



# Dog/Puppy Foster Program

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## Foster Care Program

### Index

Thank you.....	3
Greetings, overview of Key Responsibilities and Policies.....	3-4
Dog-Proofing Your Foster Home.....	5
Housing.....	5
Expenses/Donations.....	6
How to Pick Up Your Foster.....	6
Naming.....	7
Maternity Foster Home Guidelines.....	7-10
Socializing Your Foster.....	10
Feeding & Growth.....	10-15
Supplies.....	16-17
Medical Records.....	17
Vaccinations.....	18
Puppy Development and Vaccine Schedule.....	18-19
Vaccines and Worming Treatments.....	19
Health Concerns.....	20
Diarrhea Protocol.....	21
General and Emergency Veterinary Care.....	21
Adoption Procedure.....	22
Showing fosters at Offsite Adoption Sites.....	23
Petfinder and Photos.....	24
Bringing them in for surgery.....	25
Cleaning Between Your Foster Groups.....	25
Foster Program FAQ's.....	26

## **Lafayette Animal Shelter & Care Center THANKS YOU!!!!!!!**

Thank you for opening your home and heart to a puppy or dog in need. Whether you foster a puppy who needs some time to grow, or an adult dog who needs a little extra TLC, you make it possible for us to provide the very best care possible for all of our residents at LASCC. Fostering is mess, rewarding, stinky, adorable and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly could not provide the level of care we do without valuable foster homes like yours.

From all our dogs and puppies:



# **THANK YOU!**

### **Greetings, Foster Parents!**

Thank you for participating in the LASCC Dog/Puppy Foster Care Program. We appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless dogs and puppies. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue dogs we would otherwise have to euthanize due to limited space in our shelter.

The guiding mission of the Dog/Puppy Foster Care Program is to give mother dogs, and puppies along with adult dogs the individualized care and socialization they need to prepare them for adoption or rescue. Information gathered during the foster process helps us place dogs and puppies in homes with families who can best meet their needs. Specific goals of the program include:

- \*Providing a safe, healthy, nurturing environment for dogs to raise their puppies.
- \*Socializing shy or timid dogs and puppies.
- \*Giving our long-term residents time away from the shelter in a home setting.
- \*Allowing mother dogs to recover in a relaxing, uplifting environment.

**This manual outlines the responsibilities and expectations of LASCC's foster volunteers. This should serve as a resource throughout your foster care experience.**

Before taking your assigned foster dog/puppy home, please:

- \*Review the overview of key responsibilities and policies.
- \*Complete a foster family information sheet.
- \*Read and sign the foster care agreement.
- \*Give the completed Foster Family Information Sheet and signed Foster Care Agreement to the Foster Coordinator. If the Foster Coordinator is not available, give the forms to a LASCC staff person.

### **Overview of Key Responsibilities and Policies**

To ensure a successful foster program, we ask that you follow our general policy guidelines to ensure that each foster home is responsibly a wonderful home for these dogs/puppies to grow up and explore the world in. To this effect, you will want to keep in mind the following:

- \*Keep dogs on a leash when outside unless they are in a fenced enclosure.
- \*Keep doors/windows **CLOSED** at all times, unless covered with a screen that is securely in place. The window should only be open no more than 1-1/2 inches with a support in place so the window cannot be opened any further. A frightened dog/puppy can escape through the tiniest holes.
- \*If a dog/puppy does manage to get outside, you **MUST** attempt to get the dog/puppy back inside immediately. If you delay, the dog/puppy may get frightened and run away, decreasing your chances of getting them back inside. Do not chase them as this may make him/her run further away from your home. If you cannot get them yourself within 1-2 hours, call the shelter to determine a strategy to recapture the dog. Your organization has humane traps available for this purpose.
- \*When fostering an expectant mother, you will be able to witness a miracle of life right before your eyes. Pregnant mothers need extra care and consideration while they are preparing to give birth. They should be kept in a room or enclosure where they can be quiet and comfortable. Food and water should be available at all times. Moms should be eating puppy food for the extra fat and nutrients. You will need to provide a nesting space for the mom to give birth. They like to hide and have privacy while they are giving birth to their infants. In most cases, infants will be born in the middle of the night and mom does all the work. A detailed list of issues that mother dogs face can be found in this manual.

## Dog/Puppy-Proofing Your Foster Home

It is important to ensure that your home and foster room are safe; animals can do the most unlikely things.

- \*All cleaning supplies and medications should be kept out of the reach of jumping and climbing dogs
- \*Place all small chewable items out of reach
- \*Put all socks, shoes, etc away - they are tempting to chew
- \*Block off all small areas and hiding places
- \*Trash cans should be kept covered
- \*Wires and mini blind cords should be placed out of reach
- \*Drapery and shower curtains should be placed out of reach
- \*Count your foster animals when opening and closing closet doors
- \*Many house and garden plants are poisonous. Keep household plants out of reach and supervise your animals outside. (See section on Poisonous Plants)
- \*Make sure your foster dog will not jump the fence before leaving him or her unsupervised in the yard
- \*Toys must be safe! Avoid any toys that have small parts attached to them (i.e., eyes, ribbons, yarn, feathers, etc) .
- \*Close your toilet lids

## Housing

You must provide a clean, safe environment for your fosters. LASC recommends that you use a spare bedroom as your "foster room".

If you are fostering a pregnant dog or young puppies, keep the following tips in mind:

- \*Consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or plastic table covers.  
Puppies can be messy, especially when they're learning to potty train! Make sure sheets/covers are securely tacked down so puppies can't get under them.
- \*Until the age of 3-4 weeks, the mother dog will clean the genitals of her young to stimulate the bowels and bladder. As the puppies start showing growing you should give them access to newspaper or puppy pads.
- \*Crates are suggested for fosters when adjusting to the new home



## Expenses and Donations

LASCC will cover all medical needs performed at shelter. LASCC will not reimburse any personal expenses incurred by foster parents for unauthorized veterinary care. Seeking veterinary care for your foster dog or puppies at a clinic other than LASCC's on-site clinic is not permitted without explicit approval.

