



Foster Program Manual for Dogs



Mt. Pleasant
Animal Shelter

194 State Route 10 West
East Hanover, NJ 07936
973.386.0590
www.njshelter.org

About Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter

For almost 50 years, Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter has been providing exceptional care for homeless animals, working tirelessly to find a permanent, loving home for every cat and dog we serve. Mt. Pleasant animal shelter is a registered 501(c)(3) organization that is solely funded by contributions, grants and bequests.

Our priority is to save abandoned animals within our community; however, our efforts don't end there. We also partner with shelters around the country to save at-risk animals from being euthanized. Adoptable animals reside with us, or with one of our fosters, until they find their forever home. We become their loving family until they find their new home.

Our Vision

We envision a community of people and organizations committed to working together to eliminate the occurrence of abused, neglected and homeless animals.

Our Mission

To build a community of people and organizations working together to save today's, and prevent tomorrow's, abused, neglected and homeless animals.

How we do this

- Deliver the highest level of animal care to prepare today's animals in need for their future homes
- Bring together the cats and dogs who need a loving family with the people who want them
- Provide community services and resources to ensure every animal has a safe and healthy life

Our Values

Animal Focused: Our highest priority is to provide the best care for our animals. We serve as the voice of our animals and bring the experience, knowledge and passion for animal welfare to ensure our animals find a loving home.

Compassion: We treat our animals, our animal welfare community and our staff with respect and dignity.

Community Based: We offer continued support to the adoptive families and their animals to ensure a safe, healthy and happy life together. We value our animal welfare community since we cannot achieve our mission without them.

Personal Accountability: Each person takes responsibility for their role and following through on commitments.

Integrity: All employees, directors and community members adhere to Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter's values and principles. We strive to be timely, open and honest in our communications.



Introduction

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering pets for Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter. By opening your home to foster pets, you are not only helping to save lives, but you are also providing the individual attention and love these dogs desperately need.

Once you have completed your foster application online, our foster coordinator will get in touch with you to sign you up for one of our scheduled orientation and training sessions. In the session, we will go over this manual and answer any questions you have about the program.

Our dog foster program is designed to help a dog get a second chance at finding a home — a chance they may not have received otherwise. Many of the dogs who need foster homes require extra care and attention, which shelters often do not have the staff or resources to provide. But in a loving foster home, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to find a forever family.

Foster homes are asked to provide care for the dogs, as well as transportation to and from veterinary appointments as needed, and transportation to Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter regularly so foster pets can get an opportunity to meet prospective adopters. Care for foster dogs includes feeding according to size and needs, exercise according to energy levels, and lots of play time and positive socialization.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. By participating in this program, you are saving lives and helping many different types of dogs find the families they have been longing for. Through fostering, we can work together to save more lives!

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do the dogs come from?

Our dogs mainly come to us from two different situations:

Owner Surrenders. At times owners are unable to care for their animals and will ask for our help in finding them a new home. Our goal is to help every owner keep their pet, but in those occasions where that is not possible, we will take in the animal.

Rescues. We take in animals from other animal welfare organizations who might otherwise be euthanized for lack of space.

What do foster families need to provide?

Foster families need to provide:

A healthy and safe environment for their foster dogs.

Transportation to and from the shelter and all veterinary appointments as needed.

Socialization and cuddle time to help teach dogs positive family and pet relationships.

Lots of exercise and positive stimulation to help them develop into great dogs.



Frequently Asked Questions Continued

How much time do I need to spend with a foster dog?

As much time as you can. With that said, the amount of time will vary depending on the energy level and needs of the dog you are fostering. It is ideal to spend around two hours a day exercising and playing with your foster dog to ensure that he or she receives adequate socialization and stimulation.

Can I foster dogs even if I have a full-time job?

Yes. The foster application is designed as a survey to help the foster coordinator match you with the best animal for your needs and your current schedule. If you have a full-time job, the foster coordinator will match you with a dog who may be OK alone during the workday. You would then just need to provide ample exercise before or after you go to work.

