



*True Heart
Pinscher
Rescue*

VOLUNTEER MANUAL

Revised: September 2017



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Dear Volunteer,

Thank you so much for opening your heart and home to foster a dog for True Heart Pinscher Rescue and congratulations on being approved as a quality home for fostering. The Board and Officers of THPR are deeply grateful to you for your time, efforts and generosity in helping us. Our rescue would not be able to function without volunteers. By becoming a foster home, you are providing a stable, loving environment for a dog that has been neglected, abused and abandoned. You are helping us give a precious animal a second chance at life. You will also be providing much needed socialization and basic training that will make our dogs more appealing for adoption and better family members.

THPR rescues dogs from shelters, puppy mills, hoarders and owner surrenders. We are breed specific, in that we focus on rescuing Miniature Pinschers, German Pinscher, and Doberman Pinschers. The dogs that are generally taken are those in their last hours at a shelter (due to be euthanized) either because no one has adopted them or they are 'rescue only'. It is because of people like you that we are able to save those dogs at the eleventh hour.

Once again, thank you for becoming part of True Heart Pinscher Rescue.

Sincerely,

THPR Board of Directors

True Heart Pinscher Rescue Board of Directors

Contact Information

Current Board Members: Cheryl Higdon, Stephanie Millard Brown, Kari Stringer.

Primary Phone: Contact your Regional Coordinator/

Email: Trueheartrescue@gmail.com

Website: TrueHeartRescue.org

Facebook: Keyword: TrueHeartPinscherRescue

**Contracts and Applications,
Questions, Donations,
Requests for Reimbursements
and Other Dog Related Questions**

Kari Stringer
4122 Forestry Rd
Henryville, IN 47126
812-786-6040



Remember! All dogs that are fostered through the True Heart Pinscher program will have their medical expenses covered by the rescue.

** Unless the procedure is an emergency, prior approval is required.*

*** Any requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by the original receipt.*

Emergency Information



If a volunteer has an emergency please contact Kari Stringer, Regional Coordinator as soon as possible. Call (812) 786-6040, message, or email trueheartrescue@gmail.com.

If there is no immediate answer when you call, leave a voice mail. Please speak slowly and clearly. Emails are checked by several key volunteers routinely, and a response will be sent promptly. Please document all emergencies with an Incident Report and submit to THPR. (Available on the online forms page: trueheartrescue.org/forms.)

Foster dog emergencies can include, but are not limited to: injury (e.g. dog attack/fight, hit by a car.), ingestion of a foreign or poisonous material, dog escapes or is stolen, seizure, or dog dies. If you have a situation not listed above that you feel is an emergency please contact a member of THPR immediately.

In the event that a volunteer discovers a foster dog has fleas, worms, or kennel cough, please contact THPR and the appropriate medication will be provided.

General Guidelines

True Heart is Responsible for:

- The intake and vetting of all foster dogs, through the Intake Coordinator. *Volunteers and/or foster homes are not authorized to bring dogs into our program without such approval. If a volunteer does bring a dog into care without approval, expenses will NOT be covered by THPR.*
- Identifying a suitable foster home for all dogs under THPR's care, including those needing to be rehomed from a prior foster, either permanently or temporarily.
- Payment of medical expenses for all dogs officially under the care of True Heart Pinscher Rescue.
- Training all new volunteers, including foster homes on expectations and standards.
- Assisting in promoting your foster dog for adoption, through marketing services.
- Maintaining history of paperwork on your foster dog (*Please see volunteer section for additional details.*)
- Maintaining 501c3 compliance.
- Reviewing and approving all adoption requests on dogs.

Volunteers are Responsible for:

- Providing lodging, food, care and guidance to their foster dog.
- Being an adoption ambassador for your dog. (*Attend adoption events, share stories and pictures, take your dog (if suitable) out in public to pet stores and pet friendly stores to show him/her off and keep them well socialized.*)
- Keeping THPR apprised of your foster dog's behavior and of any issues, by completing a "Dog Evaluation Form" available on THPR forms page: (<http://www.trueheartrescue.org/forms>).
- Ensuring all inquiries made directly to you about your foster dog are sent through the proper process. (*The application process: online application, phone interview/s, personal reference checks, veterinary reference and a home visit.*)
- Keeping personal dogs current on vaccinations and heartworm preventative. (Personal dogs are done at the owner's expense. THPR recommends also getting a Bordetella vaccination prior to receiving a new foster dog.)
- Personal dogs must also be spayed or neutered, unless medical reasons prevent it. (*If you have questions on why this is a requirement, please contact a member of THPR, we would be happy to explain.*)
- Notifying THPR as soon as possible if alternative homing must be found. (*Examples: poor match, traveling, or severe illness in the family that would prevent you from continuing to be an active foster home. It can take up to two weeks to arrange for alternative placement for your foster dog.*)
- Notifying THPR If you want to take your foster dog with you, while traveling, you **must** notify THPR beforehand.
- Not leaving a foster dog with anyone who has not received prior approval from THPR. Anytime a foster dog is placed in the care of an individual THPR **must** have a signed Release of Liability and all contact information.
- Completion and submission of all required paperwork, including mailing, faxing, and/or emailing paperwork to THPR.



How It Works

The Rescue:

1. Dogs enter the rescue:
 - Shelter - The shelter contacts THPR after they have been evaluated. THPR receives history and forms from the shelter.
 - Owner Surrender - Owner or responsible party submits a surrender form available on the THPR website. Surrender paperwork includes vetting information, history and reason for surrender.
2. Contact Foster: THPR contacts a foster home to foster the dog.
3. Contact Transport Volunteer: THPR coordinates transportation for pick up.
4. Medical: The medical checkup is usually done by the shelter. If not, THPR and the foster home will coordinate with a THPR approved local veterinarian. *(List of approved veterinarians are available on page: 20)*
5. Dog is placed on social media and adoption websites (*Petfinder, RescueMe, etc.*)
6. Placement: The dog remains with the Foster Volunteer until adopted, and attends adoption events whenever possible.



Fostering:

1. Key volunteers will coordinate placing a dog with foster.
2. Foster home takes care of the dog's daily needs (*food, toys, crate, transportation to events and medical appointments, etc.*).
3. Volunteers are encouraged to talk to friends, neighbors, community members about their foster dog and positive aspects of fostering. *Challenge yourself to speak to at least one person a day about your foster dog or your experience.*
4. Attend adoption events and assist with activities. (*setup, cleanup, hang out with the dogs, talk to potential adopters and encourage the public to meet our adoptable dogs*)
5. Work with your dog on any training assistance it may need. (*potty training, basic manners, sit, stay, down, bed, etc.*)
6. Once you're familiar with your foster dog, get them out in the public eye, take them to dog friendly businesses and pet stores.
7. THPR and the foster home work together to facilitate an adoption.



