

Behaviour Dog Foster Parent

Behaviour Dog Foster Parents support the Edmonton Humane Society by providing a temporary living situation outside of the shelter environment for animals with behavioural challenges. This allows the animals to have the opportunity to mature, heal, and/or socialize while continuing to receive essential care from the shelter in preparation for their adoptive home. Animals seeking foster care for behaviour reasons are typically categorized into two classifications: under-socialized animals and reactive animals. This position specializes in the care of these under-socialized and reactive animals by providing additional support to create a safe and respectful environment that is conducive for the growth and wellbeing of the animal. Applicants will be given the opportunity to select which classification(s) they would be most comfortable fostering.

Responsibilities & Tasks:

- Feed foster animal(s) daily using the recommendations provided by EHS. Follow and respect any dietary restrictions set for the animal.
- Administer medications and treatments as required per the care plan.
- Ensure the animal is able to rest. Follow guidelines for exercise/socialization as per care plan.
- Ensure the animal has a safe and quiet environment to facilitate calm and respectful socialization opportunities.
- Support in the development of confidence and good habits by using positive reinforcement techniques.
- Transport the animal to and from the shelter to attend appointments as needed (appointment frequency varies depending on the nature of the foster placement)
- Maintain regular communications with the Foster Coordinator(s).
- Report any concerns/issues to the Foster Coordinator(s) immediately.

Skills & Capabilities:

- Previous experience and/or knowledge of handling reactive and/or impulsive animals, or under-socialized animals is required.
 - Experience in a professional setting or as a pet owner is beneficial
- Preferences for homes without other pets, and children over the age of 12 years.
- Great communication skills required: verbal and written via email/phone.
- Previous experience and/or knowledge of animal body language is an asset.
- Attention to detail – able to follow the medical/behavioural instructions as per care plans
 - Able to administer medications (training/instructions will be provided)
- Organized and punctual
- Patience and flexibility

Commitment & Scheduling:

- Long-term (on-going commitment)

Role Requirements:

- Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older to apply.
- Resident pets must have current vaccines and be spayed/neutered.
- Resident pets must be calm and social.
- Must have a separate room to isolate foster animals with bleachable surfaces.
- Must have time and lifestyle to support specified foster care plans.
- Regular and reliable access to a vehicle.
- Additional requirements (only applicable to dogs):
 - Resident dog(s) required to attend a meet and greet with foster dog prior to placement.
 - Residents of the household (family members including children) must be willing to attend a meet and greet with any foster dog(s) prior to placement.

Screening:

- Please share your previous experience with animals. Do you have any medical, behavioural, or fostering experience with pets?
- Are you willing to learn how to administer medications with instructions provided by the EHS medical Department?
- Are you willing to follow a behaviour modification plan with guidance from the EHS Behaviour Department?
- Do you have experience handling fearful or under-socialized animals? Please explain.
- Are you willing to foster animals that are reactive towards other animals?
- Do you have experience handling reactive and/or impulsive animals? Please explain.
- Are you willing to foster animals that may house soil and/or require training to resolve house soiling concerns?
- Are you willing to foster animals who are vocal? (ex. Barking or yowling)

Onboarding & Training:

- General Foster Volunteer Orientation
- Fostering Dogs & Puppies Course

Benefits of Being an EHS Foster Parent:

- Joining a team of like-minded individuals who value animals and their welfare
- EHS provides all supplies and veterinary care.
- Over 1,400 animals benefit from foster care each year; spending time in a loving home environment sets them up for success in their future adoptive homes.

Ready to Get Started?

Interested in becoming a Foster Parent?

[Click Here to apply!](#)