



## **Foster Handbook**

**Detroit Bully Corps**  
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Lapeer, MI 48446  
dbcdogs.org

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## Introduction to Detroit Bully Corps

### Welcome!

Thank you for agreeing to foster a dog for Detroit Bully Corps. Foster homes like yours allow us to rescue more dogs and we appreciate your generosity in opening your home and your heart to a rescued dog. This manual is intended to help guide you through the fostering process.

Please familiarize yourself with this manual. You are not only responsible for the safety and well-being of the dog you are fostering, but you are also an extension of Detroit Bully Corps and a responsible party for our reputation. These rules are set forth to protect the dogs, you, DBC, and the general public.

By providing a foster home, you're providing a stable, loving environment for a dog that has possibly been neglected, abused or abandoned. You're also providing much-needed socialization and basic training that will make our dogs more appealing for adoption and better members of their adoptive families.

Only directors of DBC can determine which dogs our organization can take in. All dogs must pass our temperament test in order to be placed into a foster home.

This manual is a guide to provide you with important information about caring for your foster pets and will clarify many questions or concerns that you might have along the way. Feel free to call or email your Coordinator with additional questions or concerns. Our goal is to make your foster care experience enjoyable.

If you have a friend or family member who is interested in becoming a foster parent, please have them submit a Foster Home Application at [www.dbcdogs.org](http://www.dbcdogs.org). Again, thank you for accepting this important responsibility. We truly appreciate your commitment. Good luck and happy fostering!

### Our Mission

The foundation of our program is education. Without education on spay/neuter, breed specific legislation (BSL), training, breed specific workshops, the dog fighting culture and responsible ownership, the epidemic will never end. Rescue is a mere bandage in the overall scale of the canine epidemic. Shelters are overrun, rescues are overflowing and society is in need of education. For every one spot we fill in our program, we turn away 50. We average 20 canines at any given time and 90% of our rescue population is comprised of the American Pit Bull Terrier. We work with canines from any and every background, whether it be a surrendered family pet, bait dog, seasoned fighter or the abused. We are a no-kill rescue/rehabilitation in that we will never euthanize for space. We, as a moral, ethical and objective organization, will NOT adopt out a canine that is a threat to society. We are advocates of the American Pit Bull Terrier, as such we will not add to the epidemic by being irresponsible.

### Origins by Bill Bellottie

I began my journey through the rescue and rehabilitation world in August of 2003 while employed by a local animal welfare shelter. I have always been intrigued by the strength and beauty of the American Pit Bull Terrier. I began researching the breed and soon after, rescuing. I began building relationships with established rescue groups nationwide. I approached the director of the shelter where I worked and introduced the possibility of rescuing APBTs. It was initially met with skepticism. I was eventually able to prove that the APBT could be rehabilitated. I was accredited by two well-established APBT rescue groups. I was then able to rescue my first APBT (Amber). So began my journey to enlightenment.

In 2008 my horizons were broadened, both in my spiritual life and rescue world. I met a beautiful, strong-willed woman who would prove to be a motivational force. It was through her love for the Boxer, that our rescue would take on a new stance. We would now become a "Bully Breed" rescue and rehabilitation. We would welcome any variation of the Molosser, "Bully Breed" strain of canine.

Adopting an animal is like adopting a new piece of self. It keeps our human lives grounded. Canines teach us about the simplicities of life and love. They don't know hate or contempt. They know love, food and continuity. Laugh more, share more ... adopt more.

## Rehabilitation/Training

Detroit Bully Corps is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption of healthy, well-balanced dogs and puppies into loving homes. In order to reach this goal, DBC seeks the advice and expertise of qualified positive reinforcement trainers and animal behaviorists on a regular basis. Our organization believes that through positive reinforcement, consistency, patience, and the assistance of experts most canine behavioral issues can be corrected and/or successfully managed. DBC believes in the careful coordination of an animal's routine healthcare, nutrition, exercise, training, and affection as a well-rounded approach to animal care. Our adoptable canines that are placed in foster homes immediately begin to learn or reinforce basic obedience commands of sit, down, stay, come, walk nicely on a leash, and to greet strangers properly. Twice per month, our foster families are required to attend training sessions at our facility in Lapeer to reinforce these basic commands with their foster dogs.

## Medical Care

Detroit Bully Corps has a structured and comprehensive medical care procedure that all of our rescued animals go through to ensure they are healthy and up-to-date on all veterinary care.

All animals adopted through DBC have received all of the following veterinary care procedures:

- Spay or neuter surgery
- Microchip insertion
- Bath, nail trim and ear cleaning
- De-worming for internal parasites
- DHPP vaccine
- Rabies vaccine (age appropriate)
- Heartworm test (age appropriate)
- Heartworm preventative
- Flea/tick preventative

After completing extensive research, DBC adopted a **mandatory spay/neuter policy** in which all of our dogs and puppies are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. We feel that this is the most responsible stance our rescue can take in the fight against over population of dogs in our nation. In addition, after researching the statistics on lost pets and the number of pets reunited with their families, DBC adopted the policy that all adopted pets be microchipped prior to adoption. We feel that together, these two policies not only greatly help to control the number of animals who end up in animal shelters across our nation, but that they also offer our adoptive families the peace of mind of a healthy and safe pet.

While all animals in our rescue are provided with the above-mentioned veterinary care, some require special veterinary care, surgical procedures, or additional care by a veterinary specialist. DBC believes that each individual animal's pre-existing or developing health concerns be evaluated by veterinary professionals and a prognosis for a healthy, pain-free, and happy future in an adoptive home be the primary concern. We believe that an animal's quality of life and prognosis for a pain-free future should be the guiding factor in decisions that involve surgical procedures, extensive specialist care, or the necessity of humane euthanasia.

## Education

Detroit Bully Corps prides itself on sharing our collective experience, knowledge, and passion for animals with our supporters, adopters, and foster families. As a responsible rescue organization we ensure that all of our dogs are seen by a licensed veterinarian for a general health wellness exam, are current on all age-appropriate vaccines, heartworm preventative, flea/tick preventative, are heartworm tested, have been properly de-wormed, spayed/neutered, and microchipped prior to being placed up for adoption. Not only do we feel that it is imperative for us to make certain that all of these health protocols are done with each and every animal that comes into our rescue, but we also ensure that this information, as well as future veterinary care expectations, are clear to all of our adopters.

DBC provides each adoptive family with a comprehensive veterinary history as well as a schedule of

upcoming veterinary care needs. In addition, we strive to educate all of our adopters of the necessity of annually vaccinating your pet, providing monthly, year round, heartworm and internal/external parasite preventatives, and ensuring that a pet receives yearly veterinary exams. Dental care, knee and patella concerns, eyesight, hearing, and mobility issues are also discussed in detail with adopters who are adopting a senior pet, with special information given regarding these issues in the form of literature and online resources. Proper socialization, training methods, potty training, introducing a puppy to new members of the family, and puppy health concerns are discussed in detail with adopters who are adopting a dog as well.

In addition to educating our adoptive families, we have also made it a priority to educate our supporters and those who send in e-mail inquiries regarding our dogs about proper care for their pets. Many times when processing an application or an inquiry we will be told that the applicants current pets are not up to date on veterinary care because they “live in the country,” “never take their pets out of their home,” or for various other reasons. Our volunteers make a conscious effort to share information, educational resources, and veterinary links on the Internet to help educate our supporters regarding the dangers of not providing your pets with proper routine veterinary care. Our supporters are grateful for the information, personal experiences with dogs who were not properly cared for, and the resources and contacts we are able to provide them with in order to get their pet proper veterinary care.

While educating our supporters and adopters regarding proper veterinary care is an important goal of ours, Detroit Bully Corps also prides itself on sharing information about proper canine nutrition programs, dog food analysis and grading websites, exercise, and training information as well. Our goal is to help our adoptive families offer a well-rounded care and wellness routine for their adoptive canine and ensure that we are able to educate our supporters on the importance of proper nutrition and exercise as well.

### **Fundraising Events**

Detroit Bully Corps hosts fundraising events to help secure funds for medical care, supplies and various other costs associated with running a rescue. We will continue to participate in fundraisers throughout the year to increase our ability to rescue and rehabilitate homeless animals in need, educate our community regarding proper pet care, and to participate in community outreach programs.

### **Adoption Events**

Our primary means of advertising our adoptable animals continues to be via online pet adoption sites, such as Petfinder.com and Adoptapet.com. Our adoptable dogs are visible on our website and Facebook for potential adoptive families to see and learn about each individual animal’s personality and needs.

