



The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foster Care Program handbook

It takes a special person to be a Foster Parent. Whether it's a litter of five-week-old kittens, or an abused German Shepherd who has become terrified of people, many animals end up at the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter who have potential, but who are not ready for adoption.

These special animals need the **TLC** that only a Foster Parent can provide. The love of a Foster Parent can get these animals back on track and boost their chances of being placed in permanent loving homes. Being a Foster Parent is an often challenging but truly rewarding job.

You will undoubtedly become attached to your foster animal and it may be very difficult to give that animal up. If/when an animal is rehabilitated and returned to the shelter, s/he is housed in a kennel. It may be difficult for you to see your foster animal in a kennel environment after having all the comforts of home while living with you. In addition, you may feel anxious about the future home of your foster animal. ***It is important to remember that you have helped to make this animal adoptable*** and that you must trust our adoption staff to find the best possible home for your friend.

An animal is fostered because it is not, at present, adoptable or because s/he was no longer doing well in the shelter environment. For the majority of these animals, the special care you provide will be decisive and they will return to us healthy and adoptable or will go directly from your home to their adoptive families. There are those few who, in spite of your best efforts, will not become healthy, well-adjusted companion animals. Our Animal Care staff may have to make the difficult decision to euthanize such animals. This is the unfortunate risk involved in fostering animals and can be a very painful experience. You must be aware of and prepared for this possible, though unlikely outcome.

A successful fostering can be a joyful experience for the animal. We hope that the rewards you experience will outweigh the difficulty of parting with your friend. Without your help, these animals might not have a chance. We appreciate your efforts and recognize that you are providing a very special service.

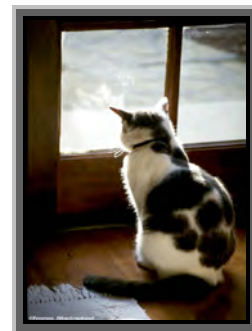
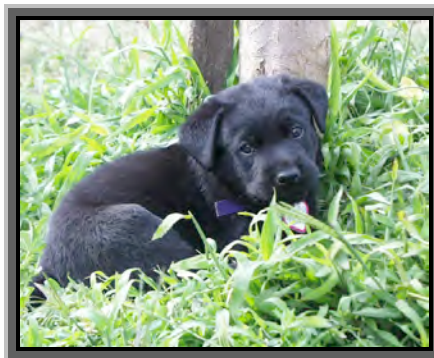


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Important information for foster parents

(Please keep this information handy.)

In case of emergency:

In the event of an after hours **emergency** or if no one can be reached at the shelter during regular business hours, please call the head of Animal Care at 831-535-8624. If the head of Animal Care cannot be reached, you will be expected to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital (SCVH) at 2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400. Please familiarize yourself with the location of SCVH and how to get there. SCVH is open 24 hours a day. Please do not call 911 for medical emergencies involving your foster animal. Only if there is an imminent threat to humans should 911 be called.

Help...I've lost my foster animal!!!

If your foster animal escapes or becomes lost, contact the shelter immediately. In some cases the animal may be hiding nearby, but be sure to make us aware when an animal goes missing. Try your best to find the animal by searching the house and surrounding outside area. Alert surrounding neighbors and post flyers when appropriate. Do not rule out that the animal might still be in his or her own foster room. And unless age, illness, or injury prevents it, **please have appropriate identification on your foster animal at all times.**

Veterinary Care While In Foster Home

Routine veterinary care will be provided by an on-site shelter veterinarian. If your foster animal becomes sick or injured (**non-emergency**), please contact the foster coordinator so that we can arrange a time for our vet to see your foster animal.

In the event of an after hours **emergency**, please call the head of Animal Care at 831-535-8624. If the head of Animal Care cannot be reached, you will be expected to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital (2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400).

Routine vaccinations and dewormings will be administered by Animal Care staff. No appointment is necessary.

Bringing a Foster Animal back to the shelter for spay/neuter...

✓ Please contact the foster coordinator (asa143@co.santa-cruz.ca.us, 831-454-7202) to schedule spay/neuter for your foster animal. Most animals that have gone to foster due to age will stay at the shelter after spay/neuter to go up for adoption the following day.

✓ Foster animals can eat and drink normally prior to spay/neuter.

