



# **FOSTER MANUAL**

(revised Oct. 2016)

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for agreeing to foster a dog for our rescue. Foster homes are absolutely critical to our rescue operations; we could not save dogs without them. A foster provides a stable, loving environment for a dog that has been neglected and/or abandoned. Fosters also enable us to obtain valuable information about a dog's health and temperament, which helps to ensure that we match the dog with the right adopter. Finally, by providing a little training and structure, foster homes can dramatically affect the adoptability of their foster dogs.

Save A Lab Rescue rescues endangered Labradors from all over the southern U.S. These may be dogs that are at risk of being euthanized at a shelter, owner surrendered dogs, or even strays. We do our best to temperament test each dog that we rescue and to match them with the appropriate foster, who cares for them until they can be placed into an approved adoptive home.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

All approved fosters must complete the Foster Agreement, which can be submitted online via our website: <http://www.savealabrescue.org/foster-agreement.html>

All fosters agree to accept responsibility for providing indoor shelter and care for their foster dog until an adoptive home is found. If for any reason, you are no longer able to foster your dog, please contact us immediately. We will work on placing your dog with another approved foster as soon as possible.

Fosters are asked to send regular updates on their foster dog, along with photos. These updates and photos are extremely helpful in promoting and placing the dog into a forever home. Please try to take black dogs photos outside in good lighting as it makes the photos much easier to see.

Expenses for veterinary care are covered by our rescue, but **all vet visits must be approved by one of our administrators before any foster dog receives treatment.** Please contact us if you feel that your foster dog needs to be seen by a vet. One of our coordinators will complete and send to you a Vetting Authorization Form which specifies the veterinary services we are requesting and authorizing for your foster dog. Only approved veterinary services will be reimbursed by the rescue, upon submission of receipts. (The Vetting Authorization Forms are mainly for southern fosters. AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL FOSTERS)

All fosters should ensure that their personal dogs are up-to-date with their current vaccinations. We recommend that all dogs receive a bordetella vaccination to protect against kennel cough, which is a common illness among shelter dogs. Save A Lab is not responsible for any veterinary bills for resident pets.

Foster dogs are required to be on a leash at all times when outside or in a secure area such as a fenced yard. We do not consider an invisible fence to be an appropriate secured area. It is never acceptable to leave your foster dog alone and unsupervised in a fenced yard. Tethers or tie-outs are also not acceptable.

If you are fostering for another rescue, we ask that you foster for one rescue at a time. We do not allow our dogs to be fostered along with a dog from another rescue due to liability and health concerns.

Fosters should **NEVER** turn over their foster dog to an adopter until the Adoption coordinators have contacted you with the adopters name, & an adopter has submitted both the adoption agreement **AND** adoption fee. This is done on the day of adoption, at the fosters home. Unless the foster receives these items from the adopter at the time of adoption (or has been notified by SAL that the adopter has already submitted them), the adoption is not considered final and the adopter may not take possession of the dog.

## **PREPARING TO FOSTER**

All fosters should have the following supplies on hand:

- High quality dog food and water bowls
- Food and treats
- Dog Crate
- Bed or blanket for the dog to sleep on
- Toys, bones or antlers for chewing
- Collar and Leash
- Dog tag with your name and telephone number. The dog's name does not have to be on the tag; that way you can reuse the tag for another foster.

## **TRANSPORT**

We use a variety of transporters to move our dogs to their foster homes. Some large pet transporters, such as PETS LLC, have pre-determined pick up times and locations. If we are using one of these transporters, we will check with you to determine which pick up location you prefer and make the reservation accordingly.

We also use smaller transporters whose routes may vary with each transport. These transporters will contact you a few days before transport to set up a time and place for you to pick up your foster dog.

If you need help with meeting transport, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Please remember to bring a leash and adjustable collar with you to pick up your foster dog! Also, **be sure that the transporter gives you the medical records and paperwork for your foster dog.**

Please remember that your foster dog may be stressed from the transport, so use care when handling them. They usually bounce back in a day or so.

