FOSTERING THE GO ANYWHERE DOG℠ WAY

The Foster Kit

Key takeaways for the first weeks. Stick it on the fridge.

Go Anywhere Dog℠
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We give you the understanding and best practices, and we know you're human. Perfection isn't necessary. Good enough matters, and teaches more. You make the decisions in your house.

1 · Bringing your foster home

- **They're not looking for friends yet.** They're trying to convince themselves they'll survive.
- **Ask first: is the dog upset?** If your foster is stressed, the first meeting happens through a barrier.
- **Outside is best. Neutral ground is better.** Do what your life allows.
- **Pick up ALL toys and chews** before your foster walks in.
- **Don't coax.** Let each dog choose the distance, for as long as they need. *Whose feet are moving?*
- **Three days** before full freedom together, ideally. Rotate, gate, crate. Sometimes it isn't needed, and you'll know.

2 · Foster puppies under 6 months

- **Puppies haven't learned dog etiquette.** They launch at faces. Adult dogs often won't tolerate it.
- **Supervise like it's a 4-year-old with a new baby sibling.**
- **Consent test:** hold back the pushier one. The other dog votes with their feet.
- **Solo time** for everybody.
- **Sniffaris.** Let your puppy experience the world without performance pressure, as much as you can, once they're out of quarantine per your rescue. It shapes their entire life.
- **It's always okay to comfort a scared puppy.**

3 · Resource guarding

- Dogs guard **food, toys, resting places and loved ones.** It's fear of loss, not "alpha."
- **A growl is a gift.** Soft happy talk ("thank you for using your words"), give space, note the item, and go slow with it.
- **Chew time:** leash each dog to sturdy furniture, out of reach with a 2-foot buffer, and leave them there until the chews are gone.
- **Guarding you on the couch?** Say "too bad," get up, and walk fully away.
- **Need something back?** It's not urgent. Scatter great snacks, then pick up the item.

If things get tense: flip the switch

Never add tension to tension.

1. Happy talk: loud, silly, *WOO HOO!*, clapping
2. Turn and go **away** from the dogs. Never toward them. Never reach in and grab.
3. Keep going until there's no resistance
4. Crouch down and help everyone settle

Afterward: write down which dogs were involved, the items nearby and any injuries, then **tell your rescue.**

Rescue pups had a scary, confusing journey getting to you. Getting to know them is how we help them never go through anything like that again.

Read the full posts at goanywheredog.com/speaking-dog
Foster puppies welcome in Puppy & Me · Rescues: ask us about the free eCourse for your fosters

Jody Karow, CTC · Foster mom for 10+ years
Jody & your Dog Life Coaches