Expenses that you incur during your term as foster parent, whether for supplies or medical care, cannot be applied to adoption fee later. These expenses however, MAY be considered a tax-deductible donation. Foster parents are responsible for tracking these expenses and asking a professional for tax advice.

LASCC will issue a Foster Bag to start off; however, the foster parent is responsible for supplying the items once the starter supplies have been depleted. The foster parent is responsible for supplying food and other supplies. Occasionally, LASCC can provide some supplies that have been donated. For tax purposes, you should also track your mileage during trips to the shelter or offsite adoption locations and consult a tax professional for deduction advice.

## How to Pick Up Your Foster

Once you are assigned a foster and called ahead to make sure they are ready for you to pick up, please go to the front desk of the shelter. From there, the front desk staff will get the Foster Coordinator.

Make sure that each of these steps is completed while you are at Foster Headquarters picking up your foster

- You will receive a Foster Bag full of supplies and your foster
- You will need to sign the Foster Agreement
- Please make sure you take a copy of the medical records



## Naming your foster

If you are taking home a mom with puppies, when your puppies are 6 weeks old we would like you to name them. Please email the Foster Coordinator once you have given them all friendly, non-offensive and not too difficult to pronounce or spell names. Once you choose names, the puppies will be identified as such.

### Never Change a Mom Dog's Name

**Quick tips on naming your puppies:** theme your puppies' names for easier marketing. The Cheese-Group below could be named Cheddar, Provolone and Gouda.



## Maternity Foster Home Guidelines

We hope that this experience will be as rewarding for you as it is beneficial to the health and well-being of mom and her puppies. The majority of births and newborn litters are trouble-free and require only your quiet supervision. The information here will help you prepare for any complications that can, although rarely do, arise. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in these guidelines, please call. Keep in mind that these are only guidelines and not meant to replace expert advice.

### Preparing for Birth

It is imperative that you have a quiet, out-of-the-way place in your home that will be warm, safe and available for the entire time you are fostering. This means that this space will only be used for Mom and her puppies for the time you have them in your care. Inaccessibility from other family pets like dogs, or your resident cats, must strictly enforced. This is absolutely necessary for the health and safety of not only the litter, but for your resident animals as well.

New mothers have been known to abandon or even resort to cannibalism if they feel that other animals or people threaten the well-being of their babies. This is especially true with mothers who are not well socialized.

A whelping or nesting box must be provided for the expectant mother. This can usually be a cardboard box without a lid with a hole cut out of the side for the mom enter and exit. You could also use a baby swimming

pool. Fill it with clean towels or old cloth diapers and let her make her own nest. Change this bedding immediately after the birth and then on a frequent basis because it will become soiled - so don't use the "good" towels.

During the last week or so of pregnancy and during the nursing weeks, dry and wet canned food should be fed to the Mom. Puppy food is recommended for lactating females, as it has extra calories and nutrients and will help support Mom during this very exhausting time in her life. Let Mom eat as much as she wants - after all, she is feeding a brood herself.

## The Birth

### What to Expect When She's Expecting

A dog's gestational for a dog is 63 days. The pregnant dog becomes restless, searches for a suitable den/nest in which to deliver. She may stop eating the day of birth and her temperature drops. Giving birth can be a lengthy process and may take several hours between puppies. As labor proceeds there will be some vaginal discharge, colorless at first but later becoming blood-tinged. The second stage of labor begins when the mother dog experiences contractions of her abdominal muscles and starts to "bear down". The mother dog will repeatedly lick her genital area and may show signs of agitation. You may soothe her by talking to her. The mother dog will take care of her puppies and will need little intervention from you. Mostly, she needs you for a safe environment, food and to assist with clean bedding and supplies. Before placing a pregnant dog in foster care we administer whatever dewormers or vaccines that are approved based on the dog's/puppies situation and ages. It is vital that you keep other animals away from the mother dog and puppies.

Please leave her to birth, clean and stimulate the puppies. She may be very protective at first. After the birthing is over, remove the towels and replace them with fleece blankets, fleece beds, or cloth diapers. You can also put several layers of bedding in the nest prior to the birth; after the birth, you can roll the dirty upper layers off and gently move the puppies onto the clean layer underneath. Mom will clean the nest to the best of her ability to prevent disease, illness and the attraction of predators to her nest. This is nature at work.

New puppies are very susceptible to disease and can pick up illnesses from your seemingly healthy pets. Also, the stress of pregnancy and birth can cause the mom cat to become ill from something that has been dormant in her system, so do not put your resident pets at risk by exposing them.

Your first experience fostering a pregnant dog will be a great learning experience. We're here to help. As your experience grows, you'll feel more confident about what represents a problem and what does not.



## Signs of a Difficult Delivery

Occasionally a new mother does not attempt to remove the sac from the puppy.

She may not know what to do or may be too busy with the next delivery. In this case, give her a minute to realize what is needed, but if there is no sign of action, act quickly. Gently remove the membrane from the puppy's face and place the puppy in front of mom so she can try to care for him/her properly.

If she accidentally pushes the puppy outside the nest, put the puppy back in. If she repeatedly pushes the puppy out, there may be something wrong with the puppy. In this case or if you feel that your pregnant foster is in abnormal distress, please call LASCC for help.

## Post-Delivery

Directly after the puppies are born the mother dog will completely clean the pups and herself and then settle down with her family. Around this time, remove the soiled bedding and replace it with clean, warm bedding. Clean the nest box if necessary.

The first milk produced, called colostrum, is only produced for a few days. It is rich in protein and minerals and contains antibodies that protect the puppies from disease. For this reason it is very important that the puppies nurse from their mother.

Occasionally a puppy will be pushed out by another puppy when it tries to suckle and will cry lustily. This is normal, BUT if the same puppy is repeatedly kept from the nipple it will fall behind the other puppies in growth. Be sure a puppy is warm before putting it back into the nest.

