

Foster Parent Handbook

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Fostering a dog is not a lifetime commitment. It's a commitment to save a life.

Foster Parents who have so generously volunteered to help us accomplish our mission. Teamwork will guarantee our rescue dogs will find forever homes and our volunteers will experience a feeling of satisfaction in helping the dogs become cherished and loved pets in wonderful families.

Please contact us with any of your questions, concerns or if you need help.

Linda Gillespie President/CEO 817 3070373 Brenda Argraves

Treasurer/Photographer 817 308 4765

Rachel Addison
Adoption Coordinator
940 210 1530

Pitty Maeven
Secretary/Media
817 229 2468

WELCOME TO CHEWY'S HOPE FOSTER PROGRAM

Foster families provide a safe loving home until the dog can find his or her forever home. The number of animals we can save depends entirely on the number of people who open their homes and hearts to foster them.

Why Foster?

Because we need to be able to pull dogs from the shelter and put them in foster homes for evaluation and extra love while they wait for their forever family. The only way that we can save these animals is with the help of foster homes. Young puppies need to stay in foster until they are old enough to be spayed and neutered, at which time they are ready for adoption. Older pets who are ill or injured may need to stay in foster care until they are well enough for adoption.



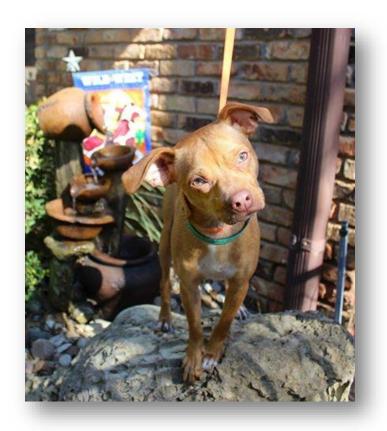
Being a foster family has rewards beyond the essential value of helping a dog in need. For some, it is a chance to have an animal companion without a lifetime commitment, or to try new companions for an existing pet. For others, it is the special challenge of helping an animal recover from an illness or injury, the trauma of losing a beloved owner or home, or to overcome a behavioral issue.

CHEWY'S HOPE foster home program is a great way to help animals in need. By providing an animal a temporary home, the fosterer has given that animal another chance at life that he/she otherwise would not have had. The foster person's job is not an easy one. Dogs may need to be housebroken or have separation anxiety issues Depending on the animal and time of the year, it could take anywhere from a couple of days to many months to find a new home for your foster animal.

A Foster Coordinator is the person who takes the lead in this program and will follow up with you to provide you with more info about the Foster Program and answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to sign a Foster Agreement before getting started. This Agreement clarifies what you can expect from **CHEWY'S HOPE** and what **CHEWY'S HOPE** can expect from you.

We look forward to having you join the CHEWY'S HOPE family!

HOW LONG CAN I EXPECT TO FOSTER A PET?



Since CHEWY'S HOPE has adoption protocols to insure the best placement for our dogs the time varies. We have found these procedures very successful and have a near zero return rate. Most fosters will keep an animal for a few weeks up to a month on average. However, some commitments may last longer than a few months. Some pets need more time because of inquiries, age, illness, injury, or behavior issues. However, times may vary and we will work with the foster parents if longer term fostering is

We also have a very short term foster program, a weekend and/or two week

period to give our fosters a short break for traveling, emergencies and vacations. **CHEWY'S HOPE** has a need for both short-term and long-term fosters. To help you decide which is better for you, below is a short definition of each.

needed.

SHORT-TERM FOSTER:

- A short-term foster either has no dogs or has dogs who are up to date on vaccinations. spayed/neutered and heartworm negative on prevention. The short-term foster usually fosters a dog for no more than 2 months.
- AND can quarantine dogs we have just saved since we don't really know if they have any illnesses that would be communicable to other dogs.
- OR can help with a dog who needs to recover from a medical issue,
- OR foster a dog while its primary foster is out of town,
- **W** OR take an owner surrender that we know is healthy and up-to-date on shots.

LONG-TERM FOSTER: (The long-term foster fosters a dog until it is adopted.)

- A long-term foster either has no dogs or has dogs who are up to date on vaccinations and heartworm negative on prevention. The long term foster usually fosters a dog until it is adopted. That may range from a few weeks to a few months.
- AND can quarantine dogs we have just saved since we don't really know if they have any illnesses that would be communicable to other dogs.
- AND/OR is a senior;
- AND/OR for other reasons as needed for an extended period of time.

