



# THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY

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A Commitment to Caring *Since 1899*

## **Foster Program Manual**

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Chicago, IL 60610

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## WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Being a foster parent for homeless animals is a rewarding and gratifying endeavor. The Anti-Cruelty Society (ACS) assists these efforts of foster parents, so that it is a mutually rewarding experience. Most importantly, animals that receive this attention are more likely to become adopted into permanent, loving homes. This Manual attempts to address concerns and questions that you may have as an ACS foster parent by providing general and specific information regarding animal care and ACS policies. Please review the contents carefully. After your orientation with the Foster Program Coordinator, you should strongly consider the ramifications fostering may present in your life and/or living arrangements.

As a foster parent, you will enjoy certain benefits:

- Knowing that you have made a difference for homeless animals
- 20% discount on all merchandise in the ACS Store.
- School of Dog Training class discounts
- Continuing Education lectures by staff and field experts
- Seasonal parties and gatherings
- Validated parking when here on shelter business

Thank you again on behalf of the hundreds of foster animals helped by this program each year!

## OVERALL GUIDELINES OF PROGRAM

**LICENSE** - The State of Illinois Department of Agriculture requires that every foster parent obtain a license that recognizes them as a foster household. The State and ACS have the authority to inspect each foster home. The annual fee for this license is \$25 and is collected by ACS for payment to the State. ACS will pay the fee in subsequent years, should you remain an active foster parent in good standing. If you become inactive in the Program for a twelve month period, you will be required to regain state licensure and pay the \$25 fee if you wish to resume fostering.

**OWNERSHIP** - Foster animals remain the legal property of The Anti-Cruelty Society.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** - The Foster Program Manager must be advised of any name, address or telephone number changes as soon as they occur.

**SCHEDULE** - We ask that you do not have any planned vacations or business trips on your calendar when contemplating a fostering period. You will be advised of the recommended length of the foster stay, but you should allow yourself an extra week or two. We understand that personal or professional emergencies come up from time to time. If this does occur, we recommend the follow action:

- A friend, neighbor or relative may tend to the animal(s). However, the Foster Program Coordinator MUST be advised of the name, daytime and evening telephone number of this person.
- ACS animal(s) in foster care shall not be placed with Veterinary Clinics, Animal Hospitals, boarding facilities or the like without permission from the ACS
- Animal(s) should be returned directly to ACS if no other arrangements can be made.

**OTHER PETS** - For health reasons, it is better to foster an animal of another species than your resident pet(s). Most common dog and cat diseases are not transferable from one species to the other. We still urge you to keep the foster animal segregated from your resident pet(s). You should always wash your hands between handling a foster animal and your resident pet. Finally, check with your veterinarian to make sure that your own animals are up to date on their vaccinations. ACS will not reimburse you for medical attention for your own resident pets.

**FOSTER INFORMATION** - The day you pick up an animal(s), you will be given a copy of the Foster Candidate Form and a yellow copy of the foster contract. It is important that you keep this in your possession and handy when calling ACS with any concerns that you may have. You will easily be able to reference the animal(s) identification number, age, sex, breed, etc. This will enable us to respond to your concerns on a more comprehensive level. When you return the animal(s) after the foster period, it will also help the Receiving Department book your return in a more timely fashion.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS** - Foster animals should not have any access to plants or flowers, electrical cords, or other hazardous materials. Take a good look at the area where foster animals will be kept. Look for hazards and anticipate as foster animals grow or feel better that their capabilities may change (e.g. jumping over pet gate). A list of plants that are toxic to cats and/or dogs is included at the end of this section. If in doubt, remove the plant. Never allow foster or your own animals to ingest chocolate, it can cause seizures in companion animals.

**FOSTER ANIMALS** - It is not unusual for foster animals to have a reduced appetite for a day or two after the foster period begins. Remember that the animal is coping with new surroundings, new people and perhaps a new diet. All of this can be stressful. Allow your foster animal some time to adjust to its new environment.