Handle newborns gently, but make sure to check on them at least twice a day. Are they nursing? Hanging out with mom? Crying a lot (this could be an indication that they are cold or not getting enough milk). Make sure to count each time you check on them. Sometimes a mother will take a puppy out of the nest and leave it somewhere else in the room. If this happens, put the puppy back and observe.



**BE CAREFUL!** Mother can be very protective of their young and become overly aggressive toward resident pets. This means watchful attention when entering or leaving the area you have set aside for mom and her babies.

## **Post-Natal Signs of Trouble**

If all puppies and mom seem well, your only obligation to the mom and new puppies for the first week or so is watchful supervision. Mom will need puppy food and water at all times. Contact LASCSC immediately if you observe any of the following in the mother:

- Acts lethargic or as if she is in pain or continues to strain.
- Ignores her puppies
- Continues bleeding from the vulva for more than two days.
- Has painful, hard or swollen mammary glands.

Puppies should be nursing up to 3 times an hour. The mother should be grooming each puppy after feeding and licking their bottoms to stimulate elimination. Contact LASCSC if you observe any of the following in the puppies:

- Constant crying and failure to stay at the nipple.
- Refusal to nurse.
- Feels cold to the touch
- Withdrawing from the other puppies
- Rejected or ignored by the mother.

## **Socializing Your Foster Puppies**

First and foremost, we ask that you treat your fosters with the same love and care that you give to your own animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour a day) from you and your other family members or friends makes them more people-oriented and more adoptable. This includes petting, playing, cuddling, trimming nails and grooming.

## **Feeding and Growth**

At birth a puppy is totally helpless, unable to even regulate its own body temperature. It is important to start handling the puppies early to socialize them. This is also a critical time for the puppy to learn dog social behavior from its mother and siblings. During the first two weeks have humans briefly handle the pups several times a day. As the puppies age, the socialization time should increase and they should be exposed to different noises and people.

Watching puppies grow is a daily delight. As a foster parent you can watch for the following milestones:

- Puppies are born with closed eyes and tiny folded-down ears
- Eyes open between seven and ten days
- By about three weeks puppies can stand and weaning begins

- At four to five weeks a puppy can start eating puppy kibble
- Puppies should not be allowed outside before four weeks
- All puppies should be treated for roundworms every two to three weeks starting at two to three weeks of age until they are twelve to sixteen weeks old. Pregnant and nursing mothers should also be treated to minimize transmission to their offspring.

### **Puppies without Mom:**

Newborn to four weeks (un-weaned puppies) are brought to LASCSC without their mother. As a foster parent you will have the double responsibility of bottle-feeding and socializing.

### **Material needed:**

- Cotton balls or cut up wash clothes
- Heating pad or sock with rice (heated 2 minutes in microwave)
- Puppy bottle, puppy formula (powder mixed with water or ready to feed liquid) and 3 ml syringe
- Thermometer

Use a pet nurser, or puppy bottle to feed the puppies. The hole in the bottle nipple should leak milk slowly from the bottle without pressure. The best way to create this hole is by heating a needle and then poking it through the nipple in a turning motion. Be careful not to burn your fingers when heating the needle.

Never feed a chilled puppy. Make sure it is warm prior to feeding. Body temperature should not be lower than 98 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure formula is just warm, not hot or cold (98 - 100 degrees Fahrenheit). The weight and age of the puppy will dictate how much to give at each feeding time. Two-Three ccs per feeding with gradual increase as they age. Unused formula should be discarded after 24 hours. Infant puppies could be fed every three hours. After three weeks of age, they made be fed every 4-5 hours during awake time; however a feeding every six hours will allow them to get enough nourishment to live and grow. Feeding less than every eight hours would make it very difficult for a puppy to do well. If you have a full time job away from home, you might want to ask your boss if the puppy could come to work with you during the initial few critical weeks. Many bosses would be sympathetic to the puppy's plight.

Puppies should not be laid on their backs to nurse but should nurse with tummies face down. This will prevent aspiration of the formula into the lungs, a situation that could easily cause the death of or serious illness in a puppy.



Puppies have a strong instinct to suckle and are generally not satisfied when nursing on a bottle. Consequently they will nurse off one another's genitals, sometimes causing real discomfort to one another. Some foster parents separate their puppies into several small boxes to eliminate this problem when they cannot watch them. Because time with one another is so important to their future behavior, do not keep them separated all the time.

### **Keep them warm!**

Infant puppies are unable to regulate their body temperature. They can quickly succumb to hypothermia so it is of the utmost importance that they be kept warm. During the first two weeks of life foster parents should keep the puppies in an area with a temperature of 80-90 degrees Fahrenheit. A constant temperature can be kept by using a heating pad under about one half of the puppies' bedding. It can be as dangerous for a puppy to be overheated as chilled so make certain that the heating pad is placed in such a manner that the puppies can move off of the heat onto unheated bedding. Monitor heating pads very, very carefully and always keep the setting on low. At two weeks of age the temperature can be dropped to 80 degrees Fahrenheit and at four weeks can be lowered to 75 degrees.

### **Elimination**

In the first few weeks of life, a puppy is completely dependent on the mother dog to stimulate all body functions; her licking prompts the release of bowels and bladder. Just as she tidied the nest at birth, the mother dog consumes all of the puppies' waste products. Orphaned infant puppies will need your help in this department! Puppies will need to be stimulated to urinate and defecate. This is accomplished by gently massaging the abdomen and genital area with a slightly moistened cotton ball or soft rag. You may need to use several cotton balls on each puppy as you assist them in elimination of feces and urine. Always be gentle. Your help will be needed until the time that the puppies begin to be weaned, and sometimes beyond that point!

## **Weaning**

Beginning at approximately three weeks of age, offer the puppies their formula in a shallow bowl or saucer. When they learn to drink from the bowl add wet puppy food in small amounts to the formula. Gradually increase the amount of puppy food- including puppy kibble- and decrease the amount of formula. When the puppies reach 4-5 weeks of age, bottle feeding will no longer be necessary.

