Thank you for your interest in becoming a PAP Parent.

Give a dog a much needed break from the shelter
and a better chance at adoption!
Welcome Promote a Pet (PAP) Foster Parents

With your help, we can save the lives of more animals! We know being a foster parent is a lot of work and we never want you to feel overwhelmed. The JHS behavior team is here to provide education, prompt communication and all necessary supplies to care for your foster animals.

How Promote a Pet Works:
Promote a Pet (PAP) foster parents are volunteers who take home select animals from the Jacksonville Humane Society. PAP foster parents care for pets in their home until adoption.

Goals:
- Give animals a break from the shelter environment
- Increase the pet’s adoptable behaviors
- Find the pet a new home

How to Become a Promote a Pet Foster Parent:
- Sign up as a foster at jaxhumane.org/foster
- Contact the behavior department to set up a meet and greet for a PAP animal: behavior@jaxhumane.org

Promote a Pet Inspiration

The Promote a Pet story of Travis and Chaz is one of our favorites. Chaz had a difficult time in the shelter and Travis had just returned from a tour of duty with the armed forces. Chaz struggled with showing off his best qualities in the shelter, but with Travis’ help, he was soon able to go on fieldtrips to pet stores and local restaurants! Travis networked and found Chaz the perfect home.

Their story was even a special feature in People Magazine. Read it here: jaxhumane.org/chaz
Responsibilities of a Dog PAP Parent:

Being a PAP parent is more than just providing TLC - you are helping this dog get ready for a new family. We ask that foster homes follow these guidelines:

- Provide a safe and loving home
- Provide training for your animal to improve behavior
- Keep PAP dog on leash at all times unless in a secure yard
- Email JHS updates and pictures for the dog’s website profile: behavior@jaxhumane.org
- Promote your PAP dog for adoption by: visiting the dog-friendly locations on our list, using social media and sharing the dog with your network
- Dogs should wear their “adopt me” materials (leash, bandana, vest, etc.) out of the house
- Respond to all adoption calls and emails; be willing to meet with potential adopters

There’s An App For That! When you take a pet home for PAP foster care, you will receive an email to use the app from Maddie’s Fund. This is a free and easy way to receive behavior tips, training insight and stay in touch. Questions? Email us.
Bringing Home a Promote a Pet Dog

Before you bring your foster dog home it is important to prepare yourself, your family and your home for a new canine companion. Fostering is a family affair, so please make sure that everyone in your household is ready, willing and able to provide a loving home. Make sure everyone understands their responsibilities, as well as the temporary nature of fostering.

Having a dog at home is a lot of fun – but remember they also take a lot of time. Dogs need to be fed twice per day and require daily exercise. If you don’t have access to a fenced-in backyard, your foster dog will need to be walked at least 3 times per day. It is important to be realistic about what you are able to provide a foster dog.

Planning where you will keep your dog before you bring her home will make the entire process easier for everyone. When you first bring a foster dog home, you’ll want to confine her to a single room, such as a kitchen or family room. This room should not be an isolated room, but a room where you spend a large part of your day or evening. Dogs are pack animals and want to be with you.

It is important to establish a regular routine quickly so that your foster dog can begin to adjust to your household. During this period, please keep activity to a minimum. We recommend avoiding lots of visitors, your neighbors’ dog(s), or parties while the dog is acclimating. Give your foster dog some time to get used to you before you introduce additional new situations and potentially overstimulate the dog.

Remember that every dog goes through a transition period when it moves into a new home. Every dog is different. Some may acclimate in a day, while others may take a week or more. Your new foster dog has to learn your routine and your expectations of her. During this transition period, accidents do happen. However, with patience, you will find that once your foster starts to become comfortable in your home, she will blossom and you may see a new personality emerge. It is incredibly satisfying!

PAP Kobe settling in to his foster home.

Do you have other pets or children in the home? Keep reading for valuable info!
Your PAP and Other Animals (including kids!)

