



Recovery Foster Team - Volunteer Expectations

Thank you for your interest in joining the Pearland Parvo Recovery Center (PPRC) Recovery Foster Team! One of PPRC's key objectives is to reduce the spread of Parvo in the community by getting Parvo-positive or exposed dogs out of the shelters. The Recovery Foster Team plays a critical role in this process by providing a safe, home environment where Parvo survivors can recover until they are no longer shedding the virus.

Requirements:

- Completion of Parvo Recovery Foster Team 101 training.
- **The Recovery Team will typically foster Parvo survivors for an average of 2-3 weeks.**
- Recommended: Parvo is highly contagious. Please make sure that your personal dogs are current on their vaccines and boosters

Responsibilities

- Provide a secure, clean, climate-controlled environment for dogs and puppies recovering from Parvo.
- Provide high quality food and water.
- Administer all medications as directed by the PPRC Medical Team for the duration prescribed.
- Notify the PPRC Medical Team promptly with any changes in your foster's physical condition, behavior or diet.
- Socialization (regular and frequent interaction between you and your foster dog).
- Prompt coordination with PPRC to return your foster dog to the original rescue/shelter.

Expectations:

- **Safety, safety, safety!** Keep yourself and the dogs or puppies in your care safe. Know correct holding techniques for loading, unloading and transporting dogs, especially squirmy, frightened or excited dogs.
- **Foster-proof your home and yard.** Before you bring your foster dog home, survey your house and yard for potential dangers or escape routes. You'd be surprised what a determined foster puppy can get into (or out of)! If your foster dog should escape, please call Mona Cabler or Jeanette Savage *immediately* with the dog's name and the location where the dog was last seen.
- **Do not take your foster dog or puppy to public places.** They are still shedding the Parvo virus and could infect another dog.
- **DON'T ASSUME** that your foster animal is:
 - Housebroken
 - Crate, leash or obedience trained
 - Has been around or is good with other animals (dogs and cats)
 - Is comfortable with children or humans
 - Is used to being indoors, climbing stairs, walking through doorways or using elevators
 - Is used to being fed from a bowl
 - 24-48 hours of adjustment is sometimes needed

- **Follow PPRC's Cleaning and Disinfectant Protocols** to prevent the spread of Parvo and other diseases. Thoroughly clean any crates, supplies, floors, etc. between foster dogs. Recovering Parvo patients have weakened immune systems and can be susceptible to other diseases.
- Treat all dogs **with love, compassion, and respect**.
- **Be Reliable**. Try to meet your fostering commitments. If you must refooster your dog, please give PPRC sufficient time to find another foster.
- **Be willing to learn**. If you're unsure about anything or simply don't know, just ask someone! Feel free to text/call any Parvo volunteers.

Supplies

The supplies you need will depend on the age of your foster dog. While most of PPRC's patients are puppies, we also get adults of all sizes. Below is a general list of supplies that you'll need. PPRC may be able to assist you with obtaining some of the supplies.

- A secure area to restrain your foster dog when you are not at home. This can be a crate, exercise pen or small room (such as a bathroom or kitchen) that can be blocked off with a baby gate.
- Food – Puppies up to a year old should be fed puppy food. All foster dogs should be fed a high quality pet food. Be sure to keep your receipts for tax deductions. PPRC can supply food if you should need it.
- Bowls for water and food.
- A soft bed (towels and folded blankets are fine).
- Leash and collar (for older puppies and adult dogs). Please – no retractable leashes.
- Suggested: ID tag for older puppies and adult dogs. Some fosters like to keep a generic tag on hand with their contact information that can be reused.
- Toys
- Pee pads (for puppies)
- Disinfectant (such as Rescue brand)