Adoption:

1. Potential adopters interested in a dog will fill out the Adoption Application at: trueheartrescue.org.
2. THPR in collaboration with the foster home reviews the applicant and their references.
3. The foster home provides information about the dog(s) and coordinates for a time to "meet & greet".
4. After a successful meet & greet, applicant will: 1) Complete an Adoption Contract (generated by the Regional Coordinator and supplied to the volunteer), 2) pay the adoption fee, and 3) takes the dog home. *(Dogs are not released to the adopter until signed paperwork and fee is confirmed received.)*
5. A two-week trial period begins when the dog is taken home. This period is to ensure the dog and the adopting family are the right match.
6. At the end of the two week transition period, THPR reserves the right to conduct a follow-up home check.

What Happens After Adoption



Marlo the day she was picked up, September 2015.

Marlo was found in September of 2015 roaming the streets of Lexington completely dehydrated, emaciated, and terrified. She was taken to the vet and it was discovered she was over 20lbs underweight, her nails were so long she had to walk on her heels, and the vet suspects she had been held in tight quarters making her spend most of her time on her stomach and elbows. This girl was on the verge of death.

True Heart took her in, got her evaluated, medicated and provided her lots of love, food, and an opportunity to feel safe. Flash forward to just 3 short weeks and a family in Louisville,

Kentucky post in a group on Facebook they are looking for a red doberman. The family seems to be a perfect match, with a history of owning dobermans. On her home visit and first introduction to her new home, she left her foster parents and ran and played like her foster parents had never seen her do. It was a perfect fit.

Just one week later, Marlo, now called Cinnamon, was picked up during an adoption event in Louisville, by the James family. Her foster family could not be more happy with how this worked out. She has finally found a family who could give her everything she has ever wanted. Congratulations to the James family and to Cinnamon on finding a forever match!



Marlo, now Cinnamon with her adopted dad January 2016.

What It Means to Rescue

The poem was written by a True Heart adopter about the min pin he lost and the True Heart foster he saved. Ginger, now called, Annie (*seen below*), was in foster for several months before she and Tony found each other.



Rescue

By Tony Stallard

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I may be broken.

Not so;
my body
only for a while.

My spirit,
Never.

As long as someone cares,
our strength will see us through.

When it all must end,
my paw print on your mind,
is where my echo of forever began
in a memory.

Your own.

Volunteer Opportunities

True Heart Pinscher Rescue is committed to utilizing your valuable skill set to help rescue, rehabilitate and re-home as many dogs as possible. We depend on volunteers like you. Below are the most needed opportunities. The skills below are preferred, but not required. If you're interested in fostering a dog, please email: trueheartrescue@gmail.com or complete a foster application, available on our website at: trueheartrescue.org/volunteer. For a full list of volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at: trueheartrescue.org/volunteer-positions and complete a volunteer application while you're there!

- **Foster Care Provider/Foster Home:**

Creates a stable, caring and loving environment for dogs as they are rescued from shelters, pulled from poor living situations, found as strays, or surrendered by their previous owners. May also provide transportation to their foster to and from vet appointments and adoption events. If you would like to be a Foster Care Provider for a dog in need, please complete the Foster Care Application.

- **Fundraising Volunteer:**

Contacting vendors and partners for coordination. Establish and maintain good rapport with current and future partners. Work with Regional Coordinator to mobilize needed volunteers. Clerical duties to include managing current and future fundraising database. Work with staff, other volunteers and vendors to solidify a date, plan of action, and finally, the execution of event. We're looking for candidates who have experience with fundraising (not required), have strong initiative and think outside of the box with fresh ideas.

- **In-home Reviewer:**

Every potential adopter must pass a home visit before an adoption. This helps THPR ensure the dog is the right fit for the new family as well as ensuring that our rescue animals are being placed into the best environment possible for their individual needs.

- **Outreach Coordinator:** Build strategic relationships, conduct a variety of outreach activities, and recruit and retain volunteers and community connections for THPR. Work with other THPR volunteers to implement a marketing plan to recruit new volunteers. Attend relevant community meetings; participate in relevant councils, roundtables and committees to give THPR a vocal presence in the animal welfare community. Maintain relationships with collaborative partners and cultivate new ones. Provide content to the quarterly volunteer E-newsletter.



- **Regional Adoption Event Coordinator:**

Contacting potential locations for events. Setting up date and time of events and communicating information to all volunteers. Organizing other THPR volunteers for participation on the day of the event. Answering potential adopter and volunteer questions. Share information with prospective adopters about the rescue dogs personality or individual needs

- **Regional Adoption Event Volunteer:**

Handle dogs at events, share their attributes with potential adopters. Children must be at least 12 years old to volunteer with a parent, and 18 years old to handle a dog on their own. Event volunteers may also provide rides to dogs from fosters who can't make it to adoption events.