Dog Introductions:

Introducing your foster dog to your dog(s) should be a calm and relaxed event. Remember, this is a new situation and can be stressful, but if you are relaxed and prepared, the outcome can be positive. Use these guidelines for a successful intro:

- Introduce dogs outside of your home.
- If possible, use two handlers.
- Keep both dogs on leashes throughout introduction.
- Walk dogs side by side and allow them to sniff each other.
- Do not pull leashes tight – this will make the dogs tense.
- Give your dog lots of praise and love during the intro.
- Prevent resource guarding by removing all toys and chews from the area and inside the home.
- After bringing the dogs inside, feed them separately and continue this practice throughout the PAP term.
- Supervise the dogs together and keep them separate until you can make sure they get along well.

*Suki and her foster sister were BFFs after a successful intro in a PAP home!*
Cat Introductions:
Cats and dogs need a slow introduction. Begin by keeping your cat and foster dog in different rooms. Allow the dog to become comfortable in her own room. Once the dog is comfortable, let her explore the rest of the house for short periods while the cat is in another room. This will allow them to pick up each other’s scent.

After a few days, allow the two to meet but keep the dog on a leash:

- The first few meetings they may not interact face to face – that’s okay! Never force interaction.
- The dog’s instincts may be to chase the cat or bark. Don’t allow this.
- Let your PAP dog know that this is inappropriate by using a quick, sharp tone saying “uh uh” to get attention and redirect energy.
- Make sure you meet in a place where your cat has room to get out of reach from the dog and feel safe – underneath a piece of furniture or on top of a couch, etc.
- Sometimes the cat may give the dog a pop on the nose with a paw or hiss as a warning. This is normal - don’t discourage it. These actions will help them set up boundaries and establish a working relationship.
- Continue the intro for about 30 minutes, keeping your foster dog on leash in case you have to restrain her.
- When complete, return the cat back to its safe haven and give the dog lots of praise and a treat.

After the first successful intro:
Increase the amount of time they are together each session. It is important to be patient and encouraging in their interactions. If you are relaxed, they will be more at ease. Always praise friendly behavior profusely.

Don’t rush the introduction or force them to interact more than either is willing. Pressing them to accept each other will only slow down the adjustment process. You should use your best judgment as to when they can interact with the dog off-leash. Observe their interactions carefully.

Warning Signs:
A dog that is showing overt aggression, such as snarling, growling, or baring teeth, will probably never accept a cat. If there is any aggression, the foster dog is probably not the right fit for your home - please contact the behavior department immediately.
Child Introductions:
As a general rule, children under 16 year of age should not be left alone and unsupervised with a foster dog. Here are some best practices:

- Talk to your children about the new dog. How can we help him or her feel comfortable? How would your children like to be part of the process?
- Discuss why you should avoid rushing to greet the dog (this can be very overwhelming) when they first meet and allow the dog to move at his or her own pace.
- Dogs do not enjoy hugs the same way humans do. Instead encourage children to pet a dog from “collar to rump” to avoid hugging.
- Rule of thumb: do not allow children to behave with the foster dog in a manner you would not want the child to behave with a younger sibling.
- Teach children to leave a dog alone when she is eating, chewing, and sleeping.
- Never allow a child to remove a toy or any other “prized” possession from a dog. Children can relate to how this feels and shouldn’t be allowed to do it.
- Remind children that senior dogs may be more fragile and to be gentle.
- If a dog jumps up on a child, instruct them to stand still “like a tree” with arms down at the side. Turn slowly to avoid the dog’s face. This will help a dog lose interest.

Promote a Pet Inspiration
Jake meets Jake! Jake attended our JHS summer camp for children and met a dog with his same name. Jake the dog was a favorite among the campers but struggling to gain the attention of adopters. After spending the week at camp, Jake the boy asked his mom if they could foster Jake the dog. Mom agreed and their work helped us learn even more about Jake the dog to find him a loving family.

