



Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue Foster Manual

September 2022

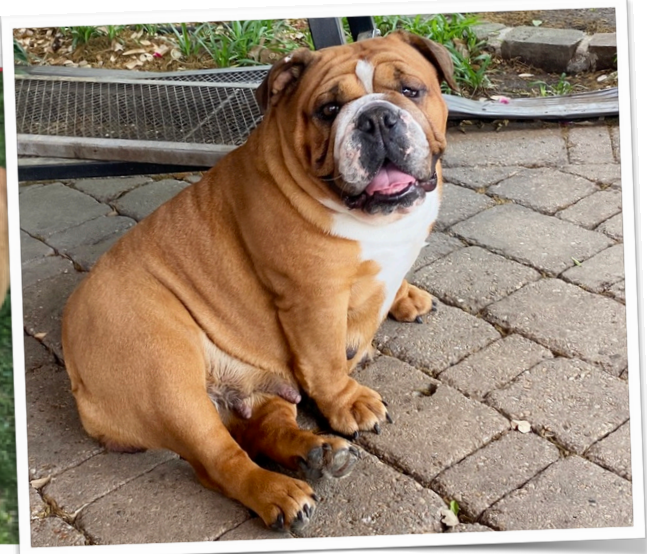


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Introduction:

Thank you so much for your interest in fostering dogs for Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue (LSBCR). By opening up your home to foster Bulldogs, you're not only helping to save lives, you're providing the individual attention, training and love these dogs desperately need.

Our foster program is designed to help Bulldogs get a second chance at finding a home — a chance they may not have received otherwise. Many of the dogs require extra care and attention, which they often did not receive in their previous situation. But in a loving foster home, every dog can get the individual attention he or she needs to properly develop and find a forever family.

Although fostering is a lot of work, it is a very rewarding experience. By participating in this program, you are helping many Bulldogs find the families they've been longing for.

Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue is located in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and is operated as a part of the Lone Star Bulldog Club, which was formed in 1948. In 1993, Dixie Little began doing rescue well before rescue was an accepted practice. LSBC is a licensed, American Kennel Club sanctioned club that conducts Bulldog shows in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Lone Star Bulldog Club is also the local chapter of the parent club, Bulldog Club of America.

The Lone Star Bulldog Club appoints five of their members to oversee the work of Rescue. Therefore it is imperative that we conduct our rescue business to their high standards and in a straightforward manner.

Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue is an organization run entirely by volunteers. Since our organization is run solely on donations, we always need more people to donate their time. In addition to fostering, there are many ways you can volunteer for LSBCR. See a complete list of Volunteer Opportunities in the Appendix.

LSBCR accepts Bulldogs whose owners can no longer keep them for a variety of reasons, and retrieves Bulldogs from shelters and undesirable situations. All of our Bulldogs are given the necessary medical treatment. We also spay and neuter all dogs that come into our care. Our Bulldogs are placed in suitable homes as soon as reasonably possible, so they can start their "new lives" quickly.

LSBCR does not have a shelter facility. We rely solely on a foster care network. At any given time we have close to 40 foster homes that temporarily care for Bulldogs until a perfect forever home can be found. Sometimes foster Bulldogs are adopted within days, and sometimes it takes several weeks or many months. By having the animals in foster care, it allows us to learn about their temperament, disposition, and tolerance for other animals. We can immediately begin working on things such as house and crate training and work with the dogs to resolve any issues prior to adoption. By utilizing a foster network we are able to

provide potential adopters with a wealth of information on the personality and well being of the Bulldogs they wish to adopt.

Contact the Foster Coordinator ASAP if you feel there is a problem with your foster dog so we can help alleviate the stress and help ease the transition. We have dealt with almost every scenario and have found that success is most often achieved when we are contacted when a problem initially arises.



What You Can Expect From Us

1. LSBCR will work to match you with a dog that will work for you and your family or situation. If it doesn't work out we will always take the dog back or swap you out for another dog. We do ask that you give it your best effort for two weeks to see if the foster will adjust to life in your family before we make a switch.
2. LSBCR pays for all vetting on our dogs, but only at our vets and we must approve all vet appointments. If you feel your dog is having a problem just let us know and we will tell you how to proceed. Your foster cannot go to an adoptive home until he or she is spayed or neutered. We provide prescription medications. We normally do not provide supplements and flea/tick prevention unless a surplus has been donated to rescue.
3. LSBCR may be able to help provide transportation to vet appointments and events if you need it, but you do have to ask!
4. You can always contact a Foster/Adoption Coordinator if you have questions, problems or need some support.
5. If you have a question, please refer to this manual. We also have many experienced Foster Families who have seen most scenarios and who can help you with basic information and provide you with support and encouragement.

*If you're
brave
enough to
say "Good
bye," life will
reward you
with a new
"Hello."*

Expectations Of Foster Families

Social Media

- Please do not share photos/stories of your foster dog on your personal social media pages (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) UNLESS you share directly from one of LSBCR's social media pages.
- We highly encourage you to share posts from LSBCR's pages to your own personal page, but we ask that you not post directly on your own. This way LSBCR is connected to the post.

Events

- Please bring your dog friendly foster dog to as many events as possible. The number of events he or she attends directly correlates to how quickly he or she will get adopted. It is the best and easiest way to get your foster dog the exposure he or she deserves!
- Please do not bring your foster to an event until he or she is ready for a permanent home that means spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, heartworm and fecal tested.

- Understand that events can also be a very stressful time for your dog being in a confined area, being petted by dozens of people and sniffed by several dogs. Do not feel you have to stay the whole time. An hour or two is good at first.
- When attendees talk to you about adopting your foster, there are some things you need to keep in mind. If they are not already an approved adopter, they first need to apply. Your dog may not even be available by the time their application is approved. Encourage them to get approved so they are ready when the right dog comes along. Do not talk to them about adopting your dog or any specific dog. The adoption coordinators may already be talking to a family about your foster. You can answer their questions and talk about the traits of your foster, but do not talk with them about adopting your foster. The coordinators work very hard to match the family with the best dog for the applicants particular needs.

Adopting Your Foster (or Foster Failures)

- We require a one-year volunteer commitment from all fosters before adopting a dog. We will not approve any adoptions prior to the full year commitment.
- Oftentimes, a foster family realizes that they cannot live without their foster dog and choose to adopt after their one year volunteer commitment is over. If you choose to adopt, you must go through the same adoption approval process as a non foster adopter. You will be expected to pay the full adoption fee at the time of adoption.

Bios and Pictures

- The second best way to get exposure for your foster dog is to make sure his or her bio and pictures are up-to-date. We do not expect you to be a professional photographer, but pictures of your dog make him or her more adoptable. Try to get pictures that show your dog in the best light possible. Please refer to the section on *Tips for Photographing Your Foster Bulldog* (p.29). Pictures may be submitted in two ways. If you want them to be seen by all our group, simply “Reply All” to the weekly foster email Dianne sends out each Sunday and attach your photos. That way, everyone sees them including those volunteers who maintain our website, Facebook Page and Instagram. If you just want to submit something for social media use only, email: info@dfwbulldogrescue.org for Facebook, ronnielow@icloud.com for our website and kash417@gmail.com for Instagram.
- The most important task is communication with the entire group (use the “Reply All”), especially on your weekly foster updates, but also if you are having issues with your foster bulldog. We have 5 adoption coordinators in Rescue who review the applicant’s application, do a vet check, phone interview and then a home visit. They all need to see your weekly reports and learn as much as possible about your foster. When they do the phone interview, they all take notes on what the adopters are looking for and more importantly, who would be best for OUR dogs. The dog’s well being and happiness always come first in Rescue. We ask what the families can handle and what they cannot handle with a new bulldog in their home. **Your candid reports are a must for this.**

- What can make their job a little more difficult, is not having upfront and honest evaluations of your foster dog. They tell their families what they know so the family will know the good, bad and ugly about the dog. If they are toy possessive, or having issues in house training, not getting along with other dogs in the home, we need to know. Being upfront and honest will always get your foster dog adopted. Sometimes it feels that if you tell the coordinators they have a particular bad habit, they won't get adopted. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Returns of dogs are going to happen—it's inevitable, but we try very hard to keep it to a minimum as it is so hard on the dog. Honest reports and evaluations are crucial to successful adoptions.
- Complete an *Evaluation Form* as soon as you know your dog a bit (after about two weeks), and send it to the Adoption Coordinators. That way they have all the information in front of them when trying to match your dog with an applicant. You can return the form just to them by using the Adopt@dfwbulldogrescue.org email address.
- The more information you can put in the bio, the better the bio will be written for your dog. Please include any distinguishing information. Examples: carries a yellow stuffed duck everywhere, loves apple slices, etc. Just provide us with as much information as possible.

Videos

Another way to raise interest in our available dogs is through video. The video clips we post have been HUGE HITS with our audience. Thanks to our smart phones, capturing video is relatively easy... and they don't need to be long~just short and sweet. 15-30 seconds are a good length to show enough and keep viewers interested. We have volunteers who can help with shooting and editing videos if you need help. It's about showing people what YOU see.

- Try to shoot on the dog's level and don't hesitate talking through the video, e.g., "Mack, show your friends how much you like your favorite toy...." Even just seeing video of a foster dog walking/waddling through a back yard can be entertaining to some! :)
- The key is to have fun~just please remember to always shoot horizontally... i.e., turn your camera to match the horizon.

Contact Information

- Your Foster Mentor or Foster Coordinator should be able to contact you at all times. If your phone number or address changes, please let Renea Reckner know. We will be attempting to contact you to check on your foster dog, discuss vetting appointments, and potential meetings with adopters.
- If an Adoption Coordinator contacts you about a possible adoption, please respond to them promptly. Adopting families are anxiously awaiting word about the dog they want to adopt. And remember that the Coordinators are working multiple cases and do not have time to chase you down.

Vetting and Medication

- LSBCR will provide you with monthly heartworm preventative, regardless of the dog's heartworm status (positive or negative). This should be administered on the 1st of each

month or one month from the time it is first given at the vet. Please mark it on your calendar so you are sure to remember each month.

- Our primary veterinarian is Dr. Leah Larsen. If you think your dog has a medical issue, she prefers you contact her directly. If the problem is something observable (sore, rash, bump, cough, etc), please send her a text along with pictures or videos.
- If you need refills on prescriptions please call the clinic. They will mail them to you.
- We do routine testing on all dogs entering rescue. All dogs have a blood test. Those 6 and older also have a thyroid test and x-rays done. As a result of these tests your foster may need to return to the clinic for a follow-up. The clinic should contact you if this the case.
- LSBCR will work with you on coordinating appointments so that it is convenient for you. If you need transportation assistance to the clinic, contact Dianne Ogburn (214-244-5391) or Ronnie Lowe (972-670-7169).
- LSBCR will cover the cost of all vetting for your foster, provided it takes place at a pre-approved appointment and a pre-selected veterinarian. Please see the list of Approved Veterinarians (p. 34)
- If you have an emergency, please contact Dianne Ogburn (214-244-5391) or Ronnie Lowe (972-670-7169) before seeking medical attention; most ailments and accidents are not true emergencies.
- We provide prescription medications. We normally do not provide supplements and flea/tick prevention unless a surplus has been donated to rescue.

Dog Parks

- LSBCR **does not** endorse dog parks. There are too many variables and too many irresponsible dog owners. Always use caution when tasking your dog to public places. Remember, if something happens, LSBCR may be liable.
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Dog Names

- LSBCR dogs stay micro-chipped in LSBCR's name and are identified by their individual and unique LSBCR names throughout their lives. It is important that an adoptive family be aware of the dog's LSBCR name, even if they choose to call the dog a different name.

Temp Fostering

- LSBCR will provide temp fostering for your foster dog when you need it. This may consist of boarding or temporarily being placed in another LSBCR volunteer's home.
- When possible (for vacation and holidays), please let the group know at least 3 weeks in advance so they can find a place for your dog.
- In an emergency situation, please notify Dianne, Ronnie or Renea that you need immediate and emergency temp fostering for your dog.