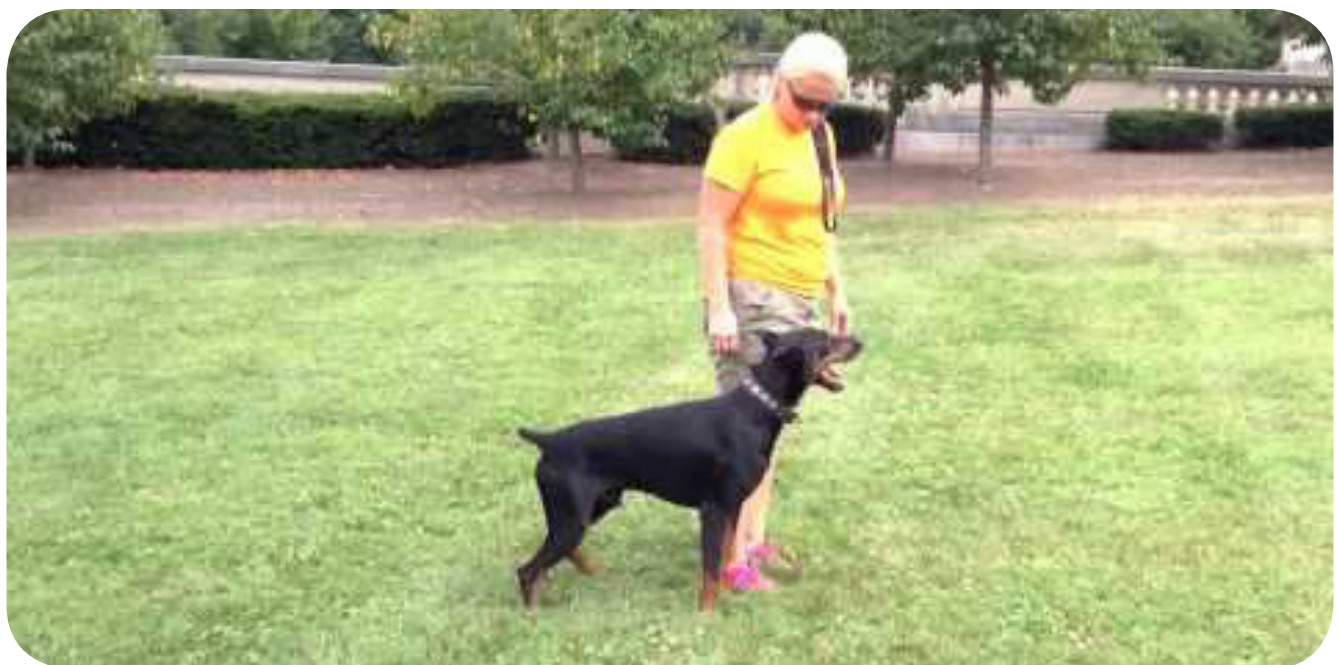
- **Transport Provider:**

Transport volunteers use their personal vehicles to transport animals and/or supplies (i.e. rescue pick up, chauffeuring animals to/from medical or therapy visits, picking-up donations or helping with special event transport). These volunteers occasionally assist with errands/pick up donations/drop off supplies. Travel is primarily in the volunteer's area within 100 miles in one direction, however if you agree to travel further when the need arises the assistance is always welcome. Mileage reimbursement provided per THPR policy.

Other Ways to Get Involved

There are many ways supporters like you can get involved with True Heart Pinscher Rescue beyond our volunteer opportunities. Here are some ways you can participate and help us save even more dogs.

- **Give Kibble:**
Organize a dog food drive with your friends or company, and help us ensure no dog goes hungry.
- **Donate Supplies:**
A contribution of leashes, collars, hygiene products, beds, blankets, flea treatments or toys makes a huge difference in the lives of our dogs.
- **Donate Funds:**
Every dollar is stretched to rescue more dogs, provide them with greater medical care, and find them a loving home. 100% of the funds donated to the rescue goes directly to benefit the dog.
- **Like us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube and "share" our dogs with your friends!**
Help us reach more potential adopters with the True Heart Rescue website. Each online visitor increases the likelihood our dogs will find loving, forever homes.
- **Transport a Rescue:**
Sign up to be on a transporter list, and let us know we can count on you when our dogs are in need of help getting to the veterinarian clinic, adoption events, and back to their foster families.
- **Train a Dog:**
Provide dog training assistance and empower our dogs with the obedience and knowledge they deserve.
- **Be an Ambassador:**
Become a THPR ambassador! Help us spread information about our mission and organization throughout our community. *(Example: Invite people you know to one of our adoption events. Make copies of the foster home or an adoption flyer and give it to 5 of your friends! Marketing flyers are available at trueheartrescue.org/forms.)*



Volunteer Requirements

In order to become a volunteer for True Heart Pinscher Rescue, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Be 18 years or older to foster a dog.
2. Be 18 years or older to volunteer at an adoption event, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
3. Complete the True Heart Volunteer Application and Waiver form at: trueheartrescue.org.
4. Have a valid driver's license and insurance if you wish to transport dogs.
5. Be without any conflict of interest with any activity or program of THPR, whether personal, philosophical or financial.
 - *You will be notified whether your application is approved or denied.*
 - *The coordinator of THPR has the discretion to deny any volunteer application.*
 - *If your application is approved, THPR will connect you with the appropriate team member to contact about next steps.*
6. Participate in an orientation with a THPR representative, either in person or by phone.
7. Receive/Review the Volunteer Packet.
8. Complete and sign all appropriate forms and agreements, including the Volunteer Agreement form.

The volunteer application is the first sign of dedication, so thanks for taking the time. We know you will be an excellent part of our team and look forward to saving dogs together!

As a Volunteer

Volunteers must comply with all requirements set forth in the THPR Volunteer Manual and any other materials provided.

- **Confidentiality:** Volunteers are responsible for maintaining confidentiality of all proprietary or privileged information while serving as a volunteer for the organization. Key Volunteers must sign the Volunteer Non-Disclosure Agreement.
- **Handling Dogs:** Volunteers should always handle THPR dogs with love and care.
- **Be informed:** All volunteers are responsible for knowing the information contained in the Volunteer Manual. All are encouraged to ask questions.
- **Ending Your Service:** THPR recognizes that due to other life circumstances, a volunteer may no longer be able to give time to the organization. Volunteers are not under any contractual obligation to continue to volunteer with THPR. If a volunteer decides to leave the organization, THPR encourages notification to have your information removed from our database and email listings.
- **Feedback:** It is encouraged that volunteers provide THPR with feedback about their experience to ensure the continuous improvement of the program.



8 Questions to Help You Pick the Right Foster

Fostering is a commitment that will affect your family, your personal pets, your house and even your yard. Fostering should be a positive experience for everyone involved. Discuss your plans with family members and ask for their input on how to make fostering work best for everyone.

THPR wants to match you with a dog that works with your families lifestyle. You will need a dog that fits, even if he/she will be a temporary resident. Here are some question to help you make a great match!

