

NWBB
FOSTER  **PUPPY**
————— ★★ ★ —————
PROGRAM

PUPPY FOSTERING PROTOCOL

We would like to thank you for your interest in becoming a foster family! It is our responsibility to ensure that our puppies are placed in a loving home environment. It is also important that this is a wonderful experience for our foster families. In placing dogs, we must be diligent in evaluating our foster applicants. We ask that you be completely honest and forth coming with your answers on the application.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Dorothy Benson

Foster Coordinator
dorothy@northwestbattlebuddies.org





THE BEGINNING:

At 8 weeks old the priority for the puppies is to be crate trained, potty trained and socialized. We want the puppies to develop their social skills and be exposed to various sounds and environments. It is very important to purposely expose the pups to a variety of everyday activities early on.



SOCIALIZATION:

Socialization is not just taking dogs out into public to get them used to new environments. It is teaching them how to act in their new environment and to expose them to things such as vacuums, hair dryers, lawn mowers, etc. If the puppy reacts negatively to the loud noises or objects, just ignore their reaction and go about your daily routine. If the puppy runs away and does not recover from the new stimulation quickly, please contact Dorothy for instruction.

After puppies are vaccinated they are welcome to go into public where other pets are allowed to go. This includes Home Depot or Lowes. NWBB branded bandannas are encouraged to be worn in public.

NEVER take them to dog parks, PetSmart or Petco.

Any puppies showing insecurity or fear must stop going out in public. Please notify Dorothy Benson to discuss furthering the pups socialization skills.



When your dog is out in public they are not to be introduced to another dog on leash.

CHILDREN:

We want your children to be involved in this process and feel it is very important for all children to understand the importance of proper handling and care of a puppy. Each child is different but for the most part children under the age of 10 should be supervised by a parent when interacting with dogs. Puppies have sharp little teeth and they can be mouthy when playing with children. If the child is young, they may not know how to stop the biting and might get to rough with the puppy to make them stop or get away.

Children should not be allowed to handle the puppy on a leash. Older children may take the puppy on a walk with a leash under adult supervision. This would need to be approved by the puppy foster coordinator, Dorothy Benson.

CRATE TRAINING:

It is recommended that you do not have blankets or absorbing material in the bottom of the crate while potty training. The puppy can have an approved stuffed animal, toy or bone. Before placing your puppy in the crate, make sure the dog has been outside to relieve themselves. If the pup whines and you are sure that it does not need to go potty, then let it whine. The puppy will discover that whining will not work. Eventually, the puppy will learn to surrender to the confinement of the crate. If the whining in the crate is excessive, please call Dorothy Benson for further instruction.



HOUSE BREAKING:

An 8-week-old puppy will need to go outside to go potty every hour during the waking hours. There is no need to wake the puppy if it is napping, however, you will want to take them out as soon as they wake up. Take the puppy out through the same door, to the same place and stay with it while outside. Encourage the puppy by saying, “go potty” until the pup has done so. When they have finished going potty, praise them by petting them calmly. It is important to stay with the puppy while outside. They may run back to the door and not relieve themselves and then potty in the house. If the pup sits at your feet, start walking around and repeat “go potty”. In time, the pup will potty on command and make the process much easier. If the puppy does NOT potty while outside, then place the pup in the crate for 10 minutes or so. Repeat this process until successful.

If the pup has an accident in the house and you do not see it happen, then you can do nothing about it. Dogs live in the moment and they will not understand if you are scolding them after the fact. If you see the puppy start to potty in the house, quickly pick the puppy up (this will generally startle the puppy and help deter the behavior) and take it outside to the appropriate place to go to the bathroom. Repeat your “go potty” command. If it is a long way from the crate to the door, it is beneficial to carry the puppy outside to go potty. This should only be necessary when it is young.

VISITING:

There may be times when you want to take the puppy to a friend’s house for a visit or another foster puppy’s home to play. Your puppy may be potty trained at your house but they may not be potty trained in a new environment. Your pup may not understand where it is okay to go potty. You will need to watch your puppy carefully and take them outside frequently to show them where to go potty.



FEEDING:

A puppy may need to be offered food 4 to 5 times per day at 8 weeks old. Individual feeding instructions may be necessary. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Benson, Foster Coordinator. Food is to be put down in a quiet environment, such as the crate, for 10–15 minutes. If puppy does not eat the meal, the food is pulled until the next feeding. **DO NOT FREE FEED.** The pup must learn to eat when food is presented. **NEVER** are puppies to be fed or given **ANY** treats by hand. Food or treats are **ALWAYS** placed in the puppy’s bowl for consumption. Always soften food with warm water or chicken broth. It is very important to maintain a good weight on the puppies. Additionally, it is important to maintain a healthy weight for the dog.

Each puppy can be different based on temperament, environment and activity levels.

***Fresh water should always be available.

Bland Diet for Upset Tummies: If your puppy has an upset tummy (diarrhea or vomiting), you can feed them food that will be softer on their tummies. Cook ground turkey, white minute rice and mix it together with some pumpkin puree. This can be refrigerated or frozen for future use.