- Most animals placed in foster care will be microchipped prior to departure from the shelter for permanent identification purposes.
- All animals are given de-worming medication upon arrival at ACS. However, further treatment may be required. Please monitor your foster animal(s) bowel movements. Loose or watery stools may be an indication of continued infestation and should be reported to the Foster Coordinator.
- ACS recommends the use of stainless steel food and water bowls. They are most durable, easy to disinfect and keep free of contaminants. The best way to disinfect objects (toys, bowls, litter boxes, etc.) is with a mild bleach solution: 1 part bleach to 32 parts water (e.g. ½ cup household bleach in 1 gallon of water).
- It is important to recognize, regardless of the original cause for foster care, it is still possible that foster animals may become ill during the foster period. Animals that appear free of a contagious sickness upon veterinary examination may be incubating a viral or bacterial infection, and can show symptoms later on. Please inform the Foster Coordinator of any new symptoms.
- All medical attention, exams, medications, and special foods for foster animals must be obtained from the ACS Clinic, free of charge. Our veterinarians are available seven days a week by phone or pre-arranged appointment.

**SAFETY** - If you have children, they should be supervised at all times when handling or in the presence of a foster animal. Should anyone be bitten or scratched (where the skin is broken) by the foster animal, the Foster Program Coordinator must be notified immediately. Be certain you scrub the affected area with hot water and soap. You should also seek the consultation of your health care provider as soon as possible. A bite report may need to be completed by the authorities, depending on your community. The animal should be returned to the Shelter as soon as possible for observation and exam by an ACS Veterinarian.

**LOST** - Should an animal become lost or stolen, ACS should be notified immediately. A police report should be made for any animal stolen.

**DEATH** - If a foster animal should die, it **must** be returned to the ACS as quickly as possible. This will be helpful in ascertaining the cause of death, and will also help in determining time frames or special disinfecting instructions before your next foster animal. Our Receiving Department is open 365 days a year.

**BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS** - Our Animal Behavior Hotline is available to foster parents Monday through Friday, free of charge.

**EMERGENCY POLICY** - Vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite and lethargy - while cause for concern - should be promptly dealt with at the earliest opportunity at the ACS Clinic, not through emergency care. Should a truly life-threatening situation (e.g. bleeding, convulsions, unrelenting vomiting) arise with a foster animal, when the ACS is closed, please contact the Chicago Veterinary Emergency Services at telephone number (773) 281-7110. The emergency clinic is located at 3123 N. Clybourn in Chicago. ACS will cover the costs associated with the emergency visit. **Follow-up care must be obtained through the ACS Clinic or you will be solely responsible for the charges incurred.**

**ADOPTIONS** – Animals must be at least eight weeks of age and weigh at least two pounds before becoming eligible for the adoption program. Once these criteria are met and all obvious symptoms of any illness or injury have disappeared, a foster animal is ready to return to the ACS.

### COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Amaryllis (bulb)	Andromeda	Appleseeds	Arrowgrass	Avocado
Azalea	Bittersweet	Boxwood	Buttercup	Caladium Crown
Castor Bean	Cherry Pits	Chokecherry	Climbing Lily	of Thorns Easter
Daffodil (bulb)	Delphinium	Dieffenbachia	Dumb Cane	Lilly Hemlock
Elephant Ear	English Ivy	Elderberry	Foxglove	Japanese Yew
Holly	Hyacinth (bulb)	Hydrangea	Iris (bulb)	Locoweed
Jerusalem Cherry	Jimson Weed	Laburnum	Laurel	Mushrooms
Marigold	Marijuana	Mistletoe	Monkshood	Philodendron
Narcissus (bulb)	Nightshade	Oleander	Peach	Rhubarb Tobacco
Poinsettia	Poison Ivy	Privet	Rhododendron	Jasmine (berries)
Snow on the Mountain	Stinging Nettle	Tiger Lilly	Toadstool	
Tulip (bulb)	Walnuts	Wisteria	Yew	