1. **How much care, socialization, or training will the dog require?** Bottle-feeding babies often means round-the-clock dedication. Older puppies need lots of handling, training, and socialization. Adult animals may simply need a place to stay until they are adopted, but sometimes they have special needs as well. Be sure you know what you're getting into before you bring a foster pet home.
2. **Is this animal house-trained?** If the answer is no, are you prepared to teach that skill? If you're up for potty training, you may want to roll up valuable rugs and put them away while you're fostering — and you might need to pull that crate and baby gate out of the attic, too.
3. **Are you prepared to treat a foster animal as a member of the family?** Fostering isn't just making sure the animal stays healthy and safe and eats well; you're also responsible for teaching your foster pet how to be a good family member. For this reason, it's important to make sure that everyone who lives in your house is on board with the foster plan and willing to help your temporary pet fit in.
4. **Will your own pets get along with a foster dog?** The arrival of an additional animal, even just temporarily, can upset the balance of pet power in your household. Your normally well-behaved dog or cat may "act out" or forget his house training. THPR will rehome bad matches and try again, just give us time to locate another foster. You'll never be stuck with a foster that doesn't work in your home.
5. **Can you afford to care for an additional animal?** Consider up front what your out-of-pocket expenses will be. THPR will cover any veterinary and preventative expenses, but food and in some cases, puppy pads are an additional expense.
6. **Do you have time to take this animal to the occasional adoption events?** THPR posts our dogs online and take applications for them, but we also hold adoption events at local pet supply stores or other venues. You may need to take your foster pet to those events or make him or her available until s/he's adopted, which means looking carefully at your weekend schedule.
7. **Are you prepared for what may be a several commitment?** A foster animal may need a place for only weeks, or his/her stay could stretch out for months. There's guarantee that a foster animal will be adopted within a certain time frame. Please be sure you can commit before fostering a pet.
8. **When the time comes, will you be able to give up your foster pet to an adoptive home?** It's all too easy to become attached to this little creature who is living in your house. People who end up adopting their foster pets are known affectionately as "foster failures." Though THPR has no restrictions on adopting your foster, we will hope you will consider continuing to foster in the future.

Fostering pets has its ups and downs, and you will likely cry when your foster pet walks out the door for the last time — but the rewards of seeing him/her blossom and watching a new family fall in love with him/her will have you signing up to do it all over again.



8 Must Haves for Fostering

1. Bowls for Food and Water:

It is best to have separate bowls for your foster dog and to feed your own dogs separately so that they can eat in a stress free environment as they are getting to know each other. Though not required, THPR recommends stainless steel for durability and ease to clean.

2. Food and Treats:

Occasionally, THPR has access to food and treats depending on our receipt of donations. When this happens food/treats will immediately be provided to foster homes in the immediate area. We ask that you use a quality brand food without corn or other grains and that protein is the first ingredient. We also ask that you do not use any food or treat sourced outside the United States.

3. Dog Crate:

We recommend you have a crate for your foster dog. Crate training is a good way to introduce a dog into a new home. THPR will supply you with a crate if you do not have one. Please take advantage of some excellent online articles and books on crate training if you are unfamiliar with it. Never use the crate as a form of punishment. There will be dogs that will be unable to be crated because of prior situations (abuse, neglect, etc.) In these cases other forms of confinement will be needed (such as a baby gate across a bathroom door, kitchen area, etc.). Never place the crate close to a heat or cooling source.



4. Bedding:

Blankets or large towels are washable and provide comfort and warmth. Miniature Pinschers are known for being 'cold' and burying themselves in blankets.

5. Toys:

Kongs are excellent for stuffing treats that will keep your foster dog occupied, especially when you are away from home. Antlers or nylabones are great to help with excessive energy, anxiety, etc. Make sure the antlers are the appropriate size for your foster dogs and remove them when they have chewed it down to a small portion. Stuffed toys and balls are great, depending on your foster dog's temperament.

6. Collar/Harnesses/Leashes:

THPR will provide the foster home with a collar/harness/leash for your foster dog if you do not have one. Please keep the leash attached to the harness and not the collar. Please keep the rabies tag and ID microchip attached to the collar and that the collar is on the dog anytime you are out in public. If your foster dog escapes the chip with help to identify her/him.

7. Flea/Heartworm Preventative.

THPR will provide or reimburse you for purchasing monthly heartworm and flea/tick preventative. We ask you to keep track of applications and to apply them monthly. If a foster dog has a reaction to any medication or preventative contact THPR immediately.

8. House and Yard:

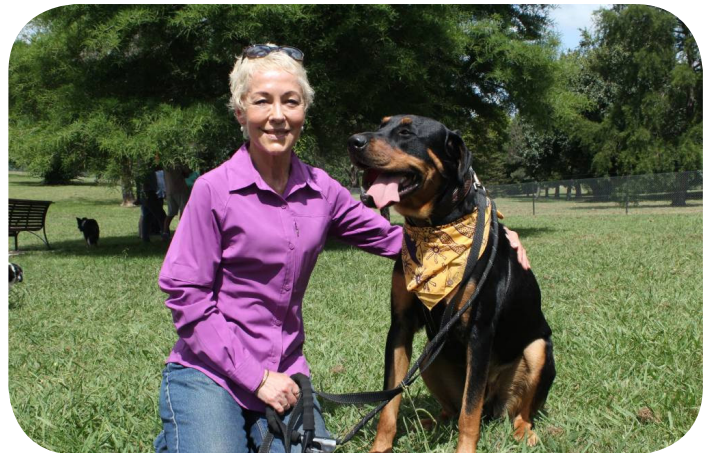
Make sure the fence around your yard is secure and without places a dog can dig under. Ensure nothing is left exposed in your home that is dangerous to your foster dog (such as poisonous plants, medicine, etc.).

Tips for Successful Fostering

Being a foster with THPR is a rewarding experience -- you are saving a dog's life! True Heart can only rescue the amount of dogs we have fosters for, so it is important that the experience is positive for all involved.

When Bringing Your Foster Dog Home:

- Your primary responsibility as a foster home is to provide the dog with a warm bed, love, companionship, food, and guidance.
- Ask questions about the dog's history, physical, social, and behavioral issues.
- Check the dog's collar to ensure it is snug and in good condition. **DO NOT REMOVE THE COLLAR.**
- Let your foster dog have his/her own space. If possible keep your foster dog and resident dog(s) interaction to a minimum the first few days. This is a stressful time for the foster dog. If it is not possible to keep them separated, please note your dogs may be exposed to illness. However, please be aware that many of the diseases that shelter dogs get (*Kennel Cough, Diarrhea, Upset Stomach, etc.*) are stress related. *Many shelter animals have had poor nutrition and an extremely hard life before coming to your home. Your foster dog should blossom with good nutrition, medical care and most of all your 'love'.*
- Take the dog for a walk around the neighborhood. Dog parks should be avoided until a connection with you is made, if the dog has not received all vaccinations or if the foster is unsure of the dog's reaction to other dogs.
- Lay down a blanket or bed in the dog's crate or designated area to make a comfortable space.
- Allow the dog to relax during its first few days in its new environment. Moving is stressful and exciting for dogs. First few days should be slow and easy and allow some time for the dog to transition to their foster home.
- Offer appropriate toys for dogs that are teething or toy-driven.
- Be patient with the dog as it learns its new environment and caregiver.
- It is recommended that keeping the dog's leash on in their own yard for at least the first few days of receiving the dog. They may not have manners and may dig or trample plants; they may be escape artists; they may bark incessantly; or they could be stolen. *(At no time is it acceptable to tie out, place a prong collar, choke collar, and shock-collar or to use underground fencing to control and contain your foster dog(s). Underground fencing may keep your foster dog in but does not keep other dogs out.)*
- A crate or room that can be gated (like a kitchen) is the best option. At no time is it acceptable to crate or isolate your foster dog(s) 5 hours or more during the day and then all night. *Constant crating can create emotional, mental, and physical problems.*
- Get to know your foster dog and become familiar with his/her many habits. There is no better way to get your dog adopted than to share the little quirks that make your foster dog unique!
- Volunteers should know the adoption fee of the dog they are fostering. Direct all parties interested in adopting a dog to complete an application on THPR website, trueheartrescue.org. Questions can be directed to trueheartrescue@gmail.com.
- Take pictures and make videos! THPR relies heavily on fosters for pictures and bios of the dog(s) they are fostering. This wonderful information and updates will help the dog(s) find their loving homes faster. Plus, it is exciting for you as a foster to see your dog's progress during its time with you in the home.
- Email, message, or call THPR with questions, needed advice, concerns, or stories regarding dog(s).



More Tips for a Successful Foster

- Volunteers should make THPR aware of a situation when their foster dog is not working out in their home. Don't worry or feel bad if the placement situation is not ideal -- dogs have their own personalities just like people. The important thing is to let THPR know so we can arrange an alternative foster home.
- Most of all, just give the dog(s) lots of love and cuddles so they can be ready for their new forever home!

How to dog-proof a room

Walk into the room in which you plan to confine your foster dog, and ask yourself:

- Is there room for the crate (dog's safe place)?
- Is there quick access to the outside for bathroom breaks?
- Is there anything that can be chewed, such as drapes, a couch or rugs?
- Are there exposed electrical wires?
- Is there anywhere the dog can hide? Will you be able to get the dog out, if hidden?
- Are there coffee tables with objects that can be knocked off by a wagging tail?
- Are there plants in the room? If so, check the list of toxic plants.
- Where will I set up the crate once all hazards are removed?
- Is the crate in a quiet, low-traffic area of the room?
- Is there a blanket in the crate to train your foster dog that it's his bed?

Dog Meets Dog

- Introduce your personal dogs to the foster dog(s) on neutral ground (a park, a friend's house, down the street from your house, etc.).
- Introduce them with both on leash, with an adult holding each leash. Make sure the leash and you are both relaxed; dogs sense stress and a this can cause even a good natured dog to react poorly.
- Give them a chance to think things over and often they will then seek each other out for a longer greeting.
- Give lots of positive reinforcement as they meet each other so that both feel safe and let them know that the other dog is a friend and not the enemy. If one dog gets aggressive separate them quickly, distract the dogs until they calm down and slow down the pace of introductions. If you have more than one personal dog introduce them one at a time to your foster dog(s).
- Remember that dogs are pack animals and there is usually one that is dominating.
 - Correction of one dog by another is normal. The 'alpha' may be your personal dog or the foster dog. As long as the dogs are responding positively to each other and seem to recognize the 'pecking order' this is fine. One dog may even growl at another. If the dogs react by moving away or showing passivity then usually the dogs will get along fine.
 - *If they are constantly battling for the 'alpha' position, then they will have to be separated and may not be a good fit for each other. (This doesn't mean there is anything wrong with fostering, it just means that the right match hasn't been made.)*
- Never leave unfamiliar dogs unsupervised. They are still getting to know each other and will need correction for inappropriate behavior toward each other. If you are leaving the house, please crate your foster dog(s) or otherwise physically separate them.
- Feed the dogs separately. This will reduce stress for all involved (dogs, people, your sanity). Food aggression between dogs is common.



More Tips for Success Fostering

Cats and Dogs

- Make sure your cat has his/her own sanctuary.
- When introducing the foster dog(s) and cat(s) for the first time, put the foster dog(s) on a harness/leash and just allow the cat to walk by.
- Evaluate both the dog(s) and the cat(s) as they interact. *Does the cat seem fearful, curious or couldn't care less? Is the foster dog(s) happy/playful or seemingly aggressive toward the cat?*
- Never leave the cat(s) and foster dog(s) unsupervised even if it appears they get along. A playful dog can still unintentionally harm a cat.
- Make sure your cat(s) has places to jump to or a room to hide where a dog is unable to reach it.
- Playful chasing is normal but remind your foster dog(s) to play nice and slow and to not run.
- Don't allow the dog(s) to stare down the cat. The dog(s) should know it is not allowed to obsess on the cat.
- The cat may swipe at the dog(s) or hiss in order to correct. This is fine and will usually help in ensuring the dog(s) knows his/her place. Always supervise interactions to keep each other from injury.
- Allow animals to accept each other on their own time.
- Never push them toward each other or force interaction. Some animals will become companions and playmates, while others simply tolerate each other.



Children and Dogs

- As a general rule, children under 16 years old should NOT be left alone and unsupervised with any dog, but specifically a foster dog.
- Do not allow children to behave with the foster dog in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling.
- Teach children to leave a dog alone when he is eating, chewing and sleeping. Never allow a child to remove a toy or any other "prized" possession from a dog.
- Rough housing with your foster dog (especially with our larger breeds) is not approved or condoned. This form of play can lead to the dog becoming aggressive or protective.
- Your foster dog needs to be trained to be gentle and a safe family member.

Dogs and Plants

Below is a brief list of some common toxic and non-toxic household and garden plants. For a more complete list please visit: <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/dogs-plant-list>.

