

Welcome to the Fawster DAWG program!

Thank you for being a First Responder in the fight to save Dallas dogs!

the Fawster DAWG program is a collaboration between
Dallas Animal Services
&
The DAWG Project



Welcome to The DAWG Project's Fawster DAWG program!

Here's something you should know: Fosters are truly the first responders in the fight to save a dog. Without an available foster, rescues can't pull dogs from the shelter. And without fosters to help relieve shelter overpopulation, shelters are often forced to euthanize dogs who would make great pets.

Because fosters move pets out of the shelter, opening up a spot in the shelter for another homeless pet, **TWO** lives are saved through each foster experience.

Thank you for saving lives by choosing to foster!!



Your foster parent job description:

- Provide a temporary home for a dog* in need — a homeless dog or a dog who needs to be out of the shelter. This involves food and water, a safe, warm place to sleep, and a safe home environment.
- Provide safe, loving leadership for your foster. Often dogs come into foster care after experiencing trauma and living in dangerous situations. You might just be the first safe human they've known. Please be patient with them.
- Provide short-term pet parenthood. Foster dogs often need to be taught to be members of the family.
- Help your foster dog become socialized, learn basic obedience skills and practice their company manners. Some have never lived indoors, eaten out of a bowl or slept in a bed that was just for them.
- Network your foster dog on social media platforms. You are your foster dog's best advocate! Tell your foster dog's story and show his or her progress. This will greatly increase the chances for adoption.
- Provide transportation to and from adoption events.
- Administer basic medical care (heartworm treatment) and monitor any changes in your foster dog's health.
- Enjoy the wonderful benefits of having pets in your home without the lifetime commitment of pet ownership.



What are the benefits of fostering?

Fostering allows you to enjoy the fun of having a pet in your home without making a lifetime commitment to pet ownership. Fostering is an inexpensive way to enjoy having a pet in your life and in your family. **Since most of the pet's expenses are covered by The DAWG Project, the cost to you is minimal.**

How long will I keep my foster dog?

Foster commitments vary widely. Some dogs are in foster care for a few weeks. Some harder-to-adopt dogs may remain in foster care for months. However, a good foster home GREATLY improves a dog's chances of getting adopted! Your dog just may surprise you and end up finding a forever home in no time! In which case - we hope you'll foster again. :)

Do I need to have any special training or skills to be foster parent?

Your foster dog needs for you to be a kind, patient pack leader. Basic training skills are a plus. Teaching your foster dog to walk politely on a leash and to sit and stay will make for a happier dog and also improve the chances of successful adoption.

Your foster dog will often come to you after a series of difficult and often unknown events. Foster dogs are stressed and trying to adjust to a new environment.

Foster dogs make mistakes. Foster families should be loving and patient. It's up to foster parents to provide a home in which foster pets can feel safe, learn their manners and grow into wonderful pets and family members.

You will be informed of your foster dog's known history and any medical or behavioral health before the dog is placed in your care. Our foster coordinator will help answer questions and provide resources and information.



What are the requirements to foster?

Fosters must

- be willing to abide by The DAWG Project policies and procedures in the foster manual and foster care agreement
- be able to access email regularly
- be able to provide transport to and from adoption events and veterinary visits
- provide some supplies and food for foster animals
- spend time with foster pets and treat them like your own animals while they're in your care
- have up-to-date rabies vaccinations for all animals in the home

What types of animals need foster care?

- puppies who need all that extra puppy care
- dogs rescued from the streets who would not do well in a shelter environment
- dogs recovering from illness or injury
- dogs with behavioral challenges (jumping, spinning, poor leash manners)

How much time do foster parents have to devote to the animal(s) in their care?

Foster animals need all of the same things that owned animals do, and may even need extra attention if they are recovering from illness/injury, or need lots of exercise, training, or specialized care.

What happens if my foster animal needs medical care?



The DAWG Project will provide all medical care for the animals in its foster program. Please contact the foster coordinator, who will help arrange for medical services.

What if I get attached? Can foster parents adopt their foster animals?