## **BRINGING YOUR FOSTER DOG HOME**

If possible, keep your foster dog and personal dogs separate from each other for a few days while they adjust to each other. If it is not possible to keep them physically separated, make sure that everyone has their own personal space – a bed, crate, or special area of the house. \*\*\* Pick up all high value treats, bones & your dogs toys, until you are sure there are no issues.

### *Dog Introductions*

It often takes 2-3 days for your foster dogs to "settle in". They have been through a long hard confusing stressful journey. They need time to unwind. Space to decompress. Please do not expect them to jump right into being social playmates for your dogs right away. They may need crate time.

Introduce your dog to your foster dog on neutral territory, with both dogs on a leash. Start with a few quick sniffs. Give both dogs a lot of praise and positive reinforcement so that they feel safe and secure. If one dog becomes aggressive, separate them immediately and slow down the pace of introductions.

Do not force interaction if they do not immediately accept each other. Sometimes it can take a few days for dogs to adjust. Some fosters find that walking the dogs together on a leash can help them to become familiar and comfortable with each other.

We recommend that you leave the leash on your foster dog when you are at home so that you can quickly gain control if you need to. You should only have to do this for the first day or two.

Always feed foster dog in a separate area for the 1<sup>st</sup> few days. Many of these dogs have been starved or had to scrounge for food, & we don't want them feeling threatened if another dog is around while eating. BEST practice is to feed your foster dog inside his or her crate.

### *Dog Interactions*

Dogs are pack animals. There is usually one dog who dominates. As long as all of the dogs are responding positively to each other and the "pecking order", this is not a problem. However, if they are constantly fighting for the alpha position, then they will need to be separated and are probably not a good fit for each other.

Never leave the dogs unsupervised together while they are getting to know each other. During this time, they still need correction on appropriate behavior towards one another, which requires supervision. Crate the dogs or physically separate them when you are away from home. Also, it is a good idea to feed the dogs separately; every dog should have its own feeding area and bowl.

Always make sure that you give each dog individual attention along with his/her own personal space. This will help to minimize any tension or jealousy.

### *Cats*

It's important to ensure that your cat has his/her own sanctuary; an area where the foster dog is not allowed to go. If you can, keep the cat's food and litter box in this area. For the first few days, limit their interaction to a few sniffs so that when they do meet face to face, they may feel like they have already met.

When introducing your foster dog to your cat, make sure the dog is on a leash and allow the cat to walk by. Reinforce playful, curious behavior and correct any aggression or obsession. If the dog remains overly focused and/or does not take his eyes off the cat, try redirecting the dog's attention to you by calling his name and when he looks at you, give him a treat. If the dog lunges toward, growls, snaps at or shows

aggression towards the cat, the dog is most likely not cat safe. Please inform the SAL administrator about this behavior.

Never leave your cat and foster dog together unsupervised. A playful dog can still unintentionally harm a cat. Make sure your cat has places to jump up or hide under where the dog can't get to him/her. The cat may swipe at your foster dog in order to correct his/her behavior, which can be very effective in ensuring that the dog knows his/her place. But you need to monitor their interactions to ensure that the cat does not injure your foster dog, as well.

### *Children*

Dogs and children can be wonderful playmates; however, children must learn proper handling and dogs must learn self-control so that they do not play too rough and inadvertently harm a child.

Children should be taught that dogs are not dolls or toys to be handled constantly. They should not be allowed to tease or rile up a dog unnecessarily. This includes chasing the dog around the house, which can scare a dog and potentially cause him/her to snap out of fear. Teach your children to respect the dog's space, especially during meal times or when they are sleeping.

Dogs sometimes view children as subordinate members of the pack or as littermates who need to be put in their place. Read your foster dog's body language when the dog is interacting with children. Never leave a foster dog and a child alone unsupervised, and teach your child how to properly handle and discipline the dog.