Toxic

- Aloe Vera
- Asparagus Fern
- Begonia, Most Varieties
- Chamomile
- Daffodil
- Daisy, Several Varieties
- Elephant Ear
- Eucalyptus
- Gardenia
- Geranium
- Hostas
- Holly & Yew
- Hyacinth
- Ivy
- Jade
- Lace Fern
- Lily's, Most Varieties
- Morning Glory
- Mums
- Taro
- Tobacco
- Tulips

Non-Toxic

- Acorn Squash
- African Violets
- Bamboo
- Banana
- Boston Fern
- Cornflower
- Chickens & Hens
- Christmas Cactus
- Cock's Comb
- Coral Bells
- Crepe Myrtle
- Florida Orchid
- Gerber Daisy
- Giant Aster
- Jacob's Ladder
- Jasmine
- Lemon Balm
- Moss Fern
- Petunia
- Poison Ivy, Oak, Sumac
- Rose
- Zinnia

Challenges You May Face with a Foster

While your foster dog is with you, providing them with some basic training along with lots of tender loving care will help his/her confidence and security. A formal training regime is not required for most foster dogs. However, assisting your foster dog(s) with a few basic skills will make him/her more adoptable, as well as, giving them a sense of accomplishment. Please be patient and consistent in helping your foster dog(s).

- **Socialize a foster dog.**

Your foster dog(s) needs to be acclimated to meeting new people, dogs, cats, and children, basically as wide a group as possible. If you are fostering a shy dog socializing should be taken slowly and patiently. But it is very important to socialize so that your foster dog(s) will overcome his/her shyness. If your foster dog is more outgoing, socializing is more about curbing enthusiasm, so people aren't overwhelmed (or knocked over) with love.

- **House training or "Potty Training" is essential for your foster dogs success.**

Be patient with your foster dog(s). Even housetrained adult dogs will make mistakes, especially if they've been at the shelter for a long time and have been eliminating in their kennel. If there are smells in your house from another dog or cat, some foster dogs may "mark" out their territory. This action should be re-directed immediately with a calm "Ah-Ah" and escort him outside where he can finish. You will then want to use some enzyme-based odor neutralizer on the areas where the foster dog "marked" to insure he will not smell and mark that area again.

Even if you bring home an adult dog that is housebroken, you will want to follow these guidelines until your foster dog adjusts to his new situation and to your schedule. Determine where you want your foster dog to eliminate -- it could be the backyard, side yard, etc. When you have determined where he should do his business, take him to the same place every time, and tell him to "do his business", "go potty", or whatever training words you'll use consistently. Take him out when he wakes up, after he eats or drinks, after a play session, or at least every 2 hours. Stand with him for 5 minutes. If he eliminates, reward him (with treats, praise, a favorite game and your own special happy dance). If he doesn't go in 5 minutes, take him back inside and try every 15 minutes until he goes. Every time he goes, make sure you reward him! Supervise the dog closely while you're inside. If he starts to sniff the floor, or even squats to go, interrupt with a calm "Ah-Ah", quickly usher him out and take him to the approved spot and praise when he finishes. If he goes in the house while you're not paying attention, don't correct him -- it's not his fault. Clean it up and go back to your schedule. Never put the dog's face in his mess, or yell at him, he won't understand you, and you will only be teaching him to fear you.

- **Crate training is a great foundation.**

Crate-training is a great way to address other issues, such as potty training, food aggression, and fearfulness. It is used to establish house manners since the dog will not be allowed to roam freely unless supervised. Positive crate training can help a dog feel secure and have a place of their own. *Never use a crate to discipline your foster dog.*

- **Food aggression with other dogs is a common and usually a correctable bad habit.**

Food aggression toward people is never acceptable. If your foster dog(s) growls when you approach their food that behavior needs correction immediately. Hand feed your foster dog so that it is very clear the food is yours and you are the giver of food. Then when feeding with a bowl, take it away several times during the meal, giving it back after the dog sits and waits politely. If your foster dog is not food aggressive but growls, tell them 'no' and then practice taking away the food or treat until they figure out what you want them to do. Repeat this daily. If your foster dog is showing food aggression with your personal dog over food or treats, always feed them separately.

- **Jumping can be an annoyance with foster dogs because they are so happy to have someone pay attention to them and give them love.**

But it is better for them to learn over time not to do it. The best preventative is to see it coming and tell them to stop and sit. Once they have this down, then you can invite them 'up' for a visit, but only with an invitation.

These basic commands will impress potential adopters and make your foster shine. Sitting is usually easy to teach and an excellent lesson for your foster dog. A dog that sits for his/her harness, leash and food knows they are subservient to the person commanding them to sit. It will also help an overly excited dog to learn control.

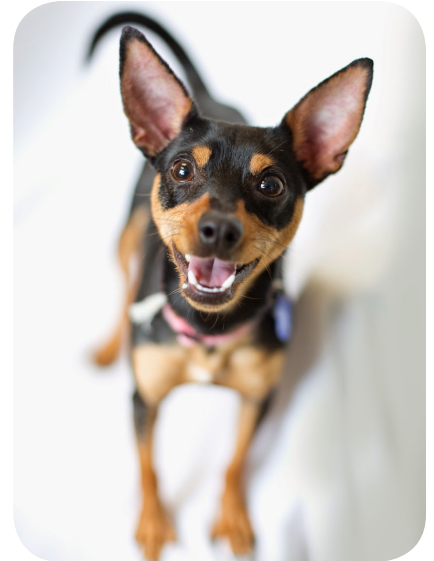
Challenges You May Face with a Foster

- **Leash walking is one of the harder skills to teach.**

Most of our foster dogs have never been on a leash and have no idea how to behave or what you want of them. Leash training will take time and patience on your part but please remember all the time and effort you put into this wonderful dog you foster will all be worth it in the end. There are wonderful training videos and books that can help you with the basics of leash training. THPR will be happy to provide you with any resources you need.

A nervous, scared dog may not be pulling like an overly eager dog but will be reluctant to walk or will even try to get away from you and the leash. Remember the goal is to help the dog relax and walk with confidence on a leash.

A tip for getting started is to put the harness and leash on them and let them wear it around the house until they become accustomed to wearing it. Don't let them chew on the leash though. Next is to start training with leash walking inside your home, before you introduce the distractions of the outside world. If you have distractions in your home, like small children, cats or other dogs, you may want to take the dog to an area where you can work with him/her one-on-one.



- **Squirt bottles as discipline is a good way to help with your foster dog that is not responding to verbal correction.**

Fill a **CLEAN** squirt bottle with plain water and set the nozzle to stream (not spray). A quick squirt with a verbal command like 'no' can be very effective to break a bad habit. It does not hurt the dog but does startle them enough to get their attention. Eventually, you can move to using verbal commands only. Never use this method as a 'constant'. Never hit or strike your foster dog in any way to discipline them for misbehavior.