Here’s a video to help kids understand the best way to interact with dogs: https://bit.ly/2vyT2Wr

Don’t forget to access the JHS Pet Behavior Library for even more tips: jaxhumane.org/behavior
BASIC PAP DOG CARE

Exercise

Exercise is essential for all dogs, senior or otherwise. JHS recommends walking your foster dog three times per day so she stays in great shape. It will benefit your dog’s lungs, heart, digestion and joints to have daily exercise and you can benefit, too! Every dog is different in the way she ages and the exercise she can handle. Watch your foster dog for over exertion. Heavy panting without recovery, drooping head and tail or coughing can be signs of over exertion. Some older dogs love going outdoors even though they can no longer walk as well as they once did. Getting them out is important for their mental and emotional health as well as their physical well-being. It is also a great way to promote your pet for adoption!

Leash Walking

Your PAP comes with a leash, collar, or harness. (Harnesses come in many different styles to address different leash behaviors by the dog.) JHS recommends using the “six foot rule” when walking your dog. This means leaving at least six feet between your dog and any other dog you meet. This keeps handlers and dogs safe from possible conflicts and reduces the transmission of diseases.

This rule can be challenging, as many dog parents encourage their dogs to greet new dogs while walking. However, nose-to-nose greetings can be stressful for many dogs, as dogs typically greet each other from an angle. One simple way to avoid an oncoming dog is to just cross the street, or start to walk in a wide semicircle around the oncoming dog.

Most people recognize that this is a sign that you don’t want your dogs to meet. If this is not possible, you can announce to the oncoming walker that you are walking a foster dog and you would prefer that the dogs do not greet each other. Sometimes it is impossible to avoid another dog, so just stay calm, walk between your foster dog and the oncoming dog, and move past quickly.
BEHAVIOR AND TRAINING

Basic Training Tips:

• Short, five-minute training sessions several times per day are more effective than longer periods of training all at once. Dogs will tire out, both physically and mentally, if you try to do too much.

• A positive reward can be anything your foster dog really responds to. This could be treats, special toys, praise, affection or a game she really loves. Each dog is different. It is important to find the treat that your foster dog responds to best, as this will be the best motivator.

• Be consistent with your terminology. If you are teaching your foster dog to sit, always use the same command. If you say “sit,” “please have a seat,” “sit down,” etc., you will confuse the dog and she won’t know how to respond.

• Use a sound like “uh uh” or “tsk tsk” instead of saying “no.” The canine mother would use this type of sound to correct her pup. Only use “no” for very serious matters. If it is overused, the dog will no longer respond.

• What might hardly get one dog’s attention might be overwhelming and terrifying to another. Be sensitive to each dog’s temperament and find the best way to get their attention in order to redirect them away from undesirable behaviors without seeming frightening or threatening.

• Be patient and calm. Dogs respond to your tone of voice and facial expressions as well as your emotions. Dogs were once predators and can read your body language quickly.

• Never lose your temper with a dog or strike her. We want to create and support a harmonious canine/human relationship.

House Training:

For the first couple of weeks, a new dog of any age should be supervised when he has the full (or even partial) run of the house. During those times when you cannot supervise him, it is wise to restrict the movement of a new animal during the house-training phase. You can potty train your dog by using a crate. Or, for limited periods of time, you can confine the dog to a small, easy-to-clean room, like the bathroom, equipped with a child gate.

Your dog should consider this space a safe place, so add the dog’s bed, water and things to chew on to create a comfortable den. The dog should be fed in this space as well. To keep this space safe, make sure that nothing that would cause her discomfort happens here and keep children out of this area.

Set up a daily schedule where you walk your dog on lead (or carry her) to the desired elimination spot after meals, after naps, and every couple of hours in between. To reinforce that the trip has a purpose, you should not play with the dog during trips to eliminate. Use a word or phrase (like “do your business”) to remind the dog of her duty. As soon as she has produced, praise her lavishly and give her a treat.

