

FOSTER CARE EMERGENCY LEVELS GUIDE



RED: IMMEDIATE PHONE CALL

ENTER SHELTER EMERGENCY NUMBER HERE AND NEXT STEPS

- Lost foster animal
- Bite with broken skin to human
- Bleeding profusely or continued blood in vomit/urine/stool
- Serious trauma to body
- Having trouble breathing (not from congestion)
- Ingested a toxin or dangerous item
- Unable to stand/walk
- Unresponsiveness
- Seizures
- Heat stroke
- Bloat – foster with distended abdomen and vomiting
- No urine in 24 hours with straining/unable to urinate
- Animal in labor – no birth within 1 hour of contractions, or more than 4 hours between births
- You have an emergency in the home and are unable to care for the foster



YELLOW: MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

ENTER NEXT STEPS HERE

- Cut or puncture wound
- Drop in energy/lethargic
- No eating or drinking for more than 24 hours
- Colored nasal discharge
- Limping
- Diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Vomiting for more than 24 hours/multiple days
- Colored and swollen eye discharge
- Continued skin irritation
- Pain/animal unable to get comfortable
- Concern with incisions
- Behavior concerns



GREEN: EMAIL IS OKAY

INSERT SHELTER EMAIL HERE
ENTER SHELTER HOURS HERE

- One episode of vomiting or diarrhea
- Sneezing/clear nasal discharge
- Itchy skin
- Uncleaned ears
- Hot spot/skin irritation
- Visible worms in stool or fleas on skin
- Coughing
- Behavior questions
- General questions about health, treatment, and care

North Little Rock Animal Shelter

Foster • Foster-to-Adopt • Doggy Day Out

Thank you for opening your home to an animal from the North Little Rock Animal Shelter!

Our goal is simple: **get animals out of the shelter and into safe, loving environments where they can decompress, be themselves, and have a better chance at finding their forever home.**

We believe the people who choose to foster are in the best position to decide what works for their household. Because of that, we have intentionally kept this program simple.

You are responsible for deciding whether fostering an animal is a good fit for you, your household, and the animal.

Foster Programs

Doggy Day Out

Take an adoptable dog out of the shelter for a few hours or a day!

Doggy Day Out is a great way to give a dog a break from the shelter while learning more about their personality. Photos, videos, and notes from their outing are extremely helpful in getting them adopted.

Doggy Day Out guidelines:

- The animal remains the property of the North Little Rock Animal Shelter.
- Dogs participating in Doggy Day Out should **not visit dog parks**.
- Dogs coming directly from a busy, chaotic shelter environment may already be overstimulated. A dog park can add unnecessary stress and may contribute to behavioral problems.
- You are responsible for the animal while it is in your care.
- Please return the animal at the agreed-upon time unless otherwise arranged with shelter staff.

Foster

Fostering means giving an animal a temporary home while we work toward finding their permanent family.

Fosters provide valuable information that we simply cannot learn in a kennel. How does the animal behave in a home? What do they enjoy? Are they cuddly, playful, goofy, quiet, energetic, or a couch potato?

Fosters agree to:

- Provide a safe and appropriate temporary home.
- Provide the animal with the food supplied by the shelter.
- Help us gather photos, videos, and personality notes.
- Help schedule and participate in meet-and-greets with potential adopters when necessary.
- Communicate with shelter staff regarding the animal.
- Follow the shelter's requirements regarding sterilization and medical care.

Foster animals remain the property of the **North Little Rock Animal Shelter** until they are **officially adopted**.

Foster-to-Adopt

Foster-to-Adopt is designed for someone who already believes an animal may be the right fit for them and wants to take the animal home while waiting for the required sterilization surgery.

The animal remains the property of the North Little Rock Animal Shelter until sterilization is completed and the adoption paperwork is officially signed.

Once the animal has returned to the shelter and completed sterilization through us, the adoption paperwork will be completed and the animal will become the property of the adopter when they pick the animal up.

Please understand: Foster-to-Adopt does not include the same level of ongoing support as our regular foster program. The goal is for the animal to become permanently yours once the required surgery is completed.

Important Foster Requirements

Shelter Ownership

Until an animal has been officially adopted and the required paperwork has been completed, **the animal remains the property of the North Little Rock Animal Shelter.**

Taking an animal home as a foster, Foster-to-Adopt participant, or Doggy Day Out participant does not transfer ownership.

Communication

Communication is an important part of fostering.

During **normal shelter business hours**, please contact the shelter directly with questions, concerns, updates, or anything you need help with.

