



Foster Guide

This guideline addresses basic FBRO foster information

If you have any other questions or concerns we can be reached by email at frenchbulldogrescueontario@gmail.com.

Additional contact information is available on the Website.

BREED and DOG INFORMATION

French Bulldogs coming into rescue may have or be prone to breed associated health and behavioural issues. Please familiarize yourself with this breed before fostering.

We will provide you with the health, personality and behaviour information that we have available prior to placing a dog in your care. Some dogs are well adjusted, social and adapt easily, others may have health or behavioural concerns, but until we actually have them with us and can properly assess, there are many unknowns and no guarantees that the provided information is accurate or complete.

NB: FOSTER PROVIDERS ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE OR INCIDENTS THAT ARE CAUSED BY THE FOSTER DOG WHILE IN THEIR CARE

Respiratory:

Brachycephalic breeds can suffer from overheating and collapse even in a cooler environment if overexcited or over exercised. It is important to always be aware of temperature with a/c and/or fans needed in hot weather. Pressure on necks can be harmful. Frenchies should be walked on a harness, particularly if they are pullers.

Allergies:

French bulldogs as a breed have a high incidence of allergies. Allergies can be food related or environmental and dogs can react to pollens, dust, vaccinations, medications, cleaning products, parasite preventatives and other things. We have a protocol we follow with allergy dogs and will provide guidance and treatment if your foster dog has allergy related symptoms like itching, foot licking or red inflamed skin, ears or eyes.

Water Safety:

French Bulldogs, because of their structure, are not good swimmers. Pools must be separately fenced or otherwise inaccessible to your foster dog. If near or around water your foster dog must be leashed or supervised and wear a life jacket or flotation device .

Spine & Joint Problems:

Spinal disease and vertebral anomalies can occur in dwarf breeds like French Bulldogs. Knee and hip issues can also occur in this breed. Avoid activities that may put stress on backs and joints such as jumping up and down off furniture as well as overdoing exercise. Dogs known or suspected to have spinal disc disease (IVDD) or mobility limitations must have access restricted to stairways and may need to be carried up and down stairs and lifted on and off furniture or trained to use a ramp. Being alone and unsupervised on couches or beds is contraindicated.

Prey Drive / Aggression:

French Bulldogs have a bull and terrier ancestry and may show traits often seen in these breeds. This can include a terrier like tenacity and prey drive directed at small animals sometimes including cats, and/or a bulldog inclination to protect their families and possessions from unknown dogs or 'suspicious' strangers. Awareness, understanding, and training can help them learn to make good choices and prevent escalation.

Some dogs are nervous and uncomfortable around unknown, loud or high energy people or children or at vet visits. Some may be touch sensitive around certain areas of their bodies, like feet and ears. Fosters should be alert to signs of discomfort, avoid stressful situations and always provide good supervision.

Muzzles may be needed in certain situations. We do not take in dogs that are considered aggressive or dogs with a reported unprovoked or high grade bite history, but if your foster dog has been noted as nervous, anxious or fearful he/she may react (or may have reacted in the past) by snapping when stressed. These dogs may be a bite or flight risk and should be properly restrained and supervised and not have direct contact with unfamiliar animals, children or strangers before being assessed by Rescue or a designated trainer if indicated.

It is important to be aware of the nature and health of the dog in your care and to follow all recommended care and management instructions provided by Rescue.

Be an advocate for your foster dog and do not place them in a situation that they cannot or are not ready or able to handle. Rescue dogs often have been let down by people in the past and it can take time to decompress, learn new skills and gain trust.

Foster Responsibilities:

Foster families provide shelter, love, training and care until the dog is adopted, including:

- Transport to vet appointments.
- Picking up refill supplies, such as food and medications.
- Providing pictures and regular updates of the foster dog.
- Contacting rescue coordinator immediately with any questions or concerns.
- Meetings with potential adopters, meet & greets and potentially home visits.
- Having appropriate measures in place to ensure the safety and security of foster dog, yourself and/or any person or animal they may come into contact with.
- Basic training using positive methods i.e house training, basic obedience, approved socialization, crate training. Guidance in managing any behavioural concerns will be provided by an experienced Rescue team member or by referral to a professional