Can I foster a dog if I do not have a fenced yard?

Yes. Even if you do have a fenced yard, we request that you supervise all outdoor activities with the foster dog. And we ask that you always keep him or her on a leash when you are on walks.

How long will the dog need to be in foster care?

Ideally, foster dogs stay in their assigned foster homes until they get adopted. The timeline can vary from a few days to weeks or a few months.

Will I need to give medicine to my foster dog?

Almost all of the dogs that we have in our foster program are rescued from shelters and have been exposed to shelter illnesses. While we do our best to ensure that we are aware of all the conditions that a foster dog may have prior to going home, many illnesses have incubation periods, meaning symptoms can arise after you take a dog home. So, while some dogs do not require any medicine, others may. If your foster dog needs medications, we can show you how to administer them before you take the animal home. Medications given to any of our animals must be prescribed by our shelter veterinarian.

Can I let my foster dog play with my personal pets?

No. Dogs in shelters are very susceptible to illness and can carry or catch different diseases. Behaviors in the home can also be different than what has been observed at the shelter. If, for any reason, your personal pet becomes ill, or is injured by our foster pet, while you are fostering one of our shelter pets, we cannot be held liable or provide medical care for your personal pet.



What if I want to adopt my foster dog?

If you want to adopt a foster dog, you will need to complete an adoption application and follow the full adoption process. If you do decide to adopt your foster dog, please contact the foster coordinator right away. Foster parents have the right of first refusal if they wish to adopt their pet. Foster pets can also recommend someone for adoption. Those recommendations will be looked at first in terms of adoption, however, no guarantee is made, as those people will need to be vetted by our adoption team.

Who will take care of my foster dog if I need to go out of town?

If you have travel plans while you are fostering a dog for Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter, you will need to contact the foster coordinator. Please provide at least one week's notice to ensure that we plan appropriately. If your trip is over a holiday, please provide a minimum of two weeks' notice.

You cannot leave your foster dog with an unauthorized person or pet sitter. We have specific training for foster parents, and pet sitters have not undergone that training or signed the release waivers for the foster program.

What if my foster dog bites me?

If any of your foster pets bite you and break skin, causing you to bleed, you need to report the bite to the foster coordinator within 24 hours of when the bite occurred. The law requires that we report all bites. The teeth of the animal, not the nails, must have broken the skin. If you are unsure, then please report the bite anyway.

What if my foster dog is not working out?

You are not required to continue to foster a dog if you feel it is not working out. We will work on moving your foster dog out as soon as possible but ask for understanding and patience. Please call the foster coordinator during business hours if this situation arises.

Preparing for Your Dog

When you take your foster dog home, he or she may be frightened or unsure about what is happening, so it's important not to overwhelm him or her. Prepare a special area for your foster dog to help ease his or her adjustment into a new home environment. Sometimes it is better to confine the foster dog to a small room or area at first, to let the dog adjust before giving him or her free rein in your home. This area should be large enough for an appropriately sized crate for the dog and should allow the dog access to food and water dishes and toys.

We request that all foster dogs be housed indoors only. A garage, backyard or outdoor run is not a suitable accommodation for a foster dog.

During the first couple of weeks, minimize the people and pet introductions to your foster dog, so that the dog is only meeting immediate family. If you have other pets at home, it is especially important to keep them in separate spaces. Do not leave your foster dog unattended in your home with your personal pets.



