



FBCAS Temporary Fostering Guidelines

From all of us here at FBCAS we want to thank you for being a temporary foster for one of our pets.

We want to make this fostering experience as pleasant for you and your pet as possible so please refer to the following while you have our pet in your care.

- Arrange to introduce the new animal to your own pet(s) that are current on all of their own vaccines, if you have them, outside on neutral territory. Once inside, it is best to situate the foster animal in a crate at first, and introduce him/her gradually to other household members. Do not try to make the foster an immediate part of your family. Let him/her settle into the new place, and help him/her learn the rules of the house as soon as possible. Never let the foster take over and place your own animals at risk or under stress.
- Use a slip lead or leash to walk a foster so he/she cannot slip from a collar and run off. A dog can easily slip out of a flat collar, which should be worn for identification purposes only. It would be helpful to use a Sharpie to write your phone number or FBCAS' number (281-342-1512) on the inside of the collar as well.
- If you find prospective adopters for your foster on your own, please have them contact FBCAS at 281-342-1512 so that we can explain the adoption process to them. All information and inquiries should be directed only to FBCAS and our employees. You can contact us through our Facebook page (Fort Bend County Pets – Fort Bend County Animal Services). You can also email Barbara Vass at barbara.vass@fortbendcountytx.gov.
- **Never** turn over a foster to someone who claims it is his/her lost pet without first contacting us at FBCAS. This person could be mistaken, or he/she could be deliberately trying to mislead you. The animal could have been removed from his/her former home for all kinds of reasons.
- If necessary, FBCAS can lend you a crate, a collar and/or leash. Whenever you transport an animal, make certain you have him/her on a leash. No prong collars, please! If you plan to foster on a regular basis, it would be a great help to FBCAS if you could get a crate of your own. Make sure the animal has ample

room to move around when choosing the proper size. Confine all animals being transported in vehicles either with harnesses or in crates. This may not seem like the best choice for the animals, but it is essential for your safety and theirs. Accidents can and do happen, when animals are loose in the car. People and animals can and do die.

- Foster families typically provide food, treats and chew toys for foster animals, without reimbursement from FBCAS.
- **If your foster animal becomes ill or gets hurt, contact FBCAS immediately during normal business hours at 281-342-1512 or email to barbara.vass@fortbendcountytexas.gov. FBCAS is not able to reimburse fosters for their medical expenses so we encourage you to contact us for any emergent issues.**
- Be careful what you tell potential adopters. Avoid giving advice and criticizing. Also avoid answering questions with absolutes, and never answer questions you are not sure about. Do not mislead inquirers. Ask for assistance when you do not know something. Tell inquirers you need to check **with FBCAS** and will get back to them as soon as possible. Always recommend that potential adopters do as much reading about animals and adoptions and about their breed, if applicable.
- If you would like to send information and photos of your foster so that FBCAS can network them on our social media (as well as your own) please send all information to barbara.vass@fortbendcountytexas.gov.
- Again, we encourage any questions, concerns, comments, ideas be directed only to us FBCAS via any of the contact methods listed above.

We hope that you find this foster experience rewarding and joyful – you are doing an amazing thing for a shelter pet and they will be forever grateful.

Barbara Vass
Community Involvement Coordinator
Fort Bend County Animal Services