



NORTH TEXAS AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD RESCUE FOSTER MANUAL

This manual is intended to provide you with information regarding North Texas Australian Shepherd's (NTASR) Foster program.

It is intended to provide you with important information and should answer many questions that may arise before, during, and after foster care.

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The following information is solely for NTASR Foster's and Volunteer's and cannot be shared or reproduced without the express consent from Samantha Anderson, Founder/President.

Dear NTASR Foster,

You are the backbone of our rescue. Without your dedication and compassion, we couldn't save nearly as many dogs as we do. The time, love, and resources you share with us are invaluable, and we're incredibly grateful to have you by our side on this journey.

Founded in 2020, North Texas Australian Shepherd Rescue (NTASR) was created with a simple but powerful purpose: to be a voice for animals in need. Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and find loving homes for Australian Shepherds, Mini Aussies, Corgis, and other herding breeds across Texas. Over the years, we've worked tirelessly to challenge misconceptions about these dogs—showing the world that they are loyal, loving, and make wonderful companions for families.

Our goal extends beyond just rehoming animals; we aim to raise awareness of the overpopulation crisis in Texas and to promote responsible pet ownership, spay/neuter programs, and humane treatment of animals in our communities. Together, we are making a meaningful difference for dogs who need us the most, providing them a safe path to a forever home.

As President of NTASR, I am committed to ensuring each animal has the best possible chance of a happy future. I want you to know that I am here for you—whether it's to answer questions, celebrate milestones, or navigate challenges. You can reach out to me directly at any time, day or night, by phone, email, or text.

We want you to feel truly supported as part of the NTASR family. Our Admin team is here to champion your successes and help with anything you may need. NTASR is more than just a rescue; it's a community built on compassion, dedication, and love for animals and each other. This is, and will always be, a safe and welcoming space for you and your loved ones.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for choosing to join us. Together, we're not only saving lives but also creating lasting change and standing up for the dogs who need us most.

You are NTASR.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Samantha Anderson

President

Support for Fosters:

NTASR aims to make the fostering experience as enjoyable and stress-free as possible. Fosters have an open line of communication with key contacts, including Samantha, Shawn, and other NTASR team members, to address any questions or concerns.

Fosters also have access to the private [NTASR Fosters & Volunteers Facebook group](#), where they can:

- Ask questions and get quick assistance,
- Share experiences and tips,
- Showcase their foster dog's journey.

NTASR has created this network of support to ensure fosters feel connected and empowered throughout the fostering process.

NTASR has a network of support, including partner rescues, dog trainers, groomers, experienced fosters, vet techs, and other knowledgeable individuals. If you ever need advice or additional information, don't hesitate to reach out—we'll connect you with the right person.

NTASR Foster Paws:

Our communications team has developed a bi-weekly newsletter & would love to have you join the [mailing list](#). You will get exclusive behind the scenes of rescue information, info on upcoming events, available dogs, adoption celebrations, & exclusive foster perks!

In addition to Foster Paws, NTASR has a monthly rescue newsletter called Woof Wire. [Stay in the loop](#) with all the rescues & events from the past month. Celebrate the successes and challenges of rescue with these informative newsletters.



Emergencies & Contacts

Medical Emergency: If your foster dog is experiencing a medical emergency, contact Samantha immediately. If she is unavailable, reach out to Shawn.

Lost Dog: If your foster dog goes missing, contact Samantha right away. If she is unavailable, contact Shawn. Note the time, location, and direction the dog was last seen. If this information is unknown, provide the last known location with the date and time.

Bite Incident: If your foster dog bites a person or animal and breaks the skin, safely contain the dog in a crate (if possible) and contact Samantha immediately. If she is unavailable, contact Shawn.

North Texas Australian Shepherd Rescue

PO Box 283

Arlington, TX 76013

945-259-6482

214-433-2598*

*for emergencies only— please do NOT share or post number

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Benefits of Fostering:

- It's a rewarding experience for you and your family.
- You're giving a once-unwanted dog a fresh start by:
- Showing them that not all humans will treat them poorly,
- Helping them discover love and kindness,
- Allowing them to learn how to just **be** a dog,
- Creating space at the shelter for another dog in need.
- You'll know that your foster dog is on the path to a happy life with a loving family—Whether that family is yours or one you help find for them.