If an “accident” happens and you catch the dog in the act, stop him and escort him to the correct spot. Praise him if he stops eliminating when you ask him to. Be sure not to yell when you catch him in the act because this can cause him to discontinue
eliminating in front of you, thus prolonging the potty-training process. If you find the results of an accident after it’s happened, again, do not punish the dog, since punishment could make him afraid to eliminate in your presence. It’s more effective to clean up the mess and put it in the designated elimination spot, so the smell will help your dog recognize that this is where to go.

To clean up accidents, use an enzymatic cleaner. Urine contains pheromones, chemical markers that say essentially, “Go potty here.” Only enzymatic cleaners break down the pheromones, which keeps dogs from sniffing out and using the inappropriate potty area.

**Crate Training:**

**Method 1: Food Lures and Puzzles**

Step 1: Place a few treats in the rear of the crate and leave the crate door open. When the dog is freely going in and out of the crate, go to Step 2.

*Tip*: If he needs more encouragement, drop a trail of treats leading into the crate.

If the dog won’t enter the crate for any treats, proceed to Method 2 below.

Step 2: In one motion, point to the crate and toss a treat from your pointing hand into the crate so that the dog goes into the crate to get it. Practice this 10 times and then go to Step 3.

Step 3: Do the same pointing motion, but this time don’t toss a treat from that hand. If the dog goes into the crate, praise him and give him a treat from your other (non-pointing) hand. Practice this 10 times.

*Tip*: If he doesn’t go in when you merely point, go back and repeat Step 2.

Step 4: Standing next to the crate, say “crate” and then make the pointing motion to the crate. When the dog enters, praise him and give treats from the non-pointing hand. Practice this 10 times.

Step 5: Standing next to the crate, say “crate” and don’t make the pointing motion. Wait for the dog to go into the crate for the verbal cue only. Practice this 10 times. When the dog is going into his crate for the “crate” cue only, go to Step 6.

*Tip*: If he doesn’t go in for the “crate” cue only, make the pointing motion to the crate. Keep working with him this way until you see that he’s starting to go in for the “crate” cue only and isn’t waiting for the pointing motion.

Step 6: When the dog enters the crate, briefly shut the door, then toss an extra-special treat (EST) into the crate. When the dog has finished eating it, toss another EST into the crate, open the door, and allow the dog to exit.

Step 7: Gradually increase the time that the dog is in the crate with the door closed. The easiest way to accomplish this is by giving the dog a food puzzle or frozen, stuffed Kong to occupy him while he’s in the crate. Always use an EST to reward the dog for
going into the crate and right before coming out of the crate. When the dog can spend 15 minutes in the crate, go to Step 8.

Step 8: While the dog is in the crate, begin leaving the room for short periods. As in Step 7, give the dog a frozen Kong or food puzzle. You can also add a favorite toy or two to the crate, as well as blankets or other comfort items. Increase the amount of time until the dog can spend 30 minutes comfortably in the crate without someone there.

Method 2: Feeding Meals in the Crate

Step 1: Begin by placing the dog’s meal in a bowl as near to the crate as he will go.

Step 2: Gradually move the bowl closer to the crate over the course of a few meals.

Step 3: When the dog is relaxed about eating near the crate, begin placing the meal just inside the crate.

Step 4: Gradually move the meal toward the back of the crate.

Step 5: When the dog is entering the crate with his entire body, proceed to Step 1 of Method 1.

Please be patient with your PAP; this is all new for them too!

Contact the Behavior Department for any help, question or concerns: behavior@jaxhumane.org or 904.493.4586.
The Adoption Process
Promoting Your PAP Dog:

The goal of the foster program is to get your foster pet adopted. We rely heavily on PAP families to help promote their dogs. You should get in the habit of walking your PAP dog while wearing an “adopt me” vest. This is a great way to advertise your dog and invites passers-by to talk with you. You know your foster dog better than anyone else; help us tell the world what makes your foster dog so special! When she does something extremely cute, send a write-up to the behavior department and we can add it to their online profile!