Your orphaned puppies must be socialized while in your care. Try to make certain that you are not the only person handling them. If you live alone, invite your adult friends over to play with and handle the puppies (after the second week of age).

## **Bathing**

If you must bathe a puppy, bathe only one at a time. Do not submerge their heads in water. If you see fleas - contact LASCC to determine the appropriate shampoos or treatment. While LASCC makes every effort to make certain that all animals are flea-free, there will be puppies that sneak a flea or two out of the shelter. Many flea products are highly toxic to puppies, even if they say "safe for puppies" on the label.

## **Socialization**

Make every attempt to provide this socialization daily for you puppies. As your puppy becomes more mobile, you should move them around the house to get them used to change. Allow them to play and explore in a new room individually and as a group. When carrying the puppies only one per hand. If you have a friendly dog- have the puppies interact with the dog. Exposing them to vaccinated animals in the home will make them more socialized dogs.

## **The Single Puppy**

Littermates are important to the social development of a puppy and if you are raising a single puppy it will be totally dependent on you to socialize it properly. Feed the puppy in several locations, have numerous people handle the puppy, make certain that it explores many locations throughout your house. If you have cats or dogs that would not harm the puppy, you should introduce them, but be aware that there is some risk involved.

It is critical that you teach the puppy good manners and housetrain the puppy. Attached are guide sheets on preventing chewing, mouthiness and housetraining. Please use these techniques or ask for permission from LASCC for other methods before use. Puppies should only be allowed outside after they are 4 weeks old. Use newspaper or puppy pads in the home.

While puppies are very cute, it's the foster's job to teach them the manners and behaviors they need for adoption into a new home. Spoiling them can do them a disservice and lead to their return. Teaching obedience is also expected of foster homes, and again- tip sheets are provided and we ask foster homes to follow these training protocols. Your job is to raise a well-mannered, well-socialized puppy that has every opportunity at a wonderful, full life.

## Puppy Development Chart

AGE	1-3 WEEKS
Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Warmth</li> <li>*Food</li> <li>*Sleep</li> <li>*Dependent on mother</li> </ul>
Mental Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Reflex behavior</li> <li>*Needs stimulation to eliminate</li> <li>*Cannot regulate body temperature</li> <li>*Ears/eyes open (eyes 8-10 days, ears 13-17 days)</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Should be handled gently for brief periods of time</li> <li>*Sense of smell is functioning</li> <li>*Will imprint on humans</li> <li>*Littermates important</li> </ul>
AGE	4-7 WEEKS
Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Food</li> <li>*Sleep</li> <li>*Mother for discipline</li> </ul>
Mental Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*All sense functioning</li> <li>*Aware of environment</li> <li>*Responding to stimuli</li> <li>*Eliminate on their own</li> <li>*Temperature regulation has improved</li> <li>*Begin weaning</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Influence of littermates increases</li> <li>*Interaction with mates necessary to learn bite inhibition</li> <li>*Regular handling</li> <li>*Exposure to people, animals and noises</li> <li>*Begin to form social attachments with other species</li> <li>*Provide sensory rich environment</li> </ul>
AGE	8-12 WEEKS
Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Continued socialization</li> <li>*Play</li> </ul>
Mental Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Fully weaned</li> <li>*Mental capacity fully developed</li> <li>*Can learn basic commands</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Learn dog languages from litter mates/adult dogs</li> <li>*Learns submission from mother</li> <li>*Most sensitive period in pup's development- what it experiences now remains for life</li> </ul>

**All dogs/puppies need fresh water at all times.**

## **Supplies**

LASCC wants you to know how much we appreciate you and we want you to feel supported. To that end, we loan you some supplies with each foster group to use during your fostering experience and we want to be sure you have the following information to answer frequently asked questions.



## **The Puppy Bag**

This holds all your supplies and is a good place to keep your medical records so everything is together. A laminated card on the outside gives LASCC's phone number, which will usually get you a person during normal shelter hours.

You should find these supplies inside:

\*Baby shampoo

\*Washcloths

\*Syringes

\*Thermometer

\*Baby bottles

\*Formula

\*Cotton balls

The following sections will provide more information on each of these supplies including their intended use and when to use each item.



## **Baby Shampoo and Washcloths**

If you have to bathe your puppy, be aware that water temperature is really important! A dog's normal body temperature is between 100-102.6 degrees F, so the water needs to be pretty warm, like your bath water. Try not to do full immersion baths unless you have to. If you can get away with just a bottom or a face or a leg, do that. Imitating as best you can the firm licking motion of a mom cat's tongue will help the puppy feel more comfortable about the whole thing. Remember a little shampoo goes a long way! A general rule of thumb is once you have rinsed them off really well, rinse once more. Make sure they have a place to dry off that is toasty warm and not drafty. Keep them there until they are completely dry.

## **Thermometer and Rubbing alcohol**

**\*\*Quick tips on temperature taking:**

Thoroughly clean the end of the thermometer off with alcohol. Scruff the puppy or have a friend hold the puppy for you. To scruff a puppy you will firmly grasp the loose skin high up on the neck. Support the hind end while the thermometer is in. Insert the thermometer 1 inch into the puppy's rectum: for big puppies, 1-1/4 inches. Yes, it does have to be in that far if you want to get an accurate reading. Keep the thermometer in until it starts beeping, then remove and clean with alcohol. A normal puppy temp is generally between 100-102.6 degrees F.

Use distraction- puppies will almost always struggle while their temperature is taken.

- Use a sock to cover their head and front legs.
- Bob their heads
- Blow on their heads or faces
- Tap on a glass or metal object

## **Syringes**

There should be two 1 ml syringes and one 3 ml syringe in your puppy bag. These are for mixing and administering medications if needed and for syringe feeding if required.