RESPONSIBLITIES

Foster Family

- **Provide** a safe, clean, caring environment
- Provide exercise and socialization as appropriate
- Monitor any medical and/or behavioral problems and keep records.
- Make arrangements to get dog microchipped with staff.
- Transport to/from any necessary vet appointments
- Transport to/from offsite adoption event
- And, during the adoption process work in conjunction with the Adoption Chairman.
- Provide basic training in housebreaking and positive training for basic commands. And, crate training.
- Contact the Foster Coordinator with any problems or questions.
- **T**ake advantage of the Foster Workshops provided by **CHEWY'S HOPE**.

CHEWY'S HOPE

- Will provide food and veterinarian care to include Vaccinations, deworming, defleaing, heartworm prevention.
- When available, crates or pens may be loaned to foster with the understanding that they will be returned to the rescue after dog(s) are adopted.
- Veterinarian appointments must be approved by CHEWY'S HOPE before treatment is provided.
- * If additional supplies are needed by the Foster, CHEWY'S HOPE will do their best to provide them.
- Will provide workshops for continuing education in health and training to help fosters families.
- ₩ Will schedule playdates and socialization adventures for foster dogs and puppies.
- Will provide microchip for identification.

CHEWY'S HOPE does not allow the use of prong collars or e-collars on Chewy's Hope foster dogs and encourages the use of positive training techniques.

CHEWY'S HOPE will offer you help in training, behavior evaluation, and address your specific concerns from our staff and occasionally workshops with canine professionals. *Help is just a phone call away*.

CHEWY'S HOPE encourages foster parents to help in the re-homing process by sharing photos, attending offsite adoption locations and accompanying the Adoption Coordinator on Home Visits.

CHEWY'S HOPE makes the final decision on which dogs enter the foster program. The Rescue concentrates on saving the lives of adoptable Texas shelter dogs, specifically, but not limited to, Wise County dogs.

CHEWY'S HOPE maintains a data base for our dogs on www.Trackabeast.com. We encourage fosters to help keep that information up to date for us to be ready as soon as an application comes in for your dog. Your ID is your name and your password is "foster". CHEWY'S HOPE requires that during transport, dogs are restrained either in a crate or with a tether. We learned the hard way with the tragic loss of a unrestrained dog who jumped out of a car.

WHAT IS YOUR FOSTER PLAN?

- W Understanding the impact on your family.
 - **Solution** Fostering is 24/7.
 - Does fostering fit into your lifestyle and commitments to family activities, medical issues, time restraints, and children?
- Do you have partner/spousal support?
 - Spousal support is very important
 - **★** Have you agreed on expectations?
- Are your children ready?
 - ★ Have your children been taught how to act around dogs
 - Are they prepared to so say good by when the time comes?
- **W** What is the impact on your personal pets?
 - ☼ Does introducing a new dog into your constellation of pets have a negative effect on your own pack or other pets? Cats? Birds? Pocket pets?
 - Are you prepared to handle these changes if they occur?
- ***** Exposure to disease
 - Are you up to date on your dogs' vaccinations and heartworm status?
- Injury due to fighting
 - Disagreements between pets can occur.
 - **A** Can you handle them?
- Impact on your pack order
 - Sometimes, the introduction of another dog will affect your pack's hierarchy, structure, leadership roles through different personalities, lack of training and socializing.
 - * Are you ready to be a referee occasionally?
- Division of your attention
 - With another dog in the house, your attention will be divided for your children, spouse and pets.
 - **A** Can you share yourself?
- What type of foster dog are you able to introduce in your house?
 - **W** Weaned Puppies
 - Mom & Puppies
 - **☆** Adult male/female dogs.
 - Medical fosters who need specialized care and rehab.
 - Seniors Dogs going through medical treatment and need some extra TLC
 - **\rightarrow** Dogs that can be the only pet in the house.
 - **Specific** breeds.
- What are the limits you can set to avoid over extending yourself?



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



An eye-catching photo can literally mean the difference between your foster dog being a short term foster and long term foster because of how they look in the media.

We have found that great photos capturing happy dogs are invaluable in presenting the dog to the public and getting your foster dog that perfect forever home. Brenda Argraves is our photographer for set up photo shoots where

you can bring your dogs for a professional media pictures. She also has some suggestions for taking pictures of your own.



UNIQUE ANGLES

Unique angles when taking photos can sometimes jump off the page at potential adopters. Don't be afraid to squat or lay on the ground to get those unforgettable photos



SUN AND GLARE



One of these photos was taken in bright mid-day sun. Notice the dogs eye's squinting and the dark shadows that are almost distracting. Since she is white the sun makes harsh highlights as well.



This photo is taken in the shade at the very same time of day. No squinting and her white highlights are not so harsh. The shadow on the ground does not distract your eyes from the main focal point.

VISUAL DISTRACTIONS

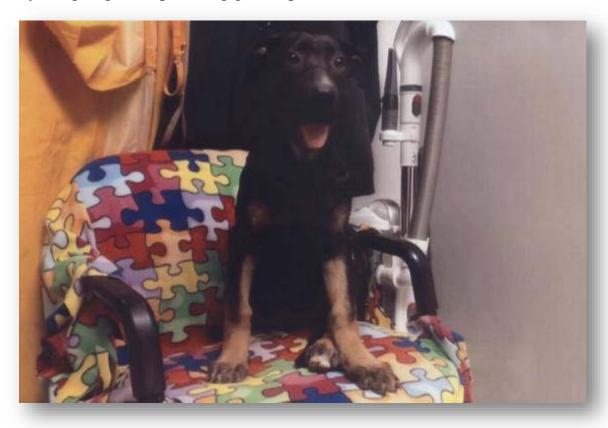


This photo was taken with too many distractions behind the dogs head.



Same dog just moved down away from the background distraction makes the dog the focal point of the photo.

This is another example of the dog being lost in the photo. The bright busy colors and pattern of the blanket and the clutter in the background make the little dog disappear. Definitely not going to help the dog get adopted.



BLACK AND LIGHT

This is an example of the difference in a black dog and a lighter colored dog. They are in the photo side by side in the shade but the black dog almost disappears. Black dogs photograph better in the early morning sun or late afternoon when the sun is setting. They are by far the hardest to get good pictures of.





Another great example of how a black dog disappears in the shade. If the photographer would have put the brown and white dog on the other end and the black dogs in the sun it would have been more balanced. Also would have been good to get them all out in the sun as long as it wasn't the bright part of the day. A reflecting sunlight on a black dog helps catch all the blues and greens in their fur instead of just being black!

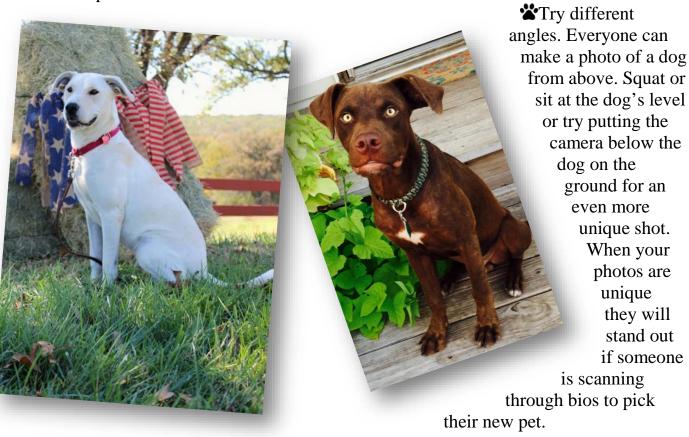
REMEMBER

- Always photograph dogs outside if at all possible. Shoot in shade if it's bright and sunny. The best time of day is early morning or late afternoon.
- Allow them to explore their surroundings for several minutes before diving into your photography. Only start once they have sufficiently explored their immediate area. You can't blame them for wanting to explore!
- Talk sweetly and cheerfully to dogs while photographing them. Think over-the-top cheerful. You want to get them from "I'm in doggie jail" mindset to "I'm having fun, this person likes me" mindset. This takes some energy on your part and your voice is a very powerful tool here.

- * Keep talking to the pets the entire time. This will help them connect with you and trust you, and also help them relax, so you can get those elusive 'ears up and forward' looks, and maybe even get a smile from a dog. A squeaky toy or a good buzzing noise gets great results when trying to get the dogs attention. Only buzz or Squeak when you are prepared to snap that photo. Too many squeaks and they get bored quickly.
- Look for unique and unusual backdrops.
- Also look for as natural an environment as possible. Greenery, plants, flowers, trees all help to 'sell' an image because the dogs look like they are in a natural setting.
- Keep the background pretty simple as you want the focus to be on the pet, not the background. Try not to get any distracting elements in the shot (garbage cans, cars, fences, etc.)

☆ Don't use flash. Get the best images, in the least amount of light, with the most focus on the pet.





TIPS FOR WRITING EFFECTIVE PROFILES

The online profile is the primary way the public will get to know your dogs. Profiles need to convey important points of information about each individual dog and grab the public's imaginations and especially their hearts. So we really like our foster parents to write these because they know the dog the best.

- When you get to know each dog as an individual, you'll be able to write adoption descriptions that make them stand out. Instead of saying "Scooter is a nice boy who loves people," say "Scooter knows how to work a crowd! At a recent adoption event, he showed off his training by sitting and giving high-fives to everyone he met!"
- Avoid language that might scare kids, such as: time is running out or death row. Avoid graphic details of abuse.
- Choosing a pet is a happy time. Create write ups that get readers excited and motivated to contact the rescue to find out more.
- Stay focused on the positive. A dog's profile is a chance to pique the interest of potential adopters and helps them imagine that dog as a part of their family.
- Being positive doesn't mean you have to hide the truth. If a dog needs special care it should be included, but leave this to the end of their bio. At this early stage of communication, let your readers know the basics. Include that this dog will benefit from a special person's love and care. You'll have plenty of time to address their specific issues during adoption counseling.
- Describe each dog as an individual, not according to stereotypes and generalizations based on how they look or how they are labeled.
- Don't write a profile based on guesses. Instead, focus on what you know about the dog, now that he is in your care.
- Don't spend too much time on the physical description of the dog. Their photos will show readers what they look like.
- Leave impersonal, factual details for the end. Knowing a dog has had its vaccinations, is neutered, or has had flea treatments is important, but it should never be the focus of a profile.
- Always end each profile with action steps, so that interested adopters know exactly what to do next to meet the dogs or how they can donate.
- Consider writing it from the dog's point of view in first person.

Hi. I'm Deena. I'm very laid back and mellow. Gentle is my middle name and I love to nap in laps or next to you on the couch. I'm completely house trained and I like to sleep in my kennel at night with the door open. A home without kitties is best for me because I get too excited and want to chase them. I prefer a family with older children or maybe a retired couple. If you'd like a cute little 17lb. companion, contact the rescue. I'll be waiting!

MEET OUR VETERINARIANS

BOYD VETERINARIAN CLINIC 909 E Rock Island Ave Boyd, Texas (940) 433-5985



PET HEALTH CENTER 1879 N Highway 287 Decatur, Texas (940) 627-8387



TARA ANIMAL HOSPITAL 611 Cheek-Sparger Road Collevville, TX 76034 Phone: 817-656-3300

MASIE'S MISSION **307 Main St. Ste 135** Frisco, Texas, TX 75034 214-436-4591





CHEWY'S HOPE is fortunate to have two veterinarian clinics that generously help us with the medical needs of our dogs. From routine vaccinations and spay/neuter services to evaluation and treatment of more serious conditions and surgeries, they have kindly provided at reduced prices. So all veterinary work is handled by these two vets unless otherwise arranged by the Linda Gillespie.

CHEWY'S HOPE maintains a holistic approach to compliment veterinary treatment. With the guidance of LaVonna Gates, Linda Gillespie has developed the following protocols to boost dogs' immune systems, supportive care for kennel cough and to supplement treatment for distemper. If you have any questions please contact Linda.

Immune Builders

DOSAGE

Yellow Powder

Colostrum Powder - 2 tbsp per day in food Small dogs - 1/2 tsp large dogs - 1 tsp Flaxseed 1 tbsp. per day

Distemper

Immunoregulin Day 1 Day 3 Day 7 Day 14 Day 21

about 2 tsp twice a day Colostrum Yellow Powder 1/2 tsp twice a day has instructions DistempAid Derma Nerve has instructions Omega 3 1 twice a day Flaxseed 1 tbsps. twice a day

Kennel Cough

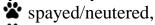
Fenugreek and Thyme 2 capsules per day Doxycycline 2 capsules per day

Colloidal Silver spray in eyes for goopy eyes If F & T doesn't seem to be helping in one or two days or there is a nasal discharge or goopy eyes, contact Linda or Pitty to start Immunoregulin shots. Breathing treatments may also be called for at this stage. Foster will be shown how to administer the treatments.

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

Adoptable CHEWY'S HOPE dogs are fully vetted and health guaranteed. We let adopters know they have been fostered in homes where they receive personal attention and evaluation of their temperaments. And, we depend on our foster parents to provide us important information about the temperament, habits and needs of their dogs to help their new owners make informed decisions.

