



ALMA Rescue Foundation  
a 501c3 Organization  
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[www.almarescue.org](http://www.almarescue.org)

## **THE FOSTER ROLE**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Before ALMA Rescue transports and puts a dog into foster care, know that they are **each** diligently medically vetted. They have received all of their core vaccines (DHPP's, Bordetella, Giardia & Rabies) have been Distemper, 3 & 4DX snap tested (to rule out parvo, giardia, corona, heartworms, ehrlichia, Lyme disease & anaplasma ~ the last 3 being tick borne diseases.) They have all been de-wormed, treated with flea/tick prevention medication, sterilized & microchipped.

\*To foster a dog for ALMA Rescue, you must live in the North County area (Vista, Carlsbad, Leucadia, Encinitas, Cardiff or Escondido) & have experience with dogs, fostering dogs or volunteering with dogs at an animal shelter. ALMA Fosters must be at least 25 years old and head of household.

As a Caregiver, you are not only sharing your love and home with our rescue pups, but you are helping them to learn good doggy behavior and social skills with humans. Remember that most, if not all, of these dogs have been abandoned, so allowing them **time to trust is the greatest gift you can give them**. Your main objective is **to set them up for success & to be socialized**, so at their Meet n Greet, they have a chance to be adopted & have a future home with their Forever Family!

1. Caregiver understands the **"333" Rules of Rescue** (See sheet attached) and the importance of **going very slow** the first 3 days you have them. This includes:

- letting your foster dog(s) decompress and provide a safe area for them to be alone. The day of transport is stressful for a rescue dog and the first time they have been in your home. Please honor their need for space and do not approach at all the first 3 days. Provide a crate with the door left open or an area in your home that is not used much. Leave a bowl of dry food and water available to them at all times. It is not unusual for a dog to go to the bathroom for 1-3 days when they first arrive! Please do not pick them up at all the first 3 days, especially right up to your face & do not kiss or put into your lap when you meet them; this can be very overwhelming. This is the same protocol at our Meet & Greets. These pups need time to get to know & trust you and feel comfortable in their new environment. TIME IS THEIR BIGGEST BLESSING. They simply need a safe space to relax and not have any demands put upon them. Neither you or the ALMA team knows every detail of their background, so it is so important to take everything very *slow* in the beginning and:

- do not immediately kiss your new foster dog on their face, overwhelm them by excessive touching or expose them to a lot of new people or loud noise. It's very important that they have time to decompress.  
- do not introduce your foster dog to your dog too quickly. It's always best to introduce both dogs in "neutral territory," like on the sidewalk in front of your house.  
- **never take your foster dog to a dog park, dog beach or big public gathering of any kind, especially young puppies!** Their immune systems are still immature, so keeping them at home is best.

- **do not feed your ALMA pup in the same area as your dog, in case they resource guard, which is very common. Please put them in a separate area or room to eat their meal.** Some of these pups were rescued from the street and may have gone hungry for weeks. Others are not socialized with humans or other dogs at all. If they are scared or feel threatened, they can cause resource guard & it is not their fault! Again, we want to set them up for success as they are still learning.

2. Caregiver understands that when ready, dogs thrive under routine & leadership! Instilling manners like:

- sitting & waiting to be fed
- no jumping
- no begging
- no pulling on the leash
- no barking/whining

are all great ways to ensure success & allowing ALMA to place these dogs into their Forever Homes.

3. Caregiver understands the **basics of socializing** a new pup include:

- positive interactions (not startling or picking up the dog right away) keeping interactions short in the first couple of days & honoring the dog's need to just relax/chill after being transported. Please keep in mind that this is their first time away from their initial foster and a totally new environment. They need time to get used to their new surroundings and new humans!
- basic leash training & short walks (even for just a 5-10 minutes every day so that the dog understands what a leash is for and what "go for a walk" means.)
- assisting with potty training (consistency is key! Every 1.5-2 hours taking outside & rewarding with praise & a treat)
- allowing time if needed, for pup to just decompress & understanding their body language if fearful of being touched or picked up. This fear & skittish behavior should start to resolve after 1-3 days. Some pups require more time.
- Importance of using treats & a slip lead to gently interact with dog & helping to gain their trust.

4. Caregiver understands that all medical expenses for each foster dog is covered by ALMA Rescue & that if a medical issue arises (ie: a cough, diarrhea etc.) Caregiver will call ALMA Rescue so they can schedule an appointment at ALMA's veterinarian. At no time should an ALMA dog go to Caregiver's veterinarian.

5. Caregiver understands that ALMA Rescue will provide all food and supplies: pee-pads, crate, \*a collar, tag w/ ALMA phone number, a leash, bedding and any other items Caregiver may require. At the time of adoption, all items need to be returned to ALMA. \*Caregiver agrees to keep ALMA collar & tag on dog at all times, not just for safety, but so dog will get used to wearing a collar.

6. Caregiver understands that their input is an important part of the adoption process, but the final decision to place or not to place any ALMA dog with a potential adopter will be made by ALMA Rescue.

**7. Protocol With Children:** Caregiver understands that the following protocol should be followed regarding children in the house:

- do not under any circumstances leave a child unattended with any dog.
- do not leave bones around the house when children are present and be cautious and observant when children are eating & the dog is in the room. Some dogs can be very well socialized, but still "resource guard" their treats and bowl of food.
- if there is a child in the household under the age of 5, the dog must be put in a separate pen or room while the dog is eating or sleeping to prevent potential accidents.
- children under the age of 13 will not "watch" or walk the dog alone, unless supervised by an adult
- awareness that if a child is in the house with a dog, the child is at risk of being potentially scratched, knocked over or bitten.

**NOTE:** Should you have any concerns or feel uncomfortable with a situation between the dog and your child, contact ALMA Rescue immediately and we will move the dog to another foster.

**8. Cats & Dogs Co-existing:** Caregiver understands that even if their foster dog has been housed with cats & dogs before, ALMA cannot guarantee their behavior with a new cat or dog. Caregiver understands to use caution & to go very slow when introducing their new foster dog to existing cats & dogs in the home and do the introduction *slowly over a period of a few days.*

## 9. General Agreements

### I Agree and Understand:

- to provide adequate food, water, shelter, love, patience & humane treatment for ALMA dog at all times.
- to follow all oral and/or written additional instructions from ALMA, especially if there is a certain food or medication the foster dog requires.
- to keep each foster dog on a leash when outside Caregiver's home
- to **never leave an ALMA dog in a crate longer than 3 hours during the day.**
- to **never allow a foster dog to run or play off leash in a public area – ever!**
- that I am responsible for the safety of each foster dog in my care and for the safety of other dogs & people who have contact with my foster dog.
- to immediately notify ALMA by calling Erin or Laurie (ph #'s below) if my foster dog exhibits any signs of being unwell, stops eating, has diarrhea or goes missing.
- that if I decide that I want to adopt a foster dog in my care, I must go through the adoption process, submit an application through ALMA's website & pay the \*Adoption Fee, which covers all of the medical costs, surgeries, food and transport fees ALMA has incurred. \*Fosters receive a 20% off discount
- that if I need to return my foster dog for any reason, I will provide enough notice for ALMA to locate a new ALMA approved foster home for the dog.
- that ALMA retains the right to remove a foster dog from my care at any time.

I understand that this document provides for the release of liability of ALMA and its volunteers on account of the actions of any dog of any breed, which has been released into the ownership of ALMA and placed into the care of foster/caregiver.

I agree to voluntarily accept responsibility for the dog placed in my care and understand that ALMA is hereby absolved from any liability for injuries or damages caused by ALMA dog or injuries from ALMA dog caused to myself (Foster/Caregiver) or one of my animals. I also understand and agree that the current Owner, ALMA Rescue, makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied about the foster dog's temperament or medical conditions and that ALMA is absolved from any and all liability associated with my foster dog's behavior. If an ALMA dog dies or becomes accidentally injured, ill or lost, ALMA does not hold the foster/caregiver responsible and releases the caregiver from any claim arising from said injury, death or loss.

***Thank you for helping us SAVE LIVES by agreeing to foster. Know that you are an integral part of our rescue pup's journey to finding their Forever Families and we are so very grateful for your time, patience and love that you pour into our rescue pups, helping them get a second chance at a brighter future. XO***

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