Getting Ready For Your Foster Dog

After being approved as a qualified foster home, but before you bring a foster dog home, we suggest you prepare yourself, your family and your home for a new canine companion. **This is one of the most important sections of this manual.** He is the new kid on the block and can be confused by all the new smells, sounds and routines. You are at least the third home he has had in recent days—the original home, shelter, clinic and now you. They can be stressed, scared, overwhelmed and they don't understand what is happening. What are all these new sights, sounds and smells? They need a place to calmly and quietly decompress. They may bark, or cry, but it is up to you to make them feel loved and secure. A blanket placed over the crate can resemble a den and a place of safety. Many are coming from shelters, clinics, or boarding facilities where they are used to being confined. It is up to you to help them ever so gradually discover a big new and safe world. Do not be surprised if they do not want to eat the first couple of days. This is often due to the stress. Try feeding them something bland (chicken and rice), or feeding them several small meals. Also do not be surprised if any potty training is completely forgotten when they first come into your home.

Where to keep your foster dog

Planning where you will keep your dog before you bring your dog home will make the entire process easier for everyone. When you first bring a foster dog home, you'll want to confine them to a single room, such as a kitchen or family room. **Make your new foster's world small and manageable for him/her for the first few days.** This room should not be an isolated room, but a room where you spend a large part of your day or evening, as dogs are pack animals and want to be with you. This room is especially important when you're at work or away from the house, as it will be a new environment in which they need time to become familiar and comfortable.

Use a baby gate to block off the entrances to other rooms. By keeping the dog in one room, you're helping prevent "accidents" that may occur because of stress or adjusting to your routine. (Even a house-trained dog might have an accident or two during this adjustment period.) For dogs that are not house trained, keeping them confined to one room will help start this important training as you must be able to monitor their activities. LSBCR recommends you also use a crate in this room for times when you are away from the house.

*Dogs do speak,
but only to
those who know
how to listen. -
Orhan Pamuk*

The Do's

- Do keep your foster dog indoors in a location with a crate available.
- Do keep your foster dog in a warm/cool (depending on the season) and dry location.
- Do keep your foster dog on a leash at all times when outdoors unless in your secured fenced yard. When in a secured yard, you must supervise him at all times. It is very common for a shelter dog to try and escape so always supervise your foster dog.

The Don'ts

- Do not place your foster dog around other strange dogs as we often do not know the dog's past history.
- Do not leave your new foster loose and unsupervised with your personal dog or other fosters for at least the first two weeks. Crate them or put them in a small room.
- Do not allow your foster dogs outdoors unless supervised by an adult.
- Never take your foster dog to an off-leash park. This is a liability to the rescue.

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 an active pup?
- Are there plants in the room? Make sure there are no plants hazardous to dogs in the area.
- 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 or mat in the crate to train your foster dog that it's his bed?

Picking Up Your Foster

All of the dogs coming in to rescue will go to one of our partner veterinarians for a once-over and microchip. Some immediate health issues will also be addressed, while others will be treated later in the foster process. When the foster is released and ready for their foster home, you may pick the dog up. When possible, a volunteer may be able to meet you at an agreed upon location to deliver your dog.

The following is a list of items to be sure to get:

- Foster Dog
- Medicine
 - Heartworm preventative
 - Flea & tick preventative (if medically necessary)
 - Specific Medication depending on the foster dog's condition
- Microchip Information
- Rabies Tag
- Medical Records
- Surrender Form (if an owner surrender)

- All this should be passed along to the adopter, except for the Surrender Form and name of previous owner. This is provided for your information and background on the dog.

All of the above will be provided in a large envelope that is labeled with the dog's name. Please keep this envelope in a safe place as you will need to provide it to the adopting family on Adoption Day.

Please Note: When a dog enters rescue we check their records. If shots are due, they are given. If they are not due, they are generally not given until due. The clinic should notify you when shots are due. But it is your responsibility to check their records and know when an exam or shots are due. When you get your foster, check their records and put the next due date on your calendar.

You may also receive items from an owner surrender (ie., collar, leash, food, dog bowl, toys, etc.). You may get none of these, so be prepared to furnish all these yourself if needed.

Dog Names

All dogs have a name or are given a name in rescue. It is important that you use his/her assigned name when addressing the dog and making any reports or updates. Some are shelter dogs and have no name until they are picked up and given one. Some are owner surrenders and we may choose to change their name for some reason. Some, especially older dogs should always keep the name they have always had. Some are given middle names to distinguish them from other dogs in our database and PetPoint with the same name.

We ask fosters not to change their name. For vetting, record keeping, social media and PetPoint registration, the name used needs to be consistent. If rescue gives the dog a new name, you need to help them become comfortable with that new name. If you have questions about whether your foster was given a new name, please contact Dianne Ogburn, Ronnie Lowe or Renea Reckner.



Of course, adopters are free to give their dog any name they choose, but we ask they be considerate of the dog's age before doing that. It is also helpful when giving a new name to use both the old name and the new name together for a few weeks.

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.

		
3 DAYS	3 WEEKS	3 MONTHS
TO DECOMPRESS	TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE	TO START TO FEEL AT HOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FEELING OVERWHELMED● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF"● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● STARTS SETTLING IN● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE● REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME● FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT● GETS INTO A ROUTINE● LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY● SETS INTO A ROUTINE

GIVE THEM A CHANCE

Introducing Your Foster To Your Pack & Home

This is perhaps the most important piece of the foster/adoption puzzle. It can make or break your time as a foster. But it is also a bit confusing. There is an abundance of theories at play on how to introduce a new dog into your home. Not every way works for every family or with every dog. (See the Appendix for two contrasting approaches on introducing a new dog into your home. pp. 48-51)

We want to start with a guiding philosophy. We will then offer some suggestions, but remember there is no one-size-fits-all solution. But a little extra work here will pay big dividends for as long as the dog is under your care.

To some a slow introduction is 30 minutes and to another it is two weeks! Some believe you should just throw them together and let the dogs sort it out.

Slow introductions are not meant to be about you nor are they determined by you. “Slow” is determined by your dogs. You can only go as fast as the slowest dog can adapt to the change in their environment. This is why there are a variety of methods suggested on how to introduce dogs.

Some dogs accept change immediately and adjust to their new environment. Some will crawl under your bed and not come out on their own for a month. When any dog starts showing signs of stress (dominance, frozen stare, aggression, barking, etc.), you need to calmly stop and back up a step in your process. The dog will determine when it is time to move on to the next step. You have to go as slow as the dog is!

*As in the story
of the tortoise
and the hare—
slow and
steady
(patient) wins
the race.*

As in the story of the tortoise and the hare—slow and steady (patient) wins the race.

Were you ever that new kid in a new school? How did it feel? When that new kid showed up, did you immediately welcome them and become best friends, or did it take a while? Think about those situations as you think about bringing a new dog into your family.

It is all about change—and for some, change can be very uncomfortable. What is the background of your foster dog? How many homes have they had? Were they abused by people or other animals? You may never know the answers to these questions. But this points out why you need to take slow and deliberate steps in introducing a foster into your existing pack.

Many people do not give two dogs time to adequately adjust to one another before deciding that having this foster will simply not work. It can take up to one month for an old dog and new dog to really settle in and accept each other’s position in the pack. You need to be ready to commit to this process and not panic. Often, after an adjustment period, the old dog and new dog will truly enjoy each other. You’d be surprised at how two dogs who appeared to really dislike each other can become best friends after a short while. But the opposite is also true—some dogs, like people, will never get along. But this is why we ask you to give it your best effort for two weeks before asking to change fosters.

We all want to shower our new foster with attention. We want to “love” their hurt away and make up for a lifetime of neglect or abuse. But often, too much attention and affection can be overwhelming to the dog. We need to give them extra space—especially at the beginning.

Patience—have patience with your new dog's behavior, level of training, and the time it takes to establish a bond with you. Give your new dog time and space to adjust. The dog will bark and may drive you crazy for a few days and that WILL be very difficult to endure. But your patience will be rewarded. Commit time the first few days to get to know your dog's habits and personality. Establish a routine for the dog and balance interaction and down-time. This is a period of trust-building, so don't scare or yell at the dog or try to force close contact. Watch your dog's postures and expressions. Learn to read him. It may take even up to several weeks for you to get to know your dog's true nature. And don't forget, your new dog is trying to do the same with you!

Issues often develop when you provide a new dog with "too much too soon." This can create many behavior problems that can take months of counterconditioning to undo. So, it is very worthwhile to spend a little bit of time setting the ground rules at the outset. In the long run, it will be better for you, the new dog and your pack.

Take everything SLOW when bringing a new dog into to your home. It is easier to take it slow, than to bring a new dog into your pack and deal with the problems that arise from not implementing slow introductions. Your pack may be one dog or several dogs. The more dogs in your pack, the longer the process takes. This process is also required for homes with no dogs in residence, but who have other pets, especially cats.

If you are uncertain how one (or both) of the dogs will react, be cautious. Ideally you would want your new foster to meet each of your dogs individually at a neutral site. This is not always practical. Most such meetings will occur at your house. Before the meeting takes place, let the foster dog roam around the house and back yard. This will allow him or her to get accustomed to a new home and group of humans (you). During this time, your other dog(s) should be out of sight, because the newcomer will be exploring and leaving his scent on a territory that is still not his or her own. Also be sure to remove any current dog's toys or personal items before the foster dog explores.

**Make
your new
foster's world
small and
manageable for
him/her for the
first few days.**

When the new dog enters the home, territorial instincts tell the old dog that he is to defend his home. To understand the proper introduction, we must first realize that dogs live in a world of scent. Dogs rely on their keen sense of smell to introduce themselves to their surroundings. Therefore, training is based on their highly developed sense of smell. This is a difficult concept to grasp because humans depend on sight more than smell.

With this in mind, the home must be set up in a way that separates the two dogs so there is no visual contact. Visual contact creates posturing (a cold stare, growling and hackles raised). Dominant or submissive posturing immediately triggers a reaction in the other dog and often leads to stress and tension between the two. Some recommend that you have your foster in your home 2-3 days before there is an actual face-to-face meeting. You may keep them in a

separate room, in a crate or behind a baby gate. This gives time for everyone to get used to the new sounds and smells.

When the foster meets your dogs (whether a few hours or days after arriving), it needs to be one dog at a time, and for just a few minutes. There is little more terrifying to a new dog than to be surrounded by 4 strange dogs sniffing every inch of them and bumping into them. Keep your foster on a leash, take them to the back yard where one of your calmest and friendliest dog is waiting, and walk the foster around the perimeter of the yard. Do not immediately walk the foster directly to your dog. Either could assume this to be an aggressive move.

Slowly move the foster closer to your dog as you walk. This is much easier to do if you have another adult helping you and holding your dog.

Next, let the dogs meet. As the dogs approach each other, watch their body language closely, paying attention to the entire body. The dogs may need to do a little posturing or make a little noise. If you don't know how to tell the difference between dogs getting to know each other and dogs who don't like each other, have someone there who does.

Do not allow nose-to-nose greetings too soon. This type of greeting is very stressful for many dogs, particularly those who are fearful or feel threatened by eye contact. When dogs first look into each other's eyes, the appropriate behavior is to give a glance and then look away. A hard stare into another dog's eyes is a challenge—not a friendly way to greet. If the dogs practice inappropriate behavior like stiffening, staring or threats, try to get the dogs to focus back on walking.

If they stiffen their bodies and stare into each other's eyes with their hair up and their teeth bared, they probably aren't going to become fast friends. If they lunge at each other and try to fight, separate them and don't try further introductions without help from someone with experience in dog training and behavior. Some dogs cannot safely interact with other animals and therefore should be the only pet in the home. Most, however, can be taught to ignore other animals while out in public.

If the dogs try to play by pawing or play-bowing with their legs stretched out in front of them, they may want to be best buddies. Allow them to sniff each other, and give praise for a nice greeting. If you want, you can take them for a walk together, stopping occasionally to allow them to sniff and investigate each other.



After about 15 minutes of being together, take the foster back into the house and back to his safe place. If you have multiple dogs of your own or additional fosters, this process needs to be repeated individually for each dog.

To introduce a puppy to a dog, use the same procedure as above. But, if the puppy is under four months old, both the dog and the puppy may need frequent breaks from each other. Some adult dogs will quickly lose patience with puppy energy.