Responsibilities of Fosters:

Fosters play a critical role in providing care, transportation, and communication to ensure dogs are healthy, safe, and prepared for adoption. Below are the responsibilities of NTASR fosters:

Care and Well-Being:

- Provide care, love, attention, socialization, and a safe environment.
- Feed dogs high-quality food and avoid frequent food changes to prevent stomach issues.
 - Save food receipts, as they may be tax-deductible.
 - Occasionally, food may be available through the [NTASR Fosters & Volunteers Facebook](#) group.

Medical Care:

- Transport the dog(s) to NTASR designated veterinarians for all medical needs.
 - If you can no longer make your foster's vet appointment, please notify Samantha or Shawn immediately so we can reschedule or arrange alternative transportation.
- Administer medications as needed, including monthly heartworm prevention – provided by NTASR.
 - Request heartworm prevention via the [Medical Request Form](#)

Events and Activities:

- Transport dogs to adoption events, photo shoots, or other activities as requested.



- If you are unavailable during that time, please notify Samantha or Shawn immediately so we can determine if the dog requires alternate transportation.
 - Provide updated photos & video of foster dogs within 48 hours when asked.
- Help write engaging bios for dogs to be used online for adoption listings.
 - If you need help creating an eye-catching bio, email Carley with a brief personality description of your foster.

Communication and Availability:

- Stay in close contact with NTASR through the [NTASR Fosters and Volunteers Facebook group](#), email, phone, or text.
- The [Facebook group](#) is a helpful space to get answers, share experiences, and connect with other fosters.
- Provide regular updates about your foster dog at least every two weeks. This can be done through the [Foster Intake Form](#) (submitted at the two-week, one-month, and six-week marks) or via phone or email with the foster coordinator or another official NTASR representative. Alternatively, photos, videos and short updates may be posted to the [NTASR Fosters & Volunteers Facebook Group](#).
- Be available to NTASR staff and potential adopters as needed.
- If extenuating circumstances arise and you can no longer foster a dog, contact NTASR to allow at least **one week** for a new foster to be arranged.

Travel and Foster Arrangements:

- Foster is responsible for assisting in finding another foster to take their dog if going out of town for any reason - there is also a spot for you to let us know about any upcoming dates on the [foster intake form](#).
 - Foster dogs may be boarded at the expense of the foster, NTASR will NOT be responsible for this expense.
 - Foster dogs may stay with a friend, family member, or house sitter with other resident dogs. NTASR must be notified and may require that they complete a foster application.
- Foster dog(s) may not leave Foster's town for any reason unless approval by NTASR has been given.
- Please leverage communication in the Facebook group to help source alternative fosters who might be able to help. Please allow as much advanced notice as possible.



Adoption Process:

- Keeping the dog(s) until adopted, unless, mitigating circumstances,
 - For non-mitigating circumstances, please allow Shawn 7 days to find another Foster for the dog(s).
- Fosters will have final say of the adoptive party, and thus foster families are expected to be an active participant of the adoption process by contacting approved applicants and having open conversation with the adoptive party and the Adoption Coordinator, Shawn.
- To help adopters, you'll need to complete the "Adoption Insights: Dog Care & Profile" form, which includes key details such as the dog's diet, feeding schedule, and preventative medications. This form must be submitted to the Foster Coordinator before scheduling any meet-and-greets.
 - Medical paperwork will be emailed to the adopter once the adoption is finalized.
- NTASR dogs are the property of NTASR and must adhere to all organizational policies, rules, and regulations, until adoption.

Note: NTASR reserves the right to remove a foster dog from any foster home at any time for any reason.

These guidelines ensure the well-being of both the dogs and the fosters, fostering a smooth experience from intake to adoption.

Preparing for Your Foster Dog

Starting off on the right foot is key to fostering success. Here's how you can prepare your home and gather supplies to ensure your foster dog's safety, comfort, and well-being.

