

# THE ADOPTION PROCESS FOR YOUR FOSTER

When you have someone interested in your foster it is an exciting time but it also can be confusing, emotional, and overwhelming. The following has been created to help guide you through the process so you can find a home where your foster pet can thrive.

If you would like to loop us in on the conversation, feel free to copy your foster coordinators in your email communications or take notes during phone conversations and consult with us after. We are here to help!

## POTENTIAL ADOPTER QUESTIONS

Before a potential adopter meets your foster pet, it is good to have a conversation with them to determine whether it will be worth having a meet and greet. We have provided a few questions to help guide the conversation.

### **Do you live in a place where pets are allowed? If so, are there any breed or weight restrictions?**

*Rental properties, HOAs, and cities can restrict breeds.*

### **Describe your ideal pet.**

### **Tell me about your family members and pets.**

*Include ages of family members and ask them to expand on their pets' personalities, play styles, and sociability.*

### **What are you looking for in a new pet?**

### **What type of energy level do you prefer?**

*Examples: couch potato, middle of the road, likes to go on frequent adventures, running partner, etc.*

### **How would you describe the activity level of your home?**

*Do they frequently have friends over to visit or host parties? Do children or other dogs come visit their home frequently?*

### **What kinds of activities do you do that you would like your dog to be included in?**

### **What is your experience with pets you have or have had in the past?**

### **Are there any behaviors that are deal breakers for you?**

### **What does your average day look like?**

*How long will the dog be alone while they are away at work?*

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Use open-ended questions to prompt the potential adopter to provide more detailed answers. Ask for clarification when needed and take notes.
- Please honor the potential adopters' interest in the order in which you receive them, unless your dog's restrictions or needs do not align with the potential adopter that expressed interest first. Be completely transparent with interested parties. Tell them your dog has another family interested ahead of them and that you are going to get back to them.
- Be knowledgeable about your dog's Medical Consults or Behavioral Consults, if any. Your foster coordinators will provide this information at your appointment, and ask for clarification on this if needed.

# NEXT STEPS

## **What to do if you have determined it is **not** a good fit**

You can refer them to us or you can let them know directly about other dogs that may be a good fit for them. Feel free to reach out to other fosters on the Facebook page to see who has a foster dog that we could suggest to them. Our goal is to get as many dogs as possible adopted, so if they are interested in adopting please use this opportunity to help another dog if yours won't work for them.

## **What to do if you have determined it **may be** a good fit**

Coordinate a meet and greet between your foster dog and the potential adopter. We suggest if this is your first introduction that you use one of our locations (Main shelter-KCCAC, Zona Rosa, or Petco 95th Street) to allow staff to help you facilitate the introduction. If you are comfortable, you may offer the potential adopters to visit your home to meet the dog or arrange to meet at a neutral place such as a park. If your potential adopters have other dogs in the home, an introduction between the dogs must take place with the exception of dogs under 6 months of age. This is to be facilitated by staff at any of our locations. All adopters must meet the dog before completing adoption paperwork-puppies included. Once both the adopter and you are ready to move forward with the adoption, adoption paperwork must be finalized before the dog is released to them. You and the foster dog do not need to be present to finalize the adoption but you must ensure this piece is completed before meeting them to pass the dog off. Please keep in mind each adopter needs a leash and collar in order to take the dog home. We must keep our leashes and martingale collars for internal use.

## **You have found a family to adopt your foster pet.**

When you have found the family for your foster dog, let the foster coordinator that you have been working with know their name. They will put this information on their profile. If a dog-to-dog is NOT necessary and they are ready to make it official, your adopter may take advantage of our running foster adoption appointment at 11:30 daily, before the shelter opens to public so they can beat the line. Congratulate yourself on helping that dog get the life they deserve, and let us know when you are ready to foster again.