



Barking Mad Dog Rescue Fostering Information 2024

www.barkingmaddogrescue.co.uk

Fostering a rescue dog is a very rewarding thing to do. To open your home and life to a dog in need, you may well be saving a life by freeing up a shelter space to allow another dog to be saved, whilst it too awaits its turn at rehoming.

Fostering though, is not just about the emotional feel-good factor. A foster placement allows for a dog to become more adoptable through training, socialisation and adaptation to move out in the world, comfortable in his skin. Every effort is made to match a dog to the fosterer's experience and support is always available from our experienced team.

Fostering is not an opportunity to 'try before you adopt' but nevertheless so many foster carers do end up adopting their fostered dogs. If a foster dog goes on to be offered for adoption, we look for local applications if possible, as this is the easiest way for the dog to transition to a new home by meeting and greeting their new family and new dog pals as often as possible.

Occasionally, we need emergency foster places for dogs who find themselves homeless through changed circumstances. These dogs are posted through social media.

OLDER PUPS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Young adult dogs need the same input as younger pups. Socialisation of these dogs is important but this can come as the dog grows in confidence. It can take as long as it takes really, to help the dog grow in confidence. Shelter dogs won't have seen the TV or experienced the washing machine or the vacuum cleaner. The occasional few may never have walked on grass. Some will have been someone's dog before but perhaps experienced ill treatment or neglect. Young adult dogs are often caught between the innocence of puppyhood and lacking the confidence of an older dog. We tend to have more young adults seeking foster homes than other age groups.

ADULT DOGS

Small dogs have often been someone's pet and have been abandoned or captured by the dogcatchers. Some are fearful, but most adapt swiftly to a home situation again. Most have lived in homes or been a pet dog at some point. Small adult dogs are available to foster less often although we do actively seek long term foster for our oldies.

Larger adult dogs have often been street dogs and surprisingly, can be hugely affectionate but need to be taught boundaries. If you had to fend for yourself on the street, then things like the kitchen bin or countertop are fair game. A dog can't be expected to know what is 'wrong' in a human's eyes unless we,

their carers, show them. Labels of 'good' and 'bad' behaviour are human labels. A dog is just behaving as a dog does given any set of circumstances, unless we let it know otherwise in ways it can understand. We used to advocate training classes but we have learned that these are not always appropriate for many of our dogs. They can be fun once the dogs have found their feet.

SOCIALISATION

One question we ask in our application form for one of our dogs is that you commit to helping your adopted dog to become a good canine citizen. This means engaging with a trainer or behaviourist before your foster dog arrives, for help and support. As a foster carer you will receive free advice from our resident behaviourist at Positive Direction Dog Training - www.positivedirectiondogtraining.co.uk

From one person to the next, the idea of what is acceptable behaviour in a dog can vary wildly. However, we need to have a broad definition of what a socialised dog looks like in more general terms. We all want our dogs to be able to be comfortable in most situations from having the Hoover or TV running at home, to being able to walk him through the park, enjoying himself, whilst meeting other dogs. We need our dog to be able to ignore the rowdy game of football on the grass beside him when on his foray through the park. We want visitors to our home to be able to come in and for our dog to be comfortable with that, neither throwing himself at them in wild greeting nor snapping and growling at them in fear. Having a dog who is comfortable with his home environment as a safe place and being a fun companion whilst out is very achievable for our dogs offered for foster and adoption. For some shelter dogs, it may take longer – ages occasionally. For most, if measured exposure takes place at a pace the dog is comfortable with whilst ending each session on success, the world will become you and your foster dog's oyster.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS

Responsibilities:

- To commit to your foster dog through training, love and consistency.
- To engage with a BMDR approved positive trainer or behaviourist
- To socialise your foster dog
- To liaise with BMDR if support is needed
- To provide updates and photos to allow the dog to be promoted for adoption
- To continue with all the above for as long as it takes for your foster dog to be adopted

Costs:

Insurance is a tricky one. It is not possible to get veterinary cover for a foster dog. Hopefully things are all smooth but if large veterinary costs are racked up then, we would fundraise to cover these. We do have 3rd party insurance and public liability in place. Fosterers are also responsible for food costs and worming/flea treatments please. The charity, BMDR, will meet vet bills including neutering of pups providing this has been discussed *prior* to the dog attending the vet *except in case of emergency*. Moreover, if you wish to adopt the dog yourself (and many of us do) we ask you to donate the standard

costs of the dog's preparation for and travel to the UK.

We are truly indebted to our team of foster carers for offering dogs a chance to move from Romania into a halfway house. We would love you to join that team.