



TUPELO LEE HUMANE SOCIETY

OPEN YOUR HEART
TO AN ANIMAL IN NEED

Rescue Waggin Dog Foster Manual

Tupelo Lee Humane Society
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Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to foster a dog for our new Rescue Waggin Transport program. Rescue Waggin is operated by PetsMart Charities. It is a transport program to assist shelters that are overpopulated with dogs, find lifelong homes in areas where there is not an overpopulation of these dogs.

Tupelo Lee Humane Society is very excited in being selected as an official Rescue Waggin shelter shipping partner. We hope by being a participant in this program we will help to save more animals' lives in our community.

PetsMart Charities has provided funding to TLHS for our executive director and kennel manager's training in behavior testing of each dog that is selected for transport. We have also been trained to provide the best possible medical care and protocol for the animals that come into our shelter with no prior medical or behavior history. PetsMart Charities Rescue Waggin has very strict guidelines in order to be the leader in the proper care of dogs both prior to transport and during transport. They have committed to an excellence in animal handling. With the PetsMart Charities transport partnership, TLHS is helping to end the euthanasia of healthy adoptable dogs.

By providing a temporary foster home, you are providing a stable, loving environment for a dog that has been neglected or abandoned. You are allowing a space in our shelter to be opened up for another needy dog. You are helping TLHS to reach our goal of finding a home for every adoptable animal in our community.

You are an invaluable part of this goal and we hope to be a partner with you until such a time that every adoptable pet will have a life long home in our community.

Debbie Hood
TLHS Executive Director

General Guidelines

Please read & review the following important guidelines:

1. Prior to fostering, all Foster Homes must complete an online Foster Home Application as well as a Foster Agreement, Foster Liability Release and a home inspection. (A copy of the foster agreement is in the Appendix.)
2. All foster homes agree to accept primary responsibility for temporarily providing lodging and care of their foster dog.
3. Any medical care needed for the foster dog will be provided by TLHS's veterinarian. This assures that the foster dog gets consistent care and all records of the animal's health are centralized. If veterinary services are needed, the foster home agrees to contact TLHS immediately.
4. Foster homes are asked to keep TLHS informed of their foster dogs' behavior and health if any issues arise.
5. Rescue Waggin (R/W) dogs may not be adopted by the foster parents. Once the R/W dog is selected for transport and placed in foster care, it is unavailable for adoption. Please understand we always have other available animals for adoption at our shelter, and that these dogs have previously been selected for adoption at the receiving shelter.
6. All foster home owned dogs should be current with their vaccinations. We also recommend that you vaccinate your dogs with Bordetella vaccination to prevent kennel cough, a common illness with shelter dogs.
7. Tupelo Lee Humane Society is not responsible for any veterinary bills for resident dogs. The Foster Home assumes responsibility for any veterinary bills that result from the resident dogs becoming ill due to exposure with a Foster Dog.
8. Do not leave your foster dog with anyone not listed on the Foster Application and Foster Liability Release, without prior approval from TLHS.
9. If the foster dog does not work out, or your foster home situation changes before the two week foster period ends, please return the foster dog to TLHS. Please call TLHS to notify us that it will be returning sooner than expected. We can possibly place it in another applicant's foster home.
10. TLHS is aware that accidents can happen no matter how conscientious you are. TLHS will not hold the foster home responsible for any accidents beyond your control, or accidental loss or death of said foster dog.
11. Saying goodbye; If you find it hard to say goodbye, imagine how happy your foster dog will be in his or her new home—and remember how you helped make that happen. Any foster parent is invited to bring their foster dog the morning of transport to see it get on the Rescue Waggin. Usually at 5:00am. Prior arrangements must be made with TLHS.

Getting your home & family ready for fostering

Fostering is a commitment that will affect your entire household: your family, your permanent-resident pets, and your house and yard itself! Here are some tips to ensure that fostering will be a positive experience for you and your family.

Discuss your plans with other family members and get their input on how to make it work out best for everyone. Include in the discussion what kind(s) of dogs are appropriate for your household: small/large, young/old, active/not active. Do you thrive on a spunky dog with lots of energy who is a willing playmate for your active dog? Or, do you have an older dog who would appreciate not being pestered? How long are you gone during the day? We'll need to match you with a dog that works with your schedule. You'll need a dog that fits your lifestyle, even if he/she is only a temporary resident. Your TLHS representative can work with you to ensure that we understand your personal situation and what types of dogs are appropriate for you.

