

Pound Pals of Radford, Inc.

Foster Guidelines

Thank you for helping a Pound Pals animal by being a foster parent to a homeless animal. Your help saves lives by providing a safe haven until a permanent home is found.

Being a foster parent is a big responsibility and we appreciate you being a critical part of our rescue efforts.

Since most foster animals come directly from shelters, it's difficult to predict how he/she will behave in a home environment. Please be patient with your foster because the animal will be scared and confused. They are animals who have been abandoned at least once and they need a period of adjustment to settle into a new environment and to learn your routine. Many, because of their previous abandonment, have separation anxiety and need extra reassurance.

If you have an existing companion animal in your home, Pound Pals will help you introduce your animal to the foster.

To help you, please read over the following guidelines:

- Try to set up a regular schedule for eating, walks, play time. This will help the animal to feel secure. It's usually best to feed the animal twice a day—once in the morning, once in the evening. Any food not eaten in about 5-10 minutes should be taken away. Both dogs & cats should be fed this way. Please don't free-feed cats. Always provide fresh water.
- Please contact us for help with training or behavioral problems because some animals will go through an adjustment period & testing of boundaries. We encourage the use of positive reinforcement only.
- If you have other animals, please feed the foster in a separate area to prevent any possible skirmishes over food. Abandoned animals usually have gone through a period of not getting food regularly that can cause them to be overly protective about food.
- Foster dogs should always have a collar on with a Pound Pals ID tag.
- Dogs must always be kept on-leash, or exercised in a securely fenced in area. No runs without a leash, please. We don't allow the use of chain choke collars.
- Foster dogs must be kept indoors when you are not home. If you have a fenced yard, they must be supervised outside. Dogs can dig out under fences & jump fences.

- Foster cats must be kept indoors at all times
- For bathing, we recommend using regular dishwashing liquid, or Murphy's Oil Soap for shampoo.
- Any flea or tick treatments (shampoo, drops, sprays & powders) must be approved by Pound Pals. Several, including certain Hartz Mountain products, can cause toxic reactions. Dog flea & tick treatments & shampoos can kill cats.
- Do not use flea collars.
- Please don't give dogs rawhide chew toys, pig's ears, or rope toys. They present a choking hazard & can become lodged in their intestines. Those made outside the US can contain arsenic & formaldehyde as preservatives. Please don't use squeaky toys or those made from vinyl that is easily chewed. Balls, rubber toys are best as long as they are large enough not to be swallowed.
- Chocolate & anything with caffeine can poison a dog. Dogs can also have toxic reactions to grapes & raisins.
- Please speak with Pound Pals about crating tips. We don't approve of excessive crating or dogs being left outside unsupervised in yards. Crating should not be used as punishment.
- If your foster experiences vomiting, diarrhea, doesn't eat, or is acting strangely, please contact a Pound Pals rep immediately. See below for contact phone numbers. If you feel this is an emergency that warrants immediate medical attention, please call: **West End Animal Clinic: 731-1111 (Radford), Riner Animal Hospital: 382-2351 (Riner), North Main Small Animal Clinic: 951-1002 (Blacksburg), or Blacksburg Animal Clinic: 552-3911 (Blacksburg).**
- After-hour emergencies (nights, Saturday after 1 PM, Sundays, holidays) are handled by **Town & Country Veterinary Clinic (Christiansburg): 382-5042.**
- Don't give fosters any medications without the prior approval of Pound Pals. Any medical treatment needs to be discussed with a Pound Pals representative.
- If you are going out of town & cannot take your foster with you, please let us know at least a week in advance so we can make arrangements. We'd also appreciate knowing if you're taking your foster with you in case there's an adopting family who would like to meet him/her while you are gone.
- Fosters are not to be left in the care of friends, neighbors or relatives without Pound Pals' prior knowledge & approval.

- Your feedback & updates about your foster's behavior are most welcome & will help us find a home that best fits the animal's needs & personality.
- Screening potential homes is the responsibility of Pound Pals. If you know someone who is interested in adopting your foster, please ask them to submit an on-line application on our web site: www.radfordpoundpals.org

Thank you again for being a foster parent! Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

Pound Pals Contact Info:

Karen Walker, President

Cell: 540-250-6585

Home: 540- 639-2778

Work: 540-381-4428

Email: walkerKL@corning.com (work)

eboovei@hotmail.com

RADFORD

West End Animal Clinic:

540-731-1111

RINER

Riner Animal Hospital:

540-382-2351

BLACKSBURG

Blacksburg Animal Clinic:

540-552-3911

BLACKSBURG

North Main Small Animal Clinic:

540-951-1002

BLACKSBURG (EMERGENCY ONLY)

Town & Country Veterinary Clinic:

540-382-5042