You may want to keep the foster dog crated in a room by himself as he grows more accustomed to the sights, sounds and smells of his new home. Allow the dog to get to know your house slowly. Let him walk the house without your personal dogs to explore where things are, like the back door, the water bowl, the couch, etc.

ALWAYS keep a short leash on the new dog and allow him to drag it around for the first several days or even weeks. Don't EVER feel bad and take the leash off; just as soon as you do, you will have a dogfight and no handle to separate them. NEVER leave the new dog unsupervised with your dogs. Crate or separate them while you can't supervise. If you have already had a dogfight, NEVER leave the dogs together, not even for 10 minutes while you are in the shower.

Please allow the dog to acclimate to your home before introducing him to new people or taking him out, with the exception of a trip to the vet. A trip to Petsmart or a large family gathering can provide too much stimulation.

When you have a leash on the dog and you see the "stink eye," REMOVE the dog from the situation immediately. Take the dog by the leash, and put him in the bathroom for 30 seconds of silence. Any longer than 30 seconds and the dog will "forget" that it was ostracized from the pack and the lesson will have no value. Ostracizing a dog from a pack is a powerful tool. The key word is "silence," NO whining or scratching allowed. You can run the leash under the door to allow you to correct the dog for whining or scratching. When you let the dog out, be sure he has a better attitude and is paying attention to you. Repeat this as many times as needed EVERY time you see him giving the stink eye, stalking or displaying naughty behaviors.

Put away all dog toys around the house for the first couple of weeks as they can be triggers for fighting. Give one toy individually in quiet times and then put them back away. If you're going to offer "high-value" items like Kongs or chews, please separate the dogs in the beginning. Once the dogs are good friends, they may be more willing to chomp side by side on high-value items.

Feed them in separate areas—for example, put one dog in the laundry room off the kitchen with a baby gate closure, and feed the other one in another part of the kitchen where they can't see each other eat. Food is a great fight starter, especially if you have one that gobbles and one that picks through every bite. This also helps you monitor that each dog is getting the proper amount of food for their bodyweight. It is also essential if they are on different foods. Many fosters find it convenient to feed their personal dogs and fosters in crates.

Jealousy can be a problem when another dog comes into the household. Be sure to pay attention to both and not baby the newcomer. He'll fit in eventually. The "old" dog may need

reassurances that you still love him. It's a good idea to give each one some separate attention without the other one around to try to horn in.

Don't change sleeping arrangements for the current dog. If she sleeps on the bed with you continue to let her, but we suggest putting the new dog in a crate in your bedroom or somewhere else if that is what you choose. You'll also want him crated until housebreaking has been reestablished and is very reliable. Whatever you prefer for an arrangement do it from the start.

Please do not allow your new foster on furniture too quickly. This should be a privilege to be earned. This shows them they are not equal to you. You are the one in control. And please never let your foster sleep in the bed with you. This can create a habit that can become unmanageable when they go to their forever home and want to do the same. We have had adoptions fail because of this.

Remember: Slow and patient will make all the difference! If you go too fast in the beginning, it could cause problems the entire time the dog is with you.

Daily Care Of Your Foster

Feeding

Create a consistent schedule for feeding your foster dog. Feed at the same times every day. Do not feed any "people" food. You do not know what the adoptive family will want to do, so don't start a habit they will have to break; and by feeding only dog food, you are also discouraging begging.

Feeding will depend on the age and size of your foster dog.

- Adult dogs: dry adult dog food twice a day, once in the morning and once at night.
- Adolescent dogs (4 months to 1 year): dry puppy food, three times a day.

The quantity of food you provide your foster dog will vary depending on weight, age and activity level. We highly recommend using a grain free food. Since many Bulldogs have skin issues, you need to play close attention to the ingredients. This can be a time when less is more. Please refer to the suggested amounts on the dog food package you are feeding your foster dog as the amounts may change depending on the brand. Remember to reduce this amount to compensate for any treats. Obesity is an epidemic for pets in the US, and can lead to health problems, exacerbate existing health issues and reduces overall quality of life.

Please do not overfeed your foster dog. **Always provide plenty of fresh water!**

"Rescue" does does not mean "damaged." It means they have been let down by humans.

Many rescue dogs that come in are emaciated or thin and will need extra food to help them gain weight. Emaciated dogs need to be fed small frequent meals that gradually increase in amount over time until they are eating 2-3 times the daily recommended amount of food. Eventually these dogs should get to their ideal body weight at which time they need to be dropped down to the daily recommended amount of food. Many volunteers can provide recipes for homemade treats to add to the calorie intake.

Tip: When changing a Bulldog's diet it's not recommended you switch his/her food all at once. This can cause diarrhea, gas, unsettled stomach etc. Instead, gradually change his food over a span of 7 days to ensure your bully's digestive system can keep up with the change. Just mix in small amounts to begin and larger amounts as you near the 5 day mark.

A good resource for checking the quality of dog food brands is:
<http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com>

Supplements: Dr. Larsen will often include supplements for your foster. Please use them as directed. They may be for digestion, some organ issue, or to prevent or treat a UTI. We recommend use of a quality joint supplement daily for all our Bulldogs. They are notorious for joint issues, especially later in life. The joint supplements serve not only as a treatment later, but a preventative early in life.

Exercise

Foster dogs should be exercised 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 walks a day to release excess energy. Thankfully, for a Bulldog, that walk will not be very long! If your foster dog is an adolescent, you may need to step up the activity level to include 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, then they may need rest.



When walking your foster dog, leave at least six feet between your dog and any other dog you meet. This keeps handlers and dogs safe from possible conflicts and also reduces the transmission of diseases. Foster parents will need to be extra diligent because many dog owners seem to encourage their dogs to "greet" every dog they encounter out on a walk. This nose-to-nose greeting is particularly stressful for many dogs, as dogs typically greet each other from an angle. One simple way to avoid an oncoming dog walker is to just cross the street, or start to walk in a wide semi-circle around them. Most people recognize that this is a

sign that you don't want your dogs to meet. If this isn't possible, just announce to the oncoming walker that you are walking a rescue dog, and you would prefer that the dogs don't greet each other.

Sometimes it's impossible to avoid another dog, so just stay calm, walk between your foster dog and the oncoming dog and move past quickly. If you become tense and tighten the leash, your dog will respond in kind and also tense up. Also try talking to your dog, "Fido, keep with me" and giving them treats as you pass an oncoming dog will help keep their attention on you, not on the other dog. **Please do not use retractable leashes** when walking your foster dog. It's impossible to have control with a retractable leash, and they can easily tangle or break.

Attention and Playtime

Lots of human contact is important for recovering, sick, injured or neglected dogs. Attention and playtime is a reward for your foster dog. Be sure to give your foster dog several minutes of playtime periodically through the day.

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. A child will not differentiate between a foster dog and a dog they have grown up with, so you must make sure to keep everyone safe.

Basic Training

Most potential adopters are looking for dogs with basic manners. You might feel it's appropriate to let your own dog jump on people, sit on the furniture, sleep on the bed, or beg for food, but please don't let your foster dog have these same indulgences. Set boundaries for your foster dog, and be consistent. We have adoptions fail because a dog became very comfortable practicing a behavior with his/her foster that was not acceptable to the adopter. Remember to discuss any such behaviors with the adopters at the meet and greet. Use the *Foster Bulldog Evaluation* form to help with this.

We suggest positive, rewards based training for dogs. Increasing your foster dog's obedience skills has many benefits. Not only will the future adopter appreciate these skills, but your foster dog will "show" better when visiting with potential adopters and you will have a much happier fostering experience. Some basic obedience cues that your foster dog should learn are: sit, down, come, crate/bed, stay, heel, and an attention cue such as "watch me." These are very helpful in managing any dog. If you have a dog that does not like other dogs, these cues will be helpful on walks as well. For example, a dog that can heel nicely and that has been taught to "watch" you has less likelihood of making eye contact with another dog and getting aroused.

Basic Bulldog Care

Allergies

- **Rash:** Apply Desitin diaper rash ointment daily till rash is gone.
- **Hair loss and itchiness:** Gold Bond Medicated Powder (apply with a blush brush)
- **Oral Medication:** Benadryl or Chlor-trimeton



Dryness of Nose and Paws

Apply Bag Balm, Vaseline, Vitamin E oil or Coconut Oil twice daily. Several companies make products specifically for dogs' noses.

Wrinkles

Clean with soapy water mixture of warm water mixed with a medicated dog shampoo. Wipe dry and dust with Gold Bond if needed to help with moisture. If red and raw looking, medicate with Desitin diaper rash ointment, Animax or Entederm. Use a plastic condiment bottle with a small spout to put the powder in the wrinkle. Medicated wipes can be used on facial folds as well as tail pockets.

Hot Spots

Clean with Listerine (the original kind). If it's a large hot spot, shave the area and then medicate. This allows the skin to breathe and air out. After it starts healing, you may dust with Gold Bond powder. Spay with an athletic foot type spray as this dries it out, kills fungus and cools the itching.

Chin Zits

Clean with medicated dog shampoo or Listerine (the original kind) daily till gone; may dust with Gold Bond powder to help with moisture. Benzoperoxide cream can be applied once a day for several days in a row to help clean this up. Switch to stainless steel or ceramic feeding/water bowls. Plastic bowls hold germs in the frayed plastic edges that lead to chin infections.

Inter-digital Cysts

Stay away from the mega doses of long-term antibiotics if possible. They don't usually help much with these cysts. Listerine (the original kind) can also be helpful when applied twice a day and allowed to soak in if only one paw has a cyst. For multiple cysts try warm Epsom salt water soaks twice a day. The cyst needs to be totally submerged under water in the bathtub. Soak the affected foot for at least 10 minutes in the warm salt water then pat dry. Also the trick of spreading peanut butter on the inner edge of the tub keeps them occupied while they are soaking for the several minutes they need to be in the tub and NOT drinking the water.

Afterwards apply Preparation H or other hemorrhoid cream twice daily until swelling is totally gone.

Tear Stains

Tear stains are typically caused from excessive tearing. In this case, the damp face hair is a breeding ground for bacterial and yeast growth that can come from unfiltered water or dog food; thus the reddish brown discoloring. You may have to try different dog foods till you find one just right for you. You want to make sure the food you choose for your Bulldog has no coloring added which will only add to the staining. Water should be in a stainless steel bowl to prevent bacteria harboring in porous materials such as plastic. Changing to bottled water may also be helpful. Baby wipes can be used daily to wipe the eye folds and nose fold, especially if the nose fold is really deep. If the wipes don't appear to be taking care of it or if they start smelling, then use a medicated dog shampoo that takes care of yeast and bacteria.

While tear staining is typically no more than a minor annoyance, it can also be a symptom of a serious eye health problem. If consistent, mention it to your veterinarian at your appointment to rule out medical causes versus too much tear production.

Chew Toys

Nylabones and Benebones are recommended chew toys. NEVER feed rawhides or pig ears. Bulldogs tend to swallow things without chewing. Rawhides don't digest; they get trapped in the stomach, twist and need to be removed surgically if not passed. Never use rope toys either. As with rawhides, the strings can get stuck in the stomach and it can be fatal.

Gas Problems

They are Bulldogs! They are going to have some gas. Flatulence/Gas is not indicative of a serious medical problem. Intestinal gas usually means that your pet has simply eaten something they cannot digest properly. The problem often tends to be excess carbohydrates, which contain sugar and starch that ferment in the intestine. Remember, dogs are lactose-intolerant. Feeding dairy products can result in gas. Check the ingredients listed on the label. Opt for a food with no wheat, corn and soy. All of these are laden with gas-producing carbs. If changing foods, gradually do so. Remember any sudden change in diet can bring on gas and diarrhea. Some have found a regular Tums tablet added to their food at each feeding can be helpful in controlling gas buildup.

Your Bulldog Medicine Cabinet

There are many things you can have at home on hand to help care for your Bulldog and handle many care issues at home. This list is brief and **does not take the place** of advice provided by our veterinarians.