We are a rescue partner with Petco where we have held adoption events in the past. In addition, we participate in several local pet adoption events, such as Fido Does Ferndale held annually in Ferndale, and various other events that may change from year to year. Our participation in these well-advertised, established pet adoption events will help us to reach our goals of placing our rescued animals in approved adoptive homes and educating the community regarding proper pet care.

We encourage our foster homes to be active with their foster dog, post them on their own Facebook page, talk about them with friends and family, and taking their dogs out in public if the dog is up to date on vetting and responsibly handled in the general public.

### **Collaboration with Other Rescues and Rescue Efforts**

Detroit Bully Corps prides itself on having an open line of communication, a strong sense of teamwork, and an honest and respectful relationship with many of our local area’s animal rescue organizations and supporting businesses. We are always willing to work together with other like-minded organizations, who put the best interest of the individual animal at the forefront of their organization, operate with integrity and honesty, and share a deep rooted love and passion for rescuing and rehabilitating homeless animals.

To date, we have formed an extensive network of like-minded organizations including other animal rescue groups, veterinary offices, animal shelters, groomers, and animal trainers. Together we have shared experiences, contacts, informational resources, and have supported one another during our individual

efforts to make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. DBC is committed to fostering a strong relationship between our current rescue colleagues and building additional relationships in the future to help rescue, rehabilitate, and adopt homeless animals.

### **Foster Home Duties and Responsibilities**

Those interested in fostering must submit a completed Foster Home Application. A team of trained volunteers will review the application, complete a background check, vet check, reference check and do a home visit with the potential foster parent. The purpose of a home visit is to help dog proof the environment and point out areas that may need to be addressed for the safety of the pet and house. Introductions to other dogs in the home will be done at Detroit Bully Corps. Please do not be intimidated by this process – it is meant only to ensure the safety of the animals and that we appropriately match your household with a pet in need. Once this is complete and the foster parent is approved, it's then time to match the household with a pet in need of a foster home. The foster parent will be invited to the DBC facility to meet the canines that best suit their family and lifestyle.

While in foster care, DBC retains “ownership” and control over the animal's future. At any time, DBC may make the decision to adopt out or transfer a foster pet based on the environment, socialization, health and/or temperament of the pet. DBC is a rescue organization, which means we promise to exhaust all options to find the pet a permanent, loving home. Euthanasia is only performed when experienced volunteers and veterinarians, as appropriate, have determined a pet is irreparably suffering whether physically, emotionally, or mentally. This is not a decision taken lightly.

If you receive any inquiries from friends or family about adopting your foster pet, please ask them to complete a Pre-Adoption Application. Applications are available on our website at [www.dbcdogs.org](http://www.dbcdogs.org). Coordinators will be able to guide the potential adopter through the adoption process to provide the best experience for both the pet and the adopter.

Fosters who choose to adopt an animal are automatically approved to adopt and are not required to complete the Pre-Adoption Application.

### **Responsibilities**

- Ensure that the foster family's own companion animals are current on their vaccines and spayed or neutered before bringing home a foster pet. The foster family's own companion animals are not to be declawed or debarked. We understand an animal may have already been subjected to these procedures prior to becoming part of the foster's family. We also request that the foster family's companion animals are tested for heartworm annually and placed on heartworm preventative.
- Provide a safe, loving and stable environment for a foster animal(s).
- Read the foster pet's online bio and provide updates and more detailed information as often as possible.
- Complete the “Getting to Know Your Dog” form for every foster care animal and provide it to your Coordinator before adoption of your foster dog.
- Use one of DBC's participating vets for basic medical care and treatment of the foster animal(s).
- Feed, medicate, groom, socialize and begin basic obedience with animals being cared for in your home.
- Isolate foster animals from the foster family's own companion animals, if necessary.
- Observe and report any problems with the animals to one of the Coordinators.
- Commit to the entire foster period and return the animal to DBC at the appropriate time or at any time when requested by one of the Coordinators.
- Comply with DBC's philosophies and policies and act as a positive representative of the rescue.
- Be prepared for the possible illness or death of the foster animal(s).
- Be prepared for the possible destructive behavior of the foster animal(s).
- Be prepared for an adjustment period. Some pets adjust faster than others when entering a new environment. Their world is small and when it completely changes – new people, new smells, new home, new routine, new everything – it's scary. Some pets adjust after only a few days,

some may take a couple weeks or months. Some dogs test their boundaries more as time goes on. Be patient.

- Ensure that the pet is eating, drinking and eliminating regularly. If an animal suddenly acts differently, out of their regular routine, immediately notify your Coordinator – this usually indicates there is a medical issue and the pet needs to see a vet.
- In the case of a medical emergency, immediately take the foster pet to the closest emergency vet and contact your Coordinator.
- Call your Coordinator if you are unsure what to do at any time.

### Requirements

- Enjoy working with animals.
- Maintain a positive and friendly attitude.
- Everyone in the household must be on the same page, understand the rules, and agree to fostering.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must have a fenced yard, at least 4' high, approximately 30'x30'.
- If renting, provide proof of permission from your landlord that you can have pets in your home.
- Complete a foster care application and approval process.
- Submit weekly Pupdate forms in order to update DBC regarding the medical, behavioral, and training needs of the dog being fostered.
- Attend informational sessions and training at DBC in Lapeer twice per month throughout the length of their foster's stay.
- Take your foster dog to DBC-approved adoption events at least once per month.
- We encourage but do not require foster parents to become involved in any other aspects of DBC.

### Supplies

The foster care home must request needed supplies from the Coordinator. If the supplies are not available, the foster parent will be instructed to purchase what they need. The foster parent may then submit these receipts to DBC for reimbursement OR deduct these expenses from their income tax. If a foster purchases supplies WITHOUT prior approval, the costs will NOT be reimbursed.

### Disclaimer

Detroit Bully Corps is not liable for any injury, illness or damage to persons or property, including owned animals, while an animal is in the foster home. However, DBC will always do the right thing and assist the foster care parent in any way necessary when addressing medical problems for an owned pet caused by exposure to a foster pet. For example, an incoming foster pet develops a contagious skin condition not previously diagnosed by the vet who performed the incoming exam, and the owned pet also catches the skin condition. DBC will allow the owned pet to be seen by the rescue's vets at the rescue's cost.

### How We Place Animal Into Foster Care

- After the animals have been evaluated for foster care by Detroit Bully Corps, a Coordinator will match the animal to available foster homes.
- Once you agree to care for the animal or animals, paperwork is prepared, as are the animal(s) for Foster Homes. An appointment is made for picking the animal up by the foster parent along with any needed equipment and supplies (dog crate, food, medication, etc.). Foster dogs must have a DBC ID tag attached to his/her collar until they are placed in a forever home and the "pending" period of their adjustment is complete.
- You will be informed of any veterinary check-up or spay/neuter appointments. If you cannot fulfill the entire foster term (due to scheduling restraints, vacations or unforeseen events), contact us as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for another foster care home. For temporary care of just a few days, we may be able to place the foster animal at one of our other foster homes.

- Foster animals MUST stay in the immediate care and residence of the foster parent. Leaving your foster animal in anyone else's care without prior approval of DBC is prohibited. If you are unable to care for your foster animal until they find a forever home, notify Coordinator as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

DBC maintains ownership of the animal(s) at all times and reserves the right to reclaim an animal from foster homes at any time during the fostering period. Foster homes will be informed of the reason(s) why the animal needs to be returned and asked to bring the animal back as soon as possible. At no time will you relinquish your foster pet to anyone outside of DBC.

## Bringing Your Foster Dog/Puppy Home

Please remember that your new foster may have come from a shelter, may have traveled in a car for a few hours, may have been passed off to more than one person on a transport, or was given up by his family. Even though he may not show it, his whole world is upside down right now and he needs some time to just relax and adjust.