Supplies

You should have the following on hand before your foster dog arrives:

1. Food & water bowls: it is best to have separate bowls for your foster dog and, to feed your resident dogs & foster dog separately so that they can eat in a stress-free environment as they are getting to know each other.
2. Food & Treats: TLHS will advise you as to what kind of food or treats the foster dog has been eating. It is best to maintain the same food as to not upset their digestive system, which could lead to diarrhea. Your purchase of the food required for your foster dog is appreciated and is tax deductible.
3. Toys: Kongs are excellent for stuffing- they will keep your foster dog occupied, especially while you are away from the house.
4. Beds/ bedding or crate of their own.

Introducing your foster dog to your home

Here are some tips for a smooth transition.

Everyone needs their space

If possible, it is best to keep foster dogs and resident dogs separate from each other for 2 days. This is a stressful time for both the foster dog (who may have been on the street/in the shelter before arriving at your house—a lot of change for an animal that likes to have a “pack” and some stability in his/her life!) Also there are some common sicknesses that sometimes don't show up for 1-2 weeks that dogs often get at a shelter, so separation can ensure that your dogs don't get sick.

If it is not possible to keep them separate, be aware that your resident dogs may be exposed to illness that was not determined before placement into your foster home.

However, also be aware that many of the diseases that shelter dogs get (Kennel Cough, Diarrhea, etc) are stress related. Many have had poor nutrition and a hard life before coming to your home. TLHS cannot be responsible for resident dog vet bills; we do not have the financial resources to make that commitment.

If it is not possible to physically separate the dogs, try to ensure that everyone has their own “personal space” of a bed, a crate, or a special area. This will keep the stress levels lower for your own dogs and the foster dog.

The backyard is not an acceptable place to leave the foster dog alone & unsupervised. They may be destructive (digging, trampling plants), they may be escape artists, they may bark incessantly, or they could be snatched. A crate or a room that is enclosed are the best choices.

Dog Introductions

Introduce your resident dogs to the foster dog on neutral territory, at a park or down the street from your house, for example. Introduce them on a leash, with an adult holding each leash. Allow a quick “hello” sniff or walk-by, and then separate them, even if things seem fine. This gives them a chance to think about things, and often they will seek each other out to get a lengthier greeting. Give lots of positive reinforcement so that both dogs feel safe and that the other dog is a friend, not foe. If one dog gets aggressive, separate them quickly, comfort the dogs, and slow down the pace of the introductions.

Don’t force things if they are not immediate best friends; sometimes it takes a few days for dogs to accept each other. Sometimes, dogs just don’t like each other. By giving them each attention separately and making them feel safe about their bed, toy and food, you can minimize any tension.

Getting along

Dogs are pack animals. There is usually one who dominates. Correction of one dog by another (whether it is your resident dog or the foster) is normal. As long as the dogs are responding positively to each other and seem to recognize the “pecking order”, this is fine. So, one dog may growl at another. If the dog reacts by moving away or showing passivity, then usually, the dogs will get along fine. If they are constantly battling for the “alpha” position, then they will have to be separated, and may not be a good fit for each other.

Never leave the dogs unsupervised together. They are still getting to know one another, and will need correction on appropriate behavior toward each other, which means supervision. If you are leaving the house, then crate the dogs or otherwise physically separate them.

Again, feed the dogs separately. This reduces stress for everyone. Food aggression between dogs is common.

Working with your foster dog

While your foster dog is living with you, you can provide some basic training along with lots of tender loving care. No formal training regime is needed for most foster dogs, but if you can work on the following, it will make your foster dog much more “adoptable”

* **Socializing** is definitely the first priority. This means ensuring that your foster dog is acclimated to meeting new people, dogs, cats, children, as wide a group as possible. If you have a shy dog, this is a big task, and should be approached slowly (but all the more important to address it so that your dog overcomes his/her shyness.) With a more outgoing dog, it’s more about curbing enthusiasm so that people aren’t overwhelmed upon meeting the dog (or knocked over with love.)

* **House training** (potty training) is definitely desirable for both you and the future adopter. The best way to house train is to use a crate, and be vigilant about taking the dog outside regularly, including after naps and meals. If a dog is particularly stubborn about the house training, keep them on a leash in the house; this will prevent them from wandering off to hide or to go potty.