Supplies You Will Need

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter will provide you with any supplies that you may need. However, we greatly appreciate any help that you can provide in supplying items for your foster dog. Here is what you will need to help your foster dog make a smooth transition to living in your home:

- At least one bowl for dry food and one for water: Stainless steel or ceramic work best.
- A supply of dry dog food: All dogs are fed dry food unless a special diet is needed. We feed our pets with foods that do not contain food dyes or coloring.
- A collar with an ID tag and a leash: Even though foster dogs are microchipped, they still need an ID tag.
- A soft place to sleep: Old towels or blankets work well.
- A baby gate: This comes in handy to keep certain areas of your home off-limits.
- A crate: The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not much bigger than that.
- Dog treats: Giving treats is a good way to help train and build a positive relationship with your foster dog.
- Dog toys: Make sure the toys are durable and appropriate for the size of your foster dog.
- Grooming supplies: A well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted.

Dog-proofing Your Home

Foster dogs come from a shelter environment, and even if they have previously lived in a home, we do not always know how they will react in a new home. So, before bringing home a new foster dog, you will want to survey the area where you are going to keep your foster dog. Remove anything that would be unsafe or undesirable for the dog to chew on, and latch securely any cupboards and doors that the foster dog could get into.

People food and chemicals can be very harmful if consumed by dogs, so please store them in a place that the foster dog cannot access.

Never underestimate your foster dog's abilities. Here are some additional tips for dog-proofing your home:

- Make sure that all trash cans are covered or latched and keep them inside a closet. (Don't forget the bathroom trash bins.)
- Keep the toilet lids closed.
- Keep both people and pet food out of reach and off all counter tops.
- Move houseplants or secure them. Some dogs like to play with them and may knock them over.
- Make sure aquariums or cages that house small animals, like hamsters or fish, are securely out of reach of your foster dog.
- Remove medications, lotions, or cosmetics from any accessible surfaces.
- Move and secure all electrical and phone wires out of reach. Dogs may chew on or get tangled in them.
- Pick up any clothing items that have buttons or strings, which can be harmful to your foster dog if consumed.
- Relocate knickknacks or valuables that your foster dog could knock down.



Bringing Home Your Foster Dog

Taking care of a foster dog requires a commitment from you to make sure the dog is happy and healthy. Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to these dogs who desperately need your help. Without you, we could not save as many as we do.

Choosing a Foster Dog

The foster coordinator will work with you to select a foster dog who meets your specific requirements. We will always do our best to match you with a dog who fits with your lifestyle and schedule. When you and the foster coordinator have decided on a foster dog, an appointment will be scheduled so you can pick up the dog and any supplies that you will need. The appointment will be at the shelter where the dog is located. On occasion a dog may be picked up directly from another foster caregiver.

The foster coordinator will meet you at the shelter and introduce you to the dog. Together, you and the foster coordinator will decide if the dog is the right fit for you. Be honest: If you are not comfortable with anything about the animal you may be fostering, please tell the foster coordinator before you take the animal home.

Children and Dogs

Since we do not always know a foster dog's history or tolerance level for different types of people and activities, please teach your children how to act responsibly and respectfully around your foster dog. We will do our best to place you with an appropriate animal for your home situation, but you should still supervise all interactions between children and your foster dog. Key things to remind your children:

- Always leave the foster dog alone when he/she is eating, chewing or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
- Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.
- Do not tease the foster dog.
- Do not chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog; it may scare him.
- Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what theirs is and what belongs to the kids.
- Do not allow young children to walk the foster dog because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats who cross their path.



Daily Care

Feeding

All foster dogs should be fed a diet of wet and dry dog food, unless otherwise specified by the foster coordinator. We ask that you use the food we provide or a food of similar or better quality. Feed your foster dog twice daily; the amount will be based on the age and weight of your foster dog. Make sure the dog always has access to fresh, clean water.

You can give your foster dog treats of any kind (unless he/she has known allergies, of course); giving treats helps you and your foster dog to bond with each other. Limit treats to 1 or 2 per day so it doesn't upset their stomachs or interfere with mealtimes. Most dogs like to chew on things, so try Greenies, Nylabones or Dentabones. Keep in mind, though, that not all dogs like to share, so only give these treats when your foster dog is confined to his/her own area.