1. Place the dog's crate in a quiet location in your house. Let him hang out with just your immediate family for a few days to get used to you, your home, and the routine before introducing him to new people or taking him out in public. Most of you have pets and it's good to let your own pets get used to the new smells in the house.
2. Do not introduce your new dog to strangers or small children for a couple weeks until you have a chance to get to know this dog. The real dog may still be lurking inside and you don't want to see the real him for the first time with his teeth attached to someone else's body parts. When it is time for introductions make sure to have the dog on a leash so you have control over the situation. NEVER let the child run around. The dog may see the child as prey and chase them. Never let the child hug the dog, as that is one of the most common ways for the child to be bitten.
3. All foster parents are required to "crate and rotate", which means your foster dog is never to be out loose with your personal dogs. However, if your personal dog and the foster dog had successful meet-and-greets at DBC and during your home visit, then the dogs can be together in the foster home only while supervised. When it's time to reintroduce your foster to your own dogs, do the introductions slowly and try it with your best dog first. You can have someone else help by walking your dog and you walking the foster dog. Meet outside on neutral territory. Start by walking past each other far enough apart that the dogs can't touch. On each pass get closer until you can finally walk together and then walk home.
4. Be very careful when introducing the dog to your cats. Some dogs may be ok with cats. We do our best to try to find that out before you take the dog but the dog may not be ok with your cat. In the files we do have information on introducing dogs and cats.
5. Do not let the foster dog on the furniture. Do not let them sleep in bed with you or anyone else in the house. They need to either sleep in their crate or on a dog bed each and every night. This is important for two major reasons: first, the dog's new adoptive family may not want their dog on their furniture and the dog knowing this rule helps them be adopted faster, and second, it allows the dog to develop some independence from the humans in the family and helps avoid chronic separation anxiety.
6. Do not take the dog to a leashed dog park for the first couple weeks. You don't know who will try to approach the dog and touch it or how your foster will react to the other dogs there. FOSTER DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT LEASH-FREE PARKS!! This is to ensure the safety of foster dogs and the general public's dogs, as well.
7. Do not leave your foster dog unattended in a vehicle. Don't leave your foster dog loose in your home when you are not there. Dogs have been known to eat seats, couches, and seat belts because they are bored or stressed. DBC will not pay to have any of these items repaired or replaced.
8. Wait at least a couple days to walk the dog around the neighborhood. You will encounter people and children who will want to pet the dog. If uncertain about the dog please ask them to not approach you or to pet the dog. You will also encounter other dogs of different sizes

- and temperaments. Do not walk the dog unless you feel confident that you can control it in the event that another dog approaches it.
9. Keep toys, chewies, and food out of reach unless you are there to supervise the dog. Safe toys in a crate, such as a KONG or Nylabone, are acceptable.
  10. Do not feed your foster dog separate from your own dogs and watch for any signs of food aggression. Expect a starving or stray dog to initially guard their food or bowl.
  11. Do not leave your dog in your yard unattended. FOSTER DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE OUTSIDE UNATTENDED, EVEN IN YOUR OWN YARD. Do keep your foster dog on a leash for the first few days in your fenced backyard until you can get a better feel for whether they will respect your fence and not try to jump it. Always monitor them closely when they are outside.
  12. Do practice obedience skills with your foster dog. Heel, sit, down, stay, come, etc.
  13. Do play with your foster dog but don't play aggressively like wrestling. Do not lie on the ground with the dog.
  14. Do give your foster treats but always have them earn it by sitting, shaking paw, or doing a down, for example.

## What's In A Name?

We ask you to please not change the name of any dog that you foster unless specifically asked to by one of the Board of Directors. There are many reasons for this, with the main reason being for record keeping purposes.

## Vetting For Foster Animals

All animals are evaluated for age, health and temperament before being placed into a foster home. If an animal is unable to be vaccinated or spayed/neutered prior to being placed in a foster home or if a foster pet is due for their annual vaccinations or a check-up, a Coordinator will contact you to schedule a vet appointment. If you are unable to transport your foster animal to the vet, a Coordinator will arrange for another volunteer to take the animal for you.

Anytime your foster pet goes to the vet, their medical records need to go with them. Never leave a vet appointment without receiving medical paperwork regarding the day's visit and procedures performed. Be sure to get a copy of the record for that vet appointment. You should give and/or send the originals to our administrative office.

Several diseases are commonly seen in a shelter environment, most of which have incubation periods before symptoms appear. Therefore, your foster animal may be infected before entering foster care, but not showing symptoms until after you have brought them home. If an animal is showing signs of disease at the onset of foster, a Coordinator will send medications and instructions home with you. If symptoms occur once the animal is in Foster Care, please call your Coordinator immediately to schedule a check-up or prescription pick-up. **DO NOT take foster animals to your own veterinarian unless approved by one of the Coordinators.** Choosing to do so without approval will result in the foster parent becoming responsible for all veterinary bills.

Symptoms should abate within a few days of starting medication. If they persist or get worse, call your Coordinator immediately. It is extremely important to administer ALL medications and finish the ENTIRE prescription as directed, regardless of improvements in symptoms. This is to prevent mutations of the disease; often symptoms will disappear but the hardiest bacteria will remain. Stopping medication early allows these strong, hardy bacteria to survive and reproduce. In the future, these bacteria will be much harder to kill and may not respond to normal antibiotics.

You will be given instructions when picking up each foster animal. Please follow these instructions closely



as they are designed to protect not only the foster animal, but also your own animals and those belonging to your friends and neighbors. Many diseases are extremely easy to pass on and can live for long periods outside the “host” foster animal. Please refer to the Disease Directory for descriptions of common diseases and their symptoms.

**Call a Coordinator immediately if you see any of these symptoms:**

**Eyes:**

- Yellow or green discharge
- Uneven pupil dilation, seek immediate attention
- Swollen eyes or eyelids, including third eyelid
- White film or cloudiness over the eye
- Yellowing on white part of the eyes
- Continual squinting or pawing at the eyes

**Ears:**

- Dark, flaky debris
- Dark, waxy discharge accompanied by yeasty smell
- Yeasty smell with no discharge
- Painful when rubbed or cleaned
- Frequent scratching at the ear
- Frequent head shaking

**Nose:**

- Yellow or green discharge
- Scabs, skin loss or ulceration
- Bleeding from nose
- Excessive sneezing
- Nose can be wet or dry. This is not necessarily an indication of illness.

**Mouth:**

- Loss of appetite – in adults for more than two days, in juvenile animals for more than one day
- Increased appetite for over a week
- Vomiting, usually more than three times. If vomit is bloody or dark, seek attention immediately.
- Coughing and/or gagging, accompanied by phlegm
- Coughing after pressure is placed on trachea by collar
- Pale gums
- Ulcers or lacerations on gums, lips or tongue
- Excessive salivation, especially a change in the amount of salivation

**Enlarged Lymph Nodes:**

- Any new or abnormal swelling

**Body:**

- Areas suddenly painful to the touch
- Increased breathing rate or heart rate

**Skin:**

- Lacerations
- Lumps
- Hair loss
- Scabs
- Frequent scratching, itchiness or if you have bites after holding animal

**Anal/Genital Area:**

- Diarrhea, especially bloody liquid diarrhea, seek immediate attention
- No bowel movement for more than 48 hours
- No urination for more than 24 hours

**Gait:**

- Sudden lameness that does not improve with rest within a day
- Animal exhibits pain upon walking or handling

**Temperature:**

- Animals with rectal temperature below 100 or higher than 102.5 at rest (outside normal range).
- Animals that are playing or exercising may have a higher temperature.

**Behavior:**

- Lethargic
- Poor appetite
- Increased appetite with weight loss
- Excessive drinking
- Increased urination or accidents in the house
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Frequent scratching at ears or skin
- Seizure or convulsions, seek immediate attention
- Any change in normal behavior

**If you are uncertain about any aspect of your foster animal's health ... CALL US!**

## Pet Poison Control Number

The ASPCA Pet Poison Control Center is the best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you think that a pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call **(888) 426-4435**. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.

## Emergency Numbers

As you feed and play with your foster dog, be aware of the animal's general well being. If you have any health-related concerns, please contact us as soon as you notice a problem. **DO NOT** wait until a crisis occurs. **In the care and treatment of foster animals, there is no such thing as a silly question.**

If you have an emergency during business hours, please call one of the Coordinators. Appointments are needed for the animals to be seen by the rescue's veterinarian. When you call, it will be helpful for us to know: the animal's temperature (if possible), if it is vomiting, has diarrhea, is active or listless and whether or not it is eating and drinking.

**After Hours Emergencies**

If you believe your foster pet requires immediate, after-hours emergency care, please contact the nearest emergency vet right away and one of the Coordinators. See below for a list of after-hour emergency vet that we utilize.

Animal Emergency Veterinarian Hospital of Ann Arbor (EVH)  
5245 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor  
734-369-6466  
24 hours/7 days a week

## Spay and Neuter of Foster Animals

Detroit Bully Corps provides all animals brought into the rescue Heartworm testing, up-to-date vaccinations, spay/neuter and a microchip. An animal may be released to a foster immediately following a spay/neuter or with a pending spay/neuter appointment. For these procedures, the animal must be healthy (no infections and taking no antibiotics) and at least 8 weeks of age and at a healthy weight. All animals require a minimum of 14 days to fully recover from spay/neuter surgery. This is a serious surgery and all after-care instructions must be followed.