If you've found a potential adopter for your Foster

If you have found a person who is interested in adopting one or more of your foster animals, please have him/her/them come into the shelter to fill out an application and meet with an adoption counselor. It's always best to have potential adopters call or come into the shelter to acquaint themselves with our adoption guidelines. Please also contact the foster coordinator (asa143@co.santa-cruz.ca.us, 831-454-7202) with the name and contact information of the prospective adopter so notes can be made on the animal's record.

** We love when foster homes advocate on behalf of their foster animals but please make no promises to interested parties. There is an adoption process that all adopters must go through in order to insure a safe and happy lifelong relationship between the adopters and their new companion. Under no circumstances should your foster animal be placed in a home other than yours prior to adoption.*

RAISING FOSTER KITTENS



Being a Foster Parent is a lot like being a grandparent - all the fun of playing with and enjoying kittens without the lifetime responsibility. Below are some guidelines to help you best meet the needs of your foster kittens. They are infants and depend on us to give them the proper care.

Kittens needing a foster home will usually be between five and seven weeks old unless you have a mom with babies. Then the kittens may be only days old. Some guidelines apply to both situations.

HOUSING: House your mom and/or kittens in a small room. A bathroom is perfect. There should be an area for the bed. This could be a towel, small blanket or a box with low sides. Have food and water nearby. Place the litter box about three feet away from food and water. The litter box should also have low sides for easy access.

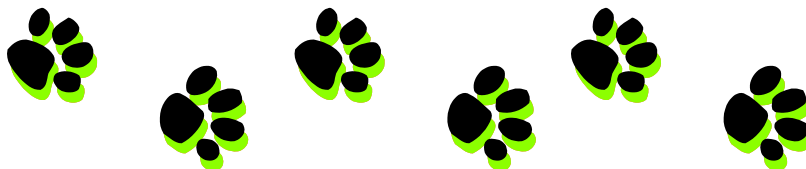
They must be kept warm and free from drafts. A box or crate with the door removed is ideal. Place towels inside the crate to create a cozy nest. A towel or blanket over the crate will keep the inside warm and toasty. Make sure not to block air flow completely. The bedding should be changed frequently, immediately when wet. A heating pad (using on the lowest setting only) can be placed under half of the area to allow them to choose how much heat they require. This box should be in a quiet area of your home. Kittens need plenty of sleep and an area to encourage this. Sometimes they are so busy playing they forget to rest and must be reminded by placing them in their room and closing the door. **Your foster cat/kittens must be kept indoor-only at all times.**

♥ With kittens, warmth is an incredibly important element; they can suffer from hypothermia very quickly.

FEEDING:

If you have a family, Mom will be in charge of feeding until they are about four weeks old. At four weeks you can start introducing canned food (they usually start showing interest in what Mom is eating). Mixing a little warm water with canned or dry kitten food and placing it in a container with low sides will usually do the trick. Expect them to walk through it too. No one ever said kittens were neat! After a few attempts, they will get the idea.

It is important to note that although we suggest the possibility of feeding wet foods early on in a kitten's or puppy's development, dry food is best and every effort should be made to wean the animal off of wet food prior to returning him/her to the shelter. Wet food can cause upset stomachs and diarrhea, as well as dental problems, which are directly related to poor organ health.



Kittens with Mom:

Mom should have free choice of dry kitten kibble three times per day and may be offered small amounts of canned kitten food. At four weeks of age, kittens are still nursing but should be encouraged to start the weaning process. Provide canned food for them when feeding Mom. Follow the food schedule below at six weeks.

Kittens without Mom:

Kittens five to six weeks old need six small meals a day. Feeding them their last meal before bedtime is good. They usually eat and then go straight to sleep. Due to many people's daily work schedule, six meals a day may not be possible. ***Although six meals a day is preferable, three meals a day is better than "ad lib" or free feeding. Too much food all at once can be harmful by causing digestive problems.***

Kittens six to eight weeks old need four meals a day. Even kittens can become overweight, which can cause health problems in the future. Please ensure that you are feeding according to weight and age.

All animals in foster care should be fed the shelter's food in appropriate rations. Please come to or contact the shelter if you are in need of food for your foster animal.



All cats and kittens need fresh water at all times.

LITTER BOX:

Kittens should be introduced to the litter box when they start eating solid foods. They need a box with shallow sides (a cookie sheet or cake pan is perfect). After they have eaten, place them in the box. They will learn how to use the litter box very quickly. Some of the time they learn how to use the litter box without any help from us, especially when they have been watching Mom use her box. Observe how the kittens watch all of Mom's actions; they find her quite fascinating!

