

## **Welcome new OAR Fosters!**

I would like to welcome you to Open Arms Rescue and thank you for choosing to foster. You are now part of our rescue family, and we can not tell you how much we appreciate you!

This is probably an exciting time for you, and you probably have 100 questions, we understand, and hope to make the process as easy as possible.

OAR receives their puppies/dogs from countless places and at all different times. For example: we pull from high kill shelters, we have local surrenders, unwanted litters, and transports that bring dogs/pups from other states and rescues.

We will send out notifications through text and email when we need fosters. Its up to you to tell us if you are willing to take a foster or not. If you agree at that time, we will give you all pertinent information as it becomes available. Such as, where to pick up, time to pick up, and what you will need to get prepared. We ask all fosters to do their best to pick up their own fosters and do the transporting themselves to vet appointments and adoption events.

We supply all the necessary things for example: crates, food, collars, leashes, and newspapers. If you have extras and can use your own supplies, that is great but not necessary!

Open Arms adheres to a strict 2-week quarantine for all our puppies and dogs. This 2-week period allows for them to acclimate to their new surroundings, it gives us time to ensure they are healthy and that all vaccines are up to date.

Day of transport or first day your foster arrives:

- Depending on where your foster is from, he/she may need a bath as soon as you get home especially if they have been on a transport bus for several hours.
- You will be given paperwork, a goody bag and dog food for adoption. Look over the paperwork, take note of when your pup/dog had their last vaccine or de-worming medication. (see attached form)
- Most of our fosters come with names, PLEASE do not change their name. Our volunteers work tirelessly to keep paperwork organized and updated. It becomes impossible if each foster is changing names. Thank you in advance for understanding.
- After the first week we ask that you take a couple pictures of your foster and write a short paragraph explaining your fosters achievements and personality, so we can post them on Facebook, Petfinder and Instagram. (see attached form)
- If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, text or email our volunteers!

-Robin

Oarwny@gmail.com

716-698-2945

## **WORMING SCHEDULE**

Deworming should be initiated at 2 weeks of age, and then repeated at:

4 weeks old

6 weeks old

8 weeks old

10 weeks old

12 weeks old

If your foster puppy is older than that puppy should be dewormed upon arrival to our rescue and the deworming should be repeated in two weeks.

## **VACCINATION SCHEDULE**

DHPP (5 IN 1) Distemper-Hepatitis-Parainfluenza-Parvovirus

**This vaccine is a series of three and needs to be given every 3-4 weeks (roughly every 21 days), for a total 3 vaccines.**

First vaccine should be administered at 6 weeks of age

Second vaccine should be administered at 9 weeks of age

Third vaccine should be administered at 12 weeks of age

Rabies for puppies must be given by a vet or free clinic and is normally given at 14-16 weeks old. This vaccine is good for one year, but after receiving the second dose a year later this vaccine is then only given once every three years.

For adult dogs (over 1 year of age)

Annual vaccines are given- DHPP and Rabies if needed.

## POSTING FOSTER DOGS & PUPPIES ONLINE

Fosters should email all information to: [oarwny@gmail.com](mailto:oarwny@gmail.com) or text information and photos to one of our volunteers mentioned on the contact page.

### **INFORMATION NEEDED TO POST FOSTERS ONLINE:**

- 1-3 pictures of foster
- Dogs name
- Age
- Breed
- Sex
- Personality of dog
- If house trained
- If crate trained
- Any known commands
- If dog is good with cats/other dogs/children or any other animals
- Background story or personal story is also welcome.

### **SOME EXAMPLES:**

- Meet Drew, he was a lost soul whose owner discovered he was in the pound and decided not to take him home. After he arrived to our rescue, we discovered his real name is Malikai, he is a 1 ½ year old Catahoula/Pit mix. Malikai is house trained, crate trained, great with other dogs, and wonderful with small children. He has the most gorgeous amber eyes. Malikai has already learned how to sit on command. He is calm and sweet. The most excitement I've seen from him was when I called him Malikai for the first time! He had the butt wiggle going and the tail wagging 100 miles a minute! He is an all-around dream dog, he's neutered and UTD. If you are interested in Malikai go to [oarwny.org](http://oarwny.org) to apply!
- Ellie is a 7mos old beagle/terrier mix. She is great with cats, dogs, and children. She loves walks, bones and balls. After she's done playing, she likes to find a nice comfy lap or curl up on a blanket. She is afraid of the crate, from being crated to much prior. She can be left out with no problems. She knows sit and drop it. She does have some separation anxiety. She would be perfect for an active family with kids. If you are interested in this sweet girl, go to [oarwny.org](http://oarwny.org) to apply!
- This is Duke, he is a 9 week old lab mix pup from Tennessee. He is the largest in the litter with the sweetest personality. He gets along with everyone, humans and canine. He loves playing, chasing, eating and cuddling! He is UTD and sleeps all night in his crate. This litter will be available on 2/9, if you are interested in Duke, go to [oarwny.org](http://oarwny.org) to apply!