Dog-Proofing Your Home:

Foster dogs can be curious and resourceful, getting into unexpected things. Follow these steps to dog-proof your home:

- Store cleaning supplies, medications, and wires out of reach.
- Place shoes, socks, and clothing where they can't be accessed—these are tempting chew items.
- Block small areas and hiding places to prevent escapes or accidents.
- Cover trash cans or store them in cabinets to prevent rummaging.
- Keep toilet lids closed and secure cords from blinds.



- Confirm that house and garden plants are non-toxic to dogs. If they are, keep them out of reach or supervise the dog outside.
- Avoid small toys or items that can be ingested or shredded and ingested.
- Protect floors and furniture with old sheets, tarps, or newspapers.

Recommended Supplies:

Having the right supplies will set your foster dog up for success. Below are some essentials:

- **Crate:** NTASR provides crates on loan. Use the crate as a safe space for the dog and avoid keeping them crated for extended periods.
 - Placing a towel over the top of a crate can sometimes provide extra comfort for the dog.
- **Collar / Harness, Foster Tag, and Leash:** These will be provided by NTASR.
 - Foster dogs should have on the NTASR - issued collar/harness and tag at all times.
 - Ensure the dog is leashed when not in a fenced area or during transport.
 - NTASR highly recommends the use of a [martingale collar](#). A martingale collar is designed to provide more control and prevent a skittish dog from slipping out of their collar during walks. This type of collar is especially useful for training, as it offers a gentle way to guide and correct your dog without choking.
 - **Never Leave Unsupervised:** Do not leave the martingale collar on your dog when they are unsupervised. It should only be worn during walks and training sessions.
- **Bowls for Food and Water:** Stainless steel bowls are preferred.
- **Dog Food:**
 - Foster parents are responsible for providing food (save receipts for tax purposes).
 - Check the [NTASR Fosters & Volunteer Facebook group](#) for food availability that matches what you're feeding.
- **Toys and Bedding** – NTASR occasionally provides toys and bedding to foster families – leverage the [Supply Request Form](#) for inquiries.
- **Bathing Supplies:**
 - Keep dog shampoo and towels on hand for grooming needs. NTASR does NOT allow the use of any HARTZ products.
- **Stain and Odor Remover:** Accidents happen, so having a good-quality cleaner is essential.



Bringing Your Foster Dog Home

Many of the dogs rescued by NTASR come from shelters, breeders, or the streets and may not have a complete medical history. It is crucial to ensure that your own dogs are up to date on vaccinations for their protection.

- Prepare a designated space in your home for the foster dog to stay.
- Make the initial homecoming calm and low stress to help the dog settle in. Keep household activity relaxed and as routine as possible. Avoid taking the dog to stores or other public places for the first week.
 - Foster dogs are NOT permitted at dog parks at any time.
- If you have other pets, try to minimize contact between them and the foster dog, especially in the first 7–10 days, to prevent the spread of any potential illness.
- NTASR requires that foster dogs be spayed or neutered and kept current on vaccinations.

By preparing your home and gathering essential supplies, you'll help your foster dog feel secure and cared for as they transition into your home and await adoption. If you need additional supplies or have any questions, reach out to NTASR's Foster Coordinator, Shawn.

Understanding Dog Body Language:

- Understanding dog body language can help ensure that playtime & introductions are safe and enjoyable for all dogs involved. Here are some signs of appropriate and positive dog play behavior: Play Bow, Loose body, Wagging Tail, Bouncy Movements, Relaxed Mouth, Pawing and Nudging, Taking Turns, Play Growling, Biting with Inhibited Force, Mirrored Movements, Taking Breaks, Ears in Neutral Position, Relaxed Body Posture.
- See the doggie language attachment in this packet for visuals of dog body language.
- In contrast, stiff and slow movements, tense mouths or baring of teeth, growling, and prolonged staring indicate that a dog may feel threatened or aggressive. If you observe these behaviors, promptly separate the dogs to create more distance between them.
- You can also practice basic obedience commands with each dog for treats before allowing them to interact again—this time for a shorter duration.
- Be vigilant for aggressive body language, such as raised hackles, teeth-baring, deep growls, a stiff-legged stance, or a prolonged stare. If you notice any of these signs, immediately interrupt the interaction by calmly



redirecting each dog's attention to something else. For instance, both handlers can call their dogs, ask them to sit or lie down, and reward them with treats. Afterward, try allowing the dogs to interact again, but keep the session shorter and/or increase the distance between them.