Daily routine

When you first take your foster dog home, take care not to overwhelm her with too many new experiences all at once. Sometimes, too much stimulation can cause a dog to behave unexpectedly toward a person or animal, which is why it is a good idea to keep introductions to a minimum during the first couple of weeks after you bring your foster dog home. It is also important to establish a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks and walk times. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on.

Be aware of your foster dog's appetite and energy level every day. If he or she is not eating well or seems listless, something may be wrong medically. You might want to record your observations to make it easier to notice any health issues.



House-training

It is unlikely that your foster dog will be perfectly house-trained when you take him or her home. Most of the dogs in the foster program have lived in a shelter for a while, often with minimal walks or chances to relieve themselves outside. At the very least, be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets used to your schedule.

Because a dog has a better chance of being adopted if they are house-trained, please help your foster dog to perfect this skill. Take your foster dog outside to go potty multiple times per day (3-6 times daily, depending on age). Initially, you may need to take him or her out more frequently to remind him or her where the door to the outside is. This provides reassurance that you will take him or her out for potty breaks. Most dogs will give cues — such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles — to indicate that they need to go out. Keep the dog in a crate when you are not available to supervise indoors.

If your foster dog has an accident inside the house, do not discipline or punish him or her. It will only teach the dog to mistrust you. Clean up all accidents with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

Crate training

Crate training, done in a positive way, can be an effective component of house-training. A crate can be a safe place for your foster dog to have “down time” and can also limit access to the entire house until your foster pet knows the rules. A crate should never be used as a form of punishment and a dog should never be left in a crate for an extended period of time.

You can prevent problems with crate training by setting your foster dog up for success. The dog should only associate good things with the crate, so start by putting treats and/or toys in the crate and encouraging the dog to go in. Some dogs warm up to the crate slowly. If the dog is afraid to go in, place a treat in the crate as far as the dog is willing to go. After the dog takes the treat, place another treat a little farther back in the crate. Keep going until the dog is eating treats at the very back, then feed the dog its next meal in the crate with the door open, so that the dog can walk in and out at will. Crate training a fearful dog can take days, so be patient and encouraging. If a crate is properly introduced and used, your foster dog will happily enter and settle down.

Grooming

A clean and well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted, so bathe your foster dog as needed and brush him regularly if he has longer hair or requires more frequent grooming. Contact the foster coordinator if you feel that your foster dog needs to see a professional groomer.

If you are comfortable with it, you can trim his nails. But please be careful because you can cause pain and bleeding if you trim the nails too short. You can always schedule an appointment to bring your foster pet in to have its nails trimmed if they are uncomfortably long.

Mental stimulation and exercise

Depending on your foster dog's age and energy level, he or she should get at least two 30-minute play sessions or walks with you per day. Try a variety of toys (balls, squeaky toys, rope toys, etc.) to see which ones your foster dog prefers. Remember to discourage the dog from playing with your hands, since mouthing will not be a desirable behavior to adopters.

You can also offer your foster dog a food-dispensing toy for mental stimulation. You hide treats in the toy and the dog has to figure out how to get the treats out. Try a TreatStik or Kong product, available online and at pet supply stores.

Safety requirements

Foster dogs must live indoors, not outside. Please do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised, even if you have a fenced yard. We ask that you supervise your foster dog when he is outside at all times to ensure that he doesn't escape or have any negative interactions with other people or animals. Your foster dog is only allowed to be off-leash in an enclosed backyard that is completely fenced in.

When walking or hiking with your foster dog, always keep the dog on a leash. This means that your foster dog is not allowed to go to off-leash dog parks or other off-leash dog areas. We do not know how your foster dog will act in these situations, or how other dogs will react, and we need to ensure that all animals are safe at all times. In addition, we don't know if the other dogs they encounter are vaccinated appropriately or carry diseases, so it is best if your foster dog does not meet any unknown dogs. Having recently come from a shelter setting, foster dogs can be vulnerable health-wise.

