

Dear New Foster,

THANK YOU for taking one of our dogs into your home and welcome to our group! The space you offer save dogs' lives. Your time, patience and love transform them into happy, healthy, adoptable pets and we truly appreciate all that you do. Fostering is fun and rewarding, but we know it can also be challenging and we want you to have all the support you need.

We have a closed Facebook group for our fosters, volunteers and adopters. One of us will send you a 'friend request' on Facebook so we can add you to the group. The group name is **Plenty of Pit Bulls Dog Rescue** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/plentyofpitbulls/>). Once you are added to the group, please check it often. This is where we post our event attendance and supply request list each week. We also encourage you to post picture and video updates of your foster dog! You can also post any questions or concerns that you have.

We also have a public Facebook group, **Plenty of Pit Bulls** (<https://www.facebook.com/plentyofpitbulls/>) that we encourage you to 'Like' and 'Share'!

Please read through the information below and reply to Katherine Rivera (foster coordinator) so she knows you have received this letter and e-mail. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact the people below at any time that you need us!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency contact numbers



Animal/human related emergencies:
Blanca at 352-665-0585
Carla at 352-328-7582
Jude at 772-532-4015
Anna at 352-682-9013

Supplies: Carla at 352-328-7582

Veterinary: Blanca at 352-665-0585

Foster questions: Marci at 352-870-0706 or
Katherine at 941-773-6486

Plenty of Pit Bulls Board Members:

- Anna Peterson (President) (gainesvillepitbulls@gmail.com), Carla Sabbagh (carlapopb@yahoo.com), Jude Macera (judepopb@gmail.com), Blanca Carbia (blanki1@aol.com)

Foster Coordinators: Our foster coordinator is Katherine Rivera (katherinepopb@gmail.com). She is the point person for approving foster applications, general questions about fostering and for help organizing backup/holiday fosters or boarding if you go out of town.

Online Advertising: Patty Garrow (pat.garrow62@gmail.com) does all of the updating of our online advertising on Petfinder and Adopt A Pet. She will contact you for pictures and a brief bio of your foster dog and will upload these to our advertising sites. If you discover new traits or behaviors about your foster dog, such as they are good with kids or good with cats or know how to shake or play fetch, please let Patty know and she can add these adoptable qualities to the online sites!

Supplies: Carla Sabbagh (carlapopb@yahoo.com) organizes and provides food, leashes, collars and other needed supplies. She will provide a starter kit to each new foster and additional requests are made through the supply and attendance form on the Facebook group under the ‘Pinned Post’ each week.

Veterinary Appointments and Care: Blanca Carbia (blanki1@aol.com) organizes and schedules all veterinary appointments. Please contact her if you have any veterinary appointment or health questions regarding your foster dog.

Adoption Coordinator: Megan Hammerling (meganpopb@gmail.com) receives and reviews adoption applications and coordinates placements. She can answer any questions about the adoption process and applications. We encourage fosters to be as involved as you would like in the adoption process – from recruiting potential adoptions to reviewing applications to conducting meetups and home visits.

Adoption events: Jude Macera (judepopb@gmail.com) coordinates the weekly adoption events at PetSmart and Petco.

Adoption ambassadors and volunteer help: Jennifer Gunn (popbvolunteers@gmail.com) can connect you with a volunteer to help transport your dogs to events and/or training class and/or pair you with an ambassador to take your foster dog on outings or for walks while you are at work or school.

BACKUP AND RELIEF FOSTERS

If you are traveling or need a relief/temporary foster for another reason, please contact Katherine as soon as possible to arrange a backup. If a friend or housemate would like to care for your dog while you are gone, please have them send in a foster application so we have their contact information and will know where the dog will be in case of emergency.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES

We will supply food, monthly flea and heartworm prevention, collars, leashes, harnesses (included no-pull harnesses if needed), toys, treats and a crate. Please fill out the request form on the Facebook group page under the 'Pinned Post' section by Wednesday at 8 PM each week in order to receive the supplies on Saturday of that week. Heartworm and flea prevention is to be given to each foster dog on the **1st** of each month and can be picked up from the adoption events or can be coordinated to be mailed if you are an out of town foster. If your foster dog is not attending the adoption events, you can still stop by to pick up the preventatives there.

Crates are provided and are stored at Petco and Millhopper PetSmart. We will provide instructions on picking up a crate if you need one.

Please ask for an "Adopt Me" vest and put it on your dog every time you go out! We can also give you business cards to hand out to people who might be interested in adopting/volunteering/fostering!

VET CARE AND HEALTH ISSUES

Heartworm treatments for our heartworm positive foster dogs as well as spays and neuters take place at the Veterinary Community Outreach Program at the UF Vet School (2015 SW 16th Avenue). For directions please see popb.org/vet-care. Please be on time and please contact Blanca (352-665-0585) when you arrive so she can meet you. Most other veterinary care is done through Gainesville Animal Hospital. If you have a concern (your foster dog seems sick, is vomiting, has diarrhea, etc.) please contact Blanca Carbia to arrange an appointment for you if needed. Do not show up to Gainesville Animal Hospital without approval from Blanca.

TRAINING AND BEHAVIOR

Slow introductions with your resident pets and your new foster dog set everyone up for success. We like side-by-side walks in a neutral territory to let the dogs get used to each other before bringing the new foster dog into the house. We encourage you to take things **slow** and to supervise all interactions between your resident pets and foster dog. Additionally, please keep your new dog on leash when introducing to your cat – even cat-friendly dogs may playfully chase a cat they don't know. Let us know if you need help introducing your foster dog into your household and contact gainesvillepitbulls@gmail.com with any training or behavior related issues.

We have free (for POPB foster dogs) training classes every Sunday through **P.U.P.S Dog Training** (pupsgainesville.com) and we encourage all foster dogs to attend. It is great for manners and commands as well as socializing. We have separate sessions for basic obedience and dogs with reactivity issues. Basic obedience is

typically Sunday at 11 am at the P.U.P.S studio (519 NW 10th Ave) and reactivity class is typically Sunday at 1 pm at a park near the studio (819 NW 8th St). You can sign your foster dog up for the training classes through the weekly supply and attendance form in the Facebook group.

SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. **On leash, all the time.** Keep your dog on leash every time they go outside, other than your own fully fenced yard if you have one This is very important for your dog's safety and it is the law in Alachua County. Please keep your dog on leash when meeting other animals as well.
2. **No dog parks, no exceptions.** Even if your dog is great, not all dogs at the dog park are. Additionally, not all dogs that visit dog parks are healthy and we do not want our foster dogs to get sick. We can't afford the risks.
3. **Stay in touch!** Please make sure we have your updated contact information. Please check your email you provided us regularly (and keep us posted if it changes). Emails are the easiest way for us to communicate with you. Please also check the Facebook group page regularly. We love pictures, videos, stories and anecdotes that will help us market your dog.

ADOPTION EVENTS

We have an adoption event almost every Saturday from 12pm to 4pm. We alternate between Petco (6869 W. Newberry Rd.) and the Millhopper PetSmart (4119 NW 16th Ave.). Typically we do PetSmart on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and Petco on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Exceptions to this are when special events cause a shift. Updates will be posted on the group Facebook page.

Please bring a crate for your dog to the adoption event as well as any toys or treats or chews to help make the experience positive and to help keep them calm. You are welcome and encouraged to stay at the event with your foster dog, but it is not required. We have volunteers who run the events so your dog will not be left alone. It may be best to stay for at least part of the time the first couple events in order to ease your foster dog into the routine.

THANK YOU!!

The Plenty of Pit Bulls volunteer team