



Tips for Families Wanting to Become Emergency Foster Homes

- Target Audience: Foster Families
- Description: Provides clear guidelines for families temporarily fostering animals during crises, focusing on the safety and well-being of the pets.



Tips for Families Wanting to Become Emergency Foster Homes

When emergencies such as fires occur, foster families play a vital role in providing a safe and loving refuge for displaced animals. This manual offers clear guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of foster animals, addressing aspects such as adaptation, security, and communication with the shelter.

1. Preparation for the Animal's Arrival

Space Adaptation:

- Prepare a safe and quiet space in your home for the new animal, away from noise and distractions.
- Provide a comfortable bed, toys, and access to fresh water.

Necessary Materials:

- Ensure you have appropriate collars and harnesses for dogs, and secure carriers for cats.
- Keep basic supplies on hand: food, bowls, litter boxes for cats, and any medication the animal may need.

Some of our furry friends have special dietary and medication needs. It is crucial to pay attention to these specificities to ensure their well-being. In the particular case of podencos, it is necessary to use 3-point harnesses for safety, and collars with buckles. All necessary materials and special considerations will be notified to you by the shelter staff so that you can prepare and care for them properly.

2. Animal Safety and Well-being

Managing Nervousness:

- Animals may be nervous or scared when arriving in a new environment. Speak softly and avoid sudden movements.
- Give them time to explore and get used to their new space.





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Revention of Escapes:

- Always use a collar and harness when walking dogs. Ensure they are well-fitted to prevent escapes.
- In case of an escape, notify the shelter immediately. The first two hours are crucial for the search.

While we want to give them lots of love and care to help them feel better, we must remain vigilant. Collars and harnesses are extremely important. These furry friends will be a bit stressed, and since we can't control the external environment, we need to be more cautious and careful than usual during walks.

It's crucial to ensure that collars (with buckles) and harnesses are well-adjusted. Maintain constant supervision and avoid any situation that might provoke an escape attempt. The safety of our furry friends depends on our diligence.

3. Communication and Coordination

Contact with the Shelter:

- Maintain open communication with the shelter. Inform them about the animal's well-being and any issues that may arise.
- In case of emergencies or unexpected expenses, keep receipts for possible reimbursements.

Communication Groups:

- Join WhatsApp groups or similar organized by the shelter to facilitate coordination and avoid information overload in the chats.

The shelter will coordinate with its staff to designate a person responsible for maintaining a direct and effective line of contact. This person will be in charge of sharing updated information about the condition and needs of the fostered animal, as well as coordinating any actions or care that may be required.

Maintaining smooth and constant communication is essential to ensure the well-being of our furry friends and to facilitate an effective response to any situation that may arise. We appreciate the cooperation and commitment of all foster families in this important process.





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4. Special Notes

Use of Collars and Harnesses:

- Always use a well-fitted collar (with a buckle) and harness during walks for the dog's safety. This will significantly reduce the risk of escape.
- In case of an escape, notify the shelter immediately. The first few hours are crucial for the search.

Records and Reimbursements:

- Keep a record of all expenses related to the care of the animal and save receipts for reimbursements from the shelter.

Duration of Foster Care:

- Due to the emergency situation, the shelter will attempt to restore normal operations and arrange for the return to the facilities as soon as possible. However, foster homes may be needed for several days.
- It is important to be aware of this possibility and be prepared to care for the animals during this time.

Notification in Case of Emergency:

- If, due to the stress of the situation, you take a pet without prior communication with the shelter, notify the staff as soon as possible (via email, phone, or the volunteer profile). It is crucial to ensure that all animals are safe and accounted for.

Being a foster family during emergencies is an important and rewarding responsibility. With proper preparation and constant communication, we can ensure that our furry friends feel safe and loved until they can return to the shelter or find a permanent home. Thank you for your commitment and for opening your heart and home to these animals in need.