

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. You can request to join the group, which is **Plenty of Pit Bulls Dog Rescue** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/plentyofpitbulls/>). Someone will approve your request, and 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. (The list is usually pinned to the top, so please check for pinned posts!) 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 page, **Plenty of Pit Bulls** (<https://www.facebook.com/plentyofpitbulls/>) that we encourage you to 'Like' and 'Share'! You will see pictures of your foster dog there if you share on the group page!

*Please read through the information below and reply to us to let us know 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

Plenty of Pit Bulls Board Members

- **Blanca Carbia** (blanki1bec@gmail.com)
- **Chrissy Caron** (chrissytrivette@yahoo.com)
- **Nicole Neal** (nicolepneal@gmail.com)
- **Anna Peterson** (gainesvillepitbulls@gmail.com)
- **Carla Sabbagh** (carlapopb@yahoo.com)

Foster Coordinators

- **Chrissy Caron** (above)
- **Kirsten Winkel** (kirstenwinkel@hotmail.com)
- **Bruny Garcia** (bruny123@ufl.edu)

They are the point people for general questions about fostering and for help organizing backup/holiday fosters or boarding if you go out of town.

Database and Social Media

- **Sarah Chrisien** (schris1713@gmail.com)
- **Dona Rosenberger** (danarose915@gmail.com)
- **Melina Jimenez** (melinapatjimenez@gmail.com)
- **Nicole Neal** (nicolepneal@gmail.com)

Sarah and Dana maintain our database, including Petfinder and Adopt-a-Pet. They will contact you for pictures and a brief bio of your foster dog and will upload these to our advertising sites. Melina and Nicole run our Instagram and Facebook pages. 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 them know and they can add these adoptable qualities to the online sites. Please also send them stories, pictures, and videos to use in stories and posts.

Supplies

- **Carla Sabbagh** (carlapopb@yahoo.com)

She 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** (blanki1bec@gmail.com)

She is responsible for organizing and schedules all veterinary appointments. Please contact her if you need veterinary appointments, need monthly preventions, or have health questions regarding your foster dog.

Adoption Coordinator

- **Megan Hammerling** (meganpopb@gmail.com)

She 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, conducting meetups and home visits.

Adoption events

- **Jude Macera** (judepopb@gmail.com)

He coordinates the weekly adoption events at PetSmart and Petco as well as provide the online supply form for all fosters/volunteers.

Ambassadors & Volunteers

● **Norris Boyd** (norrishboy@yahoo.com)

She can connect you with a volunteer to help transport your dogs to 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 the foster coordinators 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 your 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** – which can mean weeks before dogs are allowed to be together off leash. Please also 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 Monday evening 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. Please ask for more information about the location and directions. 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 10 am to 1 pm. 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. If you cannot bring a crate, make sure to ask for one through the weekly supply form. 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