Medications You Can Have at Home

- **Pedialyte or Smart Water** – Good to give your dog if they have been vomiting or had diarrhea. Do not use Gatorade or anything flavored.
- **Hydrocortisone cream** – Use for controlling itching, topically only.
- **Vaseline/Aquaphor/BagBalm** — Use for dry noses
- **Coconut Oil (Unrefined)** – Good on noses and a spoonful in food can be good for coat, skin and eyes (not applied to eyes)
- **Desitin Cream** – Use for minor skin irritations, keeping skin folds dry, and minor sunburn. Also sometimes useful on interdigital cysts, after cleansing the area.
- **Styptic Powder (Anticoagulant)** – Use to stop bleeding caused by cutting into the quick when trimming nails.
- **Triple Antibiotic Ointment** (Comes under many brand and generic names)– Use for minor scrapes and cuts. Not for use in the eyes or mouth.
- **Hydrogen peroxide** – Use to induce vomiting or as a general antiseptic cleanser.
- **Lemon Juice** – Use to clear phlegm from the Bulldog's throat and ease breathing. Squirt liberally into the back of throat.
- **Antiseptic Solution** – Used for cleaning scrapes and minor wounds.
- **Ophthalmic Ointment (non-steroid)** – Used for eyes to clear up infections.
- **Antihistamine (Benadryl)** - Use for allergic reactions and bee/wasp stings.
- **MucinexDM** - Plain (with no pain killer). Use for coughs and congestion.
- **Eye Drops (Natural tears)** -Simple straight forward eye drops to moisten the eyes and rinse out dust. No red eye or other specialty additives.
- **Eyewash** – Used to flush out eyes.
- **Chlorhexadine Solutions** – Used for cleansing wounds and skin folds.
- **Epsom Salts** – Use as in a warm water soak for inter digital cysts (blisters between the toes)
- **Listerine (brand or generic)** for chin acne and inter-digital cysts.
- **Baby wipes** for cleaning folds and tails, wiping chins, cleaning ears and quick wipe downs when you don't have time for a regular bath.
- **Apple Cider Vinegar** topical for hot spots; ingested for digestion and insect repellent. Use to wipe off hot spots when one is starting. A teaspoon a day in your Bulldog's water is recommended by many to aide with digestion.
- **Zymox** - Used for flushing/cleansing ears.
- **Pepto Bismol** - Used for diarrhea, indigestion, nausea, vomiting.
- **Canned Pumpkin** – Can be used to counteract diarrhea and constipation.
- **Honey** – Often given to dogs suffering from idiopathic head tremors.
- **Probiotic/Yogurt** – Helps to replenish the good bacteria after being on antibiotics.
- **Pill Pockets/Cheese** - Used to administer medications.
- **Raw Goats Milk** – Used to aid in digestion and boosting immune system.

*You can't
change a
dog's past,
but you
could
rewrite his
future.*

NOTE: Specific dosages have not been given here for several reasons. First, we are not veterinarians and do not have the right to prescribe medications or doses. Second, Bulldogs come in many different sizes and there is no way to assure correct dosage.

First Aid Equipment List:

- Roll of 1" first aid tape
- 2"-3" gauze rolls
- Ace bandages
- Blunt nose scissors
- Tefla pads
- Cotton balls
- Blanket
- Syringes (without needles) Used for the measuring and administering oral medications.
- Tweezers
- Rectal thermometer
- Nail trimmers or Dremmel grinder for toe nail trimming
- Kwik-Stop Styptic Powder/Gel in the event of bleeding
- Petroleum Jelly

Vetting Your Foster

In case of an emergency or for non-routine vetting, please contact a Dr. Larsen's office. For emergencies contact Dianne Ogburn (214-244-5391) or Ronnie Lowe (972-670-7169).

LSBCR will only pay for vetting at approved clinics and anything outside the "required vetting" needs prior approval. If you take your foster to your vet or to an emergency vet without approval you will be responsible for those charges.

- Our primary veterinarian is Dr. Leah Larsen. If you think your dog has a medical issue, she prefers you contact her directly. If the problem is something observable (sore, rash, bump, cough, etc), please send her a text along with pictures or videos.
- If you need refills on prescriptions please call the clinic. They will mail them to you.
- You also need to check your foster's records and be aware of when they need their next immunizations or heartworm test.

Routine Vetting

Any lumps, hair loss, upper respiratory infections or other problems need to be discussed with the Foster Coordinator.

If your foster has issues that need additional attention from one of our approved veterinarians, please contact Dianne Ogburn PRIOR to calling the clinic. Please respect the fact that each clinic is very busy and has many clients besides rescue. We need to limit our

calls to them in order to ensure that everyone gets the best treatment possible. This will help to streamline the process and allow us to keep track of costs for each foster.

Please be aware that rescue dogs come in with MANY issues, and it is necessary to prioritize those issues. Sometimes it is impossible to treat all the issues simultaneously. Our approved veterinarians and their staff are 100% here to provide the best possible care for each of their patients.

If you have questions or are not sure about something please ask. Remember: not following the exact course of treatment can cause the recovery to be longer and more painful for your foster.

If there are home remedies or supplements that you want to use in addition to the veterinarian's treatment plan, please ASK if these supplements are something that can be used in conjunction with recommended treatments. In some cases, these supplements can be counter-productive.

Keep in mind that we are all here to save the Bulldogs, but sometimes a certain course of treatment is done because of the age of a dog, the underlying condition of the dog or because there are many issues going on and the most serious issues have to be addressed before others can be tackled.

The most important thing is to have everyone on the same page and following the procedures that are in place. Even though it might not seem like it, these procedures are in place for a reason and have been tested over time to produce the desired outcomes if properly followed.



When A Dog Needs to be Euthanized

Unfortunately, a real part of rescue is dealing with dogs who are gravely ill. Some are placed on hospice care and unavailable for adoption. Others become ill while in rescue and are no longer adoptable. You may come to a time that you feel it would be best if your foster were euthanized. This is something, unfortunately, we have to do several times a year. If you feel the time is approaching, please consult with the rescue committee and the veterinarian on how to proceed. Dr. Larsen may need to see the dog for an exam to see if medications can be changed to make them more

comfortable. The final decision will be made between you, the foster, and Dr. Larsen.

Boarding And Vacations

LSBCR will pay for boarding for your foster at our approved facilities ONLY, should you need to go out of town. We request 3 weeks notice for assistance with boarding your foster.

Holidays

Holidays are very difficult for LSBCR because our boarding spaces are limited. We MUST have two weeks notice to find boarding or a temporary foster home during any major holidays.

Heartworm Treatment After Care

If your foster has been treated with medications to kill heartworms, it's important to follow these guidelines for post-treatment care.

- Strict rest for four (4) weeks.
- Your dog's physical activities must be limited –no rough-housing, no running, no exercise, no back yard play. Short leash walks outside to permit the dog a chance to relieve itself are allowed.
- Feed your dog a normal diet, but remember that reduced exercise also means the dog will need fewer calories to maintain its weight.
- Your dog will be sent home with anti-inflammatory medications and antibiotics. Use the medication(s) as directed on the prescription label.
- If any of the following occur, please call Dr. Larsen to have your dog seen as soon as possible by the veterinarian:
 - Severe coughing (Your dogs could have some symptoms related to the lungs. He/she will probably have mild coughing for awhile.)
 - Coughing up blood
 - Lethargy, listlessness or collapse
 - Loss of appetite

One month after the date of prior dose of heartworm preventative, continue once monthly heartworm prevention. Also be sure to remind the adopter to have another heartworm test done in six months.

It is very important to keep all dogs on heartworm preventative for life. A second bout of heartworm does not have a good prognosis.

Dealing With Behavioral Issues

It is common for a dog to experience some behavioral problems and need a period of adjustment when placed into a new environment. Foster homes are in a unique position to help increase the “adoptability” of their foster dogs by providing some basic training.

We work with Scott Sheaffer, a certified dog behaviorist in the Dallas area. He often sees dogs and their fosters who are having issues. You may want to view his website or subscribe to his monthly blog newsletter. <https://www.usadogbehavior.com>.

Regardless of the issue, we don’t recommend punishment as this is rarely effective in resolving behavior problems. Punishment will not address the cause of the behavior, and in fact it may worsen any behavior that’s motivated by fear or anxiety. Punishment may also cause anxiety in dogs that aren’t currently fearful. Never discipline your dog after the fact. People often believe their dog makes this connection because he runs and hides or “looks guilty.” But dogs display submissive postures like cowering, running away, or hiding when they feel threatened by an angry tone of voice, body posture, or facial expression. Your dog doesn’t know what he’s done wrong; he only knows that you’re upset. Punishment after the fact will not only fail to eliminate the undesirable behavior, but may provoke other undesirable behaviors, too. Please see *Nothing In Life Is Free* in the Appendix, p. 54 for more information.

We believe strongly in positive reinforcement! The dog must be praised when the offending action stops. Most of the time we just say no, then go about our day. Your dog needs to know he will be rewarded for doing the right thing.

Lack of House-Training

Chances are your foster dog will need at least a refresher course in house-training. Many rescued dogs have spent most of their lives outside and never learned the rules of living indoors. Other dogs may have once been house-trained, but may still have an accident or two when transitioning into a new home. See *House Training Your Dog* in the Appendix, p. 52.

The most important element of effective house-training is extensive supervision, to minimize accidents. There will, of course, be times when you are unable to watch the dog constantly. During these times, you can confine the dog to a crate. The crate should be just large enough for the dog to be able to comfortably stand up, turn around, and lie down. Because a dog will try not to soil the area where he sleeps, he will usually not urinate or defecate in a crate.

Some “mill mommas” will soil their crates and bedding, because they have lived their entire life in a crate and this is all they know.

They need a place to calmly and quietly decompress. They may bark, or cry, but it is up to you to make them feel loved and secure.

They have spent their entire life in a confined space and rarely let. So extra patience is required.

When the dog is allowed out of the crate, he should be taken outside immediately. If the dog eliminates outside, give him lots and lots of praise! If the dog does not eliminate, it is important that you supervise the dog closely once you re-enter your home. If it has been a significant time since they pottied and you feel like they really need to, calmly put them back in their crate for 3-5 minutes and then take them back outside. If they potty, throw a praise party for them. If you catch the dog having an accident in the house, take the dog straight outside and give him a chance to finish eliminating outside. If the dog does eliminate, give him lots of praise. If there is peeing in the middle of the night, you may want to remove all water at 8:00 each evening.

When house-training a dog, use common sense. Give the dog a chance to eliminate outside following meals and naps. Pay attention to the dog's behavioral signals. If you observe the dog circling, sniffing the floor, or moving toward the door, take the dog outside. Some fosters find a doggy door or hanging bells works best for them.

House-training Don'ts

- Do not rub the dog's nose in it! This method of training has been proven ineffective by trainers and behaviorists. The only message a dog gets from this type of "training" is that you are angry. The dog will likely not learn to eliminate outside and may instead learn to fear you.
- Do not correct the dog after the fact! Again, this method of training has been proven ineffective. Punishing a dog for something she did much earlier will not yield the results you are looking for. Yes, the dog will behave submissively and perhaps look guilty, but this is because the dog knows you are angry, not because she knows that, earlier, she did something wrong.

House-training is not a process that happens overnight. Be patient. Any progress you can make with your foster dog on house-training will make your life easier and help improve the dog's chances for successful placement.

Chewing

Destructive chewing is a phase that all puppies go through. It usually starts around three months and can last until the dog is one year old. During this time, the dog's adult teeth are coming in and chewing helps relieve the pain. Adult dogs may also have problems with chewing, but for different reasons. Adult dogs usually chew on inappropriate things because they are anxious or bored, or because they have never been taught what is appropriate to chew on.



The best solution for destructive chewing is providing your foster dog with something that is acceptable to chew on. Have plenty of chew toys available at all times. If you catch the dog chewing on something inappropriate, tell the dog “NO” in a firm (but not angry) voice, and replace the item with something more appropriate.

If the destructive chewing occurs when you are away, consider confining the dog to a crate. A crate will help keep both the dog and your home safe. It is also important to make sure that your foster dog is getting plenty of exercise. A tired dog will sleep, not chew!

