Thank you for joining our Foster Family!

Thanks to families like yours, the pets in our care get to experience what it is like to be part of a family, many of them for the first time ever. This manual is here to provide some guidelines and tips for making that adjustment and experience as smooth as possible for both the pet and for you!

The manual is to act as a guide to policies and procedures in regards to the emBark foster program. It will be regularly audited and updated to reflect the most up to date recommendations. There may be questions or concerns that are not covered in this manual and for that reason the emBark foster team is available to address any questions or concerns by contacting them at embark@adltexas.org. In case of an emergency after hours (please see medical and behavior pages for more details on what determines an emergency) text or call 210-951-8160
Getting started!

Considerations:

- Fostering is an extremely rewarding experience but is also a commitment. Please ensure everyone in your household is on board with fostering a dog for at least two weeks prior to taking your foster dog home! Going back and forth can be stressful on a dog and we want to make sure that the dog has the best chance for success we can give them. If you rent, verify that the pet you are interested in taking to foster is permitted in your residence.

- If you have pets at home they must be up to date on vaccinations including DHPP, Rabies and their kennel cough (Bordetella) vaccine. We strongly recommend a meet and greet with any resident canines at home with the foster dog prior to going home and there may be some dogs that a meet and greet is required prior to fostering.

First steps:

- Fill out the application at https://adltexas.org/foster-care/embark-foster-application/ You will receive a welcome email with the link to this guide and an introduction to our embark foster team.

- Visit our website to browse the selection of dogs that are available for fostering. Please be aware that at this time canines 40lbs and larger and over one year old are eligible for embark.

- Email embark@adltexas.org with any questions about the pet you are interested in or schedule an appointment to come visit them directly through the links on our website!

- At your visit, our Pet Services Specialist will be able to tell you more information about each animal you are interested in and you will be able to take them out for some one on one time to get to know each other.

- You can always decide not to foster that particular dog or any dog at all. We want this to be a great experience for everyone involved so please ask any questions and speak up if you have any concerns!

- You can easily identify the pets that are available for the program through this imagery on their kennel!

I qualify for ADL’s temporary Foster Program
Overview of the rules!

Basic guidelines:

- ADL has supplied you with a crate for your new foster pet. We highly recommend using this crate as ADL can not be held responsible for any damages that may incur due to your foster pet. Remember, we don’t have much history, if any at all, on these dogs so this may be their very first time in a home! Supervision is key.

- Your foster should never be unsupervised outside even if within a fenced in back yard. Some dogs can get scared and jump fences or get bored and dig out!

- Your foster should **never** visit dog parks or any off leash parks. The foster pet MUST be secured at all times.

- Your foster was sent home with a martingale style collar. This collar must remain on for the duration of the foster period and any time the foster is out of the home, a leash must be attached to this collar to prevent any escapes or loose dog incidents. If your foster dog gets loose immediately notify the embark foster team through email AND by texting the emergency phone line.

- You may need to occasionally bring your foster pet to our clinic for vaccinations or an exam by our veterinary team. Once a month you will need to be able to pick up our foster dog’s prevention.

- You must read and respond to any communication sent by the embark foster team.

- ADL promotes the use of positive reinforcement based training. Dominance based training methods (‘alpha rolling’ or heavy collar checks for example) are never tolerated. We do not permit the use of choke chains, pinch/prong collars or e-collars on our pets. If you have questions about how to more easily manage your foster pet on a walk, please reach out to the embark foster team.

- You are the primary care giver of your foster pet. Please do not leave your pet in the care of anyone else without permission from the embark foster team.

- Maintain the ‘10 foot rule’ while out on walks and do not allow your foster to greet any other animals.

- You are welcome (and encouraged!) to market and network your foster pet in order to find their forever home! All adoptions must be go through the adoption process at ADL, including the potential adopter completing our adoption application and interview process. ADL holds the right to the final decision on placement for the pet.

- We do encourage meet and greets to be held at the campus where the foster pet originated from for the safety of both the foster and the foster family!

- If you need to return your foster dog, please give as much notice to the embark foster team as possible to ensure we have a kennel ready for them!
Medical overview!

If you notice any of the following from your foster pet, please email embark@adltexas.org and one of the medical team members will be in contact to give guidance:

- Ocular or nasal discharge
- Coughing
- Hair loss
- Limping
- Excessive scratching/itching
- Shaking of head consistently/unusually red ears
- Vomiting more than twice in a 24 hour period
- Loose stool more than twice in a 24 hour period
- Lack of appetite/not eating for more than 24 hours (keep in mind not eating for the first day or two home is normal!)
- Dehydration
- Lethargy for more than a 24 hour period.
- Any other symptoms that seem unusual or concerning.

When emailing please give as many details as possible including how long the symptom has been occurring for, if it only seems to happen at certain times, etc! Pictures and video are also extremely helpful!

If any of the following occur please email and call/text the emergency line at 210-951-8160

- Seizures
- Not moving or unable to stand up
- Extensive Bleeding
- Appears disorientated or wobbly
- Ingested something toxic or a foreign body

If you are unsure if it is an emergency, please send a text to the emergency line.
Behavior overview!

Remember that to your new foster you are a stranger and they have no idea what is going on! They may be fearful, scared or shut down. It is important to give your foster dog time to decompress and settle in.

- Avoid meeting too many new people in the first week.
- Avoid going to busy places like pet friendly stores in the first week or until the dog is fully comfortable.
- Be extremely cautious opening doors so the dog doesn’t bolt!
- We recommend letting the new foster drag their leash for the first couple of days at least when they are not in their crate. This way the leash can be picked up and the dog easily redirected without having to grab them or startle them.
- Many dogs may be new to our care and we may not know as much about them. It is the foster’s responsibility to introduce the foster dog to new people and situations carefully. ADL cannot be held responsible for injuries caused by your foster dog while in your care. Caution should always be used with your foster dog and children.
- You will be informed about any known behavior of the animal at the time of picking up the animal. If you are informed the dog does not like other dogs, please do NOT attempt to introduce the dog to other dogs. This is for the safety of all animals and people involved.
- If your foster dog growls or snaps at you or someone in your household immediately give the dog space and email embark@adltexas.org with as much information about the incident as possible.
- If you have other dogs at home, keep them separate during feeding times, whenever chewing items are present and use caution with toys.

Emergency behavior situations:

- If your foster bites anyone immediately text/call the emergency number 210-951-8160
- If your foster is mouthy to the point of causing bruising/tearing clothing text/call the emergency number.
- If your foster is in an altercation with another animal text/call the emergency number. Please keep in mind that ADL cannot be held liable for any injuries caused by your foster and cannot provide medical care for any pet that is not owned by the Animal Defense League.
- If your foster has escaped and is loose immediately text/call.
Additional resources:

Behavior Resources:

Center for Shelter Dogs
Body Handling
Escape Behavior
Fear of People
House Training
Inappropriate Chewing
Jumpy Mouthy
Leash Reactive
Resource Guarding
Separation Anxiety
Territorial Behavior

Marketing your pet!

Our ultimate goal for each of our dog’s is for them to find their forever homes and you can help be a part of that by marketing and networking your pet! Tell your friends, your family, your neighbors all about how awesome your foster dog is! You can also send any pictures, bios and videos to embark@adltexas.org so we can use them to post on social media and our website!

Below are some great resources to check out in regards to marketing your pet!

Maddie’s Fund’s guide to marketing your foster

Animal Farm Marketing Best Practices

Best Friend’s creative ways to market your foster pet
Thank you for being a part of their story!