- Always supervise introductions & playtime, especially with new dog interactions, to ensure that all dogs are happy and safe.

Introductions with your Personal Pets & Children:

- Introductions with your dog(s) and your foster dog(s) should be done in a neutral location, if possible. Some suggestions are outside in a large yard, or on a walk. Make sure all dogs are on leashes, only allowing them enough space to get accumulated to one another. Make sure that there are no treats or toys present. If you have multiple dogs, introductions should be made with the foster dog one at a time.
- Introductions with your cat(s) should be done slowly and safely. If you have multiple cats, introductions should be made with the foster dog one at a time. Start off by keeping them confined in separate rooms only allowing them smell each other through the door. After about a week, try a face-to-face introduction, keep it safe, positive, and controlled. Keeping your foster dog on a short leash, allow your cat out in the same area. Do not allow your foster dog to charge or run up to the cat. Watch the body language of each animal closely and don't continue with the interaction if either pet becomes over-stimulated or aggressive and never leave your foster dog(s) unsupervised with your family cat(s).

Kid(s) and your Foster Dog(s):

You should supervise all interactions between your child/ren, their friends, and your foster dog(s).

- Teach children who will be around your foster dog(s):
 - To be responsible and respectable
 - To leave the dog(s) alone when he/she is eating or sleeping,
 - Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the dog,
 - Do not tease the dog,
 - Do not chase or run quickly around the dog,
 - Pick up all their toys,

Do not allow young children to walk your foster dog(s) because they may not be strong enough or experienced enough to handle encounters with other dogs or cats who cross their path.



You have your foster dog & Introductions are over – Now what?

Here's where the fun begins—fosters usually get to choose the foster dog's name! NTASR encourages renaming dogs, as they are starting a new journey, and who doesn't love a fresh start. We encourage you to avoid very common names or ones that have already been used frequently within NTASR. During large group intakes of dogs or litters of puppies NTASR may recommend a "Theme" for the names. If you need name suggestions, they may be located under the files in the NTASR Foster & Volunteer Facebook Group.

Exercise and Attention:

- Make sure your foster dog(s) is/are getting an adequate amount of exercise and attention throughout the day to keep them happy and healthy.
- Taking your foster dog(s) for walks is encouraged. Make sure they are secured (collar and leash) at all times.
- Do not leave your foster dog(s) unattended at any time. Some dogs can jump, climb, and/or dig under fences surprisingly fast.
- The Foster Dog may NOT go to any Dog Park.

Feeding Time:

Never feed your foster dog(s) with your family pets in the same room this can lead to food aggression, or a fight may break out. Feed your foster dog(s) in their crate or in the other room.

- A feeding routine should be established, and dog(s) should be fed at the same time each day.
- Do not free feed your foster or resident dogs.
- Fosters should be fed at least two (2) times per day; depending on their weight and age, they may require three (3) feedings per day.
- Do not feed human food.
- Give the dog(s) 15-20 minutes to eat and then remove the food.
- If your foster dog(s) is/are unwilling to eat plain dry kibble, try mixing in some warm water, unsalted chicken broth, or a small amount of canned food with their kibble.
- Make sure water is always available both inside and outside.

Please remember that your foster dog(s) is/are being introduced to a new kibble and may get diarrhea. This should go away after 3-4 days.

If your foster dog(s) is/are underweight, NTASR will work with you to find different options for your dog(s).



If your foster dog(s) is/are overweight, monitor food and treat intake and ensure he/she is getting enough exercise. Baby Carrots or unsalted green beans make a great filler that is low in calories and can be added to the dog(s) kibble. Broccoli and Cauliflower are a good substitute for treats instead of regular dog treats which are high in calories.

Grooming:

A clean, well-groomed dog has a better chance of getting adopted, so make sure to bathe and brush them as needed. Do Not use HARTZ products for bathing. If you need grooming supplies, NTASR may be able to provide some. Please submit a request through the [Supply Request Form](#).