### Pre-Operative Care

Different vets have different protocol based on the timing of the surgery. In most cases, animals can have water until midnight the night before surgery, but no food, treats or digestible rawhides after 6 p.m. Protocol for puppies will vary because they are more susceptible to diabetic shock and instructions will be provided on an individual basis.

### General Post-Operative Care

You should ALWAYS receive after-care instructions from the vet following surgery. After surgery, your foster animal should be kept quiet with lots of rest away from other pets and active children; no running, excessive stair climbing, jumping, swimming, bathing, etc. Your foster dogs or puppies should be leashed and walked for potty breaks, for at least 10 days after the surgery with no long walks. To avoid injury, keep the animals quiet and in a warm room the first evening after returning home. Keep a close eye on animals to prevent them from licking or chewing the incision area. When necessary, dogs may need a cone or T-shirt.

### Food

Start slowly with just a small amount of water. If the dog is able to keep the water down, feed the dog one-third the amount of food she/he is used to. If the dog vomits, take away the food until the next morning. Puppies can be fed their normal food as soon as they get home.

Some animals may have a decreased appetite for 1-3 days following surgery.

### Incision

The incision should be kept dry and clean for 10 days (no bathing, swimming, etc.) Check the incision daily. Watch for excessive swelling, blood, pus, reddening, painfulness or anything else unusual. **Do NOT allow the animal to excessively lick or chew at the incision**, as this may lead to infection or other serious complications.

If licking or chewing becomes a problem, call immediately for a “cone” to prevent further irritation of the incision. A T-shirt can be fitted to diminish licking or chewing until a cone is provided. Put the dog’s front legs through shirt armholes and tie excess shirt on dog’s back using a rubber band to secure loose parts.

### Post-Surgical Report

Call a Coordinator with a post-surgical report two days after surgery or at any time if you have any questions or concerns about the surgery. We will schedule follow-up with a vet as needed.

### Suture Removal

Absorbable suture material is used on some of the animals and do not need to be removed. If absorbable sutures are not used, a follow-up visit will be scheduled when giving your post-surgical report.

## Fostering Newborn Puppies

There are times when we receive pregnant or nursing dogs with their young or newborn puppies. Foster homes are needed to provide nursing or soon-to-be nursing mothers a safe, warm environment in which

they can raise their young. In this type of situation, foster volunteers closely monitor the progress of the litter, providing attention and socialization to the adult animal and the growing puppies. It is important to continuously weigh these babies to ensure they are gaining weight appropriately.

When young animals are orphaned (bottle-fed babies), foster volunteers are needed to bottle feed them and provide them with round-the-clock care. Along with feeding, foster parents must stimulate young animals to eliminate, take care of their grooming requirements, keep them warm and monitor their progress closely. The first few weeks of a young animal's life can be intense as these young animals are more prone to health and digestive problems. The results are rewarding as you watch your bottle-fed babies grow into healthy, active puppies. The length of foster care for bottle-fed babies can be 8 weeks if you decide to only bottle feed, but can last until the puppies are adopted.

**Facilities needed:** Newborn animals are easily kept in small carriers, baskets or boxes. As they grow, an easy-to-disinfect area separated from your own companion animals, yet not isolated from normal activities, is ideal. Puppies must be kept inside until they are vaccinated and must be in their carrier when traveling to vet appointments. Once puppies are vaccinated, they can be transported by leash.

#### **Suggested Supplies (\*to be provided by Detroit Bully Corps)**

- \*Animal nursing bottle with nipple, eye dropper or syringe with or without nipple
- Tissues, toilet paper, baby wipes, cotton balls
- \*Stuffed toys to cuddle with (without prior approval, any that you buy on your own will not be reimbursed)
- \*Food (milk replacement, formula, high quality puppy food for nursing mother). NEVER GIVE MILK TO A DOG OR PUPPY.

#### **Daily Duties**

- Feed nursing mothers and observe their overall health and behavior
- Nursing mothers must have access to fresh food and water 24/7
- Feed orphaned puppies as often as every 2-3 hours throughout the day and night, supplement puppies with nursing mothers, if needed
- Stimulate orphaned babies to urinate and defecate after every feeding
- Clean orphaned puppies after feedings
- While handling puppies, look for signs of development (eyes open, ear flaps unfolding, teeth erupting)
- Examine ears, eyes, noses, mouth, paws, tails, body
- Weigh each puppy
- Clean nursing bottles, syringes and nipples thoroughly
- Clean bedding

#### **As Needed Duties**

- Help nursing mothers when they are ready to wean infants
- Begin vaccinations and de-worming following the instructions from your Coordinator
- Check food and milk supplies

If the health of any bottle-fed baby begins to deteriorate in any way, contact your Coordinator immediately.

## **Fostering Puppies**

One of our common needs for foster care is for animals who are too young to be adopted. Dogs are naturally afraid of the unknown. It is critical that puppies are exposed to many different things and handled appropriately to prevent unnatural fears of the unknown. Puppies must be at least eight weeks of age and weigh approximately two pounds to be eligible for placement. In the spring and summer months, we receive many animals younger than 8 weeks of age and placement in foster home allows these

animals to mature, to become socialized and to begin their vaccination series. Young animals are usually placed into foster care with all of their littermates, but occasionally we will separate the litter in pairs or have a single orphan animal that needs care.

**Facilities needed:** An easy-to-disinfect area separated from foster's own companion animals, yet not isolated from normal activities, is ideal. Examples are a bathroom, spare bedroom, heated laundry room, kitchen, etc. Puppies must be kept indoors until they are vaccinated and always supervised when they are outside. If a puppy is not vaccinated, it must travel in a carrier.

**Required Supplies For Puppies (will be provided by Detroit Bully Corps if needed):**

- Crate/kennel
- Baby gate (recommended)
- Collar
- Leash
- ID tag
- Toys
- Dishes
- Food or treats

**Recommended Supplies for Puppies (only necessary supplies will be provided):**

- Thermometer
- Vaseline
- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton balls
- Scale
- Bedding/old blankets/towels
- Newspaper
- Stain/odor remover
- Brushes/nail clippers
- Heating pad

**Daily Duties**

- Feed (may be necessary 2 – 4 times a day)
- Clean bowls
- Supply fresh water
- Clean area where animal urinates and defecates; check for any problems (blood in urine, runny stools)
- Check fur
- Examine paws
- Check ears and eyes
- Look inside mouth at gums and teeth
- If puppy, start simple commands: sit, stay, down
- Play with animal, especially their paws, ears and mouth

**As Needed Duties**

- Weigh animals, every other day for very young, once a week for older animals
- Respond to Medical Coordinator for vaccine and worming schedule
- Check your food and litter supplies and make requests before you run out
- Clean bedding
- Trim nails
- Groom coat

## **Fostering Under-Socialized Animals**

Under-socialized, neglected, shy and/or frightened animals may be the most challenging to foster because they require specialized care (and sometimes training) in order to find permanent homes. This requires a lot of patience and time of their foster parent; these animals may have never been inside a house or car, may not be housetrained and may have never before experienced kindness from a human. Under-socialized animals must be closely monitored to reduce the chance of escape or destructive behavior. They need to be taught social skills that will make them treasured lifelong companions for a lucky family.

**Facilities needed:** Fenced yard required at least 4' high, approximately 30"x30". Dogs are never allowed to run loose, regardless of how well they respond to verbal commands. They must be exercised in fenced areas or on leash. Crating dogs can be extremely helpful to both foster parents and potential adopters, so a place for an appropriate-size crate is desirable. Dogs must be supervised while outdoors and whenever they meet unfamiliar animals. While out in public, dogs must be on a leash at all times (no retractable leashes permitted).

### Supplies

Detroit Bully Corps will provide all necessary supplies. Anything you purchase without prior approval will NOT be reimbursed.

- Leash, collar, ID tag
- Crate
- Bedding
- Bowls/dishes
- Toys
- High-quality food

### Daily Duties

- Handle the animal: talking, stroking, brushing, lifting paws, checking ears, mouth, eyes
- If not housetrained, begin training
- Begin basic commands – sit, stay, come, down
- Begin leash walking
- Socialize animal with other people, when ready
- Feed
- Wash bowls
- Clean area where animal urinates and defecates, check for any problems (blood in urine, runny stools)
- Wash bedding, if needed
- Notify your Coordinator with problems, either with health or behavior
- Have animal's behavior re-evaluated periodically, as needed, by Coordinators

## Fostering Ill, Injured and Post-surgical Animals

Detroit Bully Corps frequently receives animals in need of extensive medical treatment, including animals recovering from injuries as a result of being hit by a car, attacked by another animal, abused, neglected, poisoned or because of diseases that either can or cannot be contagious to other animals.

