



Thank you for your interest in the Safe Haven Dog Rescue Foster Care Program. **Please email [foster@safehavendogsil.org](mailto:foster@safehavendogsil.org)** if you have additional questions after reading this document or are ready to sign-up as a foster home.

### **What is the Foster Care Program?**

The foster care program is a program by which Safe Haven Dog Rescue is able to temporarily place animals into the homes of foster care volunteers to allow them the necessary time to become adopted. Potentially adoptable animals are given a temporary home, care, and love while they are waiting for a permanent home.

### **What Does a Foster Parent Do?**

Foster families provide the loving attention required until we can place these animals in a new home. Volunteers take in dogs and puppies and during emergencies may provide shelter for kittens and cats. These generous people provide a **hands-on lifesaving service to homeless animals**. Since we do not have a facility this is the only way we can help to save the unwanted animals that are due to be euthanized.

### **Who does the Foster Care Program benefit?**

**The animals:** Foster care for shelter animals has a direct impact on the number of homeless animals saved each year. Animals that otherwise may have been euthanized can be adopted into permanent, loving homes. These animals also start out with a stronger training background and wider socialization, which will help them become the best possible pet.

**The volunteers:** Although foster care can be difficult, it is an incredibly rewarding experience. Each time a foster animal is adopted, you gain the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped another animal find a lifelong home when it may have otherwise been euthanized. It is a flexible volunteer position that allows you to choose the type of dog you are comfortable sharing your home with.

**The community:** Foster care provides the community a larger segment of healthy, socialized animals. In addition, as a result of foster care by volunteers the public becomes more educated on the need for strong community-wide spay and neuter programs.

### **What are the Requirements to become a Safe Haven Foster Care volunteer?**

#### **To become a volunteer, you must first:**

- Fill out a specialized foster care application, and speak to a Safe Haven Foster Care Coordinator,
- If renting, provide proof of landlord approval to foster a dog or puppy,
- Host an annual home visit completed by a Safe Haven Dog Rescue board member if requested.
- Have adequate space and time to care for foster animals,
- Be willing to spend a large amount of time and energy with an animal that will become available for adoption.

### **Responsibilities of a Safe Haven Dog Rescue Foster Care Volunteer:**

#### **The basic responsibilities you would be expected to fulfill as a Safe Haven Dog Rescue Foster Care Volunteer are to:**

- Provide food, water, socialization, training, exercise, and administer medication for foster animals.
- Provide a secure home for the animal(s).
- Ensure that your personal household animals are healthy and current on vaccines, including a Kennel Cough vaccine.
- Observe foster animals and report any problems or questions to the Safe Haven Foster Coordinator.
- Understand that veterinary care cannot be sought without receiving approval from a Safe Haven Representative.
- Return all animals to Safe Haven for scheduled adoption events or as requested.
- Make a commitment to the foster care program and the animals it helps.

**Safe Haven Dog Rescue Foster Care Application**

**Applicant/Co-Applicant Information (We must have information on all adults)**

Last Name:		First Name:		DOB:	
Last Name:		First Name:		DOB:	
Address:				Apt #	
City:		State:		Zip Code:	
Home phone:		Cell phone:		Co-applicant Cell:	
Email Address:					
Do you Own?		Rent?		Other living arrangements?	
At this address....		Years?	Months?	Do you plan to move?	
Landlord/Condo Board Name:			Landlord/Condo Board Number:		

**Family Household Information**

Number of adults in household:		Relationship:	
Number of children in household:		Ages:	
Have your children handled animals before?		If YES, what species: Dog, Cat, Other?	
Describe Household: Active, Noisy, Quiet, Other- Explain			
Is anyone in the house allergic to pets?		Who?	
What kind of pets?			

**Pet Information**

Have you had pets in the past or do you currently have pets?

If yes, please tell us about them:

Name	Breed	Age/Gender	Spayed/Neutered	Current on Vaccinations?	Any Behavior Issues or Chronic Illness? (explain)

**Describe in detail** where your animals spend the day:

**Describe in detail** where your animals sleep at night:

Veterinarian's Name:		Veterinarian's phone:	
Do you have a fenced in yard?		If yes what size & type?	
How many hours total will your foster be home alone/crated each day and will there be any breaks in between?			
Hours alone during AM? _____ Hours alone during PM? _____ How many breaks in between? _____			
How many days per week _____			

**General Information**

How did you hear about the Safe Haven Foster Care Program? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you permit a Safe Haven representative to visit your home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Can you attend scheduled meeting or occasional training sessions related to the Foster Care Program?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you ever administered medications to a dog before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you ever participated in canine obedience training? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What pet supplies do you have? (I.e. crate, leash, grooming tools) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Please note that veterinary services, medications, and special diets are provided by Safe Haven Dog Rescue.
- Remember that any additional supplies that you provide may be tax deductible due to our non-profit status.