In many cases, yes! Foster parents are often given first choice when adoption time arrives! And we will always want your input when an adoption opportunity arises.

Supplies

The DAWG Project will provide fosters with

- food and crates
- any medications, supplements or prescription diets that have been prescribed by our veterinary staff

You will need to provide

- leash and collar
- training aids (like puppy pads)
- toys
- treats
- training and socialization
- a safe, loving home environment

Please contact the foster coordinator if you need something for your foster dog. We will do our best to help you!

Health and Temperament

The DAWG Project will be as accurate as possible when providing information about the medical and behavioral health of animals seeking foster placement, but we cannot always guarantee the medical or behavioral health of any animal.



Foster care providers are required communicate as accurately as possible about their foster animal's health and behavior. This will assist The DAWG Project in determining the proper medical treatment, training and/or behavioral rehabilitation for the animal.

Getting Started

After your foster application has been received and approved, you will be required to sign the The DAWG Project foster agreement.

Please note, if at any time you have questions regarding the foster program, potential foster animals, etc., please direct your questions to the foster coordinator.

Picking out a new foster animal

If you are interested in fostering a particular animal or litter, please contact the foster coordinator as soon as possible. Once we receive your request, we will verify that the animal is still available, answer any questions that you may have, and confirm a pick up date and time. All questions regarding an animal's history, behavior, medical needs, special care instructions, etc. should be directed to the foster coordinator prior to pick up.

In most cases, The DAWG Project will recommend a dog based on your preferences, and you will always have the opportunity to accept or decline the opportunity.

Basic vetting for fosters

Every foster dog will need to be up-to-date on vaccinations and will need to be spayed or neutered and will need heartworm prevention and possibly treatment. Most dogs arrive at the shelter with some of these basic health requirements



unmet. The DAWG Project will provide these services, which you will coordinate through the foster coordinator.

Booster Shots

All foster animals under four months of age should have their weight checked and be given booster shots every 3-4 weeks. This means that very young puppies may receive as many as four boosters. Foster animals over four months of age when they go into foster care should receive booster shots just once, 3-4 weeks after their initial shot. It is up to you, the foster care provider, to keep track of their foster's booster shot and prevention schedule.

Flea/Tick and Heartworm Prevention

All foster animals over eight weeks of age should be given flea/tick and heartworm prevention monthly. Since these medications are based on the weight of the animal, if your foster is still growing, you will need to follow the same protocol given above for booster shots. It is up to the foster care provider to keep track of their foster's booster shot and heartworm prevention schedule.

Sick or Injured Fosters

If you notice that your foster animal has mild, cold-like symptoms (sneezing or coughing occasionally, clear ocular or nasal discharge), diarrhea or have vomited, but are alert, active, eating and drinking well, please notify the foster coordinator so that it can be determined how best to proceed.

If your foster animal has more severe symptoms, such as frequent vomiting, lethargy, yellow/green ocular or nasal discharge, previously undocumented hair loss, straining to urinate or defecate, etc., please notify the foster coordinator, and bring the animal to the INTAKE office to be seen by a veterinarian during our clinic hours. If you are fostering a litter of puppies, even if only one animal is showing symptoms, the entire litter should be brought in.

In Case of an After Hours Emergency



If your foster animal is having an urgent, life threatening medical issue while the shelter is closed, please call the foster coordinator, who will recommend a course of action.

Scheduling Spay/Neuter Surgery, Vaccinations and Microchipping

The DAWG Project will arrange for and pay for spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations and chipping. It will be up to you to transport your foster dog to and from the vet and to provide after-care for recovery after surgery.

How can I help my foster animal find a forever home?

When fostering an animal for The DAWG Project, you can be the animal's number one advocate! By acting as an adoption ambassador, you won't just be a foster parent. You will be a photographer, videographer, biographer, a marketing specialist, and an adoption counselor! You are your foster's BIGGEST FAN!