## **TRAINING**

While your foster dog is in your care, you can provide some basic training that will help to make your foster dog more adoptable.

*Socializing* – Ensure that your foster dog is acclimated to meeting new people and animals. Take your foster dog for walks so that they can meet as many people and dogs as possible. Do wait a few days after bringing your foster dog home in order to give them time to adjust and avoid overwhelming them with too many introductions. Do not take a foster dog to a dog park until you have had the opportunity to evaluate his behavior with other dogs.

\*\*\*\**Puppies* – puppies should ONLY be introduced to your own fully vaccinated dogs, or dogs you know are healthy & vaccinated (ie: close friends). Your yard & neighborhood is fine, but no Petcos, or places where

dogs frequent - & if you must bring a puppy to a vet, please carry them in. Do not let them walk on the ground in vets office, or outside vets.

*House Training* –Your foster dog will most likely need to be taught to go potty outside. Many of our rescued dogs have spent time most of their time outdoors and are not house broken. However, they catch on very quickly. Follow the procedures that you would follow for house breaking a little puppy - frequent potty breaks, carefully supervision to prevent accidents. Never yell or rub their nose in the accident. Even a fully housetrained dog may have accidents when he first moves to your home. The stress of new surroundings and a new schedule can disrupt his routine. Usually, once he gets accustomed to your household schedule, the accidents will stop. Make sure that you take your foster dog outside regularly, especially after mealtimes and naps.

*Marking* - Some dogs may want to mark even though they are altered/fixed. Give the dog a loud verbal correction when you see them prepare to mark. They will usually stop and this behavior will stop.

*Crate Training* – Crate training uses a dog's natural instincts as a den animal. Do not put bedding the crate unless you are sure that your foster dog will not eat it. Never use the crate as a punishment. The crate should always be associated with something pleasant. Toss a treat in crate to encourage the dog to enter crate on his own. Feeding your foster dog in the crate also makes the dog feel that the crate is a place where good things happen (food, treats, etc.). Stuffing a kong with peanut butter and freezing it is a good treat to give the dog in the crate when he has to spend several hours in the crate. Never let a barking dog out of the crate. Wait until the dog is quiet even if it's just a few seconds and then open the crate door. You do not want him to think that barking will get him out of the crate.

*Sit* – This is a relatively easy command to teach and can help to get an over-excited dog under control. Teaching a dog to sit and wait while you put his food bowl down to the floor (or in the crate) teaches the dog self control.

*Jumping* – This is a common issue with labs, especially younger ones. It is important to teach them not to jump up on people as they can easily knock a person down, especially a child. The best prevention is to tell them to sit when they approach, then invite them “up” for a visit. If the dog gets up from the sitting position, back up. Repeat this exercise until dog is not jumping. Never knee dog in the chest. This is not effective in teaching the dog not to jump.

*Leash Training* - Some rescued dogs have never been on a leash and have no idea how to react. A harness, prong collar, or a gentle leader can be very effective with a dog that tends to pull on a leash. Squirt bottles

can be a very effective way to correct your foster dog's behavior if they do not respond to verbal correction. Use a squirt bottle filled with plain water and set the nozzle on the "stream" setting. A quick squirt in the face, along with a verbal correction such as "No" or "Down" can be very effective. It does not hurt the dog, but can be very helpful in getting their attention.

Remember that **consistent correction and positive reinforcement** are the keys to training any dog.

## **EXERCISE**

Foster dogs should be exercised every day. A dog that is exercised regularly will tend to sleep when you are not at home, and a sleeping dog will not engage in undesirable behaviors such as barking, chewing, etc. Of course, if your foster dog is recovering from an illness, injury, or heartworm treatment, they should NOT be exercised until they are cleared medically by a veterinarian.

## **VETERINARY CARE**

All of our rescued labs are vetted prior to arriving at their foster homes. This includes age appropriate vaccinations, fecal test and deworming, spay/neuter (adult dogs), flea/tick treatment, and a complete physical exam. However, a medical issue can still arise, so we ask our fosters to monitor their foster dogs for any signs of illness. Please contact us if you observe any unusual symptoms, including loss of appetite, unusual discharges from the eyes, ears, or other body openings, coughing, limping, or gastrointestinal issues.