When you bring home your foster kitten/s, show the kitten/s where you have placed their litter box.



Keeping the box clean is very important. Daily cleaning (at least once a day) is a must. No cat or kitten wants to use or smell a dirty litter box.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

If your foster kitten displays any of these symptoms, **CONTACT SCCAS STAFF IMMEDIATELY!**

- ♥ Diarrhea. It can be a very simple problem. Left unchecked it can kill a small kitten quickly.
- ♥ Not eating. This can be a symptom of illness and a serious problem because of dehydration.
- ♥ Upper respiratory symptoms (runny nose, watery eyes and sneezing).
- ♥ Lethargy (lack of interest in playing, spends a great deal of time sleeping).

SOCIALIZATION

Socializing a kitten is a lot of fun and an important aspect of foster care. A well-socialized kitten finds a home faster than one that hides in the back of his or her kennel.

Newborn to four-week-old kittens should be handled minimally. Kittens this age are easily fatigued and Mom will do the lion's share of what is needed. At four weeks of age, they will begin to come to you for attention.

Foster parents that have semi-social kittens have an even greater challenge. These kittens can be socialized, but only with daily handling. Sometimes they will hiss and spit when you attempt to pick them up. Gently pick them up by grasping the skin on the back of the neck and hold them close to your body, giving them a sense of security. Speak softly as you pet them. These kittens need plenty of assurance and attention. DO NOT give them a room in which they can hide from you. They need a box or a crate in which to feel secure, but you must have access to them at all times. If you are fostering more than one semi-social kitten, you might try separating the kittens for periods of time and providing them with individualized interaction. This makes you their primary source for security and attention and potentially speeds up the socialization process. Kittens will not become socialized unless they are handled many times each day. They need to become accustomed to the sights and sounds of a working home. This should be done gradually, but consistently.

When bringing a foster animal home to a family that has other pets, they should be kept separate for no less than two weeks. If the animal is in foster for health reasons, please continue to follow the individual guidelines set for that animal.

♥ **Do not allow unsupervised handling by children.**

Tips for socialization:

1. When first handling unsocial kittens use thick gloves or a towel. Try your best to be brave and not to get bitten! Your confidence when handling a kitten will impact how s/he feels about being touched and held.
2. Gently scruff the kitten at the back of the neck when handling and gentling. This will calm the kitten and reduce the risk of being bitten.
3. Sitting next to the food bowl at feeding times and providing an irresistible choice of food will accustom the kitten to your presence.
4. Remember to socialize Mom too! When kittens are not nursing and being weaned, it is important to separate Mom from kittens in order to socialize her and give her a break.

Supplies that you will need:

Litter box with low sides for easy access.

Kitty Litter Clay or other non-clumping litter is best for kittens. No clumping litter! It is incredibly harmful if ingested.

Food and water bowls

Dry and wet kitten food Presently we feed Hills Science Diet and prefer dry over wet as soon as kittens can handle it. We will supply dry food for foster animals.

Newspaper

Clean towels

Kennel or carrier

Safe toys

Suggested supplies:

Heating pad

KITTEN MORTALITY

- ❖ Many factors play a part in kitten mortality. Kittens born on the streets are subjected to influences that can significantly reduce their chances of survival.
- ❖ When they are born to malnourished or ill mothers, their risk of congenital or inherited defects is heightened. Poorly nourished kittens or orphaned kittens without the antibodies from mother's milk have little defense against disease and infection.
- ❖ The fading kitten syndrome plays a large role in kitten mortality. Occasionally one or more kittens in a litter that were healthy and vigorous at birth will begin to "fade". They will stop growing, begin to lose weight, stop nursing or eating. Kittens fade very quickly. There is no clear cause or reason for this condition. It has been linked to birth defects, environmental stress and infectious disease. If you notice your kitten fading, please contact us immediately. If we are not available, please take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital: 2585 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065. (831) 475-5400
- ❖ If an animal in your care should pass away, please contact us immediately. It is imperative that the Animal Care staff has the opportunity to examine the animal.



Kitten Development

What to expect at each stage of development.

*** Remember these are averages.**

Newborn: Completely dependent on mom. Eyelids are closed and ears are folded forward, so kitten cannot see or hear. Sense of smell is the first to develop completely and is the most developed at birth. Kittens less than three weeks old need to have their genital area stimulated in order to eliminate.