- **Exercise your foster dogs every day, rain or shine.**

The old adage, "A tired dog is a happy dog," holds true for foster dogs. Most foster dogs will need at least two 30+ minute walks a day to release excess energy. If your foster dog is an adolescent, you may need to step up the activity level to include regular runs/hikes/or brisk walks. A dog that is exercised regularly will tend to sleep when you are not at home -- and a sleeping dog cannot do undesirable things, such as bark, chew, etc. Even a 10 week old puppy that plays inside or in a yard needs numerous daily walks as part of the socialization process. The exception to this is if your foster dog is recovering from an illness or injury, or a senior, then they may need rest.

Excercising your dog will also help with undesirable behavior of aggression and improve training results.



Things to Remember

Abnormalities: If a volunteer discovers any abnormalities or medical issues with their foster dog they should contact THPR immediately. Continue with outreach of THPR through all necessary methods until assistance is received. Call if you have the number available, use Facebook messenger, and/or email trueheartrescue@gmail.com.

Adoption Procedures/Interviews: When an adoption application is approved, the volunteer fostering the dog should make contact with the applicants. It is the fostering volunteer's responsibility to meet with the potential adoptive owner and answer all questions regarding the dog, its personality, and behavior. This is also a time for the fostering volunteer to ask questions of the potential adoptive owner to gain insight as to the match of the dog and potential adoptive owner. All family members including other pets must be present at the time the fostering volunteer and potential adoptive owner meet.

If it's a match, the fostering volunteer has the potential adoptive owner fill out the adoption contract. All spaces must be filled out completely and accurately. The fostering volunteer must receive the adoption fee or have acknowledgement from THPR that payment was received before the dog can leave their care. The application (and adoption fee, when required) is then mailed to Kari Stringer (see page 6). After THPR receives the contract and adoption fee all relevant paper work pertaining to the dog including medical records will be mailed to the adopters.

Animal Attacks: All volunteers must report a dog that attacks another animal or person including bites that break the skin. Volunteers should document what occurred prior to the bite and after. The dog will be quarantined so THPR can collect information on the dog's health and behavior.

Animal Cruelty: THPR has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to punitive disciplining of dogs. Under no circumstance may any volunteer physically discipline or harm a THPR dog. Positive reinforcement training is the preferred method of training. Information on this method of training and discipline can be found online or ask a THPR representative for assistance. Please notify THPR of any behavioral issues or aggressive behavior of dog(s) and appropriate action and safety precautions will be implemented.

Bathing: Volunteers fostering dogs should NOT give their dog a bath if the dog has been recently spayed or neutered to avoid infections. Unless the dog is filthy, do not give a new foster dog a bath. If the dog needs mild cleaning, please wet a warm cloth and wipe them off gently. THPR would prefer you wait until the dog and volunteer are better acquainted with one another before bathing your foster.

Dog Theft: If you fail to make your foster available for adoption events, or meet a potential adoptive family, or we have generally not seen or heard from you, THPR will make at least three attempts to contact you. If THPR is still unable to make contact with you, THPR will be left with not alternative than to assume you have stolen your foster. At this point, THPR will conduct a home visit to remove your foster, the police will be notified, and legal action may be taken. All dogs are property of THPR until their adoption is finalized.

Emergencies: Contact True Heart Pinscher Rescue immediately in the event of the emergency. An emergency is classified as a condition that leads to an immediate loss of life, limb or eyesight.

Events: If a volunteer cannot attend an adoption the event with their foster dog, THPR will attempt make arrangements for transportation, but as a foster you must make every attempt to make the foster dog available.

Exercise: Volunteers fostering dogs should give their dog regular exercise. Type of exercise and length will vary based on the dog's age, breed, and medical conditions. It is necessary for volunteers who are unsure about the type or amount of exercise to give a dog to contact THPR for this information.



FAQ's of THPR Volunteers

Where does True Heart get their foster dogs? Dogs come to True Heart through various methods. But the three main ways dogs come into rescue are: 1) Shelters: The rescue can be contacted through a shelter or concerned individual who finds a pinscher in a shelter. In which case, if THPR has the foster home and finances available will contact the shelter and attempt to pull and vet the dog. 2) Owner Surrender: Owners wishing to surrender their dog for various reasons may contact the rescue, in which case an Owner Surrender Form (available on trueheartrescue.org) must be completed. The surrender form will be reviewed by the Regional Coordinator and a determination will be made if THPR is a suitable rescue for the dog, based on funds and foster home availability. 3) Internet and Trade Sites: This is another way dogs may come into THPR's care. A THPR volunteer or concerned individual may find a dog on sites such as Craigslist or local online flea market swaps sites. If it is suspected the dog is in danger or could fall into the wrong hands a volunteer may contact the originator of the post to gather more information. The volunteer may also contact the Regional Coordinator to see arrangements can be made to bring the dog under THPR.

Where does True Heart get its funding? THPR as of the issuing of this manual does not receive any grants or public assistance to care for dogs in their care. All of THPR's funding is made through donations and fundraising efforts. True Heart Rescue Support Auction, a Facebook page dedicated to raising money for the dogs in True Heart's care is an example of how money is raised.

Are True Heart volunteers paid? No, THPR volunteers are never paid for their efforts. They may receive reimbursements for expenses they incur such as medical bills or transportation, but are never paid. 100% of THPR funds go to dogs in THPR's care.

I can't have dogs where I live, how can I help? There are lots of ways to volunteer with THPR. It really depends on your interest. If you want to just be around dogs, but can't foster, you can always volunteer to do transport or be at an adoption event. You'll get to spend the day with the dogs and get to know our fosters.

How can you give up a foster dog once you've cared for it? Its not always easy to give up a dog you've spent weeks or months caring for, feeding, training, and most of all loving. As a foster, you have to remember what is ultimately best for that dog and for dogs waiting for placement. Two lives have been saved everytime your dog is adopted.

Why are rescue dogs more expensive than shelter adoptions fees? County shelters often receive public funds. Some larger urban areas even have dedicated fund raisers or marketing specialist to work on funding. Because of those funds shelters are able to offer their dogs at lower rates than private rescues rates. THPR is a small rescue who lacks those resources. The slightly higher fee you will see with THPR or any rescue gives you the piece of mind that that dog has been in a home enviroment and you can rest assured that when you speak to the foster home they know the dog's personality, quirks, mannerisms, and any bad habits.