Do keep in mind that it is not uncommon for a dog to experience some diarrhea and loss of appetite for the first few days. This can be caused by stress or a change in diet. However, if the problem persists, please contact us. Some foster dogs may still have their sutures from their spay/neuter surgery when they arrive at their foster home. Please check your foster dog for sutures and if they have them, contact your Foster Coordinator to find out when they need to be removed.

Remember that all veterinary care must be **pre-authorized** by the rescue. If you believe your foster dog needs to see a vet, please let us know so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

All of our dogs remain on heartworm and flea/tick prevention while in our care. Please keep track of when your foster dog is due these medications, and contact the Pharmaceutical Coordinator or your Foster Coordinator if you need a refill. If this information is not in your foster dog's medical records, please contact us so we can ensure that your foster dog remains on schedule with these medications.

In RI, we prefer TITAN VET in Warwick, on Airport Rd. We have an account there. Your contact person at that vet is Debbie. The phone # is: (401) 921-4394

Of course if there is a life and death emergency with your foster dog & they need a vet right away, don't hesitate. Always try to get in touch with someone via phone, text, email, or Facebook from the rescue. It is best to start with your Foster Coordinator and then your Regional Director (Rebecca Clark for Northern Fosters, Sanchia for TX and surround areas, and Kim O'Conner for Southeastern Fosters). If none are available then you can contact Christy Williard.

## **GETTING YOUR FOSTER DOG ADOPTED**

### *Promoting Your Foster Dog*

We work very hard to promote our rescued labs and to find them the perfect forever home. Our dogs are routinely posted on our website, Petfinder, and our Facebook page. We have found that detailed profiles and good photos are invaluable in generating adopter interest. This is why we ask our fosters to provide regular updates along with photos. Videos are also a great promotional tool, as it enables prospective adopters to really "see" the dog.

### *Tips for taking good photos:*

Take a lot of digital pictures. You may have to take several pictures to get a couple of really good photos.

Photos taken outside in natural light are usually much better than those taken indoors or with a flash. Lighting is very important for accurately capturing a dog's coloring and detail. Use treats and/or a squeaky toy to capture the dog's best expression. Sometimes having two people makes this process easier.

Try taking pictures using a neutral backdrop. Select a background that contrasts with the dog's coloring. Darker colored dogs will show up better against a lighter background and vice versa.

Try different props. If the dog likes to fetch, you might get a picture of the dog with his/her favorite ball. Wrap a bandana around the dog's neck to add a streak of color.

Try to capture at least one close-up shot, where the focus is on the dog's face. A full body picture is also a great way to show size and scale.

Exercise the dog before your photo shoot. A calmer dog is easier to photograph.

## *Meeting Prospective Adopters*

The Adoption Coordinator will notify you when there is a potential adopter interested in your foster dog. She will put you in contact with the potential adopter; so that you can answer any questions they may have regarding your foster dog's behavior and temperament and set up a mutually convenient time for the adopter to meet your foster dog. We encourage our fosters to assess whether the potential adopter is a good match for the dog, and vice versa. Please communicate any concerns that you may have to our Adoption Coordinator.

You may promote your foster dog as adoptable. But, as you may know, dogs are placed on our FB page & our website as soon as they are rescued. Please be aware that there may be an application on that dog already being processed, possibly before a dog even reaches a northern foster. Therefore, **it is a SAL policy that people should NOT be meeting dogs who aren't approved adopters.** The Adoption Coordination team will contact an approved adopter, via email, giving them your information, as the foster, so they can contact you to make an appointment if they want to meet your foster dog. You will be cc'd on that email. Anyone we send to meet a dog HAS BEEN approved, & can adopt right then, & take the dog home once they meet them & decide to adopt. Of course you may have friends or family who meet your foster dog, or people you just meet in public & you tell about SAL, & they show interest in adopting. THAT'S GREAT! Your best response is: "Yes, please apply. Often there may already be applications already in on a dog that I'm not aware of. But please feel free to apply. Adopters back out, or don't get approved, or may choose another dog. Or, even if you do get approved, if (dog) ends up not available, I'm sure we can find you another great dog that is available".

