



## Humane Society of Davie County Dog Foster Information

### Fostering dogs and/or puppies: We need your help! <3

- The Humane Society of Davie County (HSDC) is currently completely virtual.
- Where are all the fur babies then?
  - Currently, all our fur babies are in foster care/homes.
- Fostering pets for HSDC plays a critical role in saving and providing for current and future pets in the community.
- **Benefits of fostering an HSDC pet:**
  - Foster parent(s) provides a loving, warm, and safe environment for each pet.
  - Each foster pet is exposed to adults, children of all ages, and other pets in foster homes which promotes positive and healthy socialization and development for a pet.
  - Each foster pet is able to have constant, around the clock supervision in a foster home. This experience differs from many shelters and rescues where pets are kept in kennels during the evenings and large portions of the day.
  - Foster parents are able to bond with and provide love to these foster fur babies. These pets can be given affection that they may have never experienced before in their lives.
  - Foster parents play an integral role in deciding which potential adopter gets to adopt the foster pet.
  - Foster pets will experience less fear and anxiety in a home like environments.
  - **Added benefit:** Foster parents have “first dibs” on whether they choose to adopt a foster pet(s).

### I am interested in becoming a dog and/or puppy foster! How do I become a foster parent(s)?

- Becoming a foster parent is super easy! If you are interested in becoming a foster for dogs, puppies, cats, or even kittens, you need to visit our website and submit a FOSTER Application (different from an Adoption Application).
  - HSDC Website: <https://www.hsdavie.org/>
- Step by step instructions on submitting a Foster Application:
  - Visit the HSDC website (see link above).
  - Look for “Foster” tab at the top of the page, Click “Foster” tab.
  - Scroll down and select “Become a Dog or Puppy Foster” or “Become a Kitten or Cat Foster.”
  - Complete the Foster Application.
  - Please contact your veterinarian and notify them that an HSDC representative will be reaching out to them to complete a basic veterinary reference as part of the foster application process.
  - Once the application is submitted, it will be reviewed by an HSDC staff member. You will be notified by email and/or phone call if your application has been approved. Once the application is approved, an HSDC representative will reach out to you via text message or phone call the next time a fur baby becomes available who needs a foster home.



**As a foster parent(s), you are provided with the following items:**

- Kennel or crate
- Towels and blankets
- Training pads or “pee pee pads”
- Dog bowls
- Food
- Treats
- Toys
- Leash
- Collar
- Harness (if needed)
- All medical care is covered by HSDC until the foster pet is adopted.

\*\*\*If you run low on or out of something, notify an HSDC representative. We will get you more supplies ASAP.

**Once you are an approved foster and you pick-up your first foster pet, HSDC asks that you contact one of the two below mentioned veterinary hospitals who are partnered with HSDC to get the foster pet medically evaluated:**

**HSDC Approved Veterinary Hospitals – for regular, non-emergency situations:**

**1. The Country Veterinary Hospital**

Address: 1181 Country Ln, Mocksville, NC 27028

Phone: 336-936-9101

**2. Hillsdale Animal Hospital**

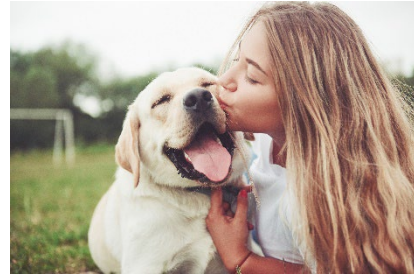
Address: 134 Medical Dr, Advance, NC 27006

Phone: 336-281-3344

**HSDC asks all foster parent(s) to have the following completed on behalf of the foster pet within 1-2 weeks of being housed with you in foster care (unless notified otherwise by an HSDC representative):**

- Initial health/wellness exam
- Age-appropriate vaccines (i.e., distemper and rabies vaccines)
- Schedule spay/neuter (pet must be at least 6 months of age before procedure is completed)
- Obtain 1 month supply of heartworm prevention and flea/tick prevention
- Please bring a fecal sample to the initial vet visit to be tested for parasites
- Dewormer can be provided as needed

\*\*\*Please notify an HSDC representative of the date/time/facility of the scheduled appointment and the results of the completed veterinary visit.