## RETURN AND ADOPTION

- GENERAL RECEIVING HOURS - Our Receiving Department is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. seven days a week.
- SPECIAL ADOPTIONS - If you have a friend, relative, or co-worker who wishes to adopt your foster animal, they are welcome to do so. The following procedures must be strictly adhered to:
  1. If the animal is already spayed or neutered:
    - The animal is returned on Friday afternoons between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (our Veterinarians are available then to do physical exams on foster returns).
    - The Foster Program Manager should be advised a couple of days in advance so that arrangements can be made with the Clinic and a Shelter Manager.
    - The potential adopter should come in at the same time to fill out the adoption paperwork. All potential adopters must go through the same process that members of the general public do. This process cannot be expedited.
  2. If the animal is NOT spayed or neutered:
    - The animal is returned on Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Please tell the Receiving Agent that this is a foster-to-adoption arrangement and provide the potential adopters first and last name and daytime telephone number. Also advise the Receiving Agent that the animal is not altered and needs to be transferred the following morning to the Clinic for surgery. This will help ensure that the animal is not fed that evening and that the proper paperwork is attached to the animal's kennel card.
    - The prospective adopter should come to ACS on Friday afternoon, preferably between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. to complete the adoption. Once the adoption is completed, the adopter can pick up the animal from the Clinic.
      - If the animal is 12 weeks or older, release times from the Clinic is between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Fridays only. We cannot board animals for any additional time. We cannot release the animals any earlier than 4:00 p.m. because it is not medically safe.
      - If the animal is 8-12 weeks old, release time is Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. These animals are held for an additional period of observation because of their young age.
  3. The adopter must have a signed copy of their adoption contract with them when picking up their animal.
- GENERAL ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS:
  - Must be 18 years of age or older.
  - Must have valid photo I.D. with current address.
  - All members of the household should be present or contactable by telephone.
  - Landlord's name and telephone number (or copy of lease).
  - Payment of the adoption fee of \$55, payable by cash, check or charge.
  - The adoption fee includes a microchip, tag, collar, first round of shots, feline leukemia or heartworm tests and 15-day free post-adoption veterinary care through the ACS Clinic for any condition which may have been present but undetectable at the time of adoption.

**OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FOSTER RETURN** - At the time of return, you will be given a yellow invoice from the Receiving Department. This invoice will contain the animal's new identification number, which should be referenced from that time forward. While we can never breach the privacy of an adopter - such as giving out name, address or telephone number - we can inform you of the status of the animal. You are welcome to call the Foster Program Manager to find out the disposition of an animal you have fostered. Just reference the new identification number allocated at the time of return.