The reason we don't allow meetings of dogs for unapproved adopters are the following:

1. for the benefit of the foster family. If we let anyone come "see" dogs to see if they want to apply, imagine the inconvenience of everyone wanting to come meet dogs in foster homes to see if they want to apply! You'd have people in & out all the time. Also, the stress on dogs meeting people over & over ... AND the exposure (mostly for pups) to germs. So we do want to keep anyone meeting them to **SERIOUS APPROVED ADOPTERS ONLY.** Again, unless its happenstance meetings out in public, etc.
2. for the benefit of the person meeting the dog. If a person meets a dog & falls in love, & then applies only to either get denied for some reason, OR to find out 3 people in front of him are approved, their heart is broken. That is why fosters really need to wait for the Adoption Coordination team (depending on the age of the dog) to notify them via email, with adopters who are approved to meet their foster dog.

## *When Your Foster Dog Is Adopted*

Once your foster dog has been adopted, the adopter will need to pay the adoption fee and complete the adoption agreement in order to finalize the adoption.

### ADOPTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOSTERS:

#### PART 1 Adoption Agreement

1 - Go to <http://savealabrescue.org/> (here is the direct link if you want to bookmark it your computer. <http://www.savealabrescue.org/adoption-agreement.html> )

2 - Click FORMS on left side to go to link for ADOPTION AGREEMENT

3 - Fill out info, \*\* using foster dogs SAL name \*\*

4 - Adopter will get copy in their email

#### PART 2 - PAYMENT PROCESS (2 Payment Options):

##### \*\* A: OPTION 1 \*\*

Paying from their OWN device (phone, iPad, etc) \*\* (preferred b/c it has THEIR IP address)

1 - Go to <http://savealabrescue.org/>

2 - Go to ADOPT on left side. Click “Pay Adoption Fee” & fill out SAL DOG NAME. They can then pay by Paypal or credit/debit card

##### \*\* B: OPTION 2 (VIRTUAL TERMINAL ON PAYPAL) \*\*

Using fosters computer (\*\*\* MUST use this method below if it's not the persons own computer/phone/iPad or Paypal will not accept the payment & will put a hold on our account)

1 - Go to [Paypal.com](http://Paypal.com)

2 - LOG ON:

user/email: salfoster

password: salfoster

3 - Go to VIRTUAL TERMINAL link.

4- Enter payment info & put SAL DOG NAME in DESCRIPTION. Don't worry about invoice # question.

**Please call Rebecca at (401) 855-1580, Jen at (401) 316-3550 or Christy (336) 549-1671 if you run into any problems during the adoption.**

All fosters must maintain copies of their foster dog's medical records and provide them to the adopter at the time of adoption. After the adoption has been finalized, please let us know your availability with respect to another foster dog. Some fosters prefer to take a break between fostering, while others are eager to get their next foster dog!

## **FOSTER TO ADOPT**

Sometimes fosters fall in love with their foster dogs & decide they would like to officially adopt them. If no one has applied & been approved for that dog, then by all means the foster can adopt. That foster would do the same adoption agreement & adoption fee that approved adopters do. They do not need to fill out an adoption application for the dog. But if someone is approved for that dog, and/or has an appointment to meet that foster dog, that adopter still gets 1st option, & that foster will go on the adopter waiting list just like any other adopter would.