Animals affected by illnesses can be all ages and can include upper respiratory infection, kennel cough, mites, giardia, coccidia, fleas and intestinal parasites. Due to these illnesses, the immune system of the infected animal may be compromised and it is important to place that animal in a secure, safe environment during recovery.

While fostering ill or injured animals, it is likely that a volunteer will administer daily medication, provide a special diet and ensure that the animal receives regular check-ups with a Detroit Bully Corps vet.

**Facilities needed:** Depending on the mobility of the animals, an easy-accessed, easy-to-disinfect area that is completely isolated from the foster's own companion animals, such as a spare bathroom, bedroom, den, heated laundry room, etc. Dogs must be supervised when outdoors and in a carrier or leashed when traveling.

### Supplies

Detroit Bully Corps will supply you with all necessary supplies. Anything you buy without permission from a coordinator or director will not be reimbursed.

- Leash, collar and ID tags
- Medications and any special equipment
- Towels/blankets
- Pill applicator
- Stain/odor remover
- Rectal thermometer, vaseline, rubbing alcohol
- Scale
- Bowls/dishes
- Toys
- Brushes/nail clippers
- Crate/kennel/carrier
- High quality food

### Daily Duties

- Medicate as directed by veterinarians
- Exercise animals as required for therapy
- Provide "bed rest" conditions, if required
- Observe for signs of improvement/deterioration
- Inform Foster Care Coordinator if problems occur
- Feed, supply fresh water
- Wash bowls, bedding as needed
- Clean area where animal urinates and defecates; check for any problems (blood in urine, runny stools)
- Socialize, play with animal
- Trim nails
- Help to ensure animals get vet check when needed

## Fostering Senior Dogs

Senior dogs are at the top of the euthanasia list when they are taken into most shelters. That means when the shelter fills up (as so often happens), they are the first to be marched down to the euthanasia room. In offering a foster home to a senior dog, you are buying the time needed to find a permanent home and avoid euthanasia.

The typical animal shelter is a stressful environment for any animal. It is particularly hard on seniors, who are generally less able to deal with stress and may experience more disorientation than a younger dog. In addition, contagious diseases, such as kennel cough, are often rampant in shelters. Older dogs don't easily fend off disease. They also tend to be less optimistic than younger dogs and can lapse into depression, which does not encourage prospective adopters to consider adopting them.

Also, consider that a senior dog can require a longer time to find a new home because most adopters are looking for puppies or young dogs. The longer a senior dog spends in a shelter, the worse his condition can be, the less appealing he can seem to a prospective new family, and, of course, the closer he comes to running out of time.

A senior dog who is fostered rather than kept at a shelter will maintain or more quickly regain good emotional and physical health, and therefore be vastly more appealing as a candidate for adoption. A senior dog who lives in a home environment rather than a shelter while he is waiting for permanent placement will inevitably make a better transition to his new home and family, and therefore decrease the chances that he will be displaced again.

**Facilities needed:** Depending on the mobility of the animals, an easily-accessed, easy-to-disinfect area that is completely isolated from the foster's own companion animals, such as a spare bathroom, bedroom, den, heated laundry room, etc., is ideal. Dogs must be supervised when outdoors and in a carrier or leashed when traveling.

### Supplies

Detroit Bully Corps will provide all necessary supplies. Anything you purchase without prior approval will NOT be reimbursed.

- Leash, collar, ID tag
- Crate/kennel/carriers
- Old blankets/towels
- Bowls/dishes
- Stain/odor remover
- Toys
- High quality food

### Daily Duties

- Handle the animal: talking, stroking, brushing, lifting paws, checking ears, mouth, eyes
- Pay close attention to teeth as elderly dogs often have dental issues that need to be addressed
- If not housetrained, begin training
- Begin basic commands – sit, stay, come, down
- Begin leash walking
- Socialize animal, when ready, to other people
- Feed
- Wash bowls
- Clean area where animal urinates and defecates, check for any problems (blood in urine, runny stools)
- Wash bedding, if needed
- Notify your Coordinator with problems, either with health or behavior
- Have animal's behavior re-evaluated periodically, as needed, by Coordinators

### Dog Toys

For dogs, toys are not a luxury, but a necessity. Toys help fight boredom in dogs left alone, and toys can even help prevent some problem behaviors from developing. Dogs are often willing to "play" with any object they can get their paws on. That means you'll need to be particularly careful when monitoring your dog's playtime to prevent any "unwanted" activities.

### "Safe" Toys

Many factors contribute to the safety or danger of a toy, and a number of them depend upon your dog's size, activity level, and preferences. Another factor to be considered is the environment in which your dog spends his time. Although we can't guarantee your dog's enthusiasm or his safety with any specific toy, we can offer the following guidelines:

### Be Cautious

The things that are usually most attractive to dogs are often the very things that are the most dangerous. Dog-proof your home by removing string, ribbon, rubber bands, children's toys, pantyhose, and anything else that can be ingested.

Toys should be appropriate for your dog's size. Balls and other toys that are too small can easily be



swallowed or become lodged in your dog's throat.

Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes, or other parts that can be chewed or ingested. Discard toys that start to break into pieces or have pieces torn off. Ask your veterinarian about which toys are safe and which aren't. Unless your veterinarian says otherwise, "chewies" should only be played with under your supervision. Very hard rubber toys are safer and last longer.

Take note of any toy that contains a "squeaker" buried in its center. Your dog may feel that he must find and destroy the source of the squeaking, and he could ingest it—in which case squeaking objects should also be used only under your supervision.

Check labels for child safety. Look for stuffed toys that are labeled as safe for children under 3 years of age and that don't contain any dangerous fillings. Problem fillings include things like nutshells and polystyrene beads, but even "safe" stuffing's aren't truly digestible. Remember that soft toys are not indestructible, but some are sturdier than others. Soft toys should be machine washable.

## Toys We Recommend

### Active Toys:

- Very hard rubber toys, such as Nylabone®-type products, such as Dura Chews.
- KONG®-type products, are available in a variety of shapes and sizes and are fun for chewing and for carrying around.
- "Rope" toys are usually available in a "bone" shape with knotted ends.
- Tennis balls make great dog toys, but keep an eye out for any that are chewed through and discard them.

### Distraction Toys:

- KONG®-type toys, especially when filled with broken-up treats—or, even better, a mixture of broken-up treats and peanut butter—can keep a dog busy for hours. Only by chewing diligently can your dog get to the treats, and then only in small bits. Double-check with Detroit Bully Corps about whether or not you should give peanut butter to your foster dog. Be sure to choose a KONG®-type toy of appropriate size for your dog.
- "Busy-box" toys are large rubber cubes with hiding places for treats. Only by moving the cube around with his nose, mouth, and paws can your dog get to the goodies.

### Comfort Toys:

- Soft stuffed toys are good for several purposes, but aren't appropriate for all dogs. For some dogs, the stuffed toy should be small enough to carry around. For dogs who want to shake or "kill" the toy, the toy should be the size that "prey" would be for that size dog (mouse-size, rabbit-size, or duck-size).
- Dirty laundry, such as an old T-shirt, pillowcase, towel, or blanket, can be very comforting to a dog, especially if the item smells like you! Be forewarned that the item may be destroyed by industrious fluffing, carrying, and nosing.

### Get the Most Out of Toys

- Rotate your dog's toys weekly by making only a few toys available at a time. Keep a variety of types easily accessible. If your dog has a favorite, like a soft "baby," you may want to leave it out all the time.
- Provide toys that offer variety—at least one toy to carry, one to "kill," one to roll, and one to "baby."
- "Hide-and-seek" is a fun game for dogs to play. "Found" toys are often much more attractive than a toy which is obviously introduced. Making an interactive game out of finding toys or treats is a good "rainy-day" activity for your dog, using up energy without the need for a lot of space.

Many of your dog's toys should be interactive. Interactive play is very important for your dog because he needs active "people time"—and such play also enhances the bond between you and your pet. By focusing on a specific task—such as repeatedly returning a ball, KONG®, or Frisbee®, or playing "hide-and-seek" with treats or toys—your dog can release pent-up mental and physical energy in a limited amount of time and space. This greatly reduces stress due to confinement, isolation, and boredom. For young, high-energy, and untrained dogs, interactive play also offers an opportunity for socialization and helps him/her learn about appropriate and inappropriate behavior, such as jumping up or being mouthy.