Separation Anxiety

It is pretty common for foster dogs to experience some separation anxiety when left alone. The severity of the anxiety can range from pacing and whining to much more destructive behavior. A dog may experience separation anxiety simply because he has a very dependent personality, or because she is reacting to a history of abuse or abandonment. Whatever the reason, separation anxiety can be difficult to deal with because you are not around when it happens. The most common sign that a dog may be suffering from separation anxiety is destructive behavior when left alone. A dog may scratch frantically at the door or make other attempts to get out of the house, or the dog may chew on things or engage in other destructive behaviors. Sometimes they simply feel trapped in a confined space. Try opening all the blinds and shades so they get plenty of light and can see outside.

If you do have the time to work with your foster dog, there are several things you can try to help alleviate separation anxiety. Start out by leaving the dog in your home for very short intervals. Tell the dog to wait and then walk outside for a few minutes before returning. When you return to the house, praise the dog for waiting. Begin to gradually leave the dog for longer and longer periods of time. It is important that, when you leave, you remain calm and not make a big deal out of leaving. It is also important that you not be too excited when you return. You want to praise the dog, but calmly. You don't want your return to be such an exciting event that the dog anxiously anticipates the moment of your return. Perhaps the most effective treatment for separation anxiety is time.

Be patient. As your foster dog spends more time with you, he will begin to feel more secure in knowing that when you leave, you always come back.

Some destructive behavior that appears to be related to separation anxiety may, in fact, be the product of boredom. Try providing chew toys or other play items that will entertain your foster dog while you are away. There are several products on the market that work quite well. One of the more popular toys keeps dogs engaged by making them work for food or treats. Once the toy is filled with some kind of small food item, the dog must work by rolling and tipping the toy until a treat falls out. Most of these products allow you to adjust the level of difficulty, and can keep a dog entertained for significant periods of time.

Don't forget to make sure that your foster dog gets plenty of exercise. A tired dog is much less likely to engage in behaviors associated with anxiety or boredom.

Aggression

Many dogs display types of aggression. Sometimes it does not display itself for several days, until the dog settles in and feels comfortable enough to display such behavior. Some aggression is directed toward certain people or certain dogs. Some aggression is directed toward all people or all dogs. Remember, we know little about the background of many of the dogs we rescue. Some suffer from a lifetime of abuse or lack of socialization.

In dealing with aggressive dogs, remember safety first. Keep a leash on your new dog at all times so you can grab it in the event of a fight. NEVER grab for a collar or put your hand or arm between two dogs who are fighting. You can also grab the hind legs of the more aggressive dog and separate them. If necessary, put a chair or any handy object between them to break up a fight. Put the aggressive dog in “time out” for training. When dogs are in “fighting mode” they are not capable of receiving instruction. It takes about 20 minutes after a fight for them to return to normal condition and be teachable.

The best advice for a foster with an aggressive dog is to ask for help! Many experienced fosters have dealt with this multiple times and are always willing to offer guidance. We also have relationships with animal behaviorists who work with our dogs and can help you develop skills to deal with your particular dog. Sometimes we also rely on appropriate medications to help the dog maintain proper behavior.

We never said fostering was easy! But helping a dog develop so they are adoptable by their forever family is where all the work pays off.

Taking Photos Of Your Foster Bulldog

Lighting

Whenever possible, photograph your Bulldog outside using natural light. Very bright, direct sunlight can give your photos a harsh look. Look for areas of open shade or photograph around sunset/sunrise times when the sun is closer to the horizon.



If photographing inside the house, look for areas near a large window or a sliding glass door where lots of natural light comes in. Turn on all the lights in the room and open curtains and blinds to let as much natural light in as possible. When you don't have enough light, your shots can turn out blurry, especially if your foster Bulldog is moving around a lot. If you can, turn off the automatic flash feature on your camera-sometimes direct flash can make a dog's eyes look like strange laser lights.

Composition

Whether you are photographing outside or inside, you want the focus to be on the Bulldog, so make sure there are not a lot of distracting elements in the background. Even a plain white wall is better than a basket of dirty laundry or a stained carpet. Less is more. If you can adjust the manual settings on your camera, open your aperture up to allow for a more shallow depth of field, blurring the background while focusing sharply on the Bulldog in the foreground. Many mobile phones have a Portrait Setting that makes this simple.

Get on their Level

Don't be afraid to get down on your Bulldog's level, even if it means you have to get down on the ground! Sometimes hovering overtop of a dog can actually make them nervous. Getting down at a lower level and angling your camera to look up at the dog is much more visually interesting, especially if you get them looking up and catch a little bit of light in their eyes to create a highlight. For some reason, people think if they bend a tiny bit at the waist, they're going to get a great dog portrait. Sorry! You need to get down so the Bulldog's eyes are level with yours.

Focus on the Eyes

Fill the frame with the Bulldog's face – think portrait. Make sure you are focusing on their eyes. Eyes are the windows to the soul and this is what will help potential adopters connect to a Bulldog. Take pictures from a variety of angles and distances to the head and whole body. The website requires pictures be horizontal and a certain size. So most of them will be cropped before posting. This is always easier to do and get the right size if there is a little extra room around the edge of the dog to crop.

Quality vs. Quantity

Even if you only get one good picture, that is totally fine as long as you make it count. One picture is all it takes to help save a life! **Be sure to take your pictures and videos in a horizontal format when possible.** This matches up better for our website and some social media.

The Adoption Process

Our adoption process is aimed at finding the best possible home for our Bulldogs.

Applications are submitted online, and a required \$20.00 Application Fee is paid. The application is reviewed and if there is missing information or the fee has not been submitted, the applicant receives an email asking for a response with the required information.

Once all required information is received and the application is accepted, the application is forwarded to the Application Review Committee.

A member of the Application Review Committee will perform a vet check. At this point applications may be denied. Reasons for denial may include a lack of a consistent vet history, pets not being up to date on vaccinations or current pets not being up to date on heartworm preventative.

After the vet check, the application goes to one of the Adoption Coordinators who stay with the applicant through the rest of the process. This person is the applicant's main contact/ coordinator moving forward with the adoption process. This volunteer gathers the necessary information to determine IF the applicant will move to the home visit stage. The coordinator has a long discussion on what would be best for their family, kids, dogs, etc. But our bulldogs come first on what is best for them.

If approved for a home visit, our Adoption Coordinator will send out an email to our volunteer group asking for someone to complete the home visit. The purpose of the home visit is to determine IF the applicant's home is a good fit for a Bulldog (not a particular Bulldog). The home visit volunteer is to simply meet with the entire family and to check out the home for a loving and safe and nurturing environment for one of our Bulldogs.

During the home visit it is good to NEVER mention any particular dogs due to the fact the Bulldogs in our care may already have a meet and greet scheduled or a pending adoption. There should not be any "match making discussions" during the home visit. Please refer all specific inquiries back to their Adoption Coordinator (the person who made the initial call) – the adopter's main point of contact during the adoption process. See there *Home Visit Checklist* and the *Home Visit Report* form in the Appendix for more information.

Once all the notes are collated and processed, then the coordinator will contact the applicant to discuss what they think will be a good fit (based on which Bulldogs are available at the time) and listens to what the applicant wants.

At this point the applicant will be put in contact with the foster to discuss a particular dog. IF it seems there is a match, they will schedule a meet-and-greet with the foster and the applicant. For those living locally, we require a 24-hour thinking period between the meet-and-greet and the adoption contract being signed. This helps ensure a rational and not just emotional decision. This is waived for those coming long distances.

AND, IF all this goes well, we have a successful adoption.

Adoption Day Has Arrived!

Conducting the Meet & Greet

The big day has arrived. It may have been weeks or months in the making. Your dog has been bathed, and prepped as best you can. Your nerves are on edge and you want everything to go

well and your foster to be adopted. But you are also the last in line to make for a successful adoption. You have the final say so!

If the family has no current dogs the meet is pretty straight forward. We still prefer that initial meeting take place in the front yard. Make sure the adopters approach your foster calmly and give them a chance to smell and be comfortable. It is always good to take a short walk and talk more about the dog. After a bit you can retreat to the backyard or the house and finalize everything. In your conversation with the adopter be truthful and forthcoming with everything you know about the dog. We would rather they change their mind today than two weeks from now.

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. -Josh Billings

If they bring a current dog with them, the process is a little more complicated. Meet in the front yard, but have them keep their dog at a respectful distance to start. Of course they will want to meet and play with your foster immediately. Have them take turns or you hold their dog a few feet away. Do not allow nose to nose meetings at this time as this can be intimidating for either dog.

Take a walk down the street with the dogs several feet apart and move them closer together as you walk back to the house. Take turns who gets to walk in the lead. If all is going well, take them in the back yard and let them interact more. Let them move about freely, with their leash still on. Hopefully they will become playful, but this may take a while, or they may not be playful at all. You are looking for signs of stress (posturing, glaring, growling). If this happens, separate the dogs for a bit and try again. This process can take minutes or an hour. So be patient! **For an excellent article on this process see the Appendix: *Introducing New Dog to Your Existing Dogs* (p. 48)**

Once the dogs are comfortable with one another, you can move into the house to continue your conversation and finalizing the adoption. **Remember:** if the family is local, they must wait 24 hours to think about it before they can finalize the adoption. If they are from out of town, they can finalize the adoption that day. If you have any questions about your situation, be sure to ask the Adoption Coordinator.

Below is a checklist of items to remember on Adoption Day. *See Pg. 48 for the complete form.*

- When you think an adoption is pending, please make sure your dog is current on all immunizations and has at least one dose of heart worm preventative and a week worth of any current medications. If your foster has not seen the vet in several months you might want to make an appointment for a general check up prior to the meet. We want to avoid any surprises by the new family when they take their new dog to their vet after adoption.
- Adoption Fee – if the adopter has not already paid via PayPal, be sure to get a check for the full amount of the adoption.
- Contracts
 - Print out two (2) copies of the Adoption Contract.

- Both copies of the Adoption Contract should be signed by the adopter and the foster parent.
- One copy of the contract goes with the adopter and we keep one copy for LSBCR's files.
- Pet Watch Documents
 - Be sure to give the adopter these documents with their Adoption Contract.
- Copies of Vet Records
 - Should be included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
- Heartworm Medication
 - Included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
- Provide the remaining medication to the adopting family.
- Rabies Tag
 - Should be included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
- Update the *Foster Bulldog Evaluation* form and provide a copy to the adopter and discuss any key issues. We want the adopter to know as much about the dog as possible. Are there any behavior issues or habits that they may not find acceptable in a dog? Now is the time to find out. Even though you may have spoken to them about it, sometimes it goes all out of the window as they are excited and happy when they arrive home with their new family addition.
- Give them any toys or other items that came with the dog, or were given to the dog while in rescue.
- Give the adopters several days of food so they can transition the dog to whatever they are feeding.
- Final reminders to the adopters: Importance of slow introductions and giving the dog time to decompress in their new home; Importance of a good Bulldog vet; Quality food; and the importance of contacting you if there are any issues.
- **TAKE ADOPTION DAY PHOTOS!!!**
- **NOTE:** LSBCR's original signed contract and adoption fee must be mailed within 48 hours to Dianne Ogburn at 1011 Finch Avenue, McKinney, TX 75069.

Followup

Finally, it is so, so important to stay in contact with your adoptive family well after they leave your home. We recommend you text about every other day the first week, then start to taper back in the next 3 weeks. Nipping a behavioral issue in the bud is much better than them having a full-blown issue going on and finding out about it several weeks into the adoption. Families are nervous and unsure if they are doing the right or wrong thing. They may be embarrassed that they need help and feel they can't handle it. So it is crucial that you initiate the contact with them. At this juncture, hand-holding the adoptive families is never a bad thing and they really appreciate the support from you and Rescue.