Shelter Phone: 501-791-8577

For an **after-hours emergency**, contact the non-emergency police number and they will dispatch our on-call officer. **DO NOT** use this number for any other reason than a true emergency

After-Hours Emergency Phone: 501-758-1234

Please do not wait until the next business day to report a true emergency.

Veterinary Care

If your foster animal needs veterinary care, **you must discuss the situation with the Director before taking the animal to a veterinarian.**

Veterinary care will be coordinated through a veterinarian selected by the Director.

Fosters should not independently authorize veterinary treatment or incur veterinary expenses on behalf of the shelter without prior approval.

Emergency situations should always be handled with the foster's/animal's safety as the priority. Contact the non-emergency police dispatch as soon as possible.

Vaccinations & Sterilization

The North Little Rock Animal Shelter will provide the animal's vaccinations through the shelter.

If the animal has not yet been sterilized, the foster agrees to return the animal to the shelter for the **first available surgery date**.

Sterilization is required by state law and must be completed through the shelter's established process.

Fosters are responsible for making sure the animal is available and returned to the shelter as instructed for surgery.

Failure to comply can result in further legal action and removal from our foster program.

Helping Your Foster Get Adopted

One of the most valuable things a foster can do is **show us who the animal really is**.

Please help us by providing:

- Clear, fun photos
- Videos when possible
- Personality updates
- Information about likes and dislikes
- Funny or adorable things they do
- Notes about their energy level and daily routine
- Any observations that may help us find the right adopter

Fosters may also be asked to help participate in meet-and-greets with potential adopters here at the shelter.

You are the person who gets to see the animal outside of the shelter environment, and your observations can make all the difference!

Communication & Ownership After Sterilization

Once an animal has been sterilized through the North Little Rock Animal Shelter, we expect continued communication while the animal remains in the foster program.

If the shelter reaches out regarding the animal and the foster **does not communicate or respond within one week of our initial attempt to contact them**, the animal will be considered the property of the foster.

At that point:

- The shelter will no longer provide additional foster support for that animal.
- The foster becomes responsible for the animal and its ongoing care.

This does not apply to animals in the Foster-to-Adopt program, because the purpose of that program is for the animal to become permanently adopted following sterilization and completion of the adoption paperwork.

Foster Return

Foster animals may need to return to the shelter for a variety of reasons, including sterilization, medical care, adoption appointments, or because the foster arrangement is no longer working.

If you can no longer care for your foster, **contact the shelter as soon as possible**.

Please do not give the animal to another person or organization without speaking with shelter staff first.

The shelter will work with you to determine the appropriate next step.

Foster Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I am participating in the North Little Rock Animal Shelter's Foster, Foster-to-Adopt, and/or Doggy Day Out program.
- I understand that the animal remains the property of the North Little Rock Animal Shelter until officially adopted and the appropriate paperwork has been completed.
- I understand that I am responsible for determining whether an animal is appropriate for my household and circumstances.
- I agree to contact the shelter during normal business hours regarding questions, concerns, or needs involving the animal.
- I agree to use the designated on-call phone for after-hours emergencies.
- I understand that the shelter provides food for foster animals.
- I agree to return an unsterilized animal for the first available surgery date as required by state law.
- I understand that vaccinations will be provided through the shelter.
- I agree to discuss veterinary care with the Director before taking the animal to a veterinarian whenever circumstances allow.
- I understand that veterinary care will be provided through a veterinarian selected by the Director.
- I agree to help provide photos, videos, and personality information to assist with adoption.
- I agree to assist with meet-and-greets with potential adopters when requested and reasonably possible.
- I understand the special guidelines for Doggy Day Out, including that dogs should not visit dog parks.
- I understand that Foster-to-Adopt is intended to lead to permanent adoption after sterilization and that it does not provide the same level of support as the regular foster program.
- I understand the communication and ownership policy following sterilization.
- I agree to contact the shelter before transferring the animal to another person or organization.

Participant Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Program(s) Interested In

☐ Doggy Day Out

☐ Foster

☐ Foster-to-Adopt

Animal Information

Animal Name: _____

Animal ID: _____

Date Picked Up: _____

Expected Return Date (if applicable): _____

Agreement & Signature

I have read and understand the information in this packet. I understand the responsibilities involved in participating in the North Little Rock Animal Shelter's programs and agree to follow the guidelines outlined above.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Shelter Use Only

Staff Member: _____

Date Approved: _____

Program: ☐ Doggy Day Out ☐ Foster ☐ Foster-to-Adopt

Animal ID: _____

Notes:
