



GREENVILLE COUNTY ANIMAL CARE  
FOSTER CARE GUIDE

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## 1. Welcome to the Greenville County Animal Care foster program!

Thank you for opening your home to a shelter companion animal. Animal Care began its foster care program in order to give shelter animals a chance to grow or heal and eventually find a permanent home. Since its start, our foster care program has saved thousands of dogs and cats that would otherwise have been euthanized if not given a second chance.

## 2. What is the Mission and Vision of Greenville County Animal Care?

Our Mission is to partner with our community to educate and encourage compassionate citizenship, thereby enriching the lives of companion animals and promoting responsible pet guardianship through services designed to reduce pet overpopulation, and increase pet reclamation, retention, and rehoming efforts.

Our Vision is to transform how our community cares for companion pets through affordable, high quality wellness, adoptions, spay-neuter and humane education, resulting in responsible guardianship where animals do not suffer because of human abuse, neglect or ignorance.

## 3. What kinds of animals need foster homes? What is that timeline?

Commitment and responsibilities depend on the situation and animal. Foster parents must be willing to be patient and commit to these animals because our goal is to keep them in a stable and consistent environment. The sooner they feel secure, the sooner they will be healthy, recovered, and adopted.

### **DOG/PUPPY:**

- **Dogs- to find them a new home**
  - *Minimum 2-week commitment*, but are able to foster until the dog finds a home. If the dog is in the foster home for longer than 30 days, the foster team will reach out regarding a plan to move along the process of the dog finding a permanent home. The dog must stay separate from
- **Sick hold dogs- upper respiratory infection**
  - *2-14 day commitment*. The dog must stay completely separate (including contaminated areas of the house and yard) as kennel cough is highly contagious.
- **Doggy Sleepover- can decide to adopt or foster after this short period**
  - *1-3 night commitment*. After the 3rd night the foster must decide to adopt, continue fostering to find them a home, or return the dog to the shelter.
- **Medical dogs/puppies- as needed (recovery from surgery, amputation, crate rest, etc.)**
  - *Undetermined, timeline is on a case-by-case basis*
- **Puppies- bottle baby, weaning, with mom, or sick with upper respiratory**
  - *1 night-8 weeks depending on the situation*. Overnight fosters can even be helpful as some of these pups must leave the shelter by 5pm the day they come in.

### **CAT/KITTEN:**

- **Kittens- bottle baby, weaning, with mom, or sick with upper respiratory**
  - *1 night-8 weeks depending on the situation*. Overnight fosters can even be helpful as some of these kittens must leave the shelter by 5pm the day they come in.
- **Medical cats/kittens- as needed (recovery from surgery, amputation, crate rest, etc.)**
  - *Undetermined, timeline is on a case-by-case basis*

## 4. How do foster pets get adopted?

Foster parents are encouraged to actively promote their foster pet's adoption to friends, family, and other potential adopters. Social media can be a powerful tool to showcase your foster pet's personality and unique traits. Our foster program also offers experienced, trained foster volunteers who can work with you one-on-one to help your foster pet gain exposure to potential adopters.

Adoption processes can vary depending on the type of animal, so we encourage you to discuss a tailored plan for your foster pet with the foster team. Please note that foster animals may need to return to the shelter for spay/neuter surgery, final adoption, or if requested by the foster team at any time.

If an adopter isn't secured during your foster period, you will return your foster pet as scheduled. When doing so, we welcome and encourage foster parents to provide written stories, pictures, or other details to help potential adopters learn more about your foster pet.

## 5. Can foster parents adopt their foster pet?

Yes! Foster parents have their first choice to adopt their foster pet unless otherwise instructed at the time the foster agreement is made between the shelter and foster parent.

## 6. Will my own dog or cat (or my own health) be jeopardized by fostering?

It is always a health risk to expose your animals to other animals with unknown origins and medical histories. At Animal Care 80% or more of the animals that come in are strays and little is known about them.

If the foster parent's own animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young with compromised immune systems, then the health risk is minimal.

If you or someone in your home are immune compromised, check with your doctor first before fostering. Working with animals exposes humans to a group of diseases called zoonoses—a disease that can be transmitted from animals to human and also from humans to animals. There are about 200 of these diseases. Proper hygiene, preventative measures, and an understanding of zoonotic diseases and how they are transmitted can significantly reduce the risk of disease (examples include ringworm, scabies (sarcoptic mange), & some bacterias)

## 7. Are foster pets ever euthanized?

We deeply value the love, time, and energy foster parents devote to the animals in their care and are committed to finding homes for foster pets. However, there are rare situations where a foster pet may become seriously ill, at risk, or behaviorally unsafe.

If a foster pet is deemed unsafe due to aggressive behavior (e.g., attacking another animal or person) or poses a risk to public safety, the foster team may consult with behavioral and medical professionals to evaluate the best course of action. In some cases, this may include humane euthanasia.

Foster parents are encouraged to request their name and phone number be added to the pet's kennel card upon return and ask to be contacted if euthanasia is considered. However, if a staff veterinarian or the Pathway Planning team determines a foster pet is suffering or there are immediate safety concerns, shelter staff will act in the pet's or public's best interest to ensure humane care.

## 8. Where do I keep my foster pet while they are at my home?

### Cats/Kittens

- All foster cats and kittens must be kept indoors. A large crate or a separate room, such as a bathroom or laundry room, is ideal for kittens. A quiet space with supervision is best for adult cats. Unweaned, neonatal kittens should be kept in a smaller crate or carrier with blankets and the heating pad provided by the shelter.

### Dogs

- All foster dogs must be kept indoors. A crate while left unsupervised is recommended. Dogs should be on a leash at all times when outdoors, or in a securely fenced area. Do not take contagious dogs off-leash. Foster parents are responsible for the safety and well-being of their foster dog, and dogs should never be put in situations where they might fight with other dogs.

### Puppies

- All foster puppies must be kept indoors. Suitable spaces include a kitchen with baby gates, a bathroom, or a large crate in a separated room. Puppies under 5 months old should never be taken to off-leash areas (such as dog parks) as they are not fully vaccinated.

## 9. Providing veterinary care:

Routine veterinary care is provided by Animal Care staff and shelter veterinarian during normal business hours. Each new foster pet will receive a vaccination series, deworming as appropriate, a microchip, and any medications prescribed by the shelter veterinarian. Shelter staff cannot issue additional medication without seeing the foster pet. Please do not call for refills or come in without your foster pet if it still needs medication, additional vaccines, etc.

*NOTE: If you are able and prefer to cover the cost of veterinary care for your foster animal with your own veterinarian, please let the Foster Case Managers know. This must be approved prior.*

## 10. After-hours emergency care:

For after-hours medical advice, foster parents can contact Vidaah, our 24-hour telehealth veterinary service, for guidance on medical concerns overnight or on weekends. In the event of an emergency, follow the instructions provided on your foster paperwork through Vidaah regarding whether to seek immediate care or wait until normal business hours.

Please note, Greenville County Animal Care has a policy that **we will not reimburse individuals for veterinary bills for foster animals when care is provided outside of that which is pre-authorized by VIDAAH or the shelter veterinarian.**

## 11. General guidelines for seeking veterinary care:

### **Yellow Flags**

Monitor your foster pet. If no improvement in 24-48 hours, call/text the foster team (if after hours, contact Vidaah)

- Loose stool (#6 or #7 on fecal chart)
- Not gaining weight
- Decreased appetite
- Occasional vomiting
- Mild lethargy
- Excessive sneezing, coughing, eye/nose discharge
- Slight limp (no known trauma or cause)
- Difficulty urinating or defecating
- Crusty eyes that can be cleaned with a wet cloth

### **Red Flags**

Your foster pet needs to come in for an appointment (if after hours, contact Vidaah)

- Liquid diarrhea or diarrhea lasting over a day, or continuous diarrhea coupled with lethargy
- Losing weight
- Not eating or drinking for more than 24 hours
- Frequent vomiting
- Weakness, tremors, falling down, droopy
- Difficulty breathing
- Lameness and/or pain
- Not defecating for 3 days or more, combined with loss of appetite, urine has blood or very dark
- Irritated, inflamed, or unable to open eyes.

## 12. Vaccination & deworming in shelter and foster pets:

Shelter animals are vaccinated upon arrival at the shelter. There are some occasions that a pet cannot be vaccinated (too young, sick on intake, etc.). Pets in foster care will get vaccinated every 2-4 weeks until 4 months of age. We vaccinate for dogs and puppies 3 weeks of age and older with DA2PPV (distemper virus, adenovirus-type 2, Parainfluenza virus, Parvo virus), Bordetella intranasal (kennel cough); dogs and puppies 3 months of age and older will receive Rabies 1 year. We vaccinate cats and kittens 4 weeks of age and older with FVRCP (herpes virus, calicivirus, and Panleukopenia virus) and at 3 months and older they will receive Rabies 1 year.

Shelter and foster pets will be de-wormed with Pyrantel (roundworms and hookworms) once and then every 2 weeks until 8-12 weeks of age.

### 13. Suggested supplies:

The number of foster animals GCAC is able to support is limited by the annual resources available to the program. Foster caregivers are encouraged to donate supplies for their own foster animals in order to maximize the number of animals fostered by GCAC each year. Some supplies, such as crates, blankets, food, collars, and leashes, are available to loan to foster caregivers who require them in order to foster. The following is a list of supplies recommended for the care and maintenance of your foster animals.

- Blankets and towels
- Paper towels and rags
- Puppy pee pads
- Bowls- ceramic or stainless steel are easiest to sanitize
- Crate- a large crate with a divider is useful for different sized dogs and kittens
- Grooming supplies- brushes, combs and flea combs
- Litter boxes and Litter- use unscented, non-clumping clay litter for kittens
- Stain and odor remover- Nature's Miracle works very well
- Toys that can be cleaned and sanitized (rubber, nylon, etc.)
- Bleach/Disinfectant
- Baby gates

### 14. Common illnesses and medical conditions seen in foster animals:

#### **URI**

- Upper Respiratory Infection can infect dogs and cats. Cats cannot give URI to dogs, nor can dogs give it to cats, but it can be spread within the same species. Symptoms include sneezing, coughing, discharge from the nose or eyes, lethargy, loss of appetite and elevated temperature (see – Respiratory Diseases).

#### **Diarrhea**

- Generally, feces should be brown and formed. Diarrhea can be a symptom of many different illnesses and parasites. Diarrhea can also be caused by overfeeding, especially in puppies. If your foster animal develops diarrhea, please contact the foster team for further steps.

#### **Dehydration**

- Animals with diarrhea can quickly become dehydrated. To check for dehydration, pull up gently on the skin at the scruff of the neck. If it bounces back quickly when you let go, hydration is fine. If it does not go back or goes back slowly, your foster animal is dehydrated and needs medical attention quickly.

#### **Fleas**

- Fleas can affect dogs and cats. A foster animal with fleas will be given a general flea treatment called Capstar or a flea bath depending on the severity of the fleas and the age of the animal. Do not use any over the counter flea treatments at all. If you notice fleas within a week of having the animal in your home, contact the foster team. Although we do try to prevent fleas, we recommend that all of your pets be on a flea preventative, which can be provided from the shelter upon request.

#### **Worms**

- If you detect worms in your foster's stool, contact the foster team to plan for treatment. Tapeworms resemble a grain of rice, and roundworms resemble spaghetti.

## 15. Administering medications:

### **Cats (pills)**

If the pill can be given with food, try hiding it in a piece of food. A small amount of tuna or canned food is often used. If your cat will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

- *Prepare:* Have the pill ready and within reach.
- *Calm Approach:* Bring your cat to the designated spot while speaking in a cheerful tone.
- *Wrap If Needed:* Use a towel or blanket to wrap the cat securely, leaving only their head exposed.
- *Positioning:* Place the cat between your knees or at eye level on a table.
- *Hold the Head:* Gently grasp the cat's head from above with your thumb and fingers on either side. Tilt the head back to open the jaw slightly.
- *Open and Place:* Use a finger to open the mouth further, then quickly place the pill over the hump of the tongue.
- *Encourage Swallowing:* Close the mouth, lower the head, and gently rub or blow on the nose.
- *Reassure:* Offer praise, pets, or a treat to end on a positive note.

### **Cats (liquid meds):**

- *Start with the burrito wrap:* wrapping the cat's body and legs tightly in a towel leaving only its head sticking out. Insert the dropper between the cheek and teeth while tilting the chin upward. Slowly dispense the medication, remembering not to give it faster than the cat can swallow. The quicker you do this, the more cooperative the cat will be.
- **Refrigerated medication *MUST* be kept in the refrigerator.**

### **Dogs (pills)**

If the medication can be given with food; the easiest way to give pills is to hide it in a piece of food. A small amount of peanut butter, cheese, canned food or deli meat is often used. If the dog will not take the pill in food or cannot have food with the medication:

- *Prepare:* Have the pill ready and within reach.
- *Calm Approach:* Call your dog with a happy, soothing tone.
- *Positioning:* Back your dog against a surface to prevent escape, or place them on a raised surface with assistance if needed.
- *Hold the Head:* Squeeze behind the upper canines and tilt the head back so the jaw opens slightly.
- *Open and Place:* Use a finger to open the lower jaw, then quickly place the pill over the tongue's hump without reaching too far in.
- *Encourage Swallowing:* Close the mouth, gently rub or blow on the nose, and wait for the dog to swallow.
- *Reassure:* Offer praise, pets, or a treat to end on a positive note.

### **Dogs (liquid meds):**

- Insert the dropper between the upper and lower teeth in the back and tilt the chin upward. Slowly administer the medication while being careful not to go faster than the dog can swallow. Always remember to praise the dog and even offer a treat after the medication. This will make administering medication easier in the future.

### **Dogs and Cats (eye drops and eye ointments):**

- Before administering eye medication, be sure the eye is clear of discharge. You can use warm water on a cotton ball to gently clean around the eyes. Use your thumb and forefinger to open the eyelid. With your other hand, place 1-2 drops (as directed) or a small amount of ointment on the eye or the pink tissue around the eye. The foster animal will blink and the medication will cover the entire eye.
- When applying medication to the eye, try to avoid the animal's direct line of vision when approaching and avoid touching the eye with the container of medication. Make sure you wash your hands before and after administering the medication.

## 16. Care of puppies and kittens:

### **General care:**

- Puppies and kittens are often fostered without their mother. Be observant to ensure no problems arise, as their condition can change quickly.
- Make a list of their names and note any distinguishing markings to track their progress.
- Puppies and kittens will have recheck and vaccine appointments every 2-4 weeks. Kittens can return at 1-1.5 lbs. for foster-to-adopt placement or at 2 lbs. to be spayed/neutered and adopted. Puppies can return once they are 5-6 weeks old for foster-to-adopt placement or at 2lbs. to be spayed/neutered and adopted. Puppies and kittens must be eating, peeing, and pooping on their own in order to return to the shelter.
- Keep foster areas clean, dry, and free of drafts. Puppies/kittens younger than 2-3 weeks cannot regulate their body temperature and can die if chilled.
- Use towels or blankets for bedding and change them daily or as needed.
- Puppies/kittens with a mother should remain separate from other animals in the house, as the mother may become protective.
- Mothers care for their babies' elimination needs by cleaning/licking them. Puppies/kittens begin eliminating on their own around 3 weeks of age.
- Rarely, puppies/kittens may "fade," exhibiting symptoms like weight loss, crying, and lack of mobility. Contact the foster team immediately (VIDAAH after hours) if this occurs.

### **Feeding:**

- Nursing mothers should be fed dry puppy or kitten food mixed with some wet food. Feed them more often and in larger quantities than usual.
- For bottle-fed puppies and kittens (newborn to ~4 weeks old):
- Use a kitten or puppy milk replacer (never cow's milk). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for preparation and feeding frequency.
- Feed them with a bottle or syringe every 2-3 hours (day and night) for the first 1-2 weeks. Gradually increase the time between feedings as they grow.
- Keep them warm during and after feedings, as they cannot regulate their body temperature.
- At 3-4 weeks of age, most puppies and kittens will begin trying to eat on their own:
- Mix ground dry puppy or kitten food with warm water and a small amount of canned food to make a semi-solid mixture.
- Introduce the food by placing a small amount on your finger for them to lick or applying a small amount to their lips. Slightly warming the mixture makes it more appealing.
- Ensure the dish is large enough for the litter to gather around, or use multiple dishes to avoid crowding.
- Remove the mother during feeding times to prevent her from eating their food. Removing her 1-2 hours before feeding stimulates the puppies' and kittens' appetites.
- Feedings should occur at least 2-3 times daily. Multiple smaller meals are ideal to prevent overeating, which can lead to vomiting or diarrhea.
- Monitor closely to ensure every puppy or kitten is eating. If one is being pushed out or not eating enough, provide a separate dish and supervise their feeding.
- Puppies and kittens will continue to nurse occasionally during this transition period.

### **Kitten litter box training:**

\*By about 4 weeks of age, kittens are ready to begin using the litter box.

#### Litter Box Setup:

- Provide a low-sided litter box so kittens can easily climb in and out.
- Use unscented, non-clumping clay litter for young kittens. Ingested clumping litter can cause illness.

**Training Kittens:**

- Start by placing each kitten in the litter box and gently scratching the litter with their paw.
- Repeat this process several times a day for the first couple of days if needed. Kittens typically learn quickly.
- Expect some kittens to taste the litter initially—this is normal.

**Placement and Quantity:**

- Ensure kittens can easily find their litter box by keeping them in a small, confined area, like a bathroom or a small room.
- Provide multiple litter boxes if caring for a larger litter.

**Maintenance:**

- Keep the litter box clean at all times to encourage use.
- Be prepared for messes while kittens are learning. They may step in their excrement and track it around. Keep surfaces clean and covered to maintain hygiene.

**Puppy housetraining:**

- Puppies will start to eliminate on their own at about 3 weeks of age. Puppies need to eliminate when they first wake up, about 20 minutes after eating and after playing vigorously.
- Once puppies have begun to eliminate on their own, outdoor housetraining should begin. If it is necessary to use an indoor elimination location, it should be as small as possible. Keep it consistently covered with something like newspaper or puppy pads. This will help puppies learn to keep elimination in one area and ease housetraining in the new home.

**Puppy behavior:**

- Nipping is a common behavior in puppies. A loud shriek will usually get their attention so you can give them a proper toy to chew.
- Try to start your foster puppies off on the right foot by keeping them off of the furniture, not letting them jump, etc. This will make their transition to a new home easier.
- Puppies should never be left unsupervised outside of their crate.
- A single puppy will cry a lot the first couple of nights. Make the crate as comfortable as possible by providing a blanket and stuffed animal.

**17. Feeding cats:**

- Dry food in an appropriate amount (see label on food bag for daily amount) should be available at all times.
- A serving of canned food can be given once or twice a day.
- Milk should NEVER be given to cats and fresh water should always be available.
- Cats should be fed away from their litter box.

**18. Feeding dogs:**

- Dogs should be fed twice daily at the same time every day.
- The amount of food depends on the dog's age and weight. (see label on food bag for daily amount).
- Give the dog 15-20 minutes to eat the food and then remove it.
- If your foster dog is unwilling to eat plain, dry food, you can mix in some warm water or a SMALL amount of canned food.
- Fresh water should always be available.

## 19. Sanitizing your home between foster pets:

### ***Bedding and toys:***

- Wash bedding in hot water with detergent and bleach.
- Discard any toys with non-washable surfaces.
- Soak washable toys in bleach water (1:32, or 4oz bleach-to-one gallon water ratio) for 20 minutes, then scrub.

### ***Surface disinfection:***

- Clean surfaces of dirt, hair, feces, etc., before applying the bleach solution, as bleach is ineffective on organic matter.
- Disinfect all washable surfaces with the bleach solution (see recommended ratio above).
- Let the bleach solution stay in contact with the surface for at least 10 minutes to be effective.
- Important: Ensure that any bleach residue is completely wiped up and surfaces are dry before allowing animals on them.

### ***Crates, carriers, and bowls:***

- Scrub and disinfect crates, carriers, scoops, food bowls, and litter boxes with the bleach solution.
- Floor and carpet care:
- Vacuum all carpeted areas.
- Clean any soiled areas (urine, feces) immediately with an enzyme cleaner, such as Nature's Miracle Stain and Odor Remover, to prevent residual odor.

### ***Yard maintenance (dogs):***

- Regularly clean up all waste in the yard to minimize the risk of disease spread.

### ***Quarantine periods:***

Sometimes an animal is sent into a home before evidence of a disease has manifested. Quarantine periods are used to allow infectious diseases to die off in the environment. This protects future foster animals from being infected with the virus or disease. Specific quarantine periods before fostering another pet are as follows:

|                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Feline Leukemia/FIV</b>                        | 3 days   |
| <b>Sarcoptic Mange</b>                            | 1 week   |
| <b>FIP or Canine Distemper</b>                    | 3 weeks  |
| <b>Ringworm</b>                                   | 3 months |
| <b>Feline Panleukopenia, or Canine Parvovirus</b> | 6 months |

## 20. More questions?

We hope that you have a wonderful experience fostering a pet for Animal Care. Fostering is not easy and at times it can be overwhelming. Please know that you are not alone! There are experienced foster parents and shelter staff that can help you.

Please text (or call) the foster team at 864-467-3985, or email [fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org) for more information.

## 21. Feedback is appreciated!

Please share your experience fostering with us by filling out any foster surveys sent out after your foster experience, or by emailing [fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org). You may also contact the Shelter Director (Shelly Simmons) by calling 864-467-3953 or emailing [misimmons@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:misimmons@greenvillecounty.org).



## 22. Foster Agreement

**Important notice #1: For unaltered animals; Please read and sign.**

I understand I will receive a spay/neuter appointment for my foster animal. If I miss this appointment and any rescheduled ones, **Greenville County Animal Care may either require the immediate return of the foster or complete the adoption, with all fees billed to me. Under SC law, the penalty for failing to return an animal for alteration is \$250.**

**Important notice #2: For all fosters; Please read and sign.**

Fosters do not own the animal; it remains in the shelter's custody while being housed in a foster home. **Owners have priority to reclaim their pet if it's still in our system, even after the stray hold ends, regardless of pending adoption or foster-to-adopt status.**

**-Do you understand that your pets may be at risk of contracting a disease from a foster pet, especially if not fully vaccinated and kept isolated for a period of two weeks?**

I agree to support the mission of GCAC\* and work positively with staff, volunteers, and the County of Greenville, and to address any concerns constructively and directly with the ASR\* rather than negatively through social media.

**I understand routine vet care is provided by GCAC\*, and I am required to bring my foster pet for necessary care. I will contact the ASR\* or VIDAAH for immediate urgent care and will not arrange elective veterinary procedures without written consent.**

I understand my foster pet may have health or behavioral issues, may not be housebroken, and that GCAC\* will not provide medical care for my personal pets if they become ill due to fostering.

**I understand fostering is temporary, and once the animal is adopted or transferred, it is no longer in foster care. I have no ownership rights over my foster pet; GCAC\* retains ownership during foster care.**

I agree to immediately return my foster animal to GCAC\* at the request of the ASR\* at any time and for any reason, and will not transfer custody to another person unless first approved by the ASR\*.

**If I can no longer provide care, food, or shelter for my foster animal, I will contact the ASR\* to arrange for its return.**

## 22. Foster Agreement cont.

I understand I am required to immediately report any behavioral or health concerns to the ASR\*.

**If I am fostering a dog: In addition to all above statements, I agree to respond to check-ins, handle adoption inquiries, fill out the Dream Home Finder form, provide updated information and photos, and attend Market Meetups or adoption events at least once a month.**

If I am fostering a kitten: In addition to all above statements, I agree to attend vaccine and medical appointments, and report medical concerns immediately due to the pet's fragility. If "Unavailable Foster" I agree to return the pet no later than time of surgery unless first approved.