### **I am foster. How do meet and greet sessions work?**

- All applicants who are interested in adopting an HSDC pet must submit an application for the pet via HSDC's website (see previous link.)
- All individual applications are screened thoroughly, including follow-up questions/clarification, veterinary records checks, personal references, meet and greet sessions, and home visits.
- Once an applicant is approved, you will be contacted by an HSDC representative who will connect you with the potential adopter to schedule a meet and greet session
- It is recommended that you choose a neutral site to meet a potential adopter with the foster pet (e.g., Tanglewood Park, picnic areas, etc.)
- Feel free to observe the potential adopter with the foster pet – look for how the foster pet responds to the potential adopter and how the potential adopter handles and interacts with the pet.
- Feel free to ask many questions of the potential adopter to ensure he/she is the best fit for the foster pet.
- At the conclusion of the meet and greet session, the foster pet **DOES NOT** go home with the potential adopter. We ask you to touch base with an HSDC representative and provide honest and detailed feedback on the potential adopter.
- A final decision on who will be the “right” adopter for the foster pet will be made based on the following: the individual's application, veterinarian reference, personal reference, home visit, and your feedback on the meet and greet session.
- Once the “right” applicant for the foster pet is notified and pays the adoption fee, you will be notified, and you are then free to coordinate a final transfer/pick-up of the foster pet to his/her forever home.

### **Adoption Fee and Breakdown**

**Puppies** - \$200 – includes spay/neuter, first round of shots, and microchipping; Owner must email proof of spay/neuter to HSDC staff by the time the pet is a year old (if puppy) or ASAP if adult pet.

**Dogs** - \$150 - includes spay/neuter, first round of shots, and microchipping; Owner must email proof of spay/neuter to HSDC staff by the time the pet is a year old (if puppy) or ASAP if adult pet

\*\*Owner must use The Country Veterinary Hospital or Hillsdale Animal Hospital for above mentioned veterinarian procedures.

\*\*If owner requests to use their own vet for these procedures, please refer him/her to an HSDC representative.



### General Tips when Fostering Puppies and/or Dogs

1. Slowly introduce your foster pet to other members of the family.
  - a. When introducing the foster pet and your own pets avoid food, pre-existing toys, and try to pick a neutral space for the initial interaction.
2. Puppy proof your home and introduce your foster pet to the home environment/space – may need to use kennels/carrier and or baby gates to ensure your foster pet does not get into trouble at night or when not directly supervised.
  - a. It is highly recommended that you use a kennel/carrier to house the puppy/dog in at night when you are asleep or when you leave the house for brief periods of time to assist in potty training and keeping your puppy/dog safe.
3. Always pick up the new foster pet's poop until he/she is cleared of intestinal parasites by a veterinarian
4. Teach children, especially young children, healthy and safe ways to interact with the foster pet (e.g., ask dog owner if he/she can approach and pet dog first, let dog sniff you, offer hand to pet dog, do not approach an unknown dog from behind, etc.)
5. Feel free to use treats and love/attention to teach the foster pet basic commands and for rewarding positive behaviors.
6. Use the loudness and tone of voice to reinforce or decondition positive or negative behaviors.
7. Puppies' natural tendency is to chew due to teething (i.e., losing their baby teeth so their adult teeth come in) – encourage positive chewing behaviors on puppy appropriate toys and bones.
8. Be patient! It takes foster pets and new pets weeks to months to adjust to a new family, new furry friends, and a new environment. Give them time to adjust, get into a routine, and feel comfortable/safe.
  - a. Developing a consistent, daily routine is key!
    - i. Specific feeding times, potty breaks, walks, etc.

Please contact Becca Cranford at the Humane Society of Davie County for more information or questions.

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