## **Vaccination Records**

Just as important as actually doing the vaccines and de-worming is recording it. If nobody knows it was done, it doesn't count. These records will need to be brought to any adoption events you attend with your fosters. **It is YOUR responsibility as a foster parent to help us make sure that your fosters are vaccinated and de-wormed when they are due.** LASCC will be the one administering vaccines and de-wormer. Please call and set up a time to come in and have these services performed.

## **Puppies and Vaccinations**

When a puppy is born and first nurses on the mother, the puppy gets a dose of colostrum from the mother. This colostrum is filled with good immune cells, also known as Maternity Derived Antibodies (MDA), to protect from common canine illnesses. MDA will interfere with the puppy's ability to make their own protective immune cells. This dose of colostrum starts to disappear from the body of the puppy between 4-8 weeks of age, but can last in the puppy up to 16 weeks, and we cannot predict the exact timing in the loss of the protection they receive from the MDA.

The idea of using a Modified Live vaccine is to stimulate the puppy's own immune system into making more protective immune cells, as the MDA disappears. By giving the dose of vaccine every 2-4 weeks, we are able to minimize that "window of susceptibility", which is the time when the MDA disappears and when the puppy is able to make their own immune cells to fight infectious disease. When we vaccinate puppy at 6 weeks of age that did not get any colostrum, the vaccine may be effective immediately. Puppies that received a large dose of colostrum, or MDA, may not be able to have a response to the vaccine until they are 20 weeks old. The best strategy then is to give the dose of vaccine every 2-3 weeks until the puppy is 20 weeks old.

## **Vaccine Reactions**

Vaccine reactions can include, but are not limited to:

- Limping
- Not eating or drinking the normal amounts for 1-2 days
- Lethargy
- Pain at the sight of injection
- Unwillingness to play
- Low-grade fever

If any of these symptoms do not improve by 48 hours after the injection, please contact LASCC.

A more serious reaction happens fairly instantaneously and includes; severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing. The puppy will need to be seen by a vet IMMEDIATELY.



## Vaccine and Deworming Schedule

Please weigh your puppies regularly to keep an eye on development. Daily is best for the first 3 weeks or at any time if the puppies get sick, otherwise every 2-3 days is fine.

**DA2PP** is the vaccine for Distemper, Canine Adenovirus Type 2, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus

**Bordetella** is the vaccine Canine Adenovirus Type 1 (Hepatitis), Adenovirus Type 2 (Respiratory Disease), Parainfluenza, Bordetella Bronchiseptica (Kennel Cough)

DA2PP and Bordetella are given at six weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake

2nd DA2PP and Bordetella are given at 14 days after the first set of vaccines

3rd DA2PP and Bordetella are given at 14 days after the second set of vaccines

This cycle continues until the puppy is 20 weeks of age.

### Worming:

Strongid is for Roundworms and Hookworms. You might see Roundworms and they will look like spaghetti.

Strongid is given at 4 weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake

2nd dose of Strongid is given 14 days after the first dose. This series is repeated every 2 weeks until the puppies have returned for adoption or reach 20 weeks of age

Droncit is for Tape Worms. You will see rice-looking segments in their stools.

Droncit is given at surgery time if needed (noted by the foster parent). Tapeworms usually do not cause significant problems and may be treated at time of altering.

## Health Concerns

The following is a list of common medical issues you may encounter as a foster parent with your mother and/or puppies. This information is not meant to be extensive and simply just to give you an idea of what common ailments may look like and how they might be resolved. This is not a substitute for the expert advice of a trained medical professional.

If your foster puppy displays any of these symptoms, call LASCC:

- Sneezing and/or congestion with green or yellow discharge from the nose and/or eyes
- Coughing, wheezing or heavy breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting- this can be life threatening to kittens
- Straining to urinate or defecate - this can be life threatening, especially for male cats
- Bleeding from any part of the body
- Lethargy
- Paralysis
- Extreme change in attitude or behavior
- Not eating or drinking regularly
- Temperature too low (below 98 degrees F) or too high (104 degrees F)



**\*\*Please have specifics ready to give when contacting the shelter. You will also need to take your puppy's temperature before you call.**

## **Common Ailments**

### **Upper Respiratory Infection**

An occasional sneeze is expected. Lots of sneezing, yellow or green nasal discharge, and congestion is cause for concern. Please contact LASCC if you suspect your foster(s) has a possible Upper Respiratory Infection. Creating a steamy environment with a humidifier or running the shower can also be beneficial to URI puppies. Nothing should ever be added to the water like Vic's Vapor Rub or similar products.

A product called "Little Noses" can also be used on URI puppies. Dosing is different depending on whether the product does or does not contain decongestant. For Little Noses with decongestant, one drop can be applied to a single nostril twice a day for three days. Rotate nostrils so they do not get irritated. Little Noses without decongestant (saline-only solution) can be used as long as needed and can be used in both nostrils up to three times a day.

### **Conjunctivitis**

Conjunctivitis is characterized by swelling and/or yellow or green discharge around the eyes. An eye ointment or drops are typically prescribed to treat the infection. **DO NOT ADMINISTER WITHOUT BEING ADVISED TO DO SO.** To administer the ointment hold the puppy's eye open and squeeze the ointment into the eye moving across the eye without touching the top of the tube to the eye. To administer drops hold the puppy's eye open and let them let the drop fall into the inside corner of the eye near the tear duct. Open and close the eye a few times to get ointment or drops worked in well.

To clean the puppy's eyes, use a cotton ball or gauze that is clean with warm water. If the eye is sealed shut you will need to use the warm cotton ball as a compress and let it sit there for a few minutes. This will soften the crusted material around the eye. Once it is soft and pliable you can wipe it from the eye. Start at the area closest to the nose and wipe outward. Don't force the material off of the eye. You may need to continue to let the cotton ball set on the eyelid to soften the material longer. Once everything has been cleaned around the eye you can administer eye medications. It will be helpful to the puppy if you can gently wipe the eye clean multiple times a day. If you do not have a cotton ball or gauze square you can use a soft washcloth. Make sure that you use a clean washcloth each time. **NEVER** share between puppies either. You should always wash your hands in between puppies as well.