10 days to two weeks: Kittens' eyes open. All kittens have blue eyes. They huddle together for security and warmth.

10 days: Ears unfold, hearing well developed. Will scramble along with belly on the ground, paddling limbs.

Two weeks: Start to play with one another; this social interaction teaches them how to make friends. Kittens can balance at two weeks, but cannot yet walk easily. Should receive first medication for roundworms and again every two to three weeks.

Three weeks: Kittens are mobile and eager to explore. They make mock aggressive rushes and stalk one another. Teething begins. Regular weighing and monitoring of kittens' weight allows you to keep an eye on their development. Kittens cannot retract claws at this age.

Four weeks: Start kittens on solid food, 4-6 meals a day. Once they are eating solid food, they can be trained to use the litter box. Place the box in a quiet spot and put kittens in box after each meal. **NEVER** rub their noses in any accidental mess; by watching their littermates and Mom, they will soon learn how to use the litter box. Kittens without Mom should receive their first vaccination (RC-IN).

Five weeks: Kittens are learning how to hunt by pouncing on toys and each other.

Six weeks: Kittens with or without Mom should be vaccinated (FVRCP). Adult eye color begins to appear.

COMMON KITTEN AILMENTS

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) is fairly common in animal shelters.

- ❖ These air-borne viruses are contagious and can spread very quickly.
- ❖ Your foster kitten may appear healthy here, but may become symptomatic in your home.
- ❖ Common Symptoms are:
 - Sneezing and yellow or green discharge from eyes or nose
 - Congested breathing
 - Loss of appetite
 - Lethargy
- ❖ It is important to contact us as soon as your foster animal shows any signs of URI. Underage kittens are extremely fragile and can crash very quickly.

Please contact us if:

- ❖ your foster has continuous diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- ❖ you notice any suspicious looking hair loss on your foster animals.
- ❖ your foster animal is scratching excessively or if you see fleas or flea dirt.

Kitten Vaccinations and Treatments

Vaccines needed: All vaccines and deworming will be done by Animal Care. Rabies vaccines will be given by the shelter veterinarian, often at time of spay/neuter, as age appropriate.

RC-IN – For kittens under 6 weeks without maternal care. Given at 4-5 weeks of age (one time, then 2 weeks later begin FVRCP).

FVRCP - Starting at 6 weeks, vaccinate every 2 weeks until 4 months of age.

Dewormer - Administer every 2 weeks until 4 months of age (starting at 2 weeks of age, when possible).

Rabies - Given at 3 months of age or ASAP beyond that, then again in one year, then every 3 years thereafter.

MOST UNDERAGE KITTENS ARE TESTED FOR FELV/FIV BEFORE THEY GO TO FOSTER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE RISK OF SPREADING DEADLY DISEASES TO YOUR OWN ANIMALS. PLEASE KEEP YOUR FOSTERS SEPARATE FROM YOUR OWN ANIMALS FOR NO LESS THAN TWO WEEKS, OR LONGER IF DIRECTED BY SHELTER STAFF.

ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER HANDLING YOUR FOSTERS

RAISING FOSTER PUPPIES

While many puppies are raised with little or no input from people other than a steady supply of food and routine cleaning, the litters that get systematic early conditioning and handling have the best chance of becoming sound, well adjusted companions.

FEEDING:

- **Newborn to Four Weeks:** Mom's milk; by four weeks they are making great demands. Mom should be eating free choice Hills Science Diet Puppy dry food twice a day and may be offered small amount of wet food.
- **Four Weeks:** Puppies are starting to get interested in food. Three or four times daily: Ground up Hills Puppy dry food mixed with warm water to make gruel. Adding a small amount of plain yogurt or a little canned food might make it more interesting. The first few feedings may result in more of a mess than actual eating, but they will start to get the hang of it. If Mom is present, allow her to help them out.
- **Five to Six Weeks:** Four times daily: Same as above.
- **Six to Eight Week:** Three times daily: Add dry kibble to above to give them the opportunity to chew on the food. By eight weeks they should be eating dry food well.



It is important to note that although we suggest the possibility of feeding wet foods early on in a kitten's or puppy's development, dry food is best and every effort should be made to wean the animal off of wet food prior to returning him/her to the shelter. Wet food can cause upset stomachs and diarrhea, as well as dental problems, which are directly related to poor organ health.