Vetting Appointments and Medical Care

NTASR is committed to ensuring our dogs receive timely and appropriate care. Here's what you need to know about vetting procedures:

Scheduling Vet Appointments:

- All appointments must be scheduled through NTASR, via the Foster Coordinator by submitting the [Medical Request Form](#).
- Appointments will align with both your schedule and the vet's availability.
- For URGENT vetting needs – 24 hours or less, CALL Samantha, or Shawn.

Appointment Expectations:

- Fosters must arrive on time within the designated drop-off period for all appointments.
- Notify Samantha or Shawn immediately if you are unable to make an appointment, with at least 48 hours' notice.
- If an emergency, such as a car breakdown or severe illness, prevents you from making a vet appointment, you must contact Samantha or Shawn immediately.
- Failure to attend without proper notice may result in the foster dog being removed from your care and/or a \$50 donation per dog to NTASR as compensation for lost vet time.
- Should you have any issues that arise at the appointment, politely step outside and call Samantha immediately.



Veterinarian Policies:

- All vet care must be performed by an NTASR-approved veterinarian and authorized by Samantha or Shawn.
- Follow all pre- and post-care instructions for surgeries and treatments.
 - If you need any supplies for post-care, please fill out the [Supply Request Form](#).

Medical Issues:

- If your foster dog develops an urgent medical issue, contact Samantha right away. If she is unavailable, reach out to Shawn. We will coordinate a vet visit as quickly as needed, based on their guidance.

Special Guidelines for Puppies:

- Puppies under 1 year of age must only visit the vet and cannot touch the floor, exam table, or chairs during visits.
- Puppies must complete all three rounds of vaccinations before being taken to public places or interacting with pets outside your household.

Thank you for assisting NTASR in delivering the best possible care while honoring the time and efforts of our veterinary partners by adhering to these guidelines. We understand it may be challenging to rely solely on our limited list of veterinarians, but together, we can save more dogs by collaborating as a community. Please feel free to connect with fellow fosters to arrange carpools for events, vet appointments, and more. NTASR becomes stronger when we unite with a shared mission.

Flea, Tick, Heartworm Prevention:

You, as the foster, will be responsible for administering the provided monthly flea, tick and heartworm prevention and other medications or supplements on time, as prescribed.

- See the NTASR Foster Paws newsletter. Click on the link for the [Medical Request Form](#) and complete it. This is where you request Flea, Tick and Heartworm prevention which is provided monthly by NTASR.
- Please be aware that Australian Shepherds can be susceptible to Ivermectin, which may cause a seizure (1 in 2 Aussies have a genetic MDR1 mutation).



Tail wagging tips for Marketing your Foster Dog

There are several things a foster can do to increase the likelihood that their foster dog will have a successful adoption.

- **Crate Training:** you are encouraged to use a crate at night and when you are away from home or cannot watch the dog,
 - If your foster dog is hesitant of the crate, try putting a frozen pumpkin filled Kong in the crate to encourage them,
- **House Trained:** we prefer to send our dogs to their forever homes that are already house trained.
 - When you first get a new foster into your home, keep them on a leash so that you can monitor their movements. Make sure to take them out regularly and whenever they give you an indication that they need to go outside.
- **Leash Trained:** Many of our dogs have never seen a leash let alone walked on one. A few things you might try are:
 - Attach a short “drag line” to their collar for a day or two to get them used to the leash,
 - Lure them with food or treats,
 - Take another dog along with you to help them feel more comfortable,
 - DO NOT take puppies under 12 weeks on walks without the approval of NTASR. Puppies must have their three (3) rounds of puppy shots before they can go outside in public
- **Basic Obedience Training:** This has many benefits for the future adopter and your foster dog.
 - The potential adopter will appreciate that the dog has these skills, and the dog will present better during home trials,
 - NTASR requires only positive, reward based training,
 - Some good commands to teach your foster dog are:
 - Sit, Down, Come, Crate or bed, Stay, Heel
- **Socialization:** gradually expose the dog to new and different things, people, and normal household sounds,
- **Behavior:** NTASR is here for suggestions and guidance to help you work with your foster who has behavior issues like:
 - Anxiety around crates,
 - Separation anxiety, or people anxiety
 - Anxiety during storms,
 - Resource guarding, house and crate training, etc.