Partner Veterinarians

Dr. Leah Larsen
Bright Star Veterinary Clinic
744 Gilmer St.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
(903) 885-0103

Dr. Randy Jones
Cityview Animal Hospital
120 Overton Ridge Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76132
(817) 294-7732

Animal Medical Center of Forney
13799 FM 548
Forney, TX 75126
(972) 552-2424

***Thank you for fostering for
Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue
and helping save lives!***



Appendix

- ***Rescue Flowchart***
- ***Foster Care Agreement***
- ***Volunteer Hold Harmless Agreement***
- ***Foster Bulldog Evaluation***
- ***Talent/Interest Survey***
- ***Opportunities To Serve***
- ***Home Visit Guidelines***
- ***Home Visit Report***
- ***Adoption Day Checklist***
- ***Introducing New Dogs To Your Existing Dogs***
- ***French Bulldog Rescue Network Slow Intro Policy***
- ***House Training Your Dog***
- ***Nothing In Life Is Free***



LSBCR Rescue Flowchart

LSBCR Oversight Committee

Dianne Ogburn, Deirdre Jack, Renea Reckner, Alison Stipp

Intake Coordinators

Dianne Ogburn, Ronnie Lowe

Responsible for intake of dogs from shelters and owners. Maintains flow of dogs to avoid overwhelming resources, and ensures they are placed in foster homes.

Foster Coordinator

Dianne Ogburn

Recruits, trains, supports coordinates and assigns fosters and collects weekly updates.

Adoption Coordinators

Renea Reckner, Alison Stipp,
Kelly Hespel, Lari Cox,
Charlene Grundoffer

Responsible for the application process. Makes reference, landlord, & vet checks, assigns home visits and communicates with fosters and applicants.

Transport Coordinator

Ronnie Lowe

Responsible for arranging transport of dogs from shelters and owners to vets, kennels and fosters.

Vet Coordinators

Dianne Ogburn, Ronnie Lowe

Speaks directly with vets to arrange kenneling, appointments, and care for dogs in preparation for adoption.

PetPoint Coordinators

Renea Reckner, Kelly Hespel

Responsible for inputting data into PetPoint and preparing all Adoption Contracts.

PR/Marketing Coordinator

Deirdre Jack

Responsible for identifying and executing marketing opportunities in a variety of formats. Website-Ronnie Lowe: Newsletter-Ronnie Lowe Facebook-Deirdre Jack: Instagram- Kelly Hespel

Fundraising/Events

Marina Franco, Sheliah Lonian,
Rebecca Hall

Responsible for organizing and staffing all meet and greet and fundraising events. Also maintains and operates store orders and sales, and processes and acknowledges donations.

Communications Coordinator

Deirdre Jack

Ensures all communications through our website and Facebook pages are answered promptly.

Treasurer

Dianne Ogburn

Ensures all invoices are paid in timely fashion, balances all accounts and maintains accounting.

Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue — Foster Care Agreement

This agreement, between the Lone Star Bulldog Club, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, herein referred to as "Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue" and the Foster Care Volunteer(s), must be completed if any Bulldog is placed in the custody of the Foster Care Volunteer(s) for a period longer than three days.

Breed Information:

Bulldogs are typically affectionate and friendly, and the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue will not knowingly place a dog with an unsound temperament. However, no one can predict how any dog will react in a given situation without full knowledge of its life experiences before rescue. Therefore, Foster Care Volunteers are strongly urged to exercise prudence and caution in introducing a rescued Bulldog into new situations until it has become fully adjusted to its new environment and the Foster Care Volunteer has had an opportunity to become familiar with the dog's unique personality. The Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue makes no claims, representations, or warranties regarding the temperament, behavior, or health of any rescued Bulldog.

Foster Care Requirements:

A foster home should have a fenced yard for exercise. If this is not possible, the dog must be exercised on a leash. A LONE STAR BULLDOG CLUB RESCUE member may visit the prospective foster home to evaluate it for rescue dog placement.

A Bulldog placed in foster care is not owned by the Foster Care Volunteer(s). If, for any reason, the Foster Care Volunteer(s) cannot keep the rescued dog, he/she will return the dog to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member who placed the dog with him/her. If the Foster Care Volunteer suggests a possible placement, or wants to adopt the dog being fostered, an adoption application must be completed, and the adoption must be approved by the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member.

The Foster Care Volunteer is expected to provide food, shelter and necessary transportation to the rescued Bulldog at no cost to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue. Expenses for routine veterinary care will be paid for by Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue and emergency veterinary care should be approved by Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue before treatment. Expenses for non-routine, non-emergency treatment, including surgery, will be reimbursed only with prior approval.

Important: Foster Care Volunteers are not insured against loss or damage to themselves. Therefore, the LONE STAR BULLDOG CLUB RESCUE strongly recommends that Foster Care Volunteers consider obtaining appropriate liability insurance coverage. Providers of homeowners' insurance can explain the requirements coverage and costs of such protection.

Agreement:

This contract is made between the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue as represented by the LONE STAR BULLDOG CLUB RESCUE member whose signature appears below and the Foster Care Volunteer(s) whose signature appears below. The Foster Care Volunteer(s) agrees to:

1. Provide temporary shelter for the Bulldog with the understanding that the Bulldog will eventually be placed in a permanent home or returned to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue as may be necessary. Provide this dog with proper food, fresh water, and adequate shelter at all times.
2. Provide necessary veterinary treatment for this dog from a veterinarian well-qualified to treat Bulldogs, including annual examinations, DHLPP and rabies vaccinations, and heartworm and intestinal parasite checks, to be followed by periodic use of preventatives. Except in cases of emergency, veterinary treatments other than those related to the annual examination, including all surgical procedures, must be approved by the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue in advance.
3. Comply with all state and local laws and ordinances related to keeping this dog, including leash/license laws.
4. Keep the Bulldog at the residence address stated below and provide the new address and/or telephone number to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue in the event of a change of residence or telephone number.
5. Never give or sell this dog to another person, agency, or animal shelter or to allow it to be used for experimentation, dog fighting, or any other commercial or illegal activity.
6. Immediately notify the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member named below to make arrangements to return the animal to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member if, for any reason, you are unable to keep this dog.
7. Immediately notify the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue if this dog is lost.
8. Permit a Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member to observe the premises where the dog is housed and to reclaim the dog if, in the sole judgment of the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member, it is not being cared for as agreed to in this document, or if Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue is required to return the dog to a third party, or if facts have been misrepresented to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue

Signature of Foster Care Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue Foster Care Agreement

“ I HEREBY (A) ACCEPT POSSESSION OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DOG “AS IS” AND AT MY OWN RISK (B) WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS I MAY HAVE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LEGAL ACTION AGAINST LONE STAR BULLDOG CLUB, INC., ITS AFFILIATES AND SUCCESSORS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS (COLLECTIVELY THE “RELEASED PARTIES”) ON ACCOUNT OF ANY INJURY, LOSS, DAMAGE OR COST, SUFFERED OR INCURRED BY ME AND/OR ANY MEMBER OF MY FAMILY IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DOG, EVEN IF SUCH INJURY, LOSS, DAMAGE OR COST IS CAUSED BY THE FAULT, NEGLIGENCE, OR OMISSIONS OF ONE OR MORE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES AND (C) INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL PERSONAL AND PROPERTY INJURIES, LOSSES, DAMAGES AND COSTS (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND COURT COSTS) CAUSED BY THIS DOG AND/OR RESULTING FROM, OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH, MY FOSTER CARE AND/OR SERVICES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.”

I agree to abide by all the conditions above and to return this dog to the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue promptly or to release this dog to the selected adopter at the request of an authorized Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue member.

Name of Dog: _____ Age/Birth Date: _____ Sex: _____

Color and Markings: _____

Tattoo/microchip: _____

Contact Information: Address where dog will reside: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email address: _____

Signatures:

Foster Care Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Foster Care Volunteer: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue Member: _____ Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Volunteer Hold-Harmless Agreement

I fully understand and agree to assume all risks involved in any and all duties that I perform in a volunteer capacity on behalf of or in connection with the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue. I agree to hold the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue harmless for any injury(s), loss or damages which I might sustain during the course of my volunteer duties.

This waiver does include myself, all of my family members and descendants forever from seeking any legal action whatsoever against the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue or its successor organizations or any representatives thereof.

Signature of Volunteer

Date Signed

If a minor, Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date Signed

The Hold-Harmless agreement must be signed by ALL volunteers before performing any services relating to activities of the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue. This includes, but is not limited to, rescue contact persons, foster caretakers, transport volunteers, and fund raising volunteers.

FOSTER BULLDOG EVALUATION

Note To Fosters: Please completely evaluate your Bulldog and provide a copy of this form to the adoptive family. You can also use this information to help write your weekly report.

Bulldog's Name: _____ **Foster** _____

Date Entered Foster: _____ **Report Date:** _____

My Bulldog is:

- House trained. Yes No Working _____
- Leash trained. Yes No Working _____
- Crate trained. Yes No Working _____

My Bulldog likes to:

- Sit on furniture. Yes No _____
- Sit on my lap. Yes No _____
- Sleep in our bed. Yes No _____
- Eat from our hand at the table. Yes No _____
- Destroy/chew furniture. Yes No _____
- Dump trash. Yes No _____
- Bark/Whine/Howl. Yes No _____
- Take a bath. Yes No _____
- Have his/her ears/face washed. Yes No _____
- Have his/her nails trimmed. Yes No _____
- Visit the vet. Yes No _____
- Eat in a specific spot. Yes No Where? _____
- Ride in a car. Yes No _____
- Go to public places (Pet stores, etc.). Yes No _____

My Bulldog does well with:

- People. Yes No _____
- Children. Yes No _____
- Dogs. Yes No _____
- Cats. Yes No _____
- Stairs. Yes No _____

My Bulldog's favorite:

Place to sleep. _____

Type of bed. _____

Snacks. _____

Food. Brand _____ Amount/Frequency _____

Toys. _____

Way to take medicine. _____

My Bulldog knows some basic commands. _____

My Bulldog has the following medical issues. _____

My Bulldog is taking the following medications. _____

My Bulldog is: (Circle all that apply) Shy Friendly Noisy Gentle Active

Protective Playful Submissive Dominant Aggressive

Explain: _____

My Bulldog has a few quirky habits/behaviors. _____

Note To Adopters: If you have problems correcting certain behaviors, please contact the foster, coordinator or someone else with LSBCR. We can offer assistance or help you find a pet behaviorist to help correct the problem. Our goal is always a successful adoption.



Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue

Talent/Interest Survey

The purpose of this survey is to maximize the effectiveness of *LSBCR* by allowing our volunteers to do what they do best or to serve in an area where they have a keen interest. We do not expect you to do everything, just what you do best and have the time to do well. Please check all that apply.

- Transport dogs from: Owner surrenders Shelters A foster to a vet appointment.
- Foster dogs Short term (week or less) Long term Puppies Elderly dogs
 - Dogs with health or behavior issues
- Conduct home visits
- Do vet and landlord reference checks for applications
- Organize/coordinate Fundraisers
- Help at adoption events
- Help at fundraising events
- Help at volunteer appreciation events
- Recruit volunteers
- Photograph dogs at events or foster homes
- Help with Social Media: Facebook Twitter Instagram
- Help with Website design, updates
- Do graphic design (flyers, brochures, create forms, etc.)
- Work on email newsletter Edit Write articles
- Produce promotional videos
- Research and write grants for funding
- Help solicit funds
- Request and collect donated pharmaceuticals, supplies, etc.
- Provide legal advice
- Provide bookkeeping services
- Provide storage for donated items
- Teach a class to fosters or adopters. Subject: _____
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Opportunities To Serve

1. Donate ~ you can make a one-time donation via www.dfwbulldogrescue.org/donate/ or you can set up monthly donations through your online banking service.
2. Host a fundraiser ~ organize a garage sale, lemonade stand, bake sale or car wash to raise money for Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue (LSBCR).
3. Dedicate your birthday or holiday season to the cause and ask your friends and family members to donate to LSBCR instead of giving you gifts.
4. Coordinate a letter-writing or email campaign to ask for donations for LSBCR.
5. Help Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue raise awareness for our upcoming events by using your social media pages, email, posting fliers, telephone calls, etc.
6. Write thank you notes that we can give to our partner vets and adopters.
7. Gather towels and bedding for our partner vets.
8. Sponsor a foster dog to help offset the dog's vet bills. This can be done via our Web site, and clicking on the Available Bulldog's bio page.
9. Send a care package to a foster dog.
10. Donate a PetSmart or Petco gift card so a foster family can purchase dog food.
11. Conduct a dog toy drive.
12. Purchase an item from our group's Wish List on Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/2dUQRXL>
13. Choose to support The Lone Star Bulldog Club Inc. via the Amazon Smile program.
14. Choose to support Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue via Kroger's Community Rewards program every time you grocery shop: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>
15. Find a local business or restaurant that will dedicate a percentage of its proceeds to Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue for a certain day.
16. Host a party and ask attendees for a small donation for the Bulldogs for admittance.
17. Donate items or services for our upcoming silent and Facebook auctions.
18. Share our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lbscr, and/or Web site address, www.dfwbulldogrescue.org, to create awareness of our group.
19. Donate flea prevention products for our foster dogs.
20. Donate a housecleaning service visit to a foster family. This would be great for some of our fosters who have opened their homes to two or three rescues at the same time!
21. Donate cleaning supplies, such as Nature's Miracle or laundry soap, for our foster families.
22. Donate a gas card for foster families who make multiple trips to the vet's office.
23. Place an ad in a local newspaper promoting Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue.
24. Consider including Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue in your will.
25. Keep an eye on the Dallas/Fort Worth Craigslist and educate sellers/buyers on the benefits of rescue.
26. Create videos of our foster dogs to help raise awareness or create videos of our adopted dogs to help celebrate our successes.