Helping Your Foster Dog Get Adopted

When is my foster dog ready to go up for Adoption?

All animals up for adoption are spayed or neutered and deemed healthy enough to go to a home by the shelter veterinarian. When you pick up your foster dog from the shelter, the foster coordinator will go over the medical records for the dog and determine what medical appointments the foster dog needs before he/she can go to find a new home.

Before coming to the center, all foster dogs must have a basic wellness check with our shelter veterinarian. If your foster dog has any medical issues beyond the wellness check, they will need to be treated and fully resolved before your foster dog becomes available for adoption. Medical issues could include treatment for kennel cough, dental surgery or spay/neuter surgery.

Animals waiting to be approved for adoption, can be in a "Foster to Adopt" situation. This means that a potential adopter may foster the animal until it has met the requirements to be formally adopted.

How often do I bring my foster dog to the shelter?

All foster pets are frequently checked by the veterinary team and appointments for meet and greets with potential adopters will be scheduled as well. In these cases, the foster will be responsible for bringing the foster pet to the shelter during business hours. In the event an animal is scheduled for a spay/neuter, the foster pet must be brought to the shelter the day before the scheduled surgery.

Will I need to take my foster dog to adoption events?

For dogs that are not in a "Foster to Adopt" situation, we may ask that the foster bring them to adoption events. These will be scheduled in advance.

How can I help my foster dog find a great home?

As you get to know your foster dog, we ask that you stay in constant contact with the foster coordinator so that he/she can update the foster animal's biography online to reflect accurate information about the dog's preferences and quirks. Some people write their own biography for their foster dogs, which we encourage, though they may be edited. We also welcome any quality photos that you take of your foster dog in your home; we can use the photos to create a kennel card and accompany the online biography.

Please send the info about your foster dog and photos to foster@njshleter.org.

You can also use social media or your own personal networks to find potential adopters for your foster pet. Please keep in mind that anyone who shows interest in adopting your foster dog will need to go through the adoption screening process and speak with a staff member before taking the animal home. We also have a Facebook Group just for our Fosters!

What if I know someone who is interested in adopting my foster dog?

If someone you know is interested in adopting the dog, please contact the foster coordinator and give him/her the details. Also, tell the prospective adopter to start the adoption process (visiting the adoption center or filling out an adoption application) as soon as possible. Once the dog is up for adoption, we cannot hold him/her for anyone, but we do want to accommodate referrals from foster parents if we can.

Will it be hard to say goodbye to my foster dog?

Saying goodbye can be the most difficult part of fostering, but keep in mind that many more dogs in our shelter need wonderful foster homes like yours. Remember, you are playing a crucial role in helping to save animals.

Medical and Emergency Protocols

When you pick up your foster pet, you will receive information that specifies the date for your next appointment. You are responsible for attending appointments for your pet's vaccines and/or treatments on the date indicated. All appointments will be scheduled by Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter.

If you are fostering a dog who is on medications, please make sure that he/she gets all prescribed doses. Do not end medication early for any reason. If your foster animal has not responded to prescribed medications after five days (or in the time instructed by a veterinarian), please contact the foster coordinator.

Veterinary care

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter provides all medical care for our foster animals at our approved veterinary clinics. Because we are ultimately responsible for your foster dog's well-being, **our staff must authorize all treatment for foster dogs at our approved veterinary partners.**

For non-emergency situations, please understand that our veterinary team may not be available for same-day appointments. We ask that you schedule basic non-emergency appointments (drop-off, pick-up, vaccines, and supply pick-ups) at least 24 hours in advance.

The shelter medical team is responsible for all medical care. Treatment from an outside veterinarian without authorization is not permitted. Remember, foster parents will be responsible for payment of any medical care if they take their foster animal to a veterinarian without authorization from the shelter veterinarian.

Signs of illness and what to do next

Dogs generally do a good job of masking when they do not feel well, so determining if your foster dog is under the weather will require diligent observation of the dog's daily activity and appetite levels. It is a good idea to keep track of these levels in a journal. You will also want to record any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of illness.