The reason for this is that often an approved adopter has seen a dog rescued on our page 2 months prior, put an app in for that particular dog, been approved & has waited 8 weeks for the dog to come North & get an appointment to meet that dog. That person will then be first in line. Other apps come in & will get put on a waiting list; Even if it's your neighbor or your brother, or possibly yourself. Of course if you are very attached to your foster dog, we will do our best to try to guide an adopter to another dog, but we cannot let an adopter think they are first on the list to meet a dog, wait for him or her to arrive, then suddenly tell them the dog is no longer available. That may sound harsh, but the "foster fail" idea happens frequently enough that if we let that happen every time, we would have a LOT of very disgruntled adopters, who may end up being told their first, second, AND third choice dogs are no longer available for various reasons. We are a rescue, but bottom line is we are also a business that must stay afloat by keeping its "customers" happy, & keeping up a good reputation – IN ORDER TO SAVE MORE DOGS. That is our ultimate goal.

If you are seriously interested in adopting a foster dog you may foster in the near future or are currently fostering, let the Adoption Coordination team know right away. Also, it is YOUR responsibility to keep an eye on the FB page & see the newly rescued dogs. If you notify us right away, before we promote the dog, we are VERY happy to not promote the dog publicly, and to send that dog to you as a foster, & then you can have the 7 day waiting period to decide whether you want to adopt the dog or not, just as any foster to adopt would work. But again, if an approved adopter speaks first for that dog, or another foster who wants to foster to adopt, then you would go on the waiting list.

## **KEY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Christy Williard – President, Treasurer, Intake Coord. (336) 549-1671      SaveALabNC@gmail.com

Rebecca Clark – VP, New England Director, Intake Coord. (401) 855-1580      nwptrn@yahoo.com

Sanchia Saglimbene- Texas Coord., Intake Coord. (203) 561-5703      sanchia@optonline.net

Kim O’Conner – Southeast Coord., Intake Coord., (540) 400-5942      qisalem@hotmail.com

Sheba Karter- Foster Coord. (401) 225-8978      shebamarie@gmail.com

Kathy Weinberg- Adoption Coord. (401) 741-6052      kyweinberg@gmail.com

Jen Coble- Asst. Adoption Coord., Fundraising Coord. (401) 316-3550      jcoble82283@gmail.com

Rose Valentim (Rose N Ryan)- Puppy Adoption Coord. (401) 729-4869      salvdog@gmail.com

Allyn Jones - Puppy Foster Coord. (401) 330-0396      allynj1@gmail.com

Jennifer Pearl- Pharmaceutical Coord. (860) 857-4107      jennifer\_d\_pearl@hotmail.com

Sheila Medeiros- Adoption Application Coord. (508) 789-1402      salcoord@gmail.com

Craig Olson (Angus MacGyver)-Owner Surrender Coord. (617) 584-8748      angusmacg7@gmail.com

Jen Tingley- Adoption Follow-Up Coord. (401) 649-5258      adoptersavealab@gmail.com

Jenna Glazer - Spay/Neuter Enforcement      savealabjg@gmail.com

### **MAILING ADDRESS/FAX #**

Save A Lab Rescue  
4319 Gray Bluff Court  
Greensboro, NC 27410  
Fax # (336) 464-2126

# SAVE A LAB RESCUE VETTING AUTHORIZATION FORM

Name of Foster: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rescue Phone: Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

The services checked below are those that Save A Lab Rescue authorizes and requests for this dog. If any additional veterinary services are deemed necessary, please contact the Rescue Contact specified above. Save A Lab Rescue will not be responsible for any charges incurred for services other than those authorized on this form, unless contacted for approval.

- Heartworm Test
- Bordetella Vaccine
- Microchip
- Distemper/Parvo Vaccine
- Spay/Neuter
- Rabies Vaccine
- Fecal Test
- Skin Scrape
- Flea/Tick Preventative
- Suture Removal
- Heartworm Preventative
- Dewormer
- General Exam
- Other:

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## **FOSTER QUICK TIPS**

This section includes some quick and dirty tips from Save A Lab directors and veteran fosters:

1. CRATES - NEVER leave your foster dog alone uncrated. That means with your dog, with your child, or alone. No matter how sweet you think that dog is, or how well you think you know that dog, it takes weeks, or months, to really know a dog, or have that dog settle in where behaviors may begin to show. We *\*really\** suggest crates. If not a crate, than at least a gated laundry room, etc. But we are not responsible if you come home to a missing wall, couch, or floor, if you haven't crated your foster dog. But more seriously, we don't ever want any child or dog harmed.