Home Visit Guidelines

When making a home visit to approve a family for adoption, please follow these guidelines. The Adoption Coordinator will brief the Home Visit person if there are any concerns or areas to focus on during the Home Visit. **Remember:** *Would you want this person (family) to adopt **your** dog?*

1. **ALL** family members **MUST** be present for the home visit. No exceptions!!
2. If you are taking a dog on the visit, contact the family when you arrive at the house. Ask them to come outside with the family and current dogs (if any) on a leash to do the introductions. The front yard is more neutral and less confining for everyone to make that initial meeting.
3. Please let them know about the entire adoption process and our need for due diligence.
 - 1) The dogs come from diverse backgrounds;
 - 2) Medical needs are addressed;
 - 3) Assigned to foster family for care, treatment, evaluation and training;
 - 4) We match best dog for each individual family;
 - 5) All dogs are chipped and Spayed or Neutered;
 - 6) Dogs are imperfect living beings! They can expect some issues. We will help.
4. Encourage families with no pets to take a dog that needs to be an only child.
5. If they need a dog friendly bulldog remind them that we normally have a waiting list of adopters.
6. **WE CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH:** Try not to talk about particular dogs in rescue on Home Visits. Unfortunately, thanks to our website and Facebook, they may already have their mind made up who they want. That might not always be the best for them or the dog. Get a feel for what kind of dog would work best. If the applicant is fixated on a particular dog, please explain that they are not currently completed with the approval process and that the dog they are interested in may already be in the process of being adopted. This is going to take the pressure off of you because you don't know the adoption status of any of the bulldogs in rescue except the ones you are fostering. We definitely want to discuss profiles of dogs (age, sex, good with kids etc.) But at this point the applicants are not even approved and should not be discussing a specific dog. That will be done later with their coordinator.

7. Young Bulldogs that are dog friendly are the most sought after. We have a list of such applicants that keeps growing.
8. Adopters should not go looking for dogs to adopt themselves. They need to let the Coordinators refer dogs for them to consider. When they meet a dog, they need to look for a connection with the dog and not to limit themselves to a particular age range, color, shape, etc. It's a lot like looking for a girlfriend or boyfriend. You can't tell everything by seeing a picture or reading a short bio. There needs to be some interaction.
9. We always need to move some seniors.
10. Answer any general questions about bulldogs you can answer. Help them find an answer if you don't know.
11. Encourage them to follow us on FB, and/or Instagram after adoption and use that as a means of asking future questions.
12. Inform them that after they are approved, they will receive an email from their Coordinator with the Adoption Handbook that will guide them through the rest of the process and for the first weeks after the adoption. Encourage them to read the Handbook completely.
13. Complete Home Visit Report.
14. Submit the report attaching any notes that help further explain the family and what they desire and what is the best fit for them.

Every step in the process is VERY important and everyone needs to be on the same page. We want to insure that *LSBCR* is in control of the adoption process and NOT the applicants. The applicants should be willing to work with *LSBCR* to find the perfect fit for them (most times this is NOT the dog that they thought was a perfect fit). The focus of rescue is *ALWAYS* what is best for the dog!



HOME VISIT REPORT

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____ Home Visit Date: _____

1. Describe the street: Busy _____ Quiet _____ In-between _____

2. Describe the setting: Rural _____ Suburban _____ Urban _____

3. House _____ Duplex _____ Condo _____ Apartment _____

4. Is there a yard? _____

5. Is the yard fenced? _____ Fully _____ Partially _____

6. Describe fence (height, type, condition) _____

7. Is the gate(s) locked? _____

8. Is there a pool? _____ Is it fenced? _____ Will bulldog have access to the pool _____

Will bulldog be supervised at all times near pool? _____

Is applicant aware that most bulldogs cannot swim? _____

9. If apartment, on which floor is it located? _____

If not ground floor, how many and what type stairs? _____

10. Any steps to front door? _____ How many? _____

Back door? _____ How many? _____

Any stairs inside? _____ How many? _____

11. Are there dogs or other animals that live adjacent to this property? _____

If yes, list type and describe how they are contained _____

12. Describe condition of home: (good repair, clean, neat) _____

13. Will the dog have access to the garage? _____

14. Describe garage: (good repair, clean, free of debris, hazardous material out of reach of dog) _____

15. Where will the dog sleep? _____

16. What will the dog have as bedding? _____

17. Is there a crate available? _____

Describe dimensions, type, and condition: _____

18. Describe where dog will stay when home alone: _____

19. Describe behavior of adults among themselves, and to children or other pets: _____

20. Describe behavior of children to adults and to any other pets: _____

21. Any special needs, unusual circumstances or concerns? _____

22. Would you feel comfortable leaving your dog with this applicant? _____

If no, please explain: _____

Additional comments: _____

Representative of Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

When completed, please email to the Adoption Committee at adopt@dfwbulldogrescue.org.

You may Fax to 972-727-1548 if you cannot email.

Adoption Day Checklist

- When you think an adoption is pending, please make sure your dog is current on all immunizations and has at least one dose of heart worm preventative and two week's worth of any current medications. If your foster has not seen the vet in several months you might want to make an appointment for a general check up. We want to avoid any surprises by the new family when they take their new dog to their vet.
- Be sure to review the meet & greet/adoption process in the Foster Manual. (Pages 31-33)
- Contracts — Print out two (2) copies of the Adoption Contract.
 - Both copies of the Adoption Contract should be signed by the adopter and the foster parent.
 - One copy of the contract goes with the adopter and we keep one copy for LSBCR's files.
- Pet Watch Documents — Be sure to give the adopter these documents with their Adoption Contract.
- Copies of Vet Records — Should be included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
- Heartworm Medication
 - Included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
 - Provide the remaining medication to the adopting family.
- Rabies Tag — Should be included in the bag you received at the vet clinic when you picked up your foster.
- Update the **Foster Bulldog Evaluation** form and provide a copy to the adopter and discuss any key issues. We want the adopter to know as much about the dog as possible. Are there behavior issues or habits they may not find acceptable in a dog? Now is the time to find out. Even though you spoke to them about it, sometimes it goes all out of the window as they are excited and happy when they arrive home with their new addition.
- Give them any toys or other items that came with the dog, or were given to the dog while in rescue.
- Give the adopters 5 days of food so they can transition the dog to what they are feeding.
- Encourage them to stay in contact with you about any problems or questions—the sooner, the better. Call or text them the day after adoption and 3-4 times over the first two weeks to make sure there are no problems.
- Final reminders to the adopters: Importance of slow introductions and giving the dog time to decompress in their new home; Importance of a good Bulldog vet; Quality food; and the importance of contacting you if there are any issues. Some are just shy about contacting you and asking questions.
- Adoption Fee — If the adopter has not already paid via PayPal, be sure to get a check for the full amount of the adoption.
- TAKE ADOPTION DAY PHOTOS!!!** Horizontal with everyone on the same level. Send the adoption story and pics to the whole group within 48 hours.
- NOTE:** LSBCR's copy of the contract and adoption fee must be mailed within 48 hours to Dianne Ogburn at 1011 Finch Avenue, McKinney, TX 75069. Introducing New Dogs to Your Existing Dogs

Introducing New Dogs to Your Existing Dogs

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It's important to use a proper protocol when bringing a new dog into a residence with an existing dog. This is true whether the new dog is going to live in the residence or just visit for the weekend.

Following the step-by-step process below should make this introduction go more smoothly.

It is important in a multi-dog residence that each dog is introduced to the newcomer individually using this process. Additionally, this process requires a separate handler (i.e., person controlling the leash) for each dog; each handler must be an adult as well as experienced and competent in working with dogs on leash.

If at any stage of this process there are problems of any kind, discontinue the introduction and keep the dogs away from each other. This process does not guarantee a successful introduction – some dogs will never get along and must be separated at all times.

1. Both the incumbent dog (i.e., the dog that is currently living in your residence) and the new dog need to have secure collars that are properly adjusted and quality leashes.
2. The initial meeting needs to occur outside of the incumbent dog's residence in a neutral territory. Normally, just getting away from the incumbent dog's residence/lawn works well.
3. Both handlers will walk the dogs in parallel but at a safe distance from each other. If the dogs are showing no signs of stress or aggression, the distance between the two handlers and dogs can slowly be closed while you continue to walk with them; they can eventually walk next to each other if all is going well. Remember, if at any stage of this process there are problems of any kind, discontinue the introduction and keep the dogs away from each other. This process does not guarantee a successful introduction – some dogs will never get along and must be separated at all times.
4. While keeping both dogs on leash, move both to the incumbent dog's fenced back lawn or a fenced outside area that the incumbent dog would identify with (e.g., small fenced area provided by an apartment complex for dogs). Be careful to bring both dogs through the gate into the fenced area on leash and bring them in single file - no squeezing through the gate at the same time. Have both handlers walk the dogs in parallel again within this outside area watching for any stress or aggression, which would terminate the introduction.
5. If all is going well in the fenced outside area, drop the leash of the incumbent dog (called "dragging a leash"). The new dog is kept on leash and is held by a handler. The incumbent dog drags a leash in the event that control of the incumbent dog needs to be regained, because of problems, by picking up the leash.
6. The leash of the new dog can then be dropped in the fenced outside area if there are no problems. Allow the dogs to interact with each other while carefully observing for any issues.
7. Next, the dogs can be brought inside the incumbent dog's residence if they are interacting with no problems. Prior to bringing them in, remove any water bowls, food bowls and dog toys to ensure there are no resource guarding (e.g., food aggression) issues. Be careful to bring both dogs into the residence on leash (i.e., handler is holding the leash) and bring them in single file through the door (no squeezing through at the same time). If there are no problems with stress or aggression, drop the leash of the incumbent dog first.

8. The leash of the new dog can then be dropped inside if there are no problems with aggression or stress. It is advisable to use baby gates or keep some interior doors closed in order not to give the new dog access right away to the entire residence. The new dog has to earn the privilege of accessing increasing areas of the residence.
9. Monitor both dogs closely to ensure that things continue without incident in the hours and days ahead; intra-household aggression can appear rather unexpectedly in some instances requiring the dogs to be separated. It is imperative that the humans in the household understand and continually watch for body language from any of the dogs that indicates problems.
10. Remember, if at any stage of this process there are problems of any kind, discontinue the introduction and keep the dogs away from each other. This process does not guarantee a successful introduction – some dogs will never get along and must be separated at all times.

French Bulldog Rescue Network Slow Intro Policy

This policy is to be followed by all FBRN foster homes and adoptive homes.

Issues often develop when you provide a new dog with "too much too soon." This can create many behavior problems that can take months of counterconditioning to undo. So, it is very worthwhile to spend a little bit of time setting the ground rules at the outset. In the long run, it will be better for you, the new dog and your pack.