Supplies for puppies and dogs:

Nylon leash and collar (provided)

Identification tag (provided)

Dry puppy and/or dog food Presently we feed Hills Science Diet and prefer dry over wet as soon as puppies can tolerate it. We will be supplying dry food for foster animals.

Food and water bowl

Newspaper / puppy pads

Safe chew toys (we recommend a "Kong")

Treats for training They should be healthy, tasty and able to be quickly consumed to punctuate training.

Crate for crate training

Bed or blanket

Puppy Vaccinations and Treatments

Vaccines needed: All vaccines and deworming will be done by Animal Care. Rabies vaccines will be given by the shelter veterinarian, often at time of spay/neuter, as age appropriate.

DA2PP - Starting at 6 weeks, vaccinate every 2 weeks until 4 months of age.

Dewormer - Administer every 2 weeks for 3 rounds starting at 2 weeks of age, when possible.

Bordatella - Starting at 6 weeks every 3 weeks, for 2 rounds.

Rabies - Given at 4 months of age or ASAP beyond that, then again in one year, then every 3 years thereafter.

Please contact us if:

- ❖ your foster has continuous diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- ❖ you notice any suspicious looking hair loss on your foster animals.
- ❖ your foster animal is scratching excessively or if you see fleas or flea dirt.

A few words about Parvovirus (“Parvo”)

What is Parvovirus?

Canine parvovirus, or “Parvo” as it is commonly known, is a virus that usually attacks the canine intestinal tract (canine parvovirus enteritis) and, in rare cases, the heart (myocarditis). This virus is highly resistant allowing it to survive for long periods of time in the environment; it is able to withstand heat, cold, and most common disinfectants.

How is it transmitted?

Parvo is transmitted through feces and vomit of infected dogs and puppies. The virus can live in feces for about 2 weeks and can exist in the environment (such as on floors, lawns, or pavement) for many months. Because it is so difficult to kill, a person with Parvo on his or her hands, clothing, or shoes easily transmits the virus after coming in contact with it.

What are the Signs?

The initial signs of Parvo include loss of appetite, vomiting, dehydration, lethargy, fever and depression. Signs appear after the disease’s incubation period. These are often accompanied by foul smelling, gray or yellow feces or diarrhea streaked with blood. The incubation period can last from 3 to 12 days after exposure but usually occurs within 5 to 7 days of exposure. Some dogs infected with the virus exhibit no symptoms and never become ill, while others show a few signs and recover quickly. Some however, become severely ill and pass away within 48 - 72 hours after first exhibiting symptoms.

Which dogs get it?

The virus can attack dogs and puppies of any age, it is most commonly found in dogs under one year old. The highest incidence is seen in puppies 6 to 24 weeks old.

How is Parvo prevented?

The best way to help prevent dogs from getting parvo is to vaccinate them against the virus and keep them in a controlled environment. Do not allow contact with unvaccinated dogs. Until they have completed their puppy booster vaccines (not before 16 weeks of age), puppies should be confined to areas known to be free of contamination, such as your house or fenced yard. Do not allow your puppy access to any area to which an infected animal may have had access.

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Houstraining

To begin with you will require the following:

- a) a crate only large enough for the puppy to stand up and turn around comfortably in
- b) a schedule for going outside
- c) treats for whenever you go outside with the dog
- d) good observation skills to prevent accidents
- e) patience and a sense of humor!

A) Crate

The puppy must be safely contained whenever you're away or can't actively supervise, i.e. when you're busy around the house, sleeping etc. A crate can be your best friend when it comes to house training. If you find the puppy is soiling his crate, the likelihood is that the crate is too large or the puppy needs to go out more often or with more strategic timing. Speak to us if your foster puppy is a chronic crate-soiler.

B) Schedule

You must provide the puppy with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than 4 hours, have someone come to the house to take the puppy out. Optimally, there is always someone at home during the housetraining period. A typical puppy elimination schedule looks like this:

1. First thing in the morning
2. A few minutes after each meal. This is often when puppies will have a bowel movement. You will discover your foster puppy's rhythm.
3. Every hour on the hour. Take the puppy outside on leash for five minutes in a small area. Always return to the same spot so he begins to associate the area with its purpose. Don't interact with the puppy. Have a play period once he is finished. If nothing happens after five minutes, bring him back into the house and crate him for another thirty minutes, then try again. If he does eliminate, he may have a free period in the kitchen or confinement area, or a play session in your fenced yard. This acts as an added bonus for performing.
4. During the night. A very young pup (6-7 weeks) may need to go out once during the night.