Eye discharge. It is normal for dogs to have some discharge from their eyes when they wake up and some may have more than others, depending on the breed. But if your foster dog has yellow or green discharge or swelling around the eyes (making it hard for him to open his eyes), or the third eyelid is showing, you need to contact the foster coordinator to schedule a vet appointment.

Coughing and nasal discharge. Coughing can be common if your foster dog is pulling on leash. If the coughing becomes more frequent, however, watch for discharge coming from the nose. If the discharge is clear, the infection is probably viral, and medication may not be needed but check with the foster coordinator to find out if a vet appointment is necessary.

If the discharge becomes colored, make a vet appointment because the dog may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the dog's breathing. If the dog seems to struggle to breathe or starts wheezing, call the foster coordinator immediately and follow the emergency contact protocol. Also, once you notice nasal discharge, monitor the dog's eating habits more closely to ensure that he or she is still eating.

If your dog is coughing or has nasal discharge, please make an appointment to have them seen by the medical team.

Loss of appetite. Your foster dog may be stressed after arriving in your home, and stress can cause lack of appetite. But if the dog has not eaten after 24 hours, please notify the foster coordinator. Also, if the dog has been eating well, but then stops eating for 12 to 24 hours, call the foster coordinator to set up a vet appointment. Please do not change the dog's diet without contacting the foster department. An abrupt change in diet can cause diarrhea, which can lead to dehydration.

Lethargy. The activity level of your foster dog will vary depending on age and personality. Keeping an activity log and journal will help you notice whether your foster dog is less active than he normally is. If the dog cannot be roused or seems weak and unable to stand, it is an emergency, so start the emergency contact protocol.

Dehydration. Dehydration is usually associated with diarrhea, vomiting and/or loss of appetite. To test for dehydration, gently pinch the dog's skin around the scruff area. If the skin stays taut, the dog is dehydrated. Please call the foster coordinator the next business day to schedule a vet appointment.

Vomiting. Sometimes dogs will eat too quickly and will immediately throw up their food. Occasional vomiting isn't cause for alarm, but if your foster dog has thrown up two or more times in one day, please notify the foster department. It could be indicative of infection.

Pain or strain while urinating. When a dog first goes into a foster home, he or she may not urinate due to stress. If the dog hasn't urinated in more than 24 hours, however, please contact the foster coordinator. Also, if you notice the dog straining to urinate with little or no results, or crying out when urinating, please contact the foster **coordinator immediately because it may be indicative of an infection or an obstruction.**

Diarrhea. It is important to monitor your foster dog's pooping habits daily. Soft stool is normal for the first two or three days after taking a dog home, most likely caused by stress and a change in food. If your foster dog has liquid stool, however, please contact the foster department so that an appointment can be scheduled to ensure that the dog does not need medications. Keep in mind that diarrhea will dehydrate the dog, so be proactive about contacting the foster department. If your foster dog has bloody or mucoid diarrhea, please contact the foster coordinator immediately and start the emergency contact protocol.



Frequent ear scratching. Your foster dog may have a bacterial or yeast infection (or, in rare cases, ear mites) if she scratches her ears often and/or shakes her head frequently. These conditions can be treated by a veterinarian, so please call the foster coordinator to schedule a medical appointment.

Swollen, irritated ears. If your foster dog has irritated, swollen or red or pink ears that smell like yeast, he may have an ear infection called otitis. This type of infection is more common in dogs who have very floppy ears, like basset hounds or Labradors. These dogs may need to have their ears cleaned more often to ensure that the infection does not re-occur.

Hair loss. Please contact the foster department if you notice any hair loss on your foster dog. It is normal for dogs to have thin fur around the lips, eyelids and in front of the ears, but clumpy patches of hair loss or thinning hair can indicate ringworm, dermatitis, or the early stages of mange. It is important to check your foster dog's coat every day.