Take everything SLOW when bringing a new dog into to your home. It is easier to take it slow, than to bring a new dog into your pack and deal with the problems that arise from not implementing slow introductions. Your pack may be one dog or several dogs. The more dogs in your pack, the longer the process takes. This process is also required for homes with no dogs in residence, but who have other pets, especially cats.

Be prepared. Designate a quiet room for the new dog. You will need a crate, baby gate, blanket and leash.

Week 1

Even with dogs that are supposedly good with other dogs, start the first week with the new dog in a separate room and having no direct interaction with your dogs. If you do not have the ability to separate in a separate room, put up a baby gate with a blanket draped over it so the dogs cannot see each other. Your dogs will know that there is a dog in that room, and the new dog will know your dogs are there. This gives the new dog time to relax and acclimate by taking in the new smells and sounds. The new dog will be less stimulated and typically less reactive in the long run when given the time to be introduced to the new pack by sound and scent first, and later by sight. This will also help the new dog understand that the other animals in your home are valuable members of your pack and important to you. Please ensure the dogs are also separated during potty breaks.

Week 2

Put up a baby gate to separate the new dog from your dogs. Drape a blanket over half of it. Your dogs can take turns looking and smelling, and it gives the new dog the ability to hide and be non-confrontational. If the new dog is nasty at the baby gate, stand there with a short leash and be ready to correct him. Try this again and again until there is no reaction at the baby gate. PATIENCE. Remove the blanket so the entire baby gate is visible to everyone. See how that goes.

Once all dogs are able to be calm through the gate, you may start introductions. A walk on neutral territory is the best way to introduce new dogs. Begin with the new dog and your least reactive dog. You should have a second person, if possible, to assist with this. Each person will control the leash of one dog. Begin a good distance from each other; slowly and calmly bring the dogs closer as you progress. Parallel leash walking on neutral territory with two handlers is a great way to introduce dogs. Neutral territory means an area where neither dog has been or where neither dog resides. If both dogs are relaxed, allow them to greet

each other. Avoid face-face, head-on introductions between dogs. Instead, walk parallel to each other, a few feet apart and alternate which dog is ahead of the other. Also, do not allow a dog to greet another dog if he is dragging you towards the other dog or is misbehaving in any way (pulling, jumping or lunging). Doing so will result in training the dog to misbehave to gain access to other dogs!! If there is any tension, keep moving. It may take several walks before the dogs are ready to interact. If the new dog is reactive to large dogs, introduce him to a small dog first or vice versa. Only add ONE dog to the mix at a time. IF there is going to be a fight, it is much easier to separate two dogs than numerous dogs.

This phase may take weeks. PATIENCE. After four weeks of consistent corrections and discipline for naughty behaviors, the new dog should be integrated with your pack. Some dogs will move into your pack quicker and some slower. You need to base it on each dog's behaviors. Always err on the side of caution, and take things slow. No need to rush things!

ALWAYS ALWAYS, keep a short leash on the new dog and allow him to drag it around for the first 4 weeks. Don't EVER feel bad and take the leash off; just as soon as you do, you will have a dogfight and no handle to separate them. NEVER leave the new dog unsupervised with your dogs. Crate or separate them while you can't supervise. If you have already had a dogfight, NEVER leave the dogs together, not even for 10 minutes while you are in the shower. This sounds like a lot of work, but if you are not there to watch and stop the behavior before the fight, it can escalate to a dangerous situation before you can get there to split it up.

Please allow the dog to acclimate to your home before introducing him to new people or taking him out, with the exception of a trip to the vet. A trip to Petsmart or a large family gathering will provide too much stimulation.

Experienced volunteers have developed this method over years of trial and error. Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, you may still have the occasional fight. It happens. But, by following these simple rules, they will be minimal.

When you have a leash on the dog and you see the "stink eye," REMOVE the dog from the situation immediately. Take the dog by the leash, and put him in the bathroom for 30 seconds of silence. Any longer than 30 seconds and the dog will "forget" that it was ostracized from the pack and the lesson will have no value. Ostracizing a dog from a pack is a powerful tool. The key word is "silence," NO whining or scratching allowed. You can run the leash under the door to allow you to correct the dog for whining or scratching. When you let the dog out, be sure he has a better attitude and is paying attention to you. Repeat this as many times as needed EVERY time you see him giving the stink eye, stalking or displaying naughty behaviors. If a dog fight does happen, it is often necessary to go back to step one for a few days. Sometimes, dogs not separated for a few hours/days after a fight can escalate their behavior. Be consistent and strong.

House Training Your Dog

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The following are key points that will enable you to train your new puppy or your older dog to only eliminate outside.

Containment

1. Your dog cannot eliminate in areas where he is not allowed to go. Using a crate is an excellent way to quickly housetrain a dog as dogs will generally not eliminate in the same space where they sleep.
2. If a crate is not an option, you can also contain your pet in a small area of your house such as a kitchen or bathroom using baby gates.
3. Keep your dog confined at all times when you are not directly supervising (100%) him until you are sure that he is housetrained.
4. Another method is to tie a leash to your dog and loop the leash handle through your pant's belt loop or tie the leash around your waist so that the dog must be with you at all times. This also makes it easy for you to quickly move your dog outside if he starts to eliminate in the house.

Schedule

1. By adhering to a consistent schedule for food, water and walks, you will pattern your dog to the desired behavior. Always take your dog out first thing in the morning, after meals and after naps.
2. Do not leave food down in a bowl all day for the dog, but rather give him 15 minutes or so to finish whatever you give him to eat. Then, pick up the bowl when he is done. Your dog should always have access to water however.
3. By controlling when and how much your dog eats and drinks you can better predict when he will need to eliminate.
4. If you have rescued an adult dog, the best tactic is to pretend your dog is an 8-week-old puppy and start from scratch.

Positive Reinforcement

1. Always praise your dog enthusiastically when he eliminates in the correct place, as this will let him know that he is doing the right thing by going outside.
2. Never hit or yell at your dog for eliminating in the incorrect place or rub his nose in his mess. Punishing him is counterproductive as it teaches the dog that eliminating in your presence is a dangerous thing, but doesn't teach them not to eliminate in the house at all.
3. If your dog eliminated in the house, it is likely because he was simply unable to hold his bladder for that long or he was not confined properly or supervised properly. Dogs do not eliminate in the house because they were "mad" at you or "vengeful." If your dog urinated on your bed or fancy rug, the only thought on your dog's mind at the time was that he needed to urgently eliminate. And dogs don't eliminate on bedspreads or carpets to be spiteful or send a message. They eliminate on these surfaces because they are soft and they prefer to eliminate on these kinds of surfaces. It's the same reason that they eliminate on grass instead of hard surfaces when they are outside.
4. If your dog starts to eliminate while you are supervising, use a gentle "eh-eh" or clap your hands to distract him and then gently scoop him up or leash him and run outside. When he finishes going, praise him and reward him effusively.
5. Only reward him when he is outside and eliminating – do not wait for him to come back inside to reward him. Otherwise he will think he is being praised for coming back inside with you

and will focus on getting positive reinforcement inside instead of eliminating outside. Just like with humans, when dogs eliminate it is normally a self-rewarding behavior; rewards for eliminating outside aren't really necessary.

6. If you want him to eliminate in a certain area of the yard, bring him out to this area on leash and wait for him to eliminate. You can add in a "go potty" cue while he is eliminating so he can associate this cue with his bodily function.

Odor Removal

1. When your dog eliminates in the house, the most important thing is to remove all traces of the odor or the dog will continue to eliminate in that spot.
2. Using common household cleaners is typically not enough and using ammonia products will actually encourage your dog to return to the spot to go again since the cleaner residue is very similar to urine.
3. Use products sold specifically to eliminate pet urine and feces odors that you can purchase at most pet supply shops. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two brand names for such products. You are looking for enzymatic or bacterial cleaners that are pet specific. Follow the label directions carefully.

Other Tips

1. Try to avoid paper or puppy-pad training. If you do this, the dog is learning it's okay to go in the house, albeit in a certain area, and can make housetraining more difficult. Crate training is a better alternative.
2. If you bring the dog outside and you think he needs to eliminate but he won't, take him back inside and crate him for another 10-15 minutes and take him out to the same place again. Don't assume that he didn't need to eliminate and let him run around your house unsupervised.
3. Some people find it helpful to take the dog outside to urinate on leash. Wait patiently until he eliminates and then let him off leash to play. If you let him wander around the yard on his own until he urinates and then immediately go back into the house, he will learn that his fun playtime outside stops after he eliminates. You want him to learn if I potty first, then I get to play.
4. Likewise, if you do not own a yard and must walk your dog on the street, take your dog outside and calmly wait for the dog to eliminate before proceeding with your walk. You want the dog to understand that his fun walk is the reward for eliminating. If the dog goes immediately before he comes back in, the dog will wait longer and longer to go, and sometimes he will hold it until you bring him back inside.
5. Does your dog have a way to alert you when he needs to go out? Ask us about ways to do this if you don't.
6. If you have more than one dog and one of them is having housetraining issues, take the dog that is having housetraining issues out separately until he no longer has accidents inside. Sometimes dogs, especially younger ones, get overly distracted by the presence of other dogs and forget to eliminate while outside.

Nothing in Life is Free

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"Nothing in Life is Free" isn't a magic pill that will solve a specific behavior problem. Instead, it's a way of living with your dog that will help him behave better because he trusts and accepts your leadership.

What is "Nothing in Life is Free"?

You have resources—food, treats, toys and attention. Your dog wants and needs those resources; make him earn them. That's the basis of "Nothing in Life is Free." When your dog does what you want, he gets rewarded with the things he wants.

In short, you control the resources he wants and needs.

You may also hear this concept called "No Free Lunch" or "Say Please." These are just other names for "Nothing in Life is Free."

How to practice "Nothing in Life is Free"

1. First, use positive reinforcement methods to teach your dog a few cues and/or tricks. "Sit," "Down," "Come," and "Stay" are useful cues. "Shake" and "roll over" are fun tricks to teach your dog and can also be used.
2. Once your dog has mastered a few cues, you can begin to practice "Nothing In Life Is Free." Here's how it works. Before you give your dog anything (food, treat, walk, petting, etc.) he must first perform one of the cues he has learned or another behavior you are asking for. For example:
 - a) In order for you to put your dog's leash on to go for a walk, he must sit until you've put the leash on. He must also sit and be still before you take the leash off.
 - b) When you feed your dog, he must sit and stay after you've put the bowl on the floor. Only then will you give him a release cue (e.g., "free") to begin eating.
 - c) Play a game of fetch by having your dog sit and shake hands, for example, each time you throw the toy.
 - d) Check out all toys to your dog one-by-one. Your dog's toy bin is kept out of his reach and is essentially a "toy library" and you are the librarian. When he is given a toy he must sit and wait patiently for you to give it to him. When he is done playing with the toy put it back in the toy bin and check it out to him at a later time.
 - e) He must wait patiently for your release cue (e.g., "free") before going outside and then again before he is let back in the house.
 - f) He must sit and wait patiently for a release cue (e.g., "free") before you provide him treats.
 - g) Before he is allowed into or out of the car, he must first sit and wait for your release cue.
 - h) He must sit and wait patiently before being petted or shown affection.

3. Once you've given the cue, don't give your dog what he wants until he does what you want. If he refuses to perform the cue, stay calm and don't give in. Be patient and remember that eventually he will comply with your cue to get what he wants.
4. Make sure your dog knows the various cues well and understands what you want before you begin practicing "Nothing in Life is Free."

The benefits of this technique

Requiring your dog to work for everything he wants is a safe, positive, nonconfrontational way to establish your leadership position and make you more relevant in your dog's life.

Even if your dog never displays aggressive behavior toward you such as growling, snarling, or snapping to get what he wants, he can still manipulate you. He may use attention-getting techniques to the point of being pushy such as nudging your hand to be petted or worming his way onto the furniture to be close to you.

Why this technique works

Dogs want good stuff. If the only way to get it is to do what you ask, they'll do it.

Good leadership encourages good behavior by providing the guidance and boundaries dogs need.

Practicing "Nothing in Life is Free" gently and effectively communicates to your dog that you are the leader and relevant to him because you control all the resources.