C) Treats

Every time the puppy eliminates outside, lavish him with enthusiastic praise during the act and follow with an extra special treat (a small piece of cheese, hot dog, liver). If you find that the praise makes him stop in the middle of eliminating, save it until just after he finishes.

D) Good Observation Skills

Your puppy will give off signals that he needs to eliminate. It's essential that you learn what these are so you can prevent mistakes. Common behaviors include circling, restlessness and sniffing. Whenever you see these, take the puppy out!

E) Patience

Don't lose your cool. Most puppies will have accidents, especially in the beginning of training. Since your puppy will be supervised at all times when loose in the house, you will be able to provide the proper feedback as the dog begins to eliminate or, even better, take him out before he even starts (see "good observation skills..." above).

If you catch him starting to eliminate inside, interrupt him with a sharp sound. This may even prevent him from finishing. Urgently say "outside" and then get the puppy there as quickly as possible. Stay outside for the 5-minute period and praise & treat if he finishes eliminating. If not, bring him back inside and either supervise or crate him for another try later.

If the puppy has an accident in the house or in the crate and you did not see it happen, it is futile and even detrimental to punish him after the fact. Simply clean up the spot and then apply a commercial odor neutralizer or 50% vinegar to water. This will help prevent a certain location from smelling like an "indoor toilet". Most importantly after any accident, vow to supervise more closely in future and/or add another outing to your schedule.

Crate Training Your Puppy Or Adult Dog

Many behavior problems in puppies and dogs can be controlled or eliminated by the careful use of dog-crates. Like other training aides, the crate can be misused and do more harm than good. Used correctly, the crate can make such a dramatic difference that dogs that otherwise might have been brought to shelters have become excellent family pets. The crate is not a foolproof method that will solve all problems, but is a valuable tool.

When can a crate help?

Using the dog's natural denning instinct, a crate can be beneficial to potty training. A mother dog will set up a den for her pups and keep it clean until the pups are old enough to go outside on their own. She teaches them it's not okay to soil the place where they sleep. Puppies also need to chew; between five and nine months old, it may seem they chew non-stop. For them, a crate can be likened to a play pen, allowing them access only to safe chew toys and a safe space to play in. During adulthood some dogs can never be left loose in a house alone or may need to travel regularly with their family. A crate can be used to keep a dog confined and safe in these circumstances.

Building positive associations with the crate

Crate training should be done positively with no negative associations. When you first bring the puppy or dog home from the shelter, have the crate ready and comfortable for him. A towel or washable blanket will help make the crate a more satisfying place to sleep. (Puppy training pads may be useful for easy clean up of possible potty accidents.) A small yummy treat (i.e. raw hot dog) can serve as a lure to get him into the crate. Once he is inside the crate, leave the door open for him to come and go freely. It's best not to force him into the crate but repeatedly put treats inside, allowing him to go in on his own. Praise him gently while he's inside and associate a word or phrase for going in the crate. ("Kennel up" is a common example.) Use the word association as you place the treat in the crate with the puppy following it in. Repeat this procedure about five times then quit for a while and continue later for several rounds the first day.

Closing the crate door

When the puppy seems to be comfortable going in after the treat, and when he has finished playing and going potty and is tired, lure him into the crate with a treat as you have done before. This time close the door. Include a new toy in the crate this time, something he hasn't seen before that will hold his attention for a few minutes. A rawhide chew would be a good one for adult dogs. After you close the door sit on the floor in front of the crate to talk to the puppy, reassuring him that you're still there. He may whine for a short while. Wait till the whining subsides and the pup calms down, and then open the crate door. (5-10 minutes usually.) If the puppy happens to fall asleep in the crate, let him rest until he wakes up. Don't use a lot of fanfare and praise when you open the door and ignore the pup for a few minutes after he exits so that he doesn't get the impression getting out is much more fun than being in the crate. Then take him immediately outside to go potty. If the puppy insists on whining while in the crate try to distract him with another toy to give him the chance to calm down and be quiet before letting him out. DO NOT let him out, especially the first time, until he is quiet!