### **Vomiting**

Vomiting can be very dangerous for puppies because they dehydrate so quickly. Vomiting is not as common as diarrhea, so it's especially troubling, especially if they puppy is vomiting repeatedly. Call LASCC if this occurs.

### **Dehydration**

Dehydration can kill a small puppy quickly. With smaller puppies you can test their dehydration level by feeling the gums. If they are sticky instead of slippery, the puppy is dehydrated. Also look at the color of the gums. If it is white with no color, please report this when you call.

## **Diarrhea**

A few things to keep in mind when examining your puppy's poop:

-A little bit of bright red blood on a poop is ok. So is a little bit of bright red blood on a puppy's bottom. It's usually a reaction to something that they've eaten, new food, stress, new location, etc.

-A lot of blood is not ok

Diarrhea is probably the most common problem with puppies. Runny poop seems to be a puppy's preferred response to almost all stress or illness. It can be dangerous for puppies because the water lost in the stool tends to dehydrate them rapidly.

## **Diarrhea Protocol**

Drop off a fecal sample to the shelter veterinarian. You do not need to call ahead but be advised that results may not be available until later in the day. The veterinarian staff will call you if any parasites are found. If it will be impossible for you to return for necessary medication in the next few days then we will need to arrange a plan of action.

The veterinarian staff will call you with the results of the fecal test and will discuss the next step and dispense appropriate medications if necessary.

If there are no parasites found and still no improvement in 3 days then:

Call our organization to discuss further treatment or whether an appointment should be scheduled for the puppy(s).

If puppies are eating well and gaining weight, the diarrhea may not need treatment and may be something the puppies just need to outgrow. Please note that if the puppies are vomiting, refusing to eat for more than 24 hours or acting lethargic you should immediately alert LASCC.

We hope that this protocol will make things simple and less frustrating for the foster parents, as well as allowing the medical staff to treat puppies as efficiently as possible.

## **General and Emergency Veterinary Care**

LASCC is responsible for all approved medical expenses for dogs and puppies in the shelter's foster program. General medical care for LASCC foster dogs is provided at the discretion of the veterinarian and veterinary technician at LASCC.

Once a foster dog or puppy is in your care, you are responsible for transporting him or her to the shelter veterinarian for necessary medical care. Always use a secure carrier, designated specially for companion animals, when transporting.

If the on-site veterinarian is not available then you may be able to seek emergency care. Emergency care must be approved PRIOR to the vet visit. Call LASCC for guidance and approval. Otherwise, LASCC will not reimburse the veterinary expenses. On approval, you will be directed to one of our local emergency clinics. If this scenario should occur the foster is responsible for obtaining medical records from the emergency visit.

## Adoption Procedures for Dogs/Puppies in Foster Care

Puppies are available for adoption after 8 weeks of age as long as they are 2 pounds, healthy and spayed/neutered.

The Adoption Coordinator will approve adoptions. Foster parents may inquire with the coordinator as to how their former foster dog(s)/puppy(s) are doing in their new homes; however, they are not allowed to contact adopters directly.

Foster parents who wish to adopt their foster dogs are required to pay the adoption fee and go through the adoption process.

Pre-adoption puppies: Puppies must all be AT LEAST 6 WEEKS old before they can be viewed by potential adopters and be placed on Petfinder. Adopters must visit the shelter to complete the adoption paperwork and pay the adoption fee. A dog/puppy is not considered adopted until the paperwork is complete and the fee has been paid. This is a first-come, first-serve basis. If two potential adopters view a foster the same day, the applications are processed in the order in which they are received. THERE ARE NO HOLDS IN FOSTER CARE!!!

**ALL DOGS/PUPPIES MUST BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE THEY GO HOME! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

### "Test Driving" a Puppy

Some people may want to take a puppy home and first see how it works in their household. We have a "Foster to Adopt" program for that specific reason. A potential adopter can join the "Foster to Adopt" program by signing a contract and going into our system as a foster. The family has 14 days to make a decision on whether this puppy fits their home or not. At that time, the family can complete the adoption process or return the puppy to be placed available for adoption to the public.

## LASCC Adoption Fees

Dogs/Puppies                      \$35.00

Cats/Kittens                        \$25.00

**\*Free for Military veterans and senior citizens over 65 years of age!**

## All adoptions include:

\*Brief exam

\*De-worming

\*Microchipping

\*DA2PP vaccination

\*Spay/neuter

\*HW testing

\*Bordetella

\*Rabies vaccination (12 wks & older)

## **A "FREE" Puppy is NEVER Free!!!!**

### **Showing Fosters at Your Organization Offsite Adoption Sites**

Foster families may want to show their fosters at the various offsite locations to facilitate pre-adoption. They cannot be on any medications and will need to be off of medications for at least 4 days before going out. Foster families can contact the Foster Coordinator or Adoption Coordinator to arrange for their fosters to go to an offsite location. Foster parents are responsible bringing their fosters to the off-site adoption event, remaining during the event and taking their fosters back home after the event.

When you bring your fosters to LASCC for adoption purposes, it is important to have a brief write-up about each foster's personality and the kind of household that would be most suitable. If you have photos of your fosters, please consider providing those as well. This is important for identification purposes within the shelter - not to mention the fact that many adopters love to receive "baby" photos of their newest family member.

## Petfinder

**Petfinder** is an online gallery of pets that are available for adoption. Users can search by location, age of pet, breed, etc. It's handy tool for adopters and it is estimated that 1 out of 3 visitors have already browsed Petfinder before visiting the shelter or off-site locations. LASC's Petfinder list pulls into LASC's website adoption page.

Fosters posted on Petfinder have the highest rate of pre-adoption simply because adopters are able to view them prior to their arrival at the shelter. Why is this important? If a foster can be adopted directly from your home or on the day of their spay/neuter surgery, the time spent in close contact with other fosters are greatly diminished. Less contact equals less exposure to germs equals fewer puppy germs, colds (URI).

