

Owner Surrender Tips for Fosters

Thank you for stepping up to foster (OS, MACC, SPAC, etc). Your new foster will need to be picked up, and an OS Coordinator will reach out to connect you with the correct person.

Before picking up your new foster, please make sure you have all the supplies you will need. The Intake Representative will include a list of supply homes available in your connecting email if you are unable to visit the Princeton office.

Once you have your new foster home, please reply to the OS Coordinator so they can get them booked in our internal system. Your Foster Manager will be assigned to you in the original email, and they will reach out to you shortly after you bring your new foster home.

Erica is your go-to person for anything medical/vetting related. She will be able to help you schedule any vetting your foster needs. Here is their contact information. They're amazing!

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Once your new foster is home with you, please know they may need a good shutdown period. Please remember your new foster animal is very confused, may be scared/nervous, or anxious. We highly recommend you not introduce your new foster to your resident animals until they have had a chance to shut down and get comfortable with you. A proper shutdown is allowing your new foster to have a space to themselves away from the hustle and bustle of your home. This may be in a spare room, a lower level, etc. Visit our [Community Resources page](#) for tips and tricks on helping your foster become comfortable.

Owner Surrender Tips for Fosters

- Have a slip lead and/or secure harness/collar for dogs.
- Keep cats in kennels. If you must transfer a cat into a different kennel- do so in a vehicle.
- Meet in a neutral area for exchanging the animal
 - Do not pick the animal up from its home - you are then the "bad guy" taking him/her from their home.
 - Do not have the OS drop the animal off at your home. The animal will likely be searching for their person and may try everything to get out and find them
- Do not share your address with the owner surrender
- Try not to get too personal with them. It is a very difficult decision, but when geng too personal, you may find yourself promising play dates in the future, etc.

- Do not offer playdates in the future, or “check ups”. If the OS asks if this is a possibility, you can tell them you’ll need to check into it and notify the OS Coordinator and Intake Manager. They will reach out and talk about it.
- If they ask for the new owner’s information, let them know we cannot share that for confidentiality reasons.
- If you receive vetting records for the animal, please scan to your FM and placement coordinator ASAP.
- Give the animal some me to decompress. There is a great chance they are not going to be interested in wantig snuggles and cuddles right away. The only thing they knew is no longer, please give them some me to process those changes.
- Notify your Foster Manager and the OS Coordinator that you have the animal
- Check out the info below as a quick reminder on some very important pieces of information in regards to fostering.

Give them a break!

Your new foster baby just had their whole world turned upside down. Some dogs/cats adapt well to change, but others do not. Remember to give your new foster baby their own space and allow them to come out on their own. They need to have a safe place - many prefer a kennel or a special room. Your new foster is not only trying to take in the new sights, sounds and smells of the humans, but they are trying to do the same things for all the animals that are there now and were previously there! This shutdown period will only help them process these changes at their own pace.

Slow Introductions

In addition to their whole world being turned upside down, now there are new animals too (if you have other animals in the home)! Many resident animals are excited for the new friend - but this new animal is not ready for excitement. Sometimes the excitement and energy comes off the wrong way.

The best way to introduce new dogs to each other is a nice walk (yes even in the winter!) This is usually a very positive, fun thing for many dogs and will help them learn to love each other! Keep both on leash, walk and let them sniff at their own pace. Be aware of your surroundings and the body language they are portraying towards each other.

For introducing cats - many new cats take much longer to warm up into new surroundings. Giving them their own room and me to acclimate is the best way to make your new foster feel comfortable! Let them sniff each other under the door for a few days. After a couple days, swap them. This will allow them to explore each other's rooms and scents. Slow and steady for cats will win the race! If your cat likes treats, using treats when they are near each other can help make it a positive experience too!

Vetting Information

Dogs coming from out of state do have all age appropriate vaccines in order to travel. This includes, but is not limited to, distemper and rabies (if old enough). Many have bordatella as well. The remainder of the vetting (microchipping, deworming, flea/ck and heartworm preventave), if needed, will be given upon arrival.

Dogs and cats coming from local impounds or from local owner surrenderers will have a different level of vetting. Once intake is completed, your vetting Coordinator will review their vetting records and connect with you to let you know what should be scheduled. Never hesitate to ask your Foster Manager any questions you may have, where the closest clinic is, or if there is someone close to you that is able to help with some routine vetting (ex. Microchip, dewormer, DHPP, etc).

Always remember to pick up poop right away for at least the first week in case of worms.

Food/Supply Information

Ruff Start Rescue does have supply houses with food and supplies at different locaons around MN. Your Foster Manager will have an updated list of the supply houses and can get you in contact with the closest house to your area. The facility is located in Princeton and has everything necessary! Reach out to your PC or the Facebook pages for the office hours for when to come and grab supplies.

Most dogs do best when fed twice a day. We discourage free feeding when new fosters come into the house as we are not ever 100% sure on how a new animal will react towards food. Puppies should be fed 3 times a day (spaced out appropriately). Their growing bodies cannot absorb everything at once.

Adoption Event Reminders

Adoption Days are mandatory for fosters to attend! Not only do the animals get great exposure to possible adopters, but it also shows people what rescue is all about! The venues that hold these events donate a lot to Ruff Start Rescue! Without our fosters (YOU) joining these events, we may not be able to host them in the future. These events are important because they bring in awareness, adoptions, donations, volunteers, etc.

In order to attend an event, your foster:

- Must have been in rescue for at least 7 days
- Must be spayed/neutered
- Must be up to date on age appropriate vetting and have at least two distemper vaccines

If you would love your foster to attend but you are unable to attend them, please reach out to your PC and let them know. RSR has a wonderful volunteer base and many people would love to bring your fur babies to the events and hang onto them there!

Bios and Pictures

Bios and updated pictures of fosters are the responsibility of the foster. Please be sure to get a bio to your Foster Manager within 4 days of your foster arriving. A bio for your foster may be the difference between getting an application and not, this is what tells possible adopters if your foster is going to be a good match for their home. If you are struggling to write a bio for your foster, ask your FM for help or pointers. Ruff Start Rescue has a team that is also available to help make a cute bio for your foster if you provide the information. For information on this team, contact your FM.