The first night at home

If you brought your foster puppy home during the day, you will have had time to do the above steps and get him used to the crate before bedtime. If you bring him home too late to do extensive training, here's what you can do. Play with the puppy until he's tired, make sure he's gone potty outside, and place the crate next to your bed where you can reach it while you're lying down. Remove any collar that may be unsafe, then place or lure the puppy into the crate with a toy, and go to bed as usual. If the puppy whines, place your fingers in the grate and talk softly till the puppy falls asleep. You may lose a little sleep the first few nights, but do not open the door for the puppy for at least four hours. Do not show anger or yell at him, but don't give in either. If the crate is comfortable and warm enough, the lights are out and you are right there to talk softly, then usually he will fall asleep within an hour.

At eight weeks of age you can't expect the puppy to go more than four hours without going potty. As soon as the puppy whines after waking up, take him outside. Carry the puppy to the potty area immediately, praise softly and

gently for a job well done, bring him back in without a play session and return him to his crate. Go back to bed and repeat placing your fingers at the grate, speaking softly if the puppy fusses before settling down for sleep. If you happen to sleep through the puppy whining and he is forced to potty in his crate because he can't hold it, don't scold him. It is your responsibility to get the puppy out BEFORE he has a chance to soil his den. Clean it up with a urine neutralizer and place clean towels in the crate and return to your routine. The crate should not be too big for the pup or dog, otherwise there will be enough room for him to soil in the crate and not think of it as soiling his sleeping area. Later on, after the puppy is used to his routine and no longer needs to go out every four hours, you can move the crate to somewhere else in the house.

Crating when you leave the house

At some point you may have to leave home and can't bring the puppy. He has made it through his first day and night at his new home. He is familiar with his crate and does not have unpleasant associations linked to it. Make sure he has played and gone potty and will be ready to rest. Place safe toys into the crate and lure him in with a treat using your association word. Close the door and leave the house without further ado. It may be good to explain to your neighbors ahead of time that you are crate training your new puppy to keep him safe from chewing electrical cords, etc., and teach him good potty habits. Explain he might whine for a while after you leave and hopefully they will understand. Don't stay away too long. If you have to go to work and have no other choice, then arrange to come home at lunch to feed, exercise and give the puppy a potty break during your lunch hour. If you absolutely cannot come home for lunch, have someone else come in and tend to the puppy for you. He cannot be expected to go longer than four hours without a potty break and it is very hard to retrain a puppy that has become accustomed to soiling his crate.

A place to get away from it all

After the puppy has grown a bit and is used to spending time in his crate, you will see him go into his crate voluntarily, for down time. If there is a lot of commotion in your house (i.e. young children), the puppy may go into his crate to curl up and go to sleep. Children should not be allowed access to the puppy's crate for play purposes and should leave the puppy in peace when he is inside. Leave the door to the crate open so your dog can escape the hubbub when he wants or needs to.

Travel and crate training

Dogs can ride safely and relatively stress-free in the car or plane if they've been crate trained. If you have to board your dog or have someone dog-sit, crate training helps the dog adapt to the unfamiliar situations more easily. You can bring the dog's own crate to allow him the comfort of his own bed to sleep in.

Crate training adult dogs

It may be easier to crate train when the puppy is young but you can still train an adult dog to accept his crate. The key is to find an irresistible lure as a treat to build up the positive associations with the crate. Introducing the crate to an adult dog may take a little more time. Start by feeding him inside his crate and do the same routine with going into the crate for treats as discussed previously. When the dog starts going into the crate without having to be lured, start closing the door for short periods of time. You can gradually increase the time he stays in the crate. Within a month or more, you may work up to four hours at a time.

Overuse of the crate is abuse of the dog

Dogs can sleep overnight in the crate, but during the day while they're awake they shouldn't be left for more than four hours on a regular basis. There are many safe and comfortable containment options. Feel free to discuss these with staff.

Teaching A Puppy Not To Bite

Causes

Much of a puppy's early life is spent roughhousing and play fighting with her littermates. The pups roll around trying to bite each other's legs, ears, tail and scruff. Eventually, one puppy bites another too hard, and the puppy that is bitten lets out a sharp, high-pitched yelp. The biter is usually startled by the sudden, loud noise and the play session momentarily ends. After a while, the pushy pup learns that it is her own overly rambunctious and

aggressive behavior that causes the frightening noise and end of a fun game. This is how dogs learn to play and bite each other gently. Using the same method, we can teach the puppy that biting humans is not okay.

Treatment

Take time to play with your puppy. Each and every time she bites too hard, immediately let out a high-pitched screech, then walk away and ignore her for a few minutes. The pup will learn that it's her overly pushy, forward behavior that leads to the reprimand. Hitting the pup is not a good idea; hitting or smacking causes some puppies to become more aroused because they think it's part of the game. A yelp and abrupt end of play are reprimands that puppies naturally understand.