Helping Your Foster Dog Get Adopted:

- Promoting your foster dog: NTASR promotes foster dogs through many channels. To effectively promote your foster dog, we will need:
 - Good quality photographs,
 - The best place to take good photo's is outside with good lighting,
 - The photos should be of the foster dog only,
 - The photos should be of the dog's head and also of the entire body with the dog looking at you,
 - Bonus points for photos of the dog with toys & playing.
 - Good quality videos, if possible,
 - A detailed biography of your foster dog,
 - The bio should include:
 - Basic details of the dog (age, weight, tail, heartworm status, vetting, etc.),
 - Information about the dog's activity level, skill level, and personality,
 - If the dog requires a certain type of adopter (experienced, patient, etc.),
 - If you need assistance with the bio, please ask,
 - You can also post your foster dog on your social media accounts. If you have someone interested in your foster dog, please have them go to our website, <https://www.ntxaussierescue.org/> click on adopt, and then click on Adoption Application and complete it. You can also send an email to ntxaussierescue@gmail.com to let us know who is submitting an application for your foster dog.

Meeting a Potential Adopter:

Once an application is submitted for your foster dog, the Adoption Coordinator, Shawn, will send you the potential adopter's application and set you up in a group chat. You will then contact the potential adopter to answer any questions they may have about the dog. If both parties feel like this could be a match, you will schedule a meet and greet.

Meet and Greet:

During the meet and greet if you have any concerns at all, the dog is to stay with you and not go with the potential adopter. Tell the potential adopters that the Adoptions Coordinator will be in touch with them. If the meet and greet goes well, ask them if they would like to do a 2 week home trial with the dog. If the



potential adopter would like to do a home trial with the dog, you are to notify the Adoptions Manager immediately to inform her.

Once they go on a home trial, you are able to text the potential adopter in the group chat (you, adopter, and Shawn) to see how it's going.

Frequently Asked Questions

Typically, how long does a dog stay in foster care?

Every situation is different! Our foster needs range from two weeks to until the animal is adopted, which can take a couple of months. Younger dogs, such as puppies, require more frequent trips to our vet for a series of shots. Older mature dogs may only require one to two vetting trips depending on their health.

Can I adopt my foster dog?

Yes, foster homes get the first option to adopt their foster dog. If you're interested in adopting, notify the Adoption Coordinator, Shawn, as soon as possible—ideally before there's significant interest from other potential adopters.

Even as a foster, the standard adoption fees apply. However, if you've fostered with NTASR before, you may be eligible for a small discount on the adoption fee. To learn more about this potential discount, please reach out to Samantha or Shawn, for details. Adoption fees are seen as a tax deductible donation, NTASR may provide a donation receipt when requested.

What if my foster becomes sick?

Contact Samantha or Shawn. Describe the symptoms, when they started, which medications the dog is taking and when they were last administered.

What if I must go out of town?

Contact Samantha or Shawn, as soon as you know about your plans so we can arrange for a temporary foster or boarding. Also please leverage the NTASR Foster & Volunteer Facebook Group

What if my dog has behavioral problems?

Contact Samantha or Shawn. NTASR has several resources to help you work through behavioral problems with your dog.



How can I help get my dog adopted?

Share photos and videos of your dog with family, friends, and on your social networks. Please list NTASR as the point of contact and link to our online application. Please do not screen adopters yourself.

Can I let my foster dog off leash?

To avoid the risk of losing a dog, NTASR foster dogs are not to be taken off leash in an unfenced area at any time.

Can I take my foster dog to a dog park?

NTASR foster dogs are NOT allowed to be at any dog parks.

Am I responsible for finding my dog a forever home?

NTASR is responsible for finding the foster dog a forever home and we serve as the primary point of contact during the adoption process. However, we encourage fosters to share information about their foster dog with their network.

If I see an Aussie in a shelter, may I foster it?

Email ntxaussierescue@gmail.com. Include information and photos about the dog and your willingness to foster, if you have not already [applied](#) to foster, please do.

Are foster dogs ever euthanized?

Unfortunately, this is something that does happen. It is an infrequent occurrence, but typically this decision is made due to health or extreme behavior problems.



