milk) teeth to adult teeth starts at about 3 1/2 months.

**What you can do** –Protect the puppy from things that could have a lasting effect during the fear period.

- 1) It is important to separate littermates by 10 weeks of age. This promotes bonding with people as their “family” and less dependency on other dogs for companionship.
- 2) Introductions to people are extremely important, as the puppy develops the ability to form permanent relationships with humans at this time. Supervise the visit, but expose the puppy to as many different types of people as possible.
- 3) The puppy's environment should develop a sense of security in the animal.
- 4) There should be mild restrictions imposed on the puppy to help it better develop proper tolerance levels.
- 5) Introduce the puppy to new places, but remember that it is not fully immunized yet.
- 6) Introduce the puppy to a crate and begin to crate train. Puppies that are fostered without a mom can be crate trained earlier.

- 7) Introduce the puppy to the car. Spend time in the car with the animal without going anywhere. It can be in a crate/carrier or on the floor. Click and treat the puppy (if you are not familiar with this method of training, please talk with the Foster Coordinator). Gradually drive a short distance, and then allow the puppy to leave the car.
- 8) Introduce the puppy to louder noises gradually, such as a vacuum cleaner, washing machine and/or dishwasher. Play with the puppy as you introduce the noise in the background. Encourage puppies to explore, sniff and lick these noisemakers. Exposing puppies to a variety of unusual sounds helps them become accustomed to these noises. It will also minimize fearful, nervous reactions to noises later in life.

**Praise the puppy for positive reactions. Do not force the puppy to approach noisemakers and do not comfort the puppy if it shows fear.**

- 9) Introduce restraining exercises:

- Gently roll the puppy on its side and hold your hand on its shoulder and hindquarters, gently restraining it. Ignore any squirming or struggling. When the puppy has relaxed for 10 seconds, click and treat and allow it to get up.
- Elevation - gently pick the puppy up from underneath the chest and raise its front feet off the ground; back feet should remain on the ground. Ignore any squirming or struggling. When the puppy has relaxed for 10 seconds, click and treat and allow it to get down.
- Gently roll the puppy over on its back in between your legs with its head closest to you. Ignore squirming or struggling. When the puppy has relaxed for 5 seconds, click and treat and allow it to get up.
- Gradually increase the time the puppy accepts being restrained, praising, petting and massaging it.
- Introduce retrieving games, hide and seek.
- Combine simple play with restraint exercises. This familiarizes puppies to having their paws touched (front and back), mouths opened, muzzles touched, and ears touched. Combining this with regular grooming sessions and body massages help prevent skin sensitivity or aversion to touch.

### **Pre-Adolescent - 13-16 weeks**

**General behavior** - Puppy is fully developed, needing only experience. The puppy's mind can still be influenced. The animal's flight instinct is developing and may cause it to run from real or imagined threats.

**What you can do** – Be consistent with rules, continue grooming and socialization. Continue dog's formal training using the 'click and treat' method.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will my resident animals get fleas, if my foster animal has them?**

Not if your resident animal is on monthly flea and tick preventative.

### **What if it is determined that my foster animal has the Parvovirus? Are my resident animals at risk of contracting it?**

Not if your resident animals are fully current with their vaccines.

### **Where are the adoptions held?**

Tysons Corner PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182

### **What time is the adoption?**

The Adoption event starts at 1pm.

### **How much is the adoption fee?**

The current adoption fee is \$525 for puppies/dogs. The fee for cats is \$225 kittens/cats. This fee covers the cost of spay/neuter, vaccinations, deworming, flea/tick control, transport, food, foster supplies, and microchipping. It also includes 30 days of accidental/illness health insurance effective immediately upon activation.

### **What do I need to bring?**

Please return all your foster supplies.

### **What are the requirements to adopt a puppy?**

There are no situational requirements other than that your current pet/pets need to be up-to-date on their vaccinations, as well as spay/neutered. This demonstrates responsible pet ownership.

### **How can I see pictures of the puppies available?**

Through our website ([wolftrapanimalrescue.com](http://wolftrapanimalrescue.com)) and through Instagram ([#wolftrapanimalrescue](https://www.instagram.com/wolftrapanimalrescue)).

### **Can I bring my current dog with me to see if they get along?**

You can, however it is strongly discouraged. An adoption event can be very stressful for both your dog as well as the puppy. This situation is not ideal, nor does it demonstrate accurate behavior responses that otherwise one might see in a calm setting.