Other things you can do to promote your dog include using social media and flyers. Do you use Facebook? Post your foster dog’s profile for all of your friends to see. One friend may tell another friend and ... voilà, you’ve found a home! Also, feel free to post flyers at your workplace, your child’s school, the local coffee shop, or wherever might be appropriate.

Don’t forget about other social networks – Instagram, Next Door, Imgur, Twitter, etc.

Why not send all your co-workers an email? Don’t be afraid of Craigslist – it is a place that many families turn to when looking for pets.

Maddie’s Fund has a GREAT resource for fosters in our PAP program. Download the information by using this link: https://bit.ly/2vNPpit

These local Facebook groups will help with promoting:

Jacksonville FL Pets Needing Homes
Jacksonville Foster Pet Showcase
JHS Fosters
Taking Photos and Making Posts about your PAP
Here are some great tips to take the best photos to get your PAP adopted!

- Try to use natural light
- Turn off the flash
- Try to catch them in a candid moment – doing something funny or cute!

When you are posting on social media you want to keep it funny, positive, and light!

- Talk about why your PAP is special
- Don’t focus on your PAP’s past – focus on their new future
- Have a funny story about your PAP? Share it!
- Ask people to email behavior@jaxhumane.org for adoption info.

HeartsSpeak.org/edu has an excellent tool kit for helping to write biographies!

When You Find a Family:

1. When someone is interested in meeting your PAP, they will email the JHS Behavior Team. The staff will review the information to approve it.
2. Upon approval, the JHS staff will forward the email to you. Please reply within 24 hours – JHS provides excellent customer service and as our team member, we know we can trust you to do the same.
3. Schedule a meet and greet at your convenience. You may choose to meet the adopter in your home, their home, at a neutral location or you can meet at JHS in the play yards.
4. After the meet and greet, reach out to us to finalize the adoption or discuss further.
5. JHS will send you a digital copy of the adoption agreement. Please have the new adopter sign it and collect any fees. Then return the paperwork and fees to JHS.
6. Celebrate and then get a new PAP!

We will check in with the new family after we receive their adoption agreement.

Contact:

Please contact our behavior department if you need assistance at any time during your PAP journey: behavior@jaxhumane.org or 904.493.4586.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: How long are dogs in PAP homes?
A1: Each foster dog is different. We ask that you do a minimum of 30 days. The more you promote your dog and work with her to resolve any issues she might have, the quicker she will be adopted!

Q2: Can I adopt my PAP dog?
A2: Yes! Some foster families are looking for a foster-to-adopt arrangement, where their ultimate goal is to adopt, but they want to “try out” the dog first by fostering. Often foster families fall in love with their foster dog and decide they want to keep her.

Q3: What if I need to go out of town?
A3: If you are planning a trip, please first post in our Facebook group – JHS Fosters – and see if anyone can help. If not we can take them back at JHS. Please inform us at least two weeks in advance; the more notice you are able to give us the better!

Q4: If I have my own animals, can I foster dogs?
A4: Yes! However, keep in mind that it is important to introduce your animals to your foster dog slowly and appropriately. Please see the specific sections above for more information on introducing your foster to your own cats and dogs.

Q5: What supplies do I need to foster?
A5: JHS can provide any supplies that you need, including dog beds, food and water bowls, leashes, and collars. You need to provide space, basic training, exercise, and love!

Q6: Do I need to have prior medical knowledge or dog experience to foster a dog?
A6: No. Of course any previous experience will be of help, but it isn’t required. If your PAP dog is undergoing medical treatment, you may be asked to dispense medicine to your foster dog so you will have to be comfortable following a veterinarian’s instructions.

Q7: Can I take my dog to an off-leash dog park for exercise and socialization?
A7: Many of our dogs are social but dog parks can be unpredictable and overwhelming. Please get permission from the behavior team to take your PAP to the dog park.

Contact:
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