

# fostering

Article By Carol Caridad,  
President, Paws 4 You Rescue

**Fos . ter (faw -ster, fos -ter)**  
-verb

*Dictionary definitions:*

1. To promote the growth or development of
2. To bring up or raise
3. To feed or nourish

*Rescue definitions:*

1. To save a life
2. To show an animal love and compassion
3. To make a PAW-sitive difference



Carol Caridad (president), Andrew and Cindy (volunteers) with adopted rescued beagles

Paws 4 You Rescue has saved over a thousand dogs since it's inception in 2006. A crucial role in ensuring that rescued dogs are adopted is being able to place them in foster homes. Being in foster care allows those dogs who are under socialized, previously abused, scared, or simply too rambunctious for their own good to learn critical skills needed for adoption. It is amazing to see the most scared or sick dog be healed simply by having a warm bed and individual attention from a foster home. Healing an emotionally or physically injured animal doesn't happen over night, but the difference between before and after are as distinct as night and day.

*An ideal foster home candidate is anyone who is willing to take on the responsibilities of having a dog for a short period of time.*

So what exactly is a foster home? A foster home is any home that can serve as a temporary shelter for an animal that is up for adoption until that animal can be permanently placed. Foster homes often times have other pets, but some people who can't commit to having their own pet long- term turn to fostering animals. Fostering is also a great way to find out more about a specific type of dog you've been considering adopting. A foster home is emotionally and financially responsible for daily care of their foster animal, including its meals, exercise, socialization, training, and grooming, while Paws 4 You continues to be responsible for any medical costs that animal might incur during it's stay in foster care. Additionally, since foster parents often spend more time with an animal than the rescue organization, they are often called upon to report on the behavioral tendencies and personality of that foster animal when potential adopters have questions.

This can range anywhere from one to four weeks. Foster homes will have to be up to the challenge of caring for and teaching a dog as it acclimates to a new environment. Patience is critical on the human's

part as being a foster parent means being able to handle potential doggie disasters, like inappropriate chewing, housebreaking accidents, etc! The good news is that Paws 4 You has a dedicated volunteer staff that can provide you with the tools and resources needed to set you and your foster dog up for success! Paws 4 You Rescue also works to match its foster dogs with foster homes through the same process that dogs are matched for adoption, meaning we'll only assign you a foster dog we know you can handle. The biggest reason we hear about why more people aren't willing to foster a dog is because of the deep emotional connection foster parents will make with their foster dogs. But, trust us - it's better to have loved and lost, especially when losing your dog means that that dog has found it's forever home and will never again have to feel pain, abandonment, fear, or emotional distress. A potential feeling of sadness is expected when you sign up to be a foster home but the feeling of knowing you were responsible for saving a dog's life is well worth it! Plus, it does get easier with each and every new foster.



Yuki Tanaka, volunteer and foster parent with Pepper

Paws 4 You Rescue, Inc.  
PO Box 561163 Miami, FL 33256-1163  
786.242.RESQ (7377)  
[www.paws4you.org](http://www.paws4you.org) / [info@paws4you.org](mailto:info@paws4you.org)  
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