## CAT & KITTEN CARE

- **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**
  - ✓ Carrier
  - ✓ Newspapers
  - ✓ Large litter pan (for adults) or small pan (for kittens) & litter
  - ✓ Water bowl
  - ✓ Food bowls - one for dry food and one for canned
  - ✓ Food — dry and canned - age appropriate
  - ✓ Old towels
  - ✓ Toys
- **GENERAL CARE** - Always remember to kitty proof the area the foster cat will be staying in. Electrical cords, computer cables, telephone wires, drapes, anything valuable or irreplaceable, etc. should be removed or secured. Cats must be confined inside your home at all times. When transporting them to and from ACS, they must be in a carrier. Cats clean themselves, so bathing is rarely if ever, required. Small kittens may not quite understand the concept of cleaning and preening themselves. A sponge bath is all that is needed. Nail clipping is fine, especially for kittens with razor sharp nails. Be careful when doing so, make sure you clip off only the curved end. Avoid the pink area where the veins are located. No cow's milk! It can cause diarrhea in some cats. Cats may develop hairballs. Frequent brushing will help alleviate this and will also keep their coat clean and shiny. If hairballs persist, commercially available products such as Petromalt are available at the ACS Store or other pet stores.
- **MEDICAL CONDITIONS** - Abnormal signs to be alert for in your foster animal:
  - Runny discharge from the eyes or nose
  - Lack of appetite
  - Lethargy
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Weight loss (or no gain if a kitten)
  - Coughing and sneezing
  - Congested breathing
  - Unresponsiveness or unconsciousness
  - Blood from any orifice or in elimination
- **UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION (URI)** - This "head cold" is very common among foster cats and kittens. Even if your foster animal appears healthy at discharge, the incubation period for URI is anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks. It is primarily caused by some common viruses, but bacteria may be involved secondarily. Symptoms include: sneezing, runny nose or eyes, lack of appetite, lethargy and fever (over 103 degrees). It is most important that the cat continues to eat and nursing care can make all the difference. When they are congested, they can't smell food very well and may not want to eat. Offer smelly, fish-flavored canned food. Warming it up a bit in a microwave may help too. Gently clean the nose and eyes with a washcloth moistened with warm water. If discharges become greenish or yellowish in color, an antibiotic may be prescribed by an ACS veterinarian. If medication is prescribed, make sure to give the animal all doses until it is gone. Call an ACS Veterinarian if the animal is not showing any signs of improvement after one week, or if there is any deterioration in condition.
- **VOMITING** - in cats and kittens can be caused by any number of problems. It may simply be that the animal is eating its meals too quickly. It can also be an early sign of something as severe as distemper. Please monitor your foster cats and kittens closely if they are vomiting, paying close attention to frequency, duration, consistency and color and report to the ACS veterinarian.

- **DIARRHEA** - can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, changes in diet, stress and overfeeding. If the diarrhea is mild and the cat or kitten is otherwise alert, you should offer the animal less canned food (if you were at all) and more dry food. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than after 3-4 feedings, or contains any evidence of parasites or blood, you should contact an ACS Veterinarian and be prepared to bring a stool sample with you in a Ziploc bag. Although all animals are given a de-worming medication upon arrival at ACS, continued infestation may occur. If your foster animal has loose or watery stools or you can actually see worms in their fecal matter, you should schedule an appointment with an ACS Veterinarian so that they may be treated. Always be ready to bring a stool sample along. Remember, no cow's milk.
- **FLEAS/MITES** - Any cat or kitten found to have fleas shall be given a flea bath prior to departure from the Shelter. Any cat or kitten found to have ear mites will be treated prior to departure from the Shelter. You may notice a crumbly dark brown discharge in the outer ear canals. This is a residue that can be swabbed out gently with a cotton ball. Do not put anything (including "Q-tips") into the ear canal.
- **RINGWORM** - Ringworm is a fungal infection (not a parasite) that appears as irregularly shaped spots of fur loss. The skin will appear rough and scaly. Ringworm is contagious to other cats, dogs and humans. If you notice any unusual fur loss, you should have the animal seen by an ACS Vet.
- **SUDDEN DEATH** - Fading kitten syndrome (a.k.a. "sudden death") may occur in kittens that are particularly young, especially less than 6 weeks. While no one knows exactly why this occurs, it is suspected that the internal physiology of the kitten is so under-developed that it could not sustain itself. This may affect only one kitten in an entire litter.
- **MEDICATION** - Never give a foster animal any medication-prescriptive or herbal-without consulting with an ACS Veterinarian first. Do not offer aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen. These drugs and their derivatives are toxic to felines.
- **ASSISTANCE** - If, at any time, you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to contact the Foster Program Coordinator or an ACS Veterinarian.

## **FELINE BEHAVIORAL/TEMPERAMENT ISSUES**

Common Behavioral Problems:

- Scratching
- Biting
- Inappropriate Elimination
- Aggression toward people or littermates

Cats scratch for a variety of reasons, both physical and behavioral. They do it for exercise, play, stretching and to remove dead layers of their nails. They also "mark" their territory with scent glands located in the pads of their feet. If a cat or kitten is inappropriately scratching your furniture, you may want to consider purchasing a post and training the cat to it. ACS recommends posts covered with rope or sisal and that is at least 3 feet tall. Carpeted posts do not always appeal to a cat. You may try sprinkling catnip on the base or side of the post to entice the kitty. An occasional treat reward may be used as well. Scratching on inappropriate surfaces (such as furniture) can also be lessened by the use of "sticky paws", a type of tape that makes scratching unappealing. It is available at any pet store.