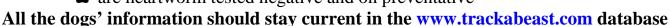
As dogs come in, they are listed in the Available Soon Album on CHEWY'S HOPE website and Facebook with a bio folio with pics and basic information and a profile written by their foster parent who knows them best. They are moved into the Available Albums and PetfinderTM and can attend adoption events only when they are



w up to date on vaccinations,

are microchipped,

are heartworm tested negative and on preventative



Our Adoption Coordinator, Rachael Addison, receives the ADOPTION APPLICATIONS and evaluates the suitability of the applicant based on the following criteria.

The application being filled out completely

The results of contacting the references both veterinarian and personal

Adequate veterinarian care of current pets in the home.

Adequate fencing

Pet owning history

Phone interview with the potential adopter

All applicants are treated equally. **CHEWY'S HOPE'S** intent is to find the most suitable home for our dogs and will not give preference to an application just because it is an acquaintance or family member.

After the Adoption Coordinator completes the review of the applicant and decides who meets our adoption criteria. Rachael Addison contacts the potential new owner for a home



visit to interview the entire family and to introduce the **CHEWY'S HOPE** dog to other pets to see how everyone gets along. Taking the lead from the Coordinator, the foster parent may or may not be an integral part of this phase and has the opportunity to gauge the success of the placement based on their knowledge and experience with their foster dog.

If the "fit" looks good, the adopter fills out a contract. Fees are collected and the CHEWY'S HOPE dog stays in their new home. Photos are taken of the new family and they are encouraged to keep **CHEWY'S HOPE** updated with photos of activities and milestones.

Because **CHEWY'S HOPE** feels it's important to be supportive of the adoption process for both the new owner and the dog, Post-Adoption contacts are maintained to assure the newly adopted pet is working out in their new home and that contractual criteria are being met. **CHEWY'S HOPE** provides help to the new owner who may need assistance or has questions. We encourage the new owner and foster parent to stay in touch and can setup a group text on Facebook®. This has worked very well in the past.

We are committed to matching the right dog to the right family so they will share many happy years together.





☐ Short Term ☐ Long Term ☐ Either

Dog Foster Application

Thank you for you	our interest in fostering dogs for CHEWY'S HOPE. Date of Application
	follow these instructions carefully:
	tions on the application must be answered completely or your application will not be processed. If a
question	n does not pertain to you, please respond with N/A.
	we may contact you via email, please be sure your email address is recorded correctly.
	tend to share fostering responsibilities with someone else, that person must be listed as Co-
•	nt, their contact information must be listed, and they are required to fill out both Co-Applicant
sections	of this Application.
Where did you h	reserves the right to refuse placement of any animal for any reason. near about CHEWY'S HOPE?
	y spoken with a member of the Foster Team regarding fostering a CHEWY'S HOPE dog? If yes, with peak? \(\bigcap \) No \(\bigcap \) Yes
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	
	has a need for both short-term and long-term fosters. To help you decide which is better for you, definition of each.
	OSTER: A short-term foster either has no dogs or has dogs who are up to date on vaccinations and
	rention. The short-term foster usually fosters a dog for no more than 2 months of a quarantine
period .	
1. AND car	foster dogs we have just saved from a kill shelter (we don't really know if they have any illnesses
that wo	uld be communicable to other dogs
2. OR can	
a.	help with a dog who needs to recover from a medical issue,
b.	foster a dog while its primary foster is out of town,
c.	take an owner surrender that we know is healthy and up-to-date on shots.
LONG-TERM FO	STER: (The long-term foster fosters a dog until it is adopted.)A long-term foster either has no dogs
or has dogs who	are up to date on vaccinations and heartworm prevention and will foster a dog that has
 been at 	the shelter for an extended period of time;
1. AND/OF	is a senior;
2. AND/OF	for other reasons as needed for an extended period of time.
Are vou interest	ed in short-term or long-term fostering?

APPLICANT INFORMATION:
First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Street Address:
City:
State:
Zip: What is the nearest major intersection to your home?
How long have you lived at your current address?
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Cell Phone:
Email:
Age:
If we have questions on your application and need to contact you by phone, what is the best contact number and best time to reach you?
CO-APPLICANT INFORMATION: If dog will be fostered by two people, co-applicant must complete this section.
First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Street Address (if different than above):
City: State: Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Age:
What is your relationship?