## House Training Your New Foster Puppy or Dog

This method of housetraining is focused on preventing “accidents” instead of waiting for accidents to happen. The goal is to make it easy for the puppy to do the right thing in the first place. Training in this way is faster and more effective than punishing the dog for mistakes. YOU play the most important part in the success or failure of this method — you must be patient, determined and reliable for it to work. If you already own an adult dog with housetraining problems, you can use this method to start fresh just as you would with a puppy.

This method also requires the use of a dog crate or at least, a small, confined area for the pup to stay in when he can't be supervised. A crate isn't cruel! It's your dog's own private room where he can rest and stay safe, secure and out of trouble. Just like a small child, your puppy needs to be protected from hurting himself and destroying your furniture. A crate will make the job so much easier!

The first few weeks of owning a puppy are some of the hardest and most important. Spending extra time and effort now will pay off in a big way. Don't blame the puppy if you're lazy!

Before you start, here are some essential housetraining facts:

- Adult dogs can be housebroken in the same way as puppies.
- Puppies have limited bladder control.
- Dogs & puppies like to be clean and to sleep in a clean area.
- All dogs do best when kept to a routine schedule.
- Dogs have to go potty when...
  - they wake up in the morning or after a nap
  - within 1/2 hour after eating
  - before they go to sleep

If a dog and especially a puppy is not allowed to relieve itself at those times, it will most likely have an accident. Don't wait for the dog to “tell” you that it has to go out. Just assume that he does and put him outside.

### Housetraining Puppies

Puppies, under three months of age, have limited bladder control and reflexes. They usually don't know they're going to “go” until the moment they do! It's not realistic to expect them to tell you ahead of time. If you're observant, you'll see that a puppy who's looking for a place to go potty will suddenly circle about while sniffing the floor. The sniffing is instinct — he's looking for a place that's already been used. If he can't find one, he'll start one! By preventing accidents in the house, you'll teach him that the only appropriate bathroom is the one outside! Ideally, you're reading this before you've brought your new puppy home. If you already have your puppy, just pick up the schedule at an appropriate place.

Set up a dog crate or small, confined area (the smaller the better.) Using a dog crate will be more effective. The size of the crate is important — if it's too large, the puppy will have room to use one end as a bathroom. If you've bought a crate for him to “grow into,” you can also get dividers to reduce the inner space while he's small. If he must be left alone while you're at work, then a larger crate is okay. Put a stack of newspapers at one end for him to use when you can't be home to let him out.

Also in the crate should be a water dish (you can get one that attaches to the side of the crate and is harder to spill), sleeping pad and toys. Put the crate where he isn't shut away from the family. If you're using a confined area instead, a baby gate across the doorway is preferable to closing the door and isolating your puppy.

Your puppy might not like the crate at first. Don't give in to his complaining or tantrums. If you're sure he isn't hungry or has to go potty, ignore his yowling. Eventually he'll settle down and sleep, which is what crates are for! If you give a tempting treat every time you put the dog in his crate, he'll soon look forward to going in.

The crate is intended to be his sleeping and feeding place and is where he should be when you can't keep a close eye on him. If you give him the run of the house at this age, you can expect accidents! Dogs instinctively keep their sleeping areas clean. If you've allowed him to go potty when he needs to, he won't dirty his crate if he can help it. Once he's developed better control, he won't need the newspapers unless you're going to be gone all day. Change the papers several times a day if they've been soiled.

### **Puppy's First Night Home**

Get off on the right foot at the beginning! Carry the puppy from your car to the yard. Set him on the grass and let him stay there until he/she potties. When he does, tell him how wonderful he is! After bringing the pup inside, you can play with him for an hour. Plan on taking the puppy outside every two hours (at least) while he's awake. Don't wait for him to tell you that he has to go!

Feed the puppy his supper in his crate. Don't let him out for half an hour and when you do, carry him outside to potty before you do anything else. Wait for him to have a bowel movement before bringing him back in. Some pups get their jobs done quickly, others may take half an hour. If he's being slow, walk around the yard encouraging him to follow you. Walking tends to get things moving, so to speak!

Always take the puppy outside first thing when you let him out of the crate and always CARRY the puppy to the door!! This is important. Puppies seem to have a reflex peeing action that takes affect the moment they step out of the crate onto your carpeting. If you let him walk to the door, he'll probably have an accident before he gets there. Part of this training method is psychological — you want the puppy to feel grass under his feet when he goes to the bathroom, not your carpeting!

After another short play period, take the pup outside before bedtime, then tuck him into his crate for the night. If he cries during the night, he probably has to go out. Carry him outside to potty, then put him back in the crate with a minimum of cuddling. If you play with him, he might decide he doesn't want to go back to sleep! Puppies usually sleep through the night within a few days.

### **Daytime Schedule**

Establish a regular schedule of potty trips and feedings. This helps you to control the times he has to go out and prevent accidents in the house. First thing in the morning — before you have your coffee — carry the puppy outside. He can then come in and play for an hour. Feed breakfast in the crate and don't let him out again for a half hour. Then carry him back outside for potty. Puppies usually have a bowel movement after each meal so give him time to accomplish it.

Now he can have another inside playtime for an hour or so. Don't give him free run of the house, use baby gates or close doors to keep him out of rooms he shouldn't go in. (Puppies are notorious for finding out of the way corners to have accidents in — keep him in an area where you can watch him). If you give him too much freedom too soon, he'll probably make a mistake. After playtime, take him outside again then tuck him into his crate for a nap.

For the first month or so, you'll be feeding three or four meals per day. Repeat the same procedure throughout the day: potty outside first thing in the morning, one hour playtime, potty, meal in crate, potty, playtime, potty, nap, potty, playtime, meal, etc. The playtimes can be lengthened as the puppy gets older and is more reliable. Eventually the puppy will be letting you know when he needs to go out but if you ignore his request or don't move quickly, he'll have an accident!

We know this sounds like a lot of work and it is! The results of all this running in and out will pay off in a well-housebroken puppy and clean carpets. Keep in mind that some breeds are easier to housetrain than others and how the puppy was raised before it came to you has an effect, too. Pet store puppies that were allowed to use wire-bottom crates have less inclination to keep their crates clean. Puppies that were raised in garages or other large areas where they could “go” wherever will also be a little more difficult. Don't give up though - you can train them, it will just take a little longer.

A word about paper-training, it seems harmless to leave papers about “just in case” and for us who work all day, it's a necessity. However, paper-training your pup will make the overall job of housetraining that much harder and take longer. By only allowing the pup to relieve itself outside, you're teaching it that it's not acceptable to use the house. Using newspapers will override this training. Also, be aware that many puppies get the notion that going potty NEAR the papers is as good as going ON them! If you must use newspapers when you're gone, keep to the regular housetraining schedule when you're at home. Get the puppy outside often enough and don't leave papers out “just in case.”

Keep your dog's yard picked up and free of old stools. Many dogs choose an area to use as a bathroom. If left to become filthy, they'll refuse to use it and do their business in the house instead! Picking up stools helps you keep tabs on your dog's health as well. Stools should be firm and fairly dry. Loose, sloppy stools can be an indication of worms, health problems, stress or digestive upset.

### **Housetraining Adult Dogs**

You can use a modified puppy schedule to train an un-housetrained dog or one that's having housetraining problems. Start from the beginning just like a puppy, use a crate and put them on a schedule. An older dog can be expected to control itself for longer periods provided you take it outside at critical times — first thing in the morning, after meals and last thing at night. Until they're reliable, get them outside every three to four hours in between those times.

Adopted older dogs that have always had freedom may be unwilling to have a bowel movement when on a leash. You can either walk them longer or keep them confined until they really have to go. Just like a puppy, don't give them the run of the house and do keep them in a crate or small area if you can't supervise them. You can give them more freedom as they become more reliable.

### **What to do if the Puppy has an Accident**

Remember, this method of housetraining is based on PREVENTING accidents. By faithfully taking the dog out often enough, you'll get faster results than if you discipline the puppy after the accident has already happened. If your puppy makes a mistake because you didn't get him out when you should have — it's not his fault.

If you catch the pup in the act, stay calm. Holler “NO” while you scoop the puppy up immediately - don't wait for him to stop piddling - and carry him outside to an area he's used before. As you set him on the ground, tell him “Yes” and praise him as he finishes the job. Leave him out a few more minutes to make sure he's done before bringing him back in the house.

This is a little trickier with an adult dog especially if he's new to you and you don't know how he'll react to being grabbed and thrust outside. Holler “NO” and put a leash on to take him out and show him where the bathroom is. Make a point of getting the dog out more often in the future.