2. CHILDREN - **\*\*NEVER** let your child climb on, sit on, pull on, your foster dog, as they would your own dog. They are UNPREDICTABLE. They should treat the foster dogs as a stranger ... which it is, for at least a few weeks time.

3. CAR - You should never allow your dog & your foster dog in a car together, un-tethered, where they can get to one another, or uncrated, until you are VERY sure of the foster dogs behavior. It is never a good idea to have your personal dog at transport pick up. In fact, we rarely "double up" dogs in picking up, for that very reason. Dogs off transport are VERY unpredictable, stressed, high strung. Even your own dog may get freaked out & territorial or aggressive once inside his or her own car. It can be a tragedy if a fight broke out while you were driving.

4. INTRODUCTIONS - *\*always\** introduce your foster dog & your dog ON NEUTRAL GROUND. Outside your home. Do not walk foster dog into your home. Have foster dogs outside in your yard. Or better yet, across the street, in a neighbor's yard, etc. Then walk your dog out to meet that dog. Once they have met, done the sniff, bristle, ok i like you dance, THEN bring foster dog to your yard ... then to the house.

5. TREATS - Have ALL high value treats & toys PUT AWAY, & food bowls. Have NOTHING that can cause a potential issue at first. Many foster dogs have had NOTHING. They were strays. Therefore, what they have had, they have had to fight for, scrounge for, AND protect. My Mhina would beat the crap out of any dog who went near a white plastic bag. So whenever I grocery shopped, I had to lock her up b/c she would go ballistic if Maji walked in the kitchen while I was putting groceries away (she's over that now, but it took 2+ years) ALL those treats, bones, toys are potential issues. Toys can be introduced slowly. BONES - RAWHIDES - etc? I wouldn't even TRY unless given in separate rooms, crates, etc - & pick up when done.

6. PECKING ORDER - I know we all feel badly for these rescues & want to give them every privilege immediately, but do NOT displace own your dog, even unknowingly. It will do 2 things: A: cause your dog to resent the foster & B: cause the foster dog to become alpha. YOUR DOG IS ALPHA. Even if your dog isn't normally an alpha dog, you need to help him or her keep their status in the home. Foster dogs shouldn't be allowed on couches & beds for quite a while. They should literally remain physically "lower" than your dog, if your dog is on the bed, the foster dog should be below, on floor. When leaving house, your dog goes out door 1st, foster dog 2nd.

7. COLLARS - 90% of the time when I visit a new foster, the collar on their foster dog is MUCH too loose. Dogs can easily slip out. PLEASE make sure they are snug enough that they cannot do this. We would prefer you use a harness or martingale collar for this reason.

8. WE DON'T ACCEPT CASH OR CHECKS FOR PAYMENTS OF ADOPTIONS. Also, BE SURE ADOPTION AGREEMENTS ARE DONE BEFORE you send a dog home. At least a couple times a week, a dog goes home with an adopter & there is no payment &/or no adoption agreement. ALL adopters must do the adoption agreement found at our [savealabrescue.org](http://savealabrescue.org) website under "forms" - make sure it says "FORM SUBMITTED" when they do it. Then on that same site, you will see "payments". They pay there, with a cc or PayPal ONLY. They are told this with their adoption letter. You are told this when you get the email that they get. There is no excuse for anyone to be screwing this up. I can't TELL you how aggravating it is to track down money or agreements after someone had a dog. It also can be a legal nightmare if something happens to the dog & they don't legally own it yet. So PLEASE try to make sure this is done.

# THANK YOU FOR FOSTERING!