

Evaluation Item: Housetraining ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

Office Fosters

There's very little that rivals the value of office fosters within the walls of the shelter. Getting a dog into a more "home-like" environment is a great way to start to explore how this dog might be in a home. (Granted, we won't know until the dog is actually in a home, but office fosters are as close as we can get within a shelter!) There are a few activities we can do during an office foster stay that can help us get to know the dog through training the dog.

1. First and foremost, make sure the dog has the opportunity to go outside and use the bathroom before getting to the office.
2. Allow the dog to sniff around the office and explore before asking anything of the dog.
3. If the dog wants attention from you at any point, they need to "sit," or at the very least they need to keep all four paws on the floor. Jumping gets nothing. (Don't spin around away from the dog, as that can look like play to the dog!)
4. If the dog wants to play, or wants more than just some quiet time, the best game in the office is to hang out on a bed.
5. If you're not actively engaging with the dog, (checking your phone, sending emails, etc,) give them something to chew, shred, or eat. Better yet: Give them this toy on the "place" so they associate "place" with settling down!

Adopter Highlight

This is the time to showcase polite in-home behavior, and show off how the dog does outside of the kennel environment. We all know how different in-kennel behavior is, so office fosters are a great chance to highlight a different side of a dog!

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