How do you get your fosters posted on

### Petfinder?

Send us all pertinent information and pictures.

Pictures are not posted until puppies are 6 weeks old.

Pictures need to be clear and of each single puppy.

We recommend at least one head/face shot and one body shot.

### Pefinder Info

**Full Name:** Name and Animal ID #

**Bio:** Tell us about your foster. What does he like or not like? Is he dog friendly? Kid friendly? Cat friendly? Highlight the best and most unique aspects of your foster's personality.

**Photos:** photos can be emailed to the shelter @ [lascc@lafayetteela.gov](mailto:lascc@lafayetteela.gov) for posting

**We cannot post fosters without ALL of the information above.**



Face shot



Body shot



Sibling shot

What kind of pictures?

Digital only in JPG formats. Pictures should be less than 250KB. Try to crop just around the dog itself. If you are unable to provide us with pictures we may be able to help. Our volunteer photographer will be at the shelter on certain days and may be able to assist in getting those photos taken. Foster parents are responsible for getting their fosters to the shelter and waiting for them to be completed. Please call LASC for information as to what day the photographer will be available.



## Bringing Them in for Surgery

\*Make your spay/neuter appointment by calling the Foster Coordinator. Please allow 1 week advance notice during the heaviest part of puppy/kitten season. When scheduling the appointment, use the puppy's full name and Animal ID #. If you need to cancel an appointment, please email the Foster Coordinator with as much notice as possible.

\*Put collars on your mom and/or puppies at home. This will help us if we have 2 of the same puppies in our care. If you do not have collars with you, then you will need to put them on once you reach the shelter.

\*Pick up food plate first thing in the morning preferably by 6am for puppies. Adults' (food plate should be picked up by 9pm the night before). Do not feed breakfast. Water is fine for puppies and so is nursing. The anesthesia can make them sick and we don't want the puppies to vomit. They can choke on their own vomit and this can be life-threatening.

## Cleaning Between Your Foster Groups

The joy of letting go of one foster group is knowing that they will be going to loving homes while you are able to take another that may not otherwise be able to find shelter to grow in such a loving environment. Please consider the following guidelines when transitioning between groups.

Once all of your fosters are gone it is time to clean and prepare your foster room for your next foster group. You will need to remove all bedding and wash it in hot water with bleach added. Follow your machines guidelines for adding bleach to the wash load.

For food and water dishes you can run them through the dishwasher and they will be cleaned for your next group.

If you have carpeted floors you will need to vacuum well and spot clean any areas that need it. If you have a carpet cleaner you should use it between groups. If you do not have carpet, sweep and mop the floor. Once the floor is dry mop again with a bleach water solution and let it sit for ten minutes. Afterwards you will want to rinse with clear water and then let it dry.



It is also preferable for you to wipe down all surfaces with a bleach water solution or Clorox Cleanup. You should also wipe the walls down. You do not have to do all of the wall but at least the bottom 3 feet.

If you have a bed in the room, change the covering on it. If you have a chair or couch in the room you will need to vacuum it and spot clean if needed. Ideally your foster room will be void of anything covered in material like a chair or couch unless it is covered with a plastic sheet designed to protect them.

## **Foster Program FAQ's**

### **How do I become a foster parent?**

You will need to fill out LASCC's Foster Family Information Sheet. Your application will be processed and our coordinator will contact you. Once approved you will be set with a training manual.

### **What is required of me as a foster parent?**

Providing a safe, "puppy-proofed" room in your home that contains the puppies' necessities; food, water, bedding, toys, etc. You are responsible for ensuring that your puppy receives any scheduled medical treatments on time, is healthy, and well socialized.

### **What are the requirements for a foster room?**

The foster room needs to be a designated place for your fosters to spend the bulk of their time. TPAS recommends a spare bedroom, den, office, or a large bathroom. This room will need to be "puppy-proofed" and have plenty of space for a food and water dishes, as well as sleep and play areas.

### **What supplies do I need to provide?**

LASCC will provide you with a puppy bag full of basic supplies including the first container of milk replacement for bottle feeding. Foster parents generally supply food dishes, food, toys, bedding and other small incidentals.

### **How do I get a foster ?**

After you have completed your foster training manual and a foster group becomes available your Foster Coordinator will contact you to arrange pickup.

### **How much do I need to supervise my foster group?**

You need to do welfare checks on your foster group three times a day. This is to make sure everyone is healthy and eating. You need to spend about 1-2 hours per day interacting with your foster group so that they become well socialized.

### **Can my fosters interact with my resident pets?**

Foster groups in which the puppies have been vaccinated need to be kept separate from resident animals for two weeks. Puppies who have not been vaccinated may not meet any resident pets until 10 days after their first vaccines. If your foster puppies or resident animal are sick they may not interact. All interactions must be directly supervised.

### **Can my children interact with the fosters?**

We encourage your children to have supervised interaction with fosters, especially puppies. Children should not be permitted to handle newborn puppies. Caution and direct supervision is a must!!!!

### **Do we bottle feed puppies?**

LASCC does not intentionally take in young puppies who will need to be bottle fed. However, the situation does arise where puppies need to be bottle fed. If this is the case we will train our foster parents to bottle feed, or place the puppies with a foster parent who is experienced at bottle feeding.

**How will people know that I have a foster?**

When puppies turn 6 weeks old they will be added to the Petfinder website. The public will be able to find puppies available for adoption.

**Do I have to have people come to my home?**

Having prospective adopters to your home is not something we require. Your puppies can be met by potential adopters at the shelter or through our off-site adoption events. The foster parent is responsible for getting their foster to those designated places at a prearranged time.

**What is the next step for potential adopters once they meet my fosters?**

The potential adopters will need to complete an Adoption Application and speak with an Adoption Coordinator.

**Do I need to give my own vaccines?**

No, LASCC will administer all vaccines. You will need to schedule an appointment to bring them in and have a trained shelter associate administer the appropriate vaccines.