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION: How many people, including children, reside in your home? Click here to enter text. Please list each individual's name, age and relationship to you.
Name Age Relationship
Person 1:
Person 2:
Person 3:
Person 4:
Person 5:
Person 6:
Person 7:
Person 8: Why do you want to become a dog foster instead of a dog parent?
willy do you want to become a dog loster instead of a dog parent:
Does everyone living in your home know about and agree with your decision to foster a dog? If not, what are the
concerns?
Does anyone in your home have a dog allergy? If yes, what precautions are taken?
In what style home do you live?
Is your yard completely fenced in?
Is your yard completely fenced in? YES NO
Please describe your fence (material, height):

APPLICANT AND CO-APPLICANT CURRENT/PAST PET EXPERIENCE: (Include rescues you have fostered for in the past.)

		BREED AGE	SEX			
Pet 1:						
Pet 2:						
Pet 3:						
Pet 4:						
Pet 5:						
Pet 6:						
Pet 7:						
Pet 8:						
Have each	of your pets	s, both past an	d presen	t, been spay	ed or neuter	ed?
YES I		•	•			
f not, why	•					

Are your dogs current on vaccinations?

NO

YES

Are your dogs on heartworm preventative?

Have you ever surrendered a pet to a shelter?

If yes, please provide as much information as possible about the circumstances, including the name of the shelter and how long ago this happened.

REFERENCES Please list the contact information for any veterinarian you have used for each of your pets referenced above, n matter how long ago and no matter the location. If this will be your first pet, please leave this section blank.
Please list any others who would be able to provide a reference as to your ability to provide foster care for a do i.e. friends who foster, shelter workers, friends in dog related industries.
DISCUSS WHAT TYPE OF DOG YOU ARE ABLE TO FOSTER: What size and type of dog are you able to foster?
Do you have breed or weight restrictions where you live? YES NO If yes, what are the restrictions?
Are there any behaviors you won't tolerate in your foster dog?
What will you do if your foster dog exhibits those behaviors?
If you have a cat, has your cat interacted or lived with a dog before? YES NO

PROVIDING FOR THE FOSTER DOG: Please describe where the dog will be kept when you are home? If "in the house," where in the house.	
Please describe where the dog will be kept while you are at work or gone during the day? If "in the house," when in the house.	re
Please describe where the dog will sleep? If "in the house," where in the house.	
Is someone home during the day? YES NO How many hours each day will the dog be without human companionship? Please list number of hours and explain circumstances.	
Do you have a dog door? YES NO	
Are you willing to have a CHEWY'S HOPE representative come to see where the dog will be living? YES NO	

The foster program requires that you take the dog to our vet. Are you able to take time off work to do that? Our vets are in the Decatur and Boyd Area of Texas.

YES NO

Are you willing to take the foster dog to events and make arrangements to introduce the foster dog to interested parties as requested?

YES NO

Do you have any additional Comments?

While we will make every effort to temperament test each potential foster dog, we may not know the complete history of the animal. We will not accept any obviously aggressive dogs for rescue. CHEWY'S HOPE will not be responsible for any injuries, damages (actual or consequential) or other costs associated with the foster of any animal except for providing food and veterinary care and other necessities deemed essential to the care and feeding of the animal as outlined in the application data sheet attached.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE	 DATE

CHEWY'S HOPE will provide food and veterinarian care to include Vaccinations, deworming, de-fleaing, heartworm prevention. When available, crates or pens may be loaned to foster with the understanding that they will be returned to the rescue after dog(s) are adopted. Veterinarian appointments must be approved by CHEWY'S HOPE before treatment is provided. If additional supplies are needed by the Foster, CHEWY'S HOPE will do their best to provide such supplies upon request.

CHEWY'S HOPE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE PLACEMENT OF ANY ANIMAL FOR ANY REASON. This application may be filled in on line and saved. It can either be electronically submitted to

chewy'shope@yahoo.com. or mailed to: Chewy's Hope PO Box 1134 Boyd, TX 76023

Providing this information about your foster dog for the new owner would be helpful.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

Name:	Sex:	
Breed/Mix		Approx. age:
Origin:		
Foster Parent:Email:	Phone:	
Crating Recommendations:		
Bathroom Signals:		
Favorite Games:		
Basic Commands:		
Dislikes/Fears:		
Current Eating Schedule: • Dog Food:	Amount:_	
Next Health Care Needed: Rabies shot-M/D/Y:		
Heartworm Preventative		
General Health:		
General temperament:		
Any future recommendations:		
Adoption Coordinator:	Phone	::

NOTES