



## **Pug Pals Foster Parent Information**

### **So I'm a foster parent. Now what?**

Congratulations and thank you for volunteering to foster a rescue pug! Fostering is a rewarding and integral function of our rescue group. Foster parents care for, rehabilitate, love, and nurture our rescues until they find their forever homes. Your foster pug will be a part of your family until adoption—maybe just a few days, but possibly several months while we find the perfect family for him.

### **Ok! But what exactly do I do?**

Basically, foster families treat the rescues in their care just like they treat their own dogs! They take their pugs to the vet if they get sick. They clean the pugs' eyes, ears, and wrinkles to prevent infection. They take them for walks and bring them to Pug Club Meetups and other events so potential adoptive parents can get to know them. (Pug Club Meetups are held the first and third Saturdays of the month at Summit Church on Overland Road just east of Five Mile. For times and directions, go to <http://www.meetup.com/pug-84> .) Foster families work with the pugs on rehabilitation and training. Foster parents feed their foundlings high quality food and make sure the pugs take their medicine, if they have any.

### **How long will the foster pug stay with me?**

That is the \$64,000 question! Fostering is often unpredictable in terms of the pug's length of stay with you. To help both foster parents and Pug Pals understand each other's expectations, we have three types of foster care:

–Emergency: We need a place for a foster pug NOW. After the health clearance, vaccinations and heartworm test, we take the pug to a foster home for anywhere from a day/night to a few days;

–Short Term: Foster family agrees to foster a pug for a certain amount of time, such as one or two weeks;

–Regular: Foster family agrees to foster a pug until she or he finds a Forever Home. This can be anywhere from a few days to several months.

Let us know if you foresee having to limit your time as a foster. And certainly, if you are uncomfortable at any time with your foster pug and need to find him a new foster home, let us know right away.

### **What do I need to do when my foster pug has surgery, such as spay/neuter?**

Rescue pugs often require surgery or medical procedures in the first few weeks they are with us. We ask foster parents to treat the pug as their own in taking him to the surgery appointment on time, withholding food and water as instructed the night before, picking up the pug after the surgery, getting instructions on medicines, and making appointments for follow-up visits such as for removal of stitches or staples.

### **This sounds like it could be expensive. What is my cost for caring for a foster pug?**

Pug Pals is responsible for the cost of veterinary care for foster pugs as long as they remain in foster care. In the case of foster pugs on a prescription diet, Pug Pals also pays for their food. We ask foster families to pay only for food and for transportation costs to and from the vet, pug meetups and other

adoption events.

### **What about toys and treats?**

Foster families are encouraged to buy toys and treats for the pugs in their care if they choose to do so. Foster families may also take toys, sweaters, etc. from the Treasure Chest of donated items available at meetup. Please remember to send any toys, clothes, etc. along with the pug when she is adopted. If the pug came to the group with a bed, blankets, or a crate, please make sure those items go to the adoptive family as well.

### **Can I walk my foster pug off leash?**

Fosters are notoriously skittish and unpredictable during this difficult transition in their lives. Therefore, we ask that you please always walk them on a leash and **ALWAYS** leave their collars and rabies tags on. It's the only ID many of them have.

### **Do I need to come to every meetup/event?**

It is really important that our foster pugs are visible, so we do ask that they be at meetup and events whenever possible. If you can't come to meetup or an event, please let a Board member know so we can make arrangements for someone to pick up the pug and drop them off afterwards.

### **You said something about rehabilitation...?**

Sometimes dogs come into our care ill, injured, young, or undersocialized. In these cases, foster families who have agreed to do so take on the added responsibilities of housetraining, basic training, and physical and mental rehabilitation. If rehabilitation and training are areas you would like to help with, please contact Suzann.

### **She's so great. I think I want to adopt my foster pug! What do I do?**

Wonderful! Your foster application and home visit have already been done, so all we have to do is have you sign a placement agreement and pay the adoption fee. Contact either Suzann or Laurel to discuss and finalize your adoption.

**Fostering is a vital part of our mission as a rescue group. We literally can't do it without you!**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!!**

## **HELP! EMERGENCY PROCEDURES & PHONE NUMBERS**

### **Help! My foster pug ran away and I can't find her!**

PLEASE STAY CALM. First, call a Board member or Suzann. Tell them when and where the dog was last seen. Next, quickly put up a lost dog notice on Craigslist. Then go out and look for the pug. Alert your neighbors to keep an eye out. Take some treats (cheese & hot dogs work well) and a leash so you can coax the pug to come back to you. We WILL find the pug!

### **Help! My foster pug is sick. What do I do?**

Sick pugs need to see the vet. Pug Pals has an account with Broadway Vet, so we ask that you take the pug there. For nonemergency issues, please contact a member of the Board or Suzann **before** the pug sees the vet so the group can assign a priority level for the pug's issue. **IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE PUG TO THE NEAREST VET.** You DO NOT need Board approval for an emergency.

### **Help! My foster pug bit me/my child/my spouse!**

Remove the pug from the situation by gently placing him in a crate or a separate room. Assess the injury and treat accordingly. Contact a Board member or Suzann, and together we will determine what to do.

**Help! My foster pug bit my dog/cat! OR My dog/cat bit my foster pug! OR My foster pug and my dog keep fighting!**

Separate the two animals. Put the biter outside or in another room while you check out the bite and treat accordingly. Animals may bite each other as they try to establish dominance within their pack. If the bite is not severe, the bitten dog is not traumatized, and the fighting is not constant, let the dogs work it out themselves. If one dog constantly attacks another or one animal is seriously injured, please contact a Board member or Suzann and we will move the foster pug to a more suitable foster home. **Even if the behavior is not serious, please let someone from the group know if a foster pug is behaving antisocially!**

**Help! Someone wants to adopt my foster pug, and I have fallen in love with him!**

Aww. This happens all the time! Sometimes foster families don't realize how much a part of their lives the rescue pugs have become until it's time to say goodbye. Pug Pals understands this and **always** gives the foster family the first chance to adopt their foster pugs. If you are unable or unwilling to adopt your foster pug, please keep in mind that you have done a wonderful service to this animal who is now going to a great home where he will be loved and cared for all his life. It's always hard to say goodbye, but take heart in the fact that you will see your foster again at meetup!

**CONTACT NUMBERS**

	<b>Board members</b>		
<b>Pug Pals president</b>	Melissa Sutton (208) 221-6517	<b>Broadway Vet</b>	<b>WestVet Emergency Clinic</b>
Suzann Goertzen	Christa O'Neill (208) 890-2205	350 East Linden Street, Boise	5019 N. Sawyer Ave.
Cell (208) 571-9482	Billie Tinsley (208) 336-4132	(208) 344-5592	Garden City
			(208) 375-1600

Click here if you'd like to download and print a copy of the [Foster Family Info Sheet](#).