Why does the dog have to be spayed or neutered? There are several reasons why THPR mandates their fosters and the personal dogs of their foster homes be spay or neutered. The primary reason is the prevention or reduction in of certain types of cancer, hernias or tumors. It reduces or eliminates marking, aggression and other unwanted behaviors. It also reduces or eliminates the chance of unwanted pregnancy and additional unwanted puppies.

I really want a puppy; do you ever adopt out puppies? THPR rarely receives puppies into rescue unless they are born into rescue. However, when they are available, we will adopt puppies once they have been vetted and spayed or neutered. There are some perks in adopting an adult dog over a puppy. An adult dog lets you know what you're getting when it comes to their personality. They can wait longer between bathroom breaks. Best of all you don't need to worry about puppy teething and chewing up your favorite shoes, sofa, or worse.

Human Foods Not for Dogs

Alcohol - Alcoholic beverages and food products containing alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, decreased coordination, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing, tremors, abnormal blood acidity, coma and even death. Under no circumstances should your pet be given any alcohol.

Avocado - Avocado is primarily a problem for birds, rabbits, donkeys, horses, and ruminants including sheep and goats. The biggest concern is for cardiovascular damage and death in birds. Horses, donkeys and ruminants frequently get swollen, edematous head and neck.

Chocolate, Coffee and Caffeine - These products all contain substances called methylxanthines, which are found in cacao seeds, the fruit of the plant used to make coffee, and in the nuts of an extract used in some sodas. When ingested by pets, methylxanthines can cause vomiting and diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures and even death. Note that darker chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate. White chocolate has the lowest level of methylxanthines, while baking chocolate contains the highest.

Citrus - The stems, leaves, peels, fruit and seeds of citrus plants contain varying amounts of citric acid, essential oils that can cause irritation and possibly even central nervous system depression if ingested in significant amounts. Small doses, such as eating the fruit, are not likely to present problems beyond minor stomach upset.

Grapes, Raisins, and Currants - Although the toxic substance within grapes, raisins, and currants is unknown, these fruits can cause kidney failure.

Milk and Dairy - Because pets do not possess significant amounts of lactase (the enzyme that breaks down lactose in milk), milk and other dairy-based products cause them diarrhea or other digestive upset.

Mushrooms - While only a small amount of mushroom species are toxic to our dogs, it's important to make sure you aren't feeding the wrong ones if you ever share them with your dog. Mushroom toxicity is known to be fatal in dogs, resulting from seizures, tremors, and organ failure.

Nuts - Nuts, including almonds, pecans, and walnuts, contain high amounts of oils and fats. The fats can cause vomiting and diarrhea, and potentially pancreatitis in pets. Macadamia nuts are also toxic.

Onions, Garlic, Chives - These vegetables and herbs can cause gastrointestinal irritation and could lead to red blood cell damage. Although cats are more susceptible, dogs are also at risk if a *large amount* is consumed.

Raw/Undercooked Meat, Eggs and Bones - Raw meat and raw eggs can contain bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli that can be harmful to pets and humans. Raw eggs contain an enzyme called avidin that decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin), which can lead to skin and coat problems. Feeding your pet raw bones may seem like a natural and healthy option that might occur if your pet lived in the wild. However, this can be very dangerous for a domestic pet, who might choke on bones, or sustain a grave injury should the bone splinter and become lodged in or puncture your pet's digestive tract.

Salt and Salty Snack Foods - Large amounts of salt can produce excessive thirst and urination, or even sodium ion poisoning in pets. Signs that your pet may have eaten too many salty foods include vomiting, diarrhea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, seizures and even death.

Xylitol - Xylitol is used as a sweetener in many products, including gum, candy, baked goods and toothpaste. It can cause insulin release in most species, which can lead to liver failure. The increase in insulin leads to hypoglycemia (lowered sugar levels). Initial signs of toxicosis include vomiting, lethargy and loss of coordination. Signs can progress to seizures. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few days. ***NOTE - Some peanut butter brands now use Xylitol, so please read the packaging before giving your dog peanut butter.**

Yeast Dough - Yeast dough can rise and cause gas to accumulate in your pet's digestive system. This can be painful and can cause the stomach to bloat, and potentially twist, becoming a life threatening emergency.

Please consider amounts when feeding your dog any human food. Even food that isn't toxic can cause stomach upset when they are given too much.

General Criteria for Emergencies

Emergency situations include:

- Continuous weight loss
- Continuous diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting
- Any trauma—hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- Bleeding of any kind—nose, urine, stool
- Difficulty in breathing/blocked airway
- Lethargy
- Dehydration

Continue observation if:

- If the animal has vomiting or diarrhea, but is still active, eating and drinking and does not accompany any other symptoms.
- Coughing or sneezing should pose no immediate problems unless accompanied by blood or symptoms.
- Your foster dog may not display any signs of illness until quite ill. Therefore, it's up to you to observe your dog closely each day.

Call your Regional Coordinator immediately if you see abnormal behavior; unusual discharges from the eyes, nose or other body openings, abnormal lumps, limping, difficulty getting up or down, loss of appetite or abnormal waste elimination.

Document Retention

Retain in your possession the originals of all vaccinations, heartworm status, rabies certificate and tag, proof of spay/neuter, and the paperwork/tag for the microchip. Send copies of all paperwork either by mail, scan/fax, or email to Stephani Millard Brown.

If the rabies tag is lost, please take the certificate to the vet and have a replacement tag issued. Please make sure when your foster is seen by the veterinarian for the first time that they are aware this is a foster animal for THPR. Microchip is to be registered in the name of THPR Kari Stringer (812) 786-6040 and your local coordinator's name/number.

Approved Veterinary Offices

No out of pocket expenses for the following veterinary offices for approved fosters:

Shepherdsville Animal Hospital

1203 Hwy 44 E
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
502-921-1177
Contact: Kari Stringer

Barnes Mill Animal Hospital

1321 Barnes Mill Road
Richmond, KY 40475
859-623-7387
Contact: Kari Stringer, Chris and Staci Jones

Woodstock Vet Clinic

843 Lane Allen Road
Lexington, KY 40503
859-277-7729
Contact: Kari Stringer, Chris or Staci Jones

In Case of Death

If this should happen to your foster dog/s while in your care, do not dispose of the body on your own. Please contact your Coordinator immediately. You are required to take the body to the vet for examination and a written verification of death. The verification must be sent to the THPR board for our records. The body then needs to be cremated at THPR's expense.