**Foster Information**

For what length of time can you foster an animal? (days/weeks/months) \_\_\_\_\_  
 How much time daily would you have for a foster animal? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you familiar with Crate Training or do you have an indoor area to confine/isolate the dog while it settles into your family?  
 Ultimately the dog or puppy should spend as much time with your family as possible. This is critical for their transition to a new home.  
 However, as you are introducing them to your current dog and to keep the dog and your household safe while you are not present  
 crate training is invaluable. Please describe your plans:

Do you or have you fostered for other groups? Which ones?

What kind of animal(s) are you prepared to foster? (Please check all that apply)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Small dogs \_\_\_\_\_ Medium dogs \_\_\_\_\_ Large dogs \_\_\_\_\_ Puppies  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Elderly dogs \_\_\_\_\_ ill or injured \_\_\_\_\_ bottle fed babies \_\_\_\_\_ mom and litter

Is there anything that you would like us to know about you and your family or resident pets?

**Things to Consider**

- All animals will need to be returned to Safe Haven Dog Rescue at the end of the foster care period. Unless the foster family opts to adopt their foster dog or puppy.
- Animals brought into your home may have contagious diseases that can infect your own animals. All foster animals will have appropriate shots, have undergone de-worming, and have had a vet exam, however this does not guarantee they are free of diseases.
- Realize that foster animals may have behavioral issues that need to be corrected.
- We will need frequent updates, by phone or email throughout the foster care period.
- Understand that foster animals may be destructive and crate training is highly recommended.
- A member of Safe Haven Dog Rescue, as well as other resources, are always available when you need to ask questions.
- Would your work schedule allow you to take home an animal that may need medications during the day?
- Are you able to drop the animal off at a local adoption event on Saturday or Sunday?

We do not know the exact breed of the majority of the dogs that we rescue. A vet will evaluate the dog and provide a BEST GUESS.

We do not know the size of the dog when full grown. Again, we offer a best guess but are not experts and a definitive answer cannot be provided.

Since we pull the dogs and puppies from high kill shelters we seldom have an exact age or date of birth. The date of birth on the application is a GUESS.

We do not know a dog has prior medical issues. We only know the shots and medical care that we have provided.

We do not know if a dog has past behavioral issues; we share all information provided to Safe Haven and provide information on behavior we have witnessed.

Therefore, we never make promises or guarantees as to the health, temperament, age, size, or behavior of a dog or puppy in our adoption program.

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I confirm that all the information supplied on this profile is true and correct.

I also understand that I will receive foster training before I begin fostering animals for Safe Haven Dog Rescue.

I understand that Safe Haven Dog Rescue is not responsible for any property or personal damage, wounds inflicted, or illnesses caused by the foster animal(s). I am entering into this with full knowledge as outlined above about the risks and rewards of becoming a foster parent. The foster family agrees to release and indemnify rescuer from any and all claims, known and unknown, now or hereafter, arising in connection with the animal.

The Safe Haven Dog Rescue Representative has reviewed with me the full KNOWN history on the foster dog, including medical history, place of origin, age, health, and shots. I have read and understand the Safe Haven Dog Rescue Foster Agreement and have had all questions answered.

Completion of this application does not necessarily guarantee acceptance into the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Volunteer Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature (If under 18)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

The Illinois Department of Agriculture requires us to license all foster families. The license fee is \$25.00 will be paid for by Safe Haven Dog Rescue. Please do not enter into this agreement unless you have a deep desire to help the homeless dogs and puppies in our program. Not everyone has the time to foster and you can become involved and help in other ways.

We believe the rewards of becoming a foster parent far outweigh the challenges you may encounter. At the end of the day, foster parents throughout the United States help save millions of lives each year.

**Thank you for considering becoming a Foster Parent to a Homeless Dog or Puppy!**