## What to expect from your foster dog

Pick up day from transport bus:

- Your dog is most likely exhausted as they do not get much sleep on the van. Take the dog straight home (no pet stores or groomers).
- Don't overwhelm the dog with a lot of people who want to meet your new addition. That first night your pup needs relaxing and acclimating to their new temporary home. Friends can visit after a few days after they have settled in.

Dog behavior to be aware of as a foster parent:

- When first meeting a dog, ignore. Eye contact can be threatening to a dog so don't make direct eye contact. Let the dog come to you. DO NOT stick your hand out for the dog to sniff you. Trust me, the dog can smell you just standing there. Sticking your hand out to a strange dog you do not know prior behavior to, can lead to a bite.
- When the dog lets you pet them, pet under the chin. Going over the head, you see dogs duck a lot, right? It's not because they were necessarily abused, petting over the head blocks their line of vision. So always pet under the chin first until their trust is gained.
- When walking the dog, do not let the dog walk you. We have plenty of training aids for walking on leash such as, harnesses and gentle leaders. Just ask!
- When two dogs meet, never go face to face. Either walk side by side at first or have one dog facing away while the other smells. Meeting face to face can easily lead to a fight.
- When doing a home visit for a potential adopter, and if they have another dog, ask them to take these steps:
  1. put their current dog away and out of vision for the incoming dog
  2. let the dog get to know the potential adopters and its new surroundings (the home) first, before bringing the current dog out. Give the foster dog a good 15 minutes before the current dog comes out. Remember, there is no rush.
- If you need help with a behavioral issue, ask for help. We have plenty of qualified volunteers that can assist over the phone or possibly coming to your home to help.
- If the dog jumps on you constantly, turn your back. Do not say no, do not push him/her down. That just reinforces the behavior, they want your attention. If they keep jumping you keep turning your back and not saying a word.
- Do not allow the foster dog to have free reign of the house before the dog learns rules and boundaries from you.
- Sometimes a crying dog in crate can be soothed by a radio on, or a blanket covering the crate.
- Remember, first two weeks are quarantine time. It's a policy to confirm that they did not carry any disease. So, no events for 2 weeks, keep your friends' dogs at home, and no grooming salons or stores. The dog has been through so much before transport, during transport, and then your home. They need to learn your home is the safe place.

Remember, any questions do not hesitate to ask us, and most importantly have fun!

## **PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING AN ADOPTION**

***It is our policy to NOT adopt LITTERMATES TO THE SAME HOME. Please keep this in mind when dealing with potential adopters.***

Things you will need when completing an adoption:

- The foster dog/puppy
- TLC gift bag
- TLC or enough food for the puppy/dog for a few days if he/she are not on TLC
- The fosters folder
  - Two adoption contracts (one copy for the adopter and one for OAR) **Complete the contract. IF two people are adopting and have a different last name, make sure both names are on the contract.**
  - Record of vaccinations and any other medical paperwork for the foster dog/pup
  - Congratulations on your new family member sheet... reminds families on what else needs to be done to keep their pet healthy and other important information. If your foster has only had 2 of their puppy vaccines please make sure you put the date that the 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine is due (21 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine)
  - OPTIONAL- include a sheet with your fosters daily routine, feeding schedule, brand of food, known commands and any other information that a new adopter might find useful.

Remind the adopter to call one of the three vets ASAP to schedule a neuter/spay appointment. Most of our vets are scheduling a couple of months out.

Remind them that they MUST bring their adoption contract and folder with them to their spay/neuter appointment and that the family is responsible for all optional medication (pain meds, fluids etc).

Text someone, or email [oarwny@gmail.com](mailto:oarwny@gmail.com) stating that your foster has been adopted so changes can be made to Petfinder and Facebook.

Once the adoption is complete the contract and payment MUST BE MAILED IMMEDIATELY by the foster to OAR, MAIL TO:

OPEN ARMS RESCUE  
PO BOX 133  
AKRON, NY 14001