Resources & Links

NTASR Foster Agreement

[NTASR Foster & Volunteer Facebook](#)

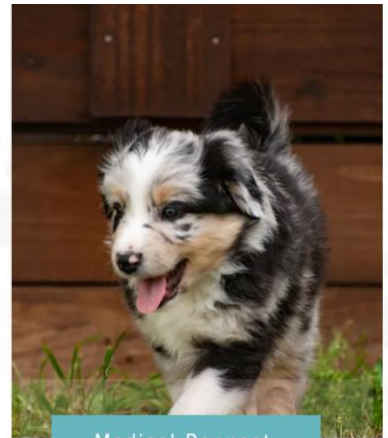
[Foster Resources](#)



Foster Intake Form



Supply Request



Medical Request

- [Intake Form](#)
- [Medical Request](#)
- [Supply Request](#)

[Foster Paws Newsletter - Biweekly](#)

[Woof Wire Newsletter - Monthly](#)



CALM and RELAXED? or SHUT DOWN?



Body Language References

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<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/belly-rub-redux/>
 Illustrations ©2016 Lili Chin



DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



© 2011 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net *Lili*



Kong Stuffing Ideas and Easy Recipes

Putting snacks into Kongs is a great thing to do if you are wanting to give your dog a job to do and there are so many options you can use to stuff a Kong with. By stuffing food into the Kong, you turn their dog toy into a puzzle or challenge. And a stuffed Kong gives your dog something to focus on if you want him/her to calm down or to teach them new things, but not so much as it disrupts their actual eating schedule. Did you know, licking can reduce stress.

Preparing Kong Recipes for Extended Use:

To create enduring Kong recipes, use an ice cube tray for pre-portioned stuffing, making future filling quick and easy. Mix and Match flavors and try freezing a stuffed Kong overnight. This not only prolongs your dog's playtime but also acts as a cool treat on hot summer days.

Tips for Stuffing a Kong:

- If you are freezing a liquid (i.e. broth), make sure to seal the Kong's end with peanut butter or a heavier base so the liquid does not pour out.
- Use a cup to hold the Kong upright in the freezer.
- Vary the textures of the stuffing (soft ingredients with crunchier options) to make it more interesting. This diversity adds mental and sensory stimulation for your dog.

Tailor the Recipes to your Dog's Needs:

Consideration of your dog's individual requirements is important when preparing Kong recipes. Puppies are full of energy and have specific dietary needs that differ from adult dogs.

Puppy's:

Protein-Rich Fillers and Healthy Carbs are good for puppies because protein is crucial for the puppy's growth and muscle development. Lean meats such as cooked chicken or ground turkey are perfect fillers. Combine these proteins with healthy carbs like quinoa or white rice to provide energy and fiber.

Portion Control:

To create a calorie-conscious Kong, it is essential to bear in mind the recommended daily caloric intake for your dog and ensure that treats and Kongs are included within the limits.



Stuffing Ideas:

- Applesauce (unsweetened)
- Apples (chopped)
- Bananas
- Blueberries
- Carrots (chopped)
- Chicken Broth (unsalted)
- Cottage Cheese
- Dog Treats
- Greek Yogurt
- Green Beans
- Ground Turkey
- Kibble
- Kibble Soaked in Chicken Broth
- Natural Baby Food
- Peanut Butter (No Xylitol)
- Plain Rice (cooked)
- Plain Yogurt
- Pumpkin Puree
- Scrambled Eggs
- Seedless Watermelon
- Shredded Chicken (cooked)
- Sweet Potato Puree
- Wet Dog Food

Kong Recipes:

- Apple Sauce and Oatmeal
- Blueberries and Bananas
- Cauliflower and Broccoli
- Chicken and Rice
- Dog Food Mania (combination of kibble and wet food)
- Pineapple and Strawberries
- Pumpkin and Sweet Potato
- Steak and Rice
- Sweet Potato and Rice

Pinterest also has a ton of different recipes for Kong Fillers and Dog Treats.

Cleaning your Kong:

- Kong's are dishwasher safe and can be put on the top rack.
- You can rinse them with warm water and dish soap.
- If there is dried food inside that won't come off, you can use a bottle brush to remove the food.