Common ailments in animals from shelters

Shelter dogs may suffer from kennel cough, giardia, or intestinal parasites. Symptoms of kennel cough include a dry hacking cough, often with phlegm discharge, discharge from the nose and/or eyes, decrease in appetite, dehydration, and slight lethargy. Symptoms of giardia or intestinal parasites include vomiting, diarrhea (often with a pungent odor) and/or dehydration. ***If your foster dog is displaying one or more of these signs, please contact the foster coordinator. These ailments can worsen if left untreated.***

Criteria for emergencies

What constitutes a medical emergency in a dog? A good rule of thumb is any situation in which you would call 911 for a person. Here are some specific symptoms that could indicate an emergency:

- Not breathing or labored breathing
- Symptoms of parvovirus: bloody diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, high fever (above 103.5 degrees)
- Signs of extreme dehydration: dry mucous membranes, weakness, vomiting, tenting of the skin (when the skin is pulled up, it stays there)
- Abnormal lethargy or unable to stand
- Unconsciousness or unable to wake up
- Cold to the touch
- Broken bones
- Any trauma: hit by a car, dropped, stepped on
- A large wound or profuse bleeding that does not stop when pressure is applied
- Loss of appetite for more than 24 hours

If your foster dog displays any of these symptoms, please follow the emergency phone protocol. If the animal is vomiting or has diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking, you can probably wait until the next day to get help.

Emergency Phone Protocol:

Call the shelter at 973-386-0590 Monday – Sunday between 8 am and 4 pm

Rayan Ramadan, Foster Coordinator
Brisa Prada, Veterinary & Foster Assistant
foster@njshelter.org
973-386-0590

Taylor Woehle, Lead Veterinary Technician
vettechmanager@njshelter.org
973-386-0590 x 15

Veterinary Technician Team
vettech@njshelter.org
973-386-0590 x 15

For after hours emergencies the shelter is affiliated with:

Veterinary Emergency Group
<https://veterinaryemergencygroup.com>
(multiple locations in NJ)
201-438-7122

Behavior Support

One of your goals as a foster parent is to help prepare your foster dog for living successfully in a home. So, we ask that you help your foster dog to develop good habits and skills using positive reinforcement training, which builds a bond of trust between you and your foster pet. The basic idea is to reward desirable behaviors and ignore unwanted behaviors.

You must not punish a dog for a behavior that you find undesirable because punishment is ineffective at eliminating the behavior. If the dog is doing something undesirable, distract him or her before the behavior occurs. It is also important for every human in the foster home to stick to the rules established for your foster dogs, which will help them to learn faster.

When interacting with your foster dog, refrain from wrestling or engaging in play that encourages the dog to be mouthy and “play bite” on your body. Also, try to refrain from inviting dogs up on the couch or bed. Not all adopters find this habit acceptable.

Some foster dogs will have behavioral issues, which we are aware of at the time of their rescue. Some of these behavior challenges are separation anxiety, destruction of property, fear issues or aggression toward other animals. We will only place dogs with behavioral issues with a person who feels comfortable working with the dog on his/her issues. We will provide that person with all the necessary information so that proper care and training can be given to the foster dog.

If you feel unable to manage any behavior that your foster dog is exhibiting, please contact the foster coordinator during business hours to discuss the issue. We will guide you and help in every way that we can.

Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to foster pets. Together, we can save more lives!

Join the Fear Free Movement

Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter has joined Fear Free Shelters to help educate our community on ways to recognize and reduce fear, anxiety and stress for the animals in our care.

To join the movement, please send an email to Outreach@njshelter.org to receive instructions on how you can become Fear Free certified. Learn more about this program at www.fearfreeshelters.com.



www.fearfreeshelters.org





Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter
194 State Route 10 West
East Hanover, NJ 07936
973-386-0590
info@njshelter.org

Monday-Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Due to COVID-19, admittance to the shelter is by appointment only.