**I understand that failure to comply with this agreement may result in termination of my fostering and the immediate return of the animal. If I fail to maintain communication, attend appointments, or return my foster when requested, adoption will be finalized in my name and GCAC\* is no longer responsible for the pet. Failure to comply with all above statements may result in the loss of future fostering opportunities.**

This serves as a release and hold harmless agreement as there is no guarantee on a foster animal's health, behavior or actions. I hereby release and hold GCAC\*, Greenville County, and their staff harmless from liability for any claims arising from fostering.

**By signing below, I am requesting permission to become an authorized representative of Greenville County Animal Care and the County of Greenville as a Foster Parent Volunteer. I also acknowledge that I understand the responsibilities and procedures for caring for a foster animal. I agree to work in support of the mission and goals of the organization.**

I have read this Agreement in its entirety, and I agree that all statements and stated agreements contained in this document are made by me, and are truthful, under penalty of perjury under law.

## 23. Foster Behavior Agreement

**At Greenville County Animal Care, we are dedicated to ensuring the well-being and safety of both our foster dogs and the families who open their homes to them. In order to facilitate successful placements, we have specific behavioral guidelines that must be followed. These policies are in place because the average adopter may not be equipped to handle behavioral concerns, and some behaviors can create risks to the safety of both the dog and household members.**

### **Behavioral Eligibility for Foster Homes (please read and sign to confirm your understanding):**

Fosters do not own the animal; it remains in the shelter's custody while being housed in a foster home. If your foster dog is showing any negative behaviors, the foster team needs to be alerted immediately. These behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Negative interactions with other animals: Dogs with a history of negative interactions with other dogs, cats, or animals (including, but not limited to, growling, lunging, snapping, or fighting).
- Negative interactions with people: Dogs that show negative behaviors towards other people (including, but not limited to, growling, lunging, snapping, or biting).
- Resource guarding: Dogs that exhibit any form of resource guarding (including with food, toys, space, people, or any other items).

This behavior eligibility is in place whether it is shown in a foster home, contributes to an adoption return, or is shown in shelter.

### **Why These Policies Exist (please read and sign to confirm your understanding):**

These policies are in place because behaviors like those mentioned above can be difficult for the average adopter to manage, making it harder for these dogs to find permanent homes. Additionally, if left unaddressed, some of these behaviors can pose safety risks to both the dog and the foster family, which is why we take them very seriously. Immediate notification of any concerning behaviors ensures that we can assess the situation and determine the best next steps for the foster dog.

## 23. Foster Behavior Agreement cont.

### **Immediate Action and Responsibility (please read and sign to confirm your understanding):**

If any of the behaviors listed above are observed in a foster dog, you must contact the shelter immediately. This allows us to evaluate the situation and decide whether the dog can remain in the foster program. If necessary, the dog will need to be returned to the shelter as soon as possible for further evaluation. This is not usually a physical evaluation, but rather a team review of all notes, both positive and negative, to determine placement options, as we cannot replicate in-home behavior.

### **Placement Options (please read and sign to confirm your understanding):**

Based on the evaluation of behavioral issues, the following placement options may be considered:

- Behavior Underdog: Available for adoption or rescue placement, but not suitable for foster care.
- Rescue Only: Available for rescue placement only, with no further opportunities for adoption or foster care.
- DNP (Do Not Place): The dog is deemed not safely placeable into any home, rescue, or foster program, and they will be humanely euthanized. These dogs are not available for further placement.

### **Adoption Eligibility (please read and sign to confirm your understanding):**

In most cases, if a dog exhibits behavioral concerns, the foster family may be eligible to adopt the dog if they wish. This is contingent on the severity of the behavior and requires the foster to sign a Release of Liability form acknowledging the potential risks associated with the dog's behavioral challenges. Depending on the severity of the behavior, the adopter may also have the option to rehome the dog or find rescue placement independently, though not through the shelter foster program.