Once the pup learns not to bite hard, we can teach her not to inflict even a soft bite on humans. Pretend you have hands and fingers of a two-month-old infant. Now a bite with any pressure at all will hurt. Your puppy will gradually learn that she must be extremely gentle with humans.

Puppies often bite as a way of telling you that they are frightened or that they don't like what you're doing to them. If you touch a sensitive area or handle her in a way she finds threatening, she may growl or bite as a way of telling you, "Quit it." To prevent or stop this behavior, you should train your dog not only to accept handling but also actually enjoy it. She needs to get used to being handled so she will not squirm and bite when she is groomed, examined by a veterinarian, or just touched and petted by overly affectionate people, especially children.

Start slowly and gently. Scratch your puppy behind the ear, and then gently look inside the ear. Massage the shoulder and leg, work down towards the foot, and then inspect the toes and nails. When the pup accepts the handling, praise her and offer a treat. Gradually work your hands over her entire body. Pay attention to sensitive spots, and give an especially tasty treat whenever you touch one of those sensitive areas. Soon your pup will look forward to being touched on previously sensitive areas. Gradually accustom the pup to more vigorous handling by praising and rewarding all good behavior.

Dog-Training While In Foster Care:

A foster puppy or dog returning to the shelter has a better chance of being adopted if s/he has learned basic training skills while in your home. Potential adopters who are able to see a dog sit, stay, lie down or shake "paws" on request realize the importance of training and just how intelligent their new companion will be. For these reasons, we would like you to attempt basic training with your foster puppy or dog in your home.

Why should we train?

Communicating with a dog or puppy is best achieved through behavioral management, play, socialization, and training. Training, play, and socialization should intersect; a student who's having fun is more engaged, more enthusiastic, and learns more quickly. The quality of life of a companion dog within a family is directly proportional to how well that animal can obey the rules of human society. Their relative obedience is a function of how we have taught them and what we have taught them. The type of education they receive will largely define the nature of the human-canine relationship, as well as prevent many behavior problems. Because we *can* train effectively without the use of force we should do so, just as we would in teaching our children. The pain of the choke chain is not kind-- ***dogs do feel pain***, and choke chains, prong collars, and electric shock collars cause pain. As we are responsible for the education of our children, so are we responsible for the education of our dogs. We must provide them with the education and direction to enable them to live safely and happily. Dogs tend to suffer from under-stimulation. We must provide them with a good job (training, playing, etc.) or they will find their own job, more often than not a job that will not please us (digging, chewing, etc.). Training can be very straightforward. Teaching a dog to sit early in training is good for two reasons: first, it is relatively easy for

human and canine to accomplish, instilling a winning feeling in both from the start; second, because “sit” is an appropriate behavior which is incompatible with many inappropriate behaviors, jumping up for example.

1. You first need to discover a food sufficiently palatable as to hold your dog’s attention. Soft treats like cheese, small pieces of hot dog or bologna are just a few examples of motivational rewards. Use small pieces, so you won’t fill your dog up too quickly! If your foster animal is not food motivated, you may want to use a favorite toy, or just praise.
2. You then take a small piece of that food or a toy and use it as you would use a magnet if your dog’s nose were made of metal. Hold the piece of food or toy very close to your dog’s nose.
3. Begin to lure your dog into a sit—by moving the treat or toy up and back above the dog’s head, move the treat down if your dog lurches up, move the treat up if your dog lurches down. During this process you must avoid moving too quickly, and you must keep the treat close to your dog’s nose the whole time.
4. You want to keep things simple for your dog at this stage. Begin to use the word “sit” only after your dog sits consistently for the lure. If your dog won’t sit all the way that’s okay; all behaviors can be broken down into components, and if your dog sits halfway reward by giving a treat or toy. You should not force your dog into a sit, because if your dog wants to sit, i.e. chooses to sit, then the “sit” behavior will be a more consistent behavior.

You can use the above process to teach a dog other positional behaviors such as stand, down, heel etc. You can use tasty treats to reinforce appropriate behavior at any time whether the behavior was solicited or not.

Important Information

Foster Coordinator: Jennifer Price asa143@co.santa-cruz.ca.us, 831-454-7202

For medical emergencies please call the head of Animal Care, 831-535-8624. **Please call for emergencies only!**

Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital: 2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400