

Volunteer Training Process

We have a group of internal volunteers who are offering their experience and mentorship to fosters who may be struggling with certain behaviors that present with new foster animals. Our volunteer dog trainers can help our fosters with basic obedience training. These volunteer trainers will provide mentorship and guidance in positive reinforcement techniques. They can help with such issues such as:

- potty training
- leash walking and reactivity
- Mouthiness
- Introducing dogs to dogs
- Introducing dogs to cats
- shut downs
- Crate training
- other basic obedience training

For cat fosters you can request help with the following:

- neonatal kittens aka bottle babies
- litter box training
- giving meds
- introducing new kitty
- kitty behaviors
- room set up

The process for asking for help from one of our volunteer trainers is to email: volunteertrainers@ruffstartrescue.org and CC their Foster Manager. Fosters can also start by emailing their foster manager and asking for help and their FM can forward on the request. One of the volunteer trainers will reach out to provide advice.

If a foster needs help with a more serious manner such as severe separation or crate anxiety, stranger danger, dog or human aggression, or bites they should reach out to their Foster Manager to see if a paid consultation with one of the dog trainers we partner with would be more appropriate.

Current Volunteer Trainers:

Marguax Meyers - dog - basic obedience and leash training

Maureen Hoopes - dog - basic obedience training

Kelly Erickson - dog - introducing new dogs, crate training, shut downs

Brenda Smith - all things cat and kittens