Biting is not unusual during play. It may be the result of over-stimulation or the cat's innate predatory drive. If a cat or kitten begins to bite, have a toy handy and direct the animal's mouth toward it. The cat will learn to look for toys instead of hands. A loud "Ouch" will frequently work too. If you yell "Ouch", immediately stop handling or holding the animal. If the cat continues to bite, a 5 minute "time out" in a dark room (bathrooms are good) can also be effective. If a cat ambushes you by attacking your legs or feet, try using a squirt bottle filled with water and zap them once with it. If plain water does not work, add a bit of vinegar to the squirt bottle. Also try using a toy attached to a wand or stick and drag it behind you. Hopefully they'll attack that instead of your feet.

Inappropriate litterbox use may arise from physical or behavioral problems. Always rule out medical conditions first. A kitten may have "accidents" because its living area is too large and is unable to make it to the box in time. Keep kittens confined to one room with their box when you are unable to closely supervise them.

Cats may prefer to eliminate on the floor rather than in a soiled box. Scoop the litter box at least once a day. If using clay litter, clean the box and replace the filler at least once a week. If using clumping litter, add a little fresh litter after each cleaning. If you are unsure why your foster cat is not using its litter box, and medical reasons have been ruled out by the Clinic, call the Behavior Hotline Monday through Friday.

Aggression against people can frequently be handled using the techniques described to thwart biting. What we may view as over-aggression against littermates may be normal, natural behavior. Usually, they will settle everything amongst themselves. If your foster cat is exhibiting signs of aggression, please contact the Behavior Hotline and the Foster Program Coordinator immediately.

## DOG & PUPPY CARE

- WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
  - ✓ Large carrier or crate
  - ✓ Newspapers
  - ✓ Water bowl
  - ✓ Food bowls - one for dry food and one for canned
  - ✓ Food - dry and canned - age appropriate
  - ✓ Old towels
  - ✓ Toys
  - ✓ Leash
  
- GENERAL CARE - Always remember to "doggie" proof the area where the foster dog will be staying. Electrical cords, computer cables, telephone wires, drapes, anything valuable or irreplaceable, etc. should be removed or secured. Many dogs love to chew! Dogs must not be taken to Doggie Parks or Doggie Daycare Centers. Dogs must always be on leash when outdoors, or in a secure, fenced backyard, with supervision. Nail clipping is fine, especially for puppies with very sharp nails. Be careful when doing so, make sure you clip off only the curved end. Avoid the pink area where the veins are located. Puppies in particular are a chore to keep clean. Frequent sponge baths may be needed to keep their paws free of fecal material. If giving a full bath, always use a mild shampoo. Make sure chew toys are manufactured here in the United States. Foreign imports may contain pesticides or chemical preservatives.
  
- MEDICAL CONDITIONS - Abnormal Signs To Be Alert For:
  - Runny discharge from the eyes or nose
  - Lack of appetite
  - Lethargy
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Weight loss (or no gain if a puppy)
  - Coughing and sneezing
  - Congested breathing
  - Unresponsiveness or unconsciousness
  - Blood from any orifice or in elimination
  
- KENNEL COUGH - Kennel cough is very common among foster dogs and puppies. Even if your foster animal appears healthy, the incubation period for kennel cough is anywhere from 5 to 15 days. It is caused by a virus, but bacteria may be involved secondarily. The major symptom of kennel cough is a dry, harsh cough that is worsened with exercise or excitement. Dogs usually do not run a fever. Other symptoms include sneezing, snorting, gagging and a discharge from the nose or eyes. Ensure that the animal is drinking plenty of water. If need be, gently clean the nose and eyes with a washcloth moistened with warm water. If discharges become greenish or yellowish in color, an antibiotic may be prescribed by the ACS Veterinarian. If medication is prescribed, make sure to give the animal all doses until it is gone. If the cough is severe, our Veterinarians may recommend the use of specific over-the-counter cough preparations. It is imperative that you use only the particular formulations given. Others formulations may contain harmful ingredients. Contact an ACS Veterinarian if the animal is not showing any signs of improvement after 10 days, or if there is any deterioration in condition.