Any other corrections such as rubbing his nose in it, smacking with newspapers, yelling, beating or slapping only confuse and scare the dog. If you come across an “old” accident, it doesn't pay to get excited about it. Dogs aren't smart enough to connect a past act with your present anger and he won't understand what you're so mad about. He'll act guilty but it's only because he knows you're mad at him. He has no real idea why. Point the spot out to him and say “No” but that should be the limit of your correction.

Keep in mind that health problems, changes in diet, and emotional upsets (moving to a new home, adding

a new pet or family member, etc.) can cause temporary lapses in housetraining. Diabetes in adult dogs and urinary tract infections in both puppies and adults can cause dogs to have to urinate more often. Urinary infections in young female puppies are common. A symptom is frequent squatting with little urine release. If you suspect a physical problem, please contact your Coordinator to make an appointment with DBC's veterinarian.

Sudden changes in dog food brands or overindulgence in treats or table scraps can cause diarrhea. Dogs don't need much variety in their diets so you're not harming yours by staying to one brand of food. If you make a change, do it gradually by mixing a little of the new food with the old, gradually increasing the amount of new food every day. A sudden change of water can cause digestive upset, too. If you're moving or traveling, take along a couple gallons of "home" water to mix with the new. Distilled water from the grocery store can also be used.

### **Cleaning Up Accidents**

If you've worked hard with this training method, you won't have many! Put your puppy (or adult dog) away out of sight while you clean up a puddle. Dog mothers clean up after their babies but you don't want your puppy to think that YOU do, too! Clean up on linoleum is self-explanatory. On carpeting, get lots of paper towel and continue blotting with fresh paper until you've lifted as much liquid as possible.

There are several homemade and commercially available "odor killers" that are helpful. In a pinch, plain white vinegar will work to help neutralize the odor and the ammonia in the urine. (Don't use a cleaner with ammonia - it'll make it worse!) Sprinkle baking soda on the spot to soak up moisture and to help neutralize odor, vacuum when dry. At the pet store, you can find a good selection of products that may be more effective. A diarrhea stain on carpeting or upholstery can be lifted with a gentle solution of lukewarm water, dishwashing soap, and white vinegar.

Puppies are attracted to urine odors and their noses are much better than ours! Even when using a commercial odor killer, a teeny residue will be left behind that our dogs can smell. Keep an eye on that spot in the future! This remarkable scenting ability does have an advantage — if you must paper-train your dog and he doesn't know what newspapers are for yet, "house-breaking pads" are available at your pet store. They are treated with a mild attractive odor (too weak for us to smell), so your puppy will gladly use them!

### **Advice for Owners of Male Dogs**

Your male puppy will begin to lift his leg between four and nine months of age, a sign of the activation of his sexual drive and instinct to "mark" territory. This is a perfect age to neuter your dog and avoid the unwanted behaviors that accompany sexual maturity — marking in inappropriate places, fighting and aggression toward other male dogs. Intact (un-neutered) males will mark any upright object and are especially hard on your shrubbery and trees. Some males will also mark inside the house, particularly if another dog comes to visit or if you're visiting in someone else's home. If you use your male for breeding, you can expect this behavior to get worse. Neutering your dog will protect his health, help him to live longer, and be a better pet along with improving his house manners!

### **Common Household Pet Poisons**

It's nearly impossible to rid your home of all plants and products that could be poisonous to pets. But by knowing what's toxic, you can prevent danger by keeping the following items out of reach:

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Antifreeze (appealing because it smells sweet)
- Avocado
- Azaleas
- Caffeine
- Chocolate (the darker the chocolate, the more toxic)

- Coffee
- Fabric softener sheets
- Garlic
- Household cleaning products
- Insecticides
- Macadamia nuts
- Mistletoe
- Mothballs
- Onions and onion powder
- Poinsettia
- Products sweetened with xylitol, like gum
- Raisins and grapes
- Salt
- Yeast dough

## Suggestions on Cleaning Procedures

When housing an animal, it is important to consider all objects he/she may have contact with and disinfect them accordingly. This will help protect your animals and future foster animals. It is also important to consider what cleaning agents are safe to use on certain surfaces. While all surfaces may not be able to be cleaned, the simple action of decreasing the number of environmental pathogens through washing and/or vacuuming helps.

In order to decide on the effectiveness of a particular cleaner it is important to determine the active ingredients, strength and proper contact time. Chemical disinfectants are grouped based on their properties. Vinegar is a great, safe cleaning agent.

- Soluble alcohol is effective against viruses and bacteria but not fungi. Pine Sol is an alcohol and detergent cleaner.
- Halogens are effective against viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi. Bleach is an example of a halogen.
- Phenolics are mildly effective against viruses and poor with fungi. Lysol is an example of a phenolic.
- Detergents: The mechanical action of scrubbing with a detergent alone is effective for many bacteria.

When using bleach, the recommended dilution is 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and the recommended contact time is 10 minutes before being soaked up. Other recommendations on strength and contact time can be obtained from the manufacturer.

With the non-toxic environmentally friendly products like Simple Green, it is important to read the labels. It is not a disinfectant but the company does make a Simple Green D, which is. This also applies to newer products, such as Clorox wipes. Most people assume bleach is an ingredient in this product, but it is not!

Products like Febreze are generally safe to use in a home with animals, although, some animals can have allergic reactions. Use these products with discretion.

Parasites and their eggs are difficult to deal with because many are very resistant to cold and heat and can survive for years in the soil. The most effective way to deal with parasites in a yard is to clean up after an animal immediately and as often as possible.

## Animal Bites

- Don't put yourself in a compromising situation.
- Practice safe animal handling and disease control.
- Report any unusual or aggressive behavior or a bite that breaks the skin.

Neither dogs nor humans have mouths that can even remotely be considered clean. All are filled with bacteria, many of which can cause disease if they enter broken skin. Over 130 disease-causing microbes have been isolated from dog and cat bite wounds. Animals' saliva is also heavily contaminated with bacteria, so a bite may not even be necessary to cause infection; if you have a cut or scratch and allow a pet to lick it, you could be setting yourself up for trouble.

People who are at an increased risk of infection:

- Newborns and infants
- Over 50 years of age
- Have diabetes, circulatory problems, liver disease, alcoholism or HIV/AIDS
- Had a mastectomy or organ transplant
- Taking chemotherapy or long-term steroids
- Any type of compromised immune system

### What to do if You are Bitten

Immediately and thoroughly wash the wound with plenty of soap and warm water. The idea is to remove as much dirt and saliva—and therefore, bacteria—as possible. It may hurt to scrub a wound, but an infection will hurt a lot more. Scrub it well and run water over it for several minutes to make sure it is clean and all soap is rinsed out. It is a good idea to follow the washing with an antiseptic solution, such as iodine or other disinfectant, but always wash with soap and water first. Apply antibiotic ointment and cover the wound with gauze or a bandage. If the wound is severe, or if you have any of the risk factors listed above, seek medical advice at once. Your doctor may want you to take antibiotics to prevent infection from developing. If you have not had a recent tetanus booster, you may be advised to take one. One sign of serious infection is a red line leading from the bite wound toward the heart. This requires immediate attention and the person should go directly to the emergency room or 24-hour care clinic.

When a bite is not reported to Foster Coordinators it creates a hazard for others handling that animal. An animal that has bitten once can be less inhibited to bite a second time. Fill out an Incident Report Form immediately when a dog bites (dog to human, dog to dog, dog to other animal) and send to your Foster Coordinator as soon as possible.

The information presented here is not intended to take the place of professional medical advice. If any animal bites you, always consult your physician for his/her recommendations.

### Incident Report Usage

Incident Reports are used by the rescue to communicate any incident that may require disclosure to a potential adopter and to establish a possible pattern of behavior. Please submit an Incident Form within 24 hours of an incident via email or directly to a Coordinator and notify your Coordinator within 1 hour of the incident via phone.

We fully recognize and expect that every foster home will fill out an Incident Report at some point during their foster career. Accidents, dogs getting loose, dog bites do happen. The key is communicating this as accurately as possible so that the appropriate steps and measures can be taken to protect foster dogs, foster homes and the general public.

Please familiarize yourself with the following Incident Report.



