

Foster for a Day Program

Contact Person for This Program

Christy Dotson
Email: ChristyLDotson@yahoo.com
Cell# 614-309-9406

Procedure

1. Go to the shelter and pick out a dog to foster for the day
2. CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A DOG: The dog MUST be 4 months or older and recovered from Spay/ Neuter surgery.
3. Grab a collar and leash from inside the storage room off the Small Clinic.
 - a. FOOD: You may fill a zip loc baggie with some food. This is only if you wish to do this. This is not a necessity as the staff has increased the amount of food given at the morning and evening feedings to accommodate for missed meals during the day.
4. Get the dog out of the cage: Use the leash by putting the long end of the leash through the handle to form a "P" shape. Slide the loop around the dog's head. Once the dog is out of the cage, go into the hallway to put the collar on the dog and then attach the leash to the collar.
5. Sign the Foster for a Dog sheet that hangs on the small clinic door...as you are walking out the small clinic door....you will see it taped to the door. The sheet asks for the dog's name you are taking out for the day, the cage #, your name, the time you are leaving and your estimated time you think you may be back. This will be helpful because on the weekend our kennel attendants are so very busy. They will be able to use this sheet to BE SURE that the cage is clean for the dog you have out for the day...by the time you get back. I have attached a copy of this chart so you will see what it looks like.
6. Get a dog tag from the front counter staff and put the tag on the collar ring. The tag identifies the dog as an Animal Shelter dog and has the Shelter phone # on it. Off you go for a day of fun!!!!
7. When you get back to the Shelter, please stop in to the Volunteer/ Employee Break room and get a Lime Green Index Card (with the Yellow Smile Face sticker on it). Fill it out with all the good info you learned about the pooch during your day out.
 - a. You can keep and re-use the same tag again and again. Make sure to take the tag off the dog, along with the collar, Adopt Me Bandana and leash before putting the dog back in their cage.
You can keep the tag, collar, leash and Adopt Me bandana to use every time you come to take a dog out for the day.

Exemples of Activities that are Foster-For-a-Day Friendly!

- Take them to **Daycare** or a **Grooming Session** at Petsmart. Grooming Appointments and Screenings for Daycare need made in advance.

- Let your foster dog **romp with dogs** at home, provided that all dogs involved are socialized.
- Take your foster dog to a **Columbus area Metropark**. Here is some information about a few that feature pet trails...
 - **Three Creeks.** It is a perfect place to go...any dog you bring there will get lots of exposure with his adopt me bandana on. In addition, you will be able to tell a lot about your Foster for a Day Pooch in just a few hours....like he/she appeared to like other dogs. He/ she rides well in the car. He/she wasn't bothered by rollerbladers or bicyclists. He/ she liked everyone, and didn't jump on people, and the list goes on...you can write a book on the lime green index cards available to be stapled onto doggie's cage card when you get back to the Shelter.

Directions to Three Creeks: Right onto Alum Creek from the Shelter. After you go over 270 turn left onto Groveport Rd, then left onto Bixby Road. After the RR tracks look for the entrance passed the Wheel Company on your left. It takes about 10 minutes to get there.

- **Battelle-Darby Creek** (1775 Darby Creek Dr., Galloway, OH)
Features: Pet trail—a 1.6 mile trail with its own parking lot. It is on the east side of Georgesville-Wrightsville Road, adjacent to a prairie site. Pets must be on a leash and under control.
Directions: From I-270, take W. Broad Street (U.S. 40) exit west. Go about five miles on Broad and turn left onto Darby-Creek Drive. Main entrance is about three miles on the right.
- **Highbanks** (9466 Columbus Pike/U.S. Rt. North 23, Lewis Center, OH)
Features: Pet trail—a 3.5 mile unimproved (read: watch for ticks!) trail open for dogs and their people. Pets must be on a leash and under control. (Trail is closed to hikers and pet use when skiing conditions exist.)
Directions: From I-270, take U.S. 23 North about 3 miles. Entrance is on the left, just before Powell Road.

Learn more about area parks at <http://metroparks.co.franklin.oh.us/info.htm>.

- **Antrim Park** (5800 Olentangy River Road) in northwest Columbus offers two paths around its lake: one paved for bikers and roller-bladers, and another unpaved for walkers and dog walkers. The lake is perfect for fishing and letting dogs romp and swim! The park is located between 161 and Bethel Road, on the east side of the Olentangy River.
- **A quiet neighborhood school or park playground**, or empty stadium bleachers can make a great agility course for a dog needing exercise!
 - Go to **Petsmart** and let the dog investigate the sights and smells of the store. This could be a good place to locate potential adopters!

- If you have a day...an active dog would love to go **hiking!** Possible locations include Hocking Hills, located near Lancaster. The Hocking Hills region is home to 9 state parks, over 9000 acres of state forest land, part of the Wayne National Forest, contains 4 nature preserves and one of the largest metro parks in the state. Learn more about Hocking Hills at www.hockinghills.com. Another possibility is Clifton Gorge. It is located in Greene County on SR 343, 1/4 mile west of Clifton at the east end of John Bryan State Park. Parking lot, trails, interpretive signs and overlooks are provided.
- If you happen to take an older or timid dog, or one that is not especially well socialized, a quiet spot by the **Scioto River** might be nice. You might take a stroll or let the dog in or near the water. The Scioto runs along Route 33 (aka Riverside Drive). There is a parking area near Fishinger and Riverside Drive.
- On a day when the weather is not conducive to outdoors activities, take a pooch **inside your house**. Some dogs have never been acclimated to mastering stairs—they might need to learn, or need a refresher. If you have a basement or recreation area, you might bring the dog there to play with toys, or let them exert some energy by simply running around!
- **Basic obedience training** can be performed ANYWHERE. It helps, if the dog is new to training, to start indoors. If you have the option, try working with the same dog each time you come in. Gradually take it outside and introduce it to new distractions, or increase the amount of time the dog is to “sit” or “stay”.