- **DIARRHEA** - can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, changes in diet, stress and overfeeding. If the diarrhea is mild and the puppy or dog is otherwise alert, you should offer the animal less canned food (if you were at all) and more dry food. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than after 3-4 feedings or contains any evidence of parasites or blood, you should contact an ACS Veterinarian and be prepared to bring a stool sample with you in a Ziploc bag. Although all animals are given a de-worming medication upon arrival at ACS, continued infestation may occur. If your foster animal has loose or watery stools or you can actually see worms in their fecal matter, you should schedule an appointment with an ACS Veterinarian so that they may be treated. Always be ready to bring a stool sample along.
- **VOMITING** - in dogs and puppies can be caused by any number of reasons. It may simply be that the animal is eating meals too quickly. It can also be an early sign of something as severe as parvovirus. Please monitor your foster dogs and puppies very closely if they are vomiting, paying close attention to frequency, duration, consistency and color and report to the ACS veterinarian.
- **FLEAS/MITES** - Any dog or puppy found to have fleas shall be given a flea bath prior to departure from the Shelter. Any dog or puppy found to have ear mites will be treated prior to departure from the Shelter. You may notice a crumbly dark brown discharge in the outer ear canals. This is a residue that can be swabbed out gently with a cotton ball. Do not put anything (including "Q-tips") into the ear canal.
- **RINGWORM** - Ringworm is a fungal infection (not a parasite) that appears as a pink or reddish shaped ring. The dog's fur in that area may fall out, leaving a round bare spot. Ringworm is contagious to other cats, dogs and humans. If you notice any unusual fur loss, you should have the animal seen by an ACS Vet.
- **SUDDEN DEATH** - Fading puppy syndrome (a.k.a. "sudden death") may occur in puppies that are particularly young, especially less than 6 weeks. While no one knows exactly why this occurs, it is suspected that the internal physiology of the puppy is so under-developed that it could not sustain itself. This may affect only one puppy in an entire litter.
- **MEDICATION** - Never give a foster animal any medication-prescriptive or herbal-without consulting with an ACS Veterinarian first. Do not offer aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen. These drugs and their derivatives are toxic to canines.
- **ASSISTANCE** - If, at any time, you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to contact the Foster Program Coordinator or an ACS veterinarian.

# CANINE BEHAVIORAL/TEMPERAMENT ISSUES

Common Behavioral Problems:

- Housebreaking
- Separation anxiety
- Bossy behavior
- Aggression toward people or littermates

Housebreaking can be difficult to achieve during the brevity of a foster period. However, you can get an animal well on its way to an "accident" free life. What is first and foremost is establishing a routine. Once a schedule has been set, be consistent! Dogs and puppies need to eliminate after a nap, after exercise or play and after eating and/or drinking. You may choose to paper train, crate train or outdoor train. This is a personal preference. Should you choose to paper train, designate ONE area where you will lay the newspaper (a kitchen or bathroom floor would be ideal). To outdoor train, also designate ONE area where the animal can eliminate. This area should be secure, grassy and offer some privacy. Choose an area nearby. Once you've decided upon one of these two options, the first step is to take the animal to the elimination area and encourage the animal to eliminate. If outdoor training, keep the animal on leash. Do not allow the animal to wander. If the animal has not eliminated after 10 minutes, and you suspect that he may need to, bring him back inside, but do not remove the leash. Keep him within visual range. When you see the animal begin to prepare to eliminate (circling, sniffing), calmly tell him "Not here" and rush back to the designated area. If he eliminates, verbally praise him. If not, take him back indoors and start over. If he shows no signs of preparing to eliminate within 20 minutes, take him out again. Repeat until he eliminates. It is also a good idea to leave the urine or stool undisturbed until the pup's next trip. Most dogs will eliminate where they have done so previously.