## Incident Report

Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Incident Type</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bit a Human <input type="checkbox"/> Bit Another Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in a Dog Fight <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Resulting in Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Resulting in No Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Got Loose/Lost <input type="checkbox"/> Severely Scratched/Clawed Person <input type="checkbox"/> Snapped At/Showed Aggression Toward Human <input type="checkbox"/> Snapped At/Showed Aggression Toward Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

*Information About the Other Animal Involved in the Incident:*

Name:	Breed:
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Neutered Male <input type="checkbox"/> Spayed Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered Male <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered Female	Approximate Age:                      Color:

*Contact Information for Person Involved in the Incident:*

Name:	Are you 18 or older? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Street Address:	Email Address:
City, State, Zip:	Home Phone #:
Cell Phone #:	Work Phone #:
Drivers License Number:	Current Employer:

*Description of Incident:*

Location of Incident:	Time of Incident:
Description of Incident in Detail (please attached additional sheets if necessary)	



## Incident Report, continued

**Medical Treatment & Cost Remedy:**

Medical Treatment Sought:	Veterinary Medical Treatment Sought:
Cost of Treatment: \$ _____	Cost of Treatment: \$ _____
Cost Remedy: <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Insurance Covered Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue Reimbursed Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Cost Remedy: <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Insurance Covered Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue Reimbursed Cost <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Disclosure Statement:**

I certify that the information contained in this Incident Report is a truthful and honest representation of the facts surrounding the incident involving the Detroit Bully Corps animal listed on this report. I understand that the information in this report will be reviewed by Detroit Bully Corps' Board of Directors, may be disclosed to potential adoptive and/or foster families, and can be used in determining whether the animal is a danger to themselves or to others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am satisfied with the response of Detroit Bully Corps in this situation and hereby release Detroit Bully Corps, its Board of Directors, Volunteers, and all stakeholders for any future liabilities or claims related to this incident and any injuries or damages that occurred.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not satisfied with the response of Detroit Bully Corps in this situation and may seek additional remedy as allowed by the local law and any previously signed Volunteer Contract, Adoption Contract, Foster Contract, or other legally binding contract releasing liability of Detroit Bully Corps.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Directors Use Only:**

*Upon review of this Incident Report, Detroit Bully Corps' Board of Directors has determined:*

- This incident was the fault of the person involved in the incident.
  - True accident
  - Lack of education/experience
  - Purposeful/intentional cause of incident
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- This incident was the fault of the dog involved in the incident.
  - Aggressive behavior
  - Fear behavior
  - Lack of socialization
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- This was an isolated incident with no true fault or additional prevention possible.

**Recommendations:**

- Incident Closed – No Disclosure Required
- Incident Closed – Disclosure Required

- Danger to Others – Recommended Euthanasia
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## “Getting to Know Your Dog” Form Directions

We ask every foster parent to submit a Getting to Know Your Dog form with every adoption. This is to be given to your Coordinator 24 hours prior to a scheduled adoption or as soon as feasibly possible if an adoption is scheduled within the next 24 hours.

These forms are very important for the new adoptive home to understand their newest family member so please take your time to thoughtfully fill them out. If you are unsure on vetting that is needed, please consult with your Coordinator.

New adoptive parents can feel overwhelmed if they read negative statements about their new pet. Here are some tips in describing your foster dogs personality.

If the dog is overwhelmed by energetic, loud children, don't write “cannot go to a home with children,” instead write “would do best in a mature home” or “calm environment.”

If the dog needs obedience training, don't write “needs obedience training,” write:

- “Enjoys learning and responds well to training”
- “A dog with a lot of potential, he will do great with some basic training”
- “Ready and willing to start/continue obedience training with a Detroit Bully Corps trainer”
- “Easily trained and will quickly fit into your family”
- “Already responding to basic obedience commands”

If the dog is hyperactive, don't write “he is hyperactive,” write:

- “High-energy friend”
- “Your jogging partner”
- “Enthusiastic, spirited, eager to please, energetic, active, playful”

If the animal needs to be a single pet, don't write “he doesn't like other animals,” write:

- “Looking to be the top dog in a one-dog home”
- “Can't wait for your full attention and will do best if she is the only dog”
- “Doesn't like to share and enjoys the status of being the only dog in the home”

If the animal is nervous, don't write “he has separation anxiety,” write:

- “Eager to find a quiet household”
- “Looking for a patient person who can help her become self-confident”
- “Will do best in an adult household”

## Additional Education for Behavior Problems

- Houstraining
- Crate Training
- Separation Anxiety
- Barking
- Digging
- Fear and Socialization
- Chewing
- Introductions to Other Pets
- Introduction to Children
- Puppy Issues

For any behavior problems that you feel you need help with, please contact a Coordinator and they will

work with you and your foster pet.

## Return and Adoption of Foster Animals

If you would like to return your foster animal for any reason, please contact your Coordinator immediately. Remember, there is always a shortage of foster homes so we ask that you allow at least 24 hours from the time you contact your Coordinator to remove your foster animals.

### The Adoption Process

After an application is received, the applicant's current vet will be contacted to ensure vetting information provided is accurate. A basic background check is performed and references are checked. Also, a rental/landlord check, if applicable. Once an application is approved, a Coordinator will take the Detroit Bully Corps pet to the adopter's home for a home visit. If the atmosphere of the home is suitable and all people and current pets get along and are in agreement, then the adoption contract is presented.

Proper nutrition, exercise and obedience will be discussed with the potential adopter, as well as common behavior issues and realistic expectations. Adoption counselors discuss the animal's specific personality, activity level, history and behavior and provide the applicant with any additional notes the foster family has given.

The contract is read through with the adopter and completed. Detroit Bully Corps provides the adopter with a health record, detailing which medical treatments and vaccines were administered, where and when, along with any information on upcoming vaccinations. They receive a copy of the rabies certificate and the microchip information. The "Getting to Know Your Dog" form is reviewed with the adoptive home as well. Detroit Bully Corps provides each new adopter with informational handouts about care and behavioral issues and encourages people to contact the rescue for help with post-adoption questions or concerns. Three days into the adoption, a Follow-up Counselor will contact the adopter to check-in and see how everyone is doing.

### Placing Your Foster Animal

Detroit Bully Corps encourages fosters to promote and help find potential adopters for foster animals – the foster family knows their foster pet the best; however, foster families should inform interested people that they **MUST** complete the standard adoption process through Detroit Bully Corps before being allowed to take the animal into their care. Encourage adopters to visit [www.dbcdogs.org](http://www.dbcdogs.org) for the online Adoption Application. Detroit Bully Corps encourages all volunteers to bookmark or save the link to the online forms and provide them directly to interested parties, which helps speed up the entire process.

**Everyone, including Detroit Bully Corps volunteers and fosters, must follow the same adoption process. Fosters are to pay the normal adoption fee for the pet.**

Detroit Bully Corps recognizes that when foster animals are adopted or become ill, it can be very emotional, even under the best of circumstances. For most foster parents, their least favorite part of the foster program is losing contact with their foster animal. Many Coordinators and other volunteers are also foster parents and are always available to support you when your foster pet gets adopted or becomes ill. Detroit Bully Corps also offers the adopter contact information for the foster care parent, if the foster approves, so the adopter may keep them updated and send photos, letters or updates. Many adopters also like to keep Detroit Bully Corps and its volunteers updated via social media sites, such as Facebook. Detroit Bully Corps works diligently to place all of our animals in loving homes. We will try to keep you in contact with adopters if at all possible.

As a volunteer and Foster Parent, you have given a very special gift to the animals you have cared for and loved – a first or second chance at a full and wonderful life.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FOSTER PARENTS!**

## Foster Home Reimbursement Form

In order to keep veterinary and supply costs down, Detroit Bully Corps partners with Village Animal Clinic of Dexter for Spay/Neuter Surgery, Heartworm Testing, and Vaccines. Detroit Bully Corps provides their own Microchips. We partner with Emergency Veterinary Hospital of Ann Arbor for other medical needs such as surgical procedures. Detroit Bully Corps will pay for necessary veterinary treatment for your foster animal at any of these locations as long as prior approval has been obtained by your Coordinator.

**No items will be reimbursed unless a Coordinator has permitted reimbursement in writing. Written documentation must be submitted with this reimbursement form in order for the request to be processed.**

Detroit Bully Corps will NOT reimburse foster homes or volunteers for purchases made without a printed receipt with the stores name, date of purchase, purchase amount, and items purchased clearly readable on the receipt. Please attach the receipt to this form and keep a copy of the receipt for your records.

Reimbursable Expense Description:	Reimbursable Amount Requested:

**Total Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Foster Check List:

- Original receipts for all requested reimbursements are stapled to this form.
- I have kept a copy of all receipts for my records.
- Please mail reimbursement check to this address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Office Check List:

- Reimbursement Form and Receipts Received on \_\_\_\_\_
- Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ mailed to address above on \_\_\_\_\_.