* **Crate training** is a great way not only to potty train, but also to establish general house manners since the dog will not be roaming free in the house unless he/she is being supervised. So, no chewing on couch cushions, counter-surfing, or garbage can diving if the dog is not left alone. We have a free DVD on crate training available to you, if desired.

* **Sitting** is relatively easy to teach and pays big dividends. A dog that sits for his/her leash and food knows they are subservient to the person commanding them to sit. It also helps to get an overly excited dog under control.

* **Jumping up** is a common problem with our foster dogs—they are so happy to have someone to love! But, it’s best if they are taught not to do this, since it can knock people over or just be rude. The best prevention is to see it coming and tell them to stop and sit. Once they have this down, they can be invited “up” for a visit, but only with an invitation. For more help on this call TLHS and ask for Debbie.

* **Leash walking** is challenging to teach. Many of our dogs have never been on a leash and have no idea how to behave. If you’re ambitious, you can work on “heel”, but even “easy” is fine. “Easy” is when the dog isn’t necessarily heeling at your side, but they are also not dragging you down the street. This takes time to learn and patience on your part. A nervous dog may not be pulling but reluctant to walk or trying to get away from you and the leash. The goal then is to get the dog to relax and walk confidently with you. We can give you some pointers on either of these cases.

Dogs & Children

Dogs and kids go together like peanut butter & jelly; they are great playmates, guardians, and confidants. But, children must learn proper handling and discipline, and dogs must learn self-control so that they do not play too rough.

Children must be supervised and taught that dogs are beings, not dolls or toys to dress-up or handled constantly. Teach children not to tease or rile up the dog unnecessarily. This includes chasing around the house, which can scare a dog, who may snap if cornered or frightened.

Make sure your children know that it is not the dog's fault if the dog chews up toys that are left out. Keeping doors shut & toys in toy boxes can help minimize damage. Make sure the dog has his/her own toys, and keep them in the same place all the time (like in a basket, or in the dog's crate.)

Children like the idea of caring for a dog, but the daily work of feeding, bathing, brushing, and cleaning up after the dog is not really suited for them. Recognize that the animal enthusiasm will wane quickly, and true responsibility of caring for the dog will fall to the adults in the household. Young children should not walk foster dogs even if the dog is easy to walk. The child cannot really handle any encounters with other dogs or cats that are bound to happen.

Children should not play unsupervised with foster dogs. For puppies, teach proper handling (pick up by the body, not the limbs), and limit interaction. Children need to be taught that a puppy's mouthing is not biting, and that the puppy is not trying to hurt them. Perhaps most importantly, children must learn to properly discipline the foster dog/puppy. If the puppy wants to mouth you or your clothes, gently close your fingers around the puppy's muzzle, and firmly tell her "off." Children often react to a dog's bad behavior by hitting the dog, this is unacceptable. Ask about our free training DVD on mouthing.

Behavior red flags

If you see any of the following behaviors, call TLHS (662-841-6500) as soon as possible. Or email -tupeloleehumane@gmail.com

- *Growling, lip curling, snarling, snapping, or biting directed toward a human.
- *Possessiveness, tension or guarding behavior around items the dog/puppy values, such as food bowl or toys.
- *Reluctance to be touched or handled on certain areas of the body. Signs to watch for are nipping, whining, fearfulness, a quick whip of the head to look to see what you're doing, or stiffening of the body.
- *Fearful or aloof behavior with strangers.
- **The following are not signs of aggression: mild mouthiness, chewing, jumping up, barking, food stealing, lack of obedience, or poor leash manner.

Medical Treatment

We prefer to have the foster dogs seen by our veterinarian so that all our dogs get consistent care and have their records centralized. All vet visits must be pre-approved by Debbie Hood.

If the dog is sick or injured or you need help transporting the foster dog to our vet, please call TLHS, between 9-5:30, M-F at 662-841-6500. Or for emergency and after hours call Debbie Hood at 662-640-9505. E-Mail: tupeloleehumane@gmail.com. Our Vet is All Animal Hospital, 662-844-4955.

Make sure that your own pets are protected. We expect that resident pets are spayed/neutered, and have all their vaccinations. Because of our participation with the Rescue Waggin program, most of the dogs scheduled for transport will NOT be spayed or neutered before transport. The receiving shelter will spay/neuter the dogs upon arrival at their shelter. It is not recommended that they have major surgery before transport. We will also not transport or foster any female dog that is in heat at the time.