Take at least one clear, landscape-oriented (horizontal), photo of the foster animal and email it to the foster coordinator to be added to the The DAWG Project website

Take at least one clear, short video of the foster animal and email it to the foster coordinator to be added to The DAWG Project Facebook page

Promote the foster animal on social media websites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor

Create and put up flyers for the foster animal in appropriate locations

Please be aware that animals in our foster program are not on a first come, first served basis. As the foster parent, you may meet different potential adopters before deciding which would be the best fit for the animal(s) in your care. However, foster care providers should check their email inbox, and spam folder daily for inquiries from potential adopters about the animal(s) in their care, and respond to all inquiries within 48 hours.



My foster animal has an adopter, now what?

1. The adopter must go through The DAWG Project' approval process
2. Once you have confirmed that someone is interested in adopting your foster pet contact the foster coordinator right away to let us know.
3. After the foster animal has been spayed/neutered and microchipped, it may be transferred to the adopter.
4. The foster care provider should collect the appropriate adoption fee from the adopter.
5. Once the animal has been transferred to the adopter, the foster care providers must submit the completed adoption packet and adoption fee to the foster coordinator within 3 business days.
6. After the completed adoption packet and adoption fee have been received by the foster coordinator, all of the animal's paperwork and microchip information will be emailed to the adopter.

Adoption Events

Another option for foster care providers seeking forever homes for the animals in their care are adoption events. These events are typically held on weekends, at the PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center at 16821 Coit Road in Dallas. Details about these events will be made available to you.

Returning Foster Animals to The DAWG Project

If you need to return a foster pet to The DAWG Project for any reason, please contact the foster coordinator so that we can make arrangements for you to do so.

When returning foster pets, please complete a behavior profile for the animal(s) that you are returning. This will help us find a better foster fit for the dog.



Policies and Procedures

All animals in foster care are the property of The DAWG Project and are subject to all applicable rules and restrictions.

Proper Housing and Care Requirements

1. Foster care providers are expected to follow and abide by all guidelines and protocols regarding proper care of foster animals, including giving them proper food, access to water at all times, daylight, socialization, health care, etc. Foster animals must be kept in climate controlled homes with the temperature kept between 60 and 80° F. They are not to be left outside for long periods of time or crated for more than 6 hours at a time.
2. Puppies should never be left unsupervised outdoors, and high traffic areas, such as the park, animal stores, public sidewalks/trails, etc., should be avoided, as puppies can be susceptible to deadly diseases that could be lurking there.
3. Dogs should spend time outside for supervised play time/exercise. When outdoors, foster dogs must be kept on leash or in a securely fenced yard. Some dogs can jump/climb over or dig under fences surprisingly fast, so please be cautious when leaving foster dogs unsupervised.
4. We ask that you do not take foster dogs to off leash dog parks or other off leash areas. Dogs must be on leash, under your control, at all times.
5. If your foster dog gets loose, contact the foster coordinator immediately.
6. If injury or illness results from interaction between your animals and foster animals, The DAWG Project will only be responsible for the medical care and expenses of the foster animal. In some cases, you may be asked to keep your pet separate from the foster pet for a pre-determined period of time to prevent the spread of illness to your pet.



9. The DAWG Project reserves the right to perform home checks in order to ensure that foster animals are being adequately and appropriately cared for.
10. If a foster care provider refuses to return a foster animal for any reason upon request by The DAWG Project, or has improperly transferred an animal to another individual or entity, the foster care provider will be permanently removed from the foster program and The DAWG Project may initiate appropriate legal action in order to secure the return of the animal.
11. Foster care providers are only allowed to treat foster animals with medications and supplements prescribed by veterinary staff working with The DAWG Project, unless alternative care arrangements have been approved by the foster coordinator.
12. Foster care providers must notify the foster coordinator immediately if a foster animal bites a person or animal and the bite breaks the skin.



Who to call

Fawster DAWG program director	Melanie Wells 214.564.1964
Fawster DAWG foster coordinator	Nicki Hernandez 214.668.7181
Fawster DAWG foster coordinator	Lisa Faulkner-Dunne 214.287.1969

The DAWG Project is a 501c3 organization dedicated to the welfare of Dallas pets and their people

**Thank you for joining The DAWG Project's Fawster DAWG program!!
Thank you for stepping up to be a hero for Dallas dogs!**