TREATS:

Only approved treats and toys will be allowed to be given to pups. Approved treats consist of bully sticks, chicken strip type treat, femur bones or antlers. NEVER FEED FROM THE HAND.. ONLY FROM A FOOD BOWL.



TOYS:

Approved toys include Kong toys, durable stuffed animals, or any toys that cannot break apart and be consumed. (no rope toys or rawhides) We provide toys to start but you are more than welcome to buy more. If you have a question about a toy please do not hesitate to email or call Dorothy Benson.

AFFECTION:

If the puppy is experiencing stress or fear, it is imperative that the human does not share affection or comfort the pup during this time. Affection and praise is to be shared only when we want to imprint a current positive experience. It is important not to be excited when sharing affection with the pup. It is always best if the human and the dog are in a calm state when sharing affection. If the puppy is in distress, holding it on leash or in your arms is appropriate if you are not petting them at this time. A strong confident presence will be the best support for the puppy.

There may be times when you notice that your puppy pees when it gets petted or excited. If this is something that begins to happen with frequency, it is best to not share affection with your puppy when they are excited. For example: if the puppy pees when you come home due to their excitement, come in and ignore your puppy until they have calmed down. Calm touch is the best affection.

Boarding or Kenneling: Northwest Battle Buddies puppies are never to be in the care of anyone that is not previously approved. If the foster family is temporarily unable to care for the pup, proper care will be arranged by the Foster Coordinator. Puppies are not allowed to travel out of the area with you on vacation. Arrangements will need to be made with the Foster Coordinator for your trip.

STRANGERS:

Contact by people other than the puppy foster is encouraged, however contact with unknown dogs is not. A negative experience with another dog can imprint the wrong conditioning as well as jeopardize the safety and service career of the pup.

PHOTOS & SOCIAL MEDIA:

As some of our puppies have been sponsored, we require photos to be taken as we put together digital photo books for them. On Facebook, there is a NWBB Foster page to share photos with other foster families. Please request to join.

TRANSPORTATION:

It is important that the pup go on car rides periodically to ensure that they do not get car sick. It is best for small puppies to travel in a crate. As the pup gets older, they may be allowed to ride in the back seat if they are calm and feel secure. The puppy **SHOULD NOT EAT** prior to riding in the car.

EXPENSES:

Puppy foster's are responsible for the daily needs and supplies for the puppy puppies will be sent home with sufficient supplies to get started, including one bag of dog food. The list of approved dog foods are attached.

We can provide, upon request, an in kind donation receipt to be used for income tax purposes. The donation receipt can be for food, other supplies, medical care or dog toys. The Foster families must provide proof of purchase. We will send the in kind donation receipt at the end of the year.

All veterinary expenses needed for the Northwest Battle Buddies foster program will be provided by NWBB. All puppies are legally owned by NWBB, therefore puppy fosters must adhere to the above guidelines for the safety and well-being of the puppy as it grows up.

If you have any questions regarding the care of the puppy, please contact Dorothy Benson for guidance. We want this experience to be a positive one for the puppy and the puppy foster. **IF AT ANY TIME** the puppy foster wants to terminate their "foster" agreement, Northwest Battle Buddies will collect the puppy from the foster family immediately.

Let me express my deepest gratitude for your assistance in helping us raise these life-saving service dogs for our American Heroes. We could not do it without the help and dedication of people like you.

GROOMING

- Move all electrical cords out of the reach of puppy and place all medicines and cleaning supplies in a secure location.
- Check all areas for items that could be ingested. This includes screws, nails, antifreeze, rat poison, fertilizer, cement mix, etc.
- Keep the puppy out of the kitchen, if possible. They tend to get underfoot, which can lead to potentially dangerous situations for you and your puppy.
- Use baby gates or barriers to prevent the puppy from exploring unsupervised areas of the house.
- Show the puppy any sliding glass doors to help deter them from running into the glass.
- Find a good place for the crate. It is important that it is within earshot in order to listen to the puppy.

SUPERVISING THE PUPPY

- If you are unable to monitor the puppy sufficiently to prevent accidents or other indiscretions, the puppy should be in a crate or on a leash near you.
- Puppies should always be supervised while playing with other dogs.
- Check the puppy's collar for fit and condition daily. If a replacement is needed, please reach out to your local foster contact.
- Give the puppy plenty of quiet time. Too much attention and activity from people, children or other pets can be overwhelming.

INTRODUCING THE FOSTER TO RESIDENT DOGS

- Introductions between a foster dog and the resident dogs should be done in neutral territory. This should be a large area where either of the dogs can choose to move away from one another.
- If introductions are done at your home, take the foster dog to the backyard to sniff and eliminate first. Afterwards, let the resident dogs out into the yard to investigate the smells left by the new dog.
- Some growling or posturing is completely normal.
- If there are multiple dogs in the residence, introductions should be made with the new foster one at a time.
- Baby gates can be used for gradually introducing animals inside.

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