We recommend, in addition to DHLPP and Rabies, that your pets are immunized for Bordetella (kennel cough) since it is a common ailment among shelter dogs and usually the dogs will not show signs of having it for 7 days. We also expect that your resident dogs are treated for fleas and ticks. Our foster dogs have been treated with the heart worm and flea and tick preventatives before going into foster care.

Medical Concerns

While our shelter strives to make sure all foster dogs are healthy before going into foster care, most illnesses have an incubation period between exposure and the onset of symptoms. Please watch your fosters carefully for any changes to their normal behavior or habits. If your foster dog shows any of the following symptoms, please call TLHS! Below are the symptoms you would need to be more concerned about if the dog is under 6 months old, but could possibly be a concern to other dogs as well.

- * Diarrhea- If stools are soft but not watery, monitor for two days. If there is no improvement, call the third day. If stools are watery, call that day.
- * Vomiting- If foster dog vomits food two or more times, call that day. If foster dog vomits bile or liquid, please call that day. If vomiting is frequent, call immediately.
- * Loss of appetite-Can be normal the first day for dogs, (not puppies), as foster dog adjusts to new home. If foster dog is not eating the second day, call that day.
- * Dehydration- Dehydration is generally associated with diarrhea, vomiting, and/ or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, pinch the animal's skin gently. If the skin springs back slowly (takes more than one second), the puppy is dehydrated. Call immediately.
- * Sneezing- More than three times a day, call that day.
- * Coughing- Call immediately.
- * Hair loss- Call immediately.
- * Watery, goopy or red eyes- Call that day.
- * Itchy/ dirty ears- Call that day.
- * Some animals do not show traditional signs of illness. They may be less active than normal, or avoid other animals or people. These could be signs of onset of illness. Please call us if you notice any of these changes.

Letting Go

Returning your foster dog to TLHS for transport to their new home is one of the hardest, but also one of the most rewarding aspects of being a foster parent. It is normal to feel sad when you return your foster dog. You need to remember what a wonderful thing you did for your foster dog. You gave her your time, your attention, and your love, you made it possible for her to go to a new loving home with a family of her own, and you opened up a space at our shelter for another needy animal.

You are a very special person to have done all that for the little stranger who came to your door.

If you were comfortable with this foster, we would like to offer another 2 week foster dog to you. Our goal is to find 60-100 dogs a month a new forever home. Without all our great volunteer foster parents this program would fail; we rely tremendously on their dedication to the animals and how they help make it happen.

Appendix

For reference, this appendix contains copies of our common agreements and forms:

Foster Application

Foster Agreement

Foster Release of Liability



TLHS Foster Application In order to be considered for fostering,

you must: Be 21 years of age

Have the knowledge and consent of all adults living in your household * Have a valid ID with current address * Have either proof that you own your own home OR the name, address and phone number of your landlord * Understand that the Tupelo Lee Humane Society must approve your application (based on the policies set by the Board of Directors.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Work#: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of animal or breed type/size/sex you are interested in fostering, if known:

1. Why do you want to foster an animal?

2. Do you have any pets right now? If so, please list name, sex, spay/neuter status, age, and breed of current pets:

3. Do your current pets get along well with other animals?

4. If you have had pets in the past, but do not have them now, what happened to them?

5. Do you know about necessary vaccinations for your pets?

6. Are your own pets currently vaccinated against disease? _____

If so, which shots does your pet(s) receive? _____

7. Does your pet receive heartworm preventative? _____

If so, what kind? _____

8. Please provide your veterinarian's name, address and phone number

9. Do you rent or own your home? Rent _____ Own _____

10. If you own your home, are you prepared to provide proof of ownership upon request to TLHS? _____

11. If you rent, please supply your landlord's name, address and phone number.

12. Tell us about your yard (size, shade trees, etc.):

13. Are your pets allowed inside your home? _____

Will this new foster pet live inside or outside?

Inside _____ Outside _____

If outside: Is proper shelter, food and water provided if pet is to be kept outside? _____

If you have a fenced in yard and what type of fence: _____

14. What would happen to your pets if you had to move?

15. Will this new foster animal be given plenty of exercise? Yes _____ No _____ How often do you see yourself walking, running, playing with this new pet? (times per week) _____

16. Would you object to a home visit by a TLHS representative? Yes _____ No _____

17. Are there children in your family? Yes _____ No _____

How many and their ages?

18. Have you taught your children to treat animals with respect and kindness?

19. What would happen if the foster pet became ill?

20. In the event that something should happen to you, who would care for your pets?

21. If for any reason, this new foster animal did not work out, do you agree to return her/him to TLHS?
Yes _____ No _____

22. What experience do you have caring for animals? (your own pets, volunteer work, paid work, etc.)

23. Do you have the financial means to care for a foster animal (food, bed or crate and toys, etc.) for the duration of your foster agreement? Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know _____

24. How long would you like to foster this animal?

2 weeks ____ 3 mos. ____ 6 mos. ____ 1 year ____ >1 year ____

I do agree to return the foster pet on _____ (date) or at such a time requested by Tupelo-Lee Humane Society.

25. Please provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of three people as references that have known you for at least five years.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

To the best of my ability, I agree to care for the foster animal as if it were my own; to provide love, food, exercise, and companionship. If for any reason, I am not able to care for the foster animal or the foster animal is incompatible in my home environment, I agree to return the animal to TLHS. I will not sell the foster animal. I will not give away or seek to adopt out the foster animal without permission from a TLHS representative. I will contact TLHS immediately if the foster animal needs veterinary care.

Your name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Applications may be faxed back to: FOSTERS – TLHS -(662) 841-6501
Or completed applications may be emailed to: tupeloleehumane@gmail.com

FOSTER AGREEMENT

Tupelo Lee Humane Society (TLHS) Foster Agreement

1. Only the executive director or the kennel manager of TLHS shall approve and place the Rescue Waggin transport dogs into foster homes. Your foster home contact must be notified as soon as possible of any changes in the status of either the animal in your care or the foster home environment you have indicated on your application.
2. All dogs 6 months and older placed in foster care will have been given all necessary vaccinations, de-worming, H/W tested, current on H/W preventative, have no fleas or ticks, and be on flea/tick preventative. All dogs will have passed a humane behavior test which includes: dominance, resource guarding, food aggression, and body handling.
3. All pre-approved medical care will be covered by TLHS.
4. The TLHS foster dog must wear his ID collar at all times. During transport to and from TLHS, the dog must ride inside a pet carrier inside of vehicle.
5. TLHS must be notified immediately if the dog in your care is injured or missing. Any emergency veterinary expenses for your foster dog will be reimbursed by TLHS only **in the event an approved veterinarian cannot be reached.** You agree that every effort will be made to get pre-approval from TLHS for any medical attention the dog needs before any reimbursement will be made by TLHS.
6. Ownership of foster dogs remains with TLHS.
7. Only authorized representatives of TLHS will conduct interviews and home visits.
8. ***Foster parent agrees to transport their foster dog to and from TLHS as needed for Health Certificate exam one week prior to transport and on final day before transport to TLHS for the final transport to the receiving shelter.***
9. If for any reason the foster dog does not work out, you will notify TLHS immediately for return instructions.

TLHS Contact Name: Debbie Hood

Telephone Number: Day: 662-841-6500 Emergency: 662-640-9505

E-Mail Address: tupeloleehumane@gmail.com

Alternate TLHS Contact: Tabitha Long 662-841-6500

Signature of Foster Parent

Date

TLHS Representative

Date

FOSTER AGREEMENT

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I/We have read and fully understand the Tupelo Lee Humane Society (TLHS) Foster Home Agreement. _____(initial)

There have been no other representations or promises other than those included in the Foster Home Agreement. _____(initial)

I/We understand that all foster care work done with TLHS is at my/our own risk. _____(initial)

I/We, _____ have read, understand, and agree to abide by the conditions of the TLHS Foster Home Agreement and Guidelines. I/We understand that all work done with TLHS is at my/our own risk, and hereby release Tupelo Lee Humane Society (TLHS) and its employees, agents, members, and board of directors of any and all liability, property damages, personal damages and medical costs while I/we am/are providing volunteer foster care for TLHS.

I/We, hereby for myself (ourselves), heirs, administrators and assigns, fully, irrevocably and unconditionally release and agree to hold harmless Tupelo Lee Humane Society and its employees, individual members, agents, board of directors from any and all known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, suspected or unsuspected and/or fixed, conditional or contingent, actions, causes of action, charges, suits, debts, demands, claims, contracts, covenants, liens, rights, liabilities, losses, royalties, costs, expenses (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees) or damages, including but not limited to any medical costs, damages to property, persons or other pets, of every kind, nature and description, at law or in equity, in connection with or arising from while I/we am/are caring for the agreed foster dog.

**Foster Home
Signature(s)**

Date

Tupelo Lee Humane Society Representative

Date