Some people may choose to crate train an animal. An important thing to keep in mind is proper crate size - if the crate is too big for the animal, he can relieve himself in a far corner of the crate and still have a clean sleeping area. The crate should be large enough for the animal to stand up, stretch, turn around and lie down comfortably. If your animal throws a temper tantrum during the early stages of training, do NOT let him out until he is quiet. If you let him out, he will have learned that temper tantrums work. Instead, tell the dog "NO! Quiet!" in a mild voice. Once the dog calms, open the door in a matter-of-fact fashion. Take the dog to his outdoor elimination area immediately after letting him out of the crate, especially if he has been crated for a couple of hours. It is not unusual for a previously housetrained dog to have a few accidents once placed in foster care. The animal will need time to adjust to its new schedule and environment. If the dog does have an accident and you don't find it for a while, it's already much too late to correct the dog. You have to catch him in the act. When you do catch him, interrupt him "Nope.. ahhh ahhh!" and take him outside to your previously designated area. When cleaning up any accidents, do not use ammonia-based cleaners. Urine is composed mostly of ammonia and an ammonia cleaner will bring the dog right back to that spot. Use instead any product that contains an enzymatic component.

Separation anxiety affects both dogs and puppies. Separation anxiety leads to destructive behaviors such as chewing, scratching, barking, howling and "accidents" in the house. Boredom and anxiety are the biggest reason for destructive behavior. Keep your dog occupied with chew toys. Filling a kong with peanut butter or soft treats will keep a dog busy for a long time. Make sure you give an animal a lot of exercise time. Don't "baby" him by lavishing him with too much attention as this can create over-dependence.

Bossy or overly-assertive dogs are conditioned that way from an early age. As dogs are "pack" animals, they establish themselves in a hierarchy as pups. Those at the top of the pyramid - the pack leaders - are frequently territorial, possessive, demanding and uncooperative. As obnoxious as they may seem, they should never be corrected with physical or heavy-handed techniques. Never hit a dog with any object! When an animal attempts to get your attention in an inappropriate way (i.e., nudging you with his head, pawing you), walk away and ignore the animal. Another suggestion would be to disregard the behavior while issuing a command such as "sit". Never tease such a dog with a game of "tug of war".

A dog's aggression can come in many forms: defensive, dominance, possessive, territorial and predatory. There are no easy solutions to aggressive behavior, and aggression frequently is multi-faceted. If your foster dog exhibits aggressive behavior, please contact the Behavior Hotline and the Foster Program Coordinator immediately.

## ACS CONTACT LIST

- MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER: 312-644-8338
  
- FOSTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR: 312-644-8338 Ext. 313, Email: [foster@anticruelty.org](mailto:foster@anticruelty.org)
  - Available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact with any questions or concerns you may have.
  
- ACS VETERINARY CLINIC: 312-644-8338 Ext. 350 or 351
  - The Clinic's switchboard is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The receptionist will take a message for one of our Veterinarians. A doctor will then contact you at their earliest opportunity. Please always identify yourself as a foster parent when leaving messages. On weekends, you will have to leave a message with the main switchboard operator by dialing the main number (312) 644-8338, then 0. The weekend Veterinarian on duty will return your call as soon as possible. The Clinic accepts clients by appointment only. There is no "walk-in" service available. Veterinarians are on staff seven days a week to assist you.
  
- ANIMAL BEHAVIOR & TRAINING: 312-644-8338 Ext. 343 or 315 , Email: [kokura@anticruelty.org](mailto:kokura@anticruelty.org) or [mklett@anticruelty.org](mailto:mklett@anticruelty.org)
  - Available Monday through Friday. Leave a detailed message on the voice mail. Most behavior calls are returned the following afternoon. Please identify yourself as a foster parent when leaving a voicemail. Your calls will be a priority.