**If my fosters get sick do I take them to my own vet?**

Veterinary care will be provided through LASCC. Foster parents are NOT permitted to seek veterinary care from outside clinics. Any visits to outside veterinarians that are not pre-approved will be the financial responsibility of the foster parent.

**What do I do if my own pets get sick?**

Your foster puppies should be kept separately from you resident dogs. However, we do recognize that cross contamination can happen. If your own pet gets sick it is your responsibility to seek veterinary treatment. Remember there is always an inherent risk of disease when you bring new animals into your home. This is why we require that all animals in the home are current on vaccinations.

**Do my resident pets have to be altered before I foster?**

\*\*Yes. LASCC can help you set up an appointment with a low cost Spay/Neuter clinic to have this done.

We hope this has answered any of the questions you may have if not please contact us for more information.

From our staff and our four legged furry friends,  
**WE THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

# Things you can do to help your foster puppies develop!!

## Socialization

Between the ages of 3-12 weeks, puppies are forming bonds towards people, dogs and other animals which will last them a lifetime. Puppies who are not exposed to and/or do not have good experiences with people, dogs or other animals during this period can end up with fear and aggression problems later on. As much as possible (and keeping the puppies' safety in mind), get the puppies around all kinds of people- including children, big, uniformed men, etc. and make sure they have good experiences (play, petting and treats). It's also a good idea to expose the puppies to cats to maximize their chances of growing up to like cats.

## Sights & Sounds

Puppies are cataloguing other things in their environment besides people and animals. Make sure they see and hear common household things like vacuum cleaners, TV's, etc. Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they have positive associations with these expectations.

## Crate Training

Teach the puppies to enjoy being in a snug, comfy crate by putting them in for naps and keeping the crate close to you so they don't associate it with abandonment.

## Housetraining

Put the puppies on the pee pads as soon as they wake up, right after eating and at least once an hour to start. Reward him with enthusiastic praise EVERYTIME he urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pad frequently and encouraging them to use it.

## Handling

Handle the puppy ALL THE TIME all over his body, play with his feet, brush him, hug him and give him treats/food while you do it so he learns to love it.

## Training

Even at this age, you can teach puppies to sit, down and other things provided you use gentle lure-reward or clicker methods and keep the training sessions short and fun!

# Housetraining Checklist

Very strongly recommended to crate train puppy- vital to both housetraining and chew training

Crate training exploits puppy's instinct to keep his bed clean- gradually tones up his flabby little puppy muscles

Puppy muscles weaker, bladder smaller, frequent meals- much more frequent elimination

Take your puppies outside:

- First thing in the morning (very first thing)

- After eating

- After waking from a nap

- Young puppies (8-10 weeks) usually need to go to the bathroom every hour

- Last thing before bed

If puppy doesn't eliminate on any particular outing, crate him with a chew toy to avoid an accident (puppy is full or near full) try again in 30 minutes

Do not leave puppy in crate too long as this will force him to soil it and may result in a ruining of his tendency to want to keep it clean

Crate duration rules of thumb (very general guidelines)

- 8-10 week old puppies: 1 hour at a time in crate max

- 11-12 week old puppies: 2 hours at a time in crate max

- 13-16 week old puppies: 3 hours at a time in crate max

- 17-20+ week old puppies: 4 hours at a time in crate max

Use a long-term confinement area for times that are longer than the puppy can hold in the crate

Kitchen is ideal confinement area- not too large, high traffic, easy-to-clean floor. Confine with pet-proof gates- place pee pad at one end; bed, food, water, toys at other

Praise and reward all elimination on the pee pad and especially outside for first few weeks

Clean all accidents thoroughly with an enzymatic cleanser (e.g. Nature's Miracle). If the puppy makes a mistake never, ever punish

# Crate & Confinement Training Pointers

Begin crate training right away- first day home

Practice puppy going in for small, tasty food treats

When puppy is comfortable going in, practice waiting a few seconds inside before getting treat- then practice closing door

Gradually extend time in crate to 10 minutes with door open and closed

Put crate next to sofa, rent video and keep puppy in crate next to you while he works on stuffed Kongs and other approved toys/chewies

Put puppy in crate for 30 minutes with chewies while you're hoe going about routine- visit puppy at crate every 5-10 minutes to reassure

Start leaving puppy alone in crate- the first few times you do this, he should be tired (just exercised), the time should be short (15-20 minutes) and he should have a good chewie

Get pup out to eliminate as soon as you come home after an absence

## Puppy Mouthing/Biting

Puppies are programmed to bite; in a litter of puppies they bite each other continuously. But, when one puppy bites the other too hard, the bitten puppy will yelp and stop playing. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite. Probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth....if a puppy is never allowed to mouth from the beginning, he will grow up to have a rude/hard mouth. The best technique for hard bites is to remove the thing the puppy wants most- YOU! To do this effectively, the puppy must be on a collar and leash.

When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp "OUCH" in a high pitched voice. If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, immediately praise and continue playing. If he does not immediately stop biting hard, quickly take hold of the end of the leash, extend your arm, holding the leash (and puppy) away from you; turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Just before you turn your back, make a big deal- "OKAY THAT'S IT! I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE!"

After just 5-10 seconds, resume interacting with the pup where you left off- without any grudge. go back to him talking in your happiest, giggliest voice. The important thing is that the puppy learns that there is an immediate consequence for hard bites- being without a playmate and without the freedom to roam! Repeat several times, as needed, until you notice marked difference in the pressure of the bites. ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND IT'S THE HARD BITES WE WANT TO DISCOURAGE- NOT THE PUPPY'S PLAYFULNESS OR LOVE OF PEOPLE AND LIFE!!!

You can practice mouthing exercises. Feed the puppy kibble or tiny treats one by one, releasing only for gently takes. If he take it hard, say "OUCH!!" and withdraw the food. Say "gentle" and offer him a treat. Do this over and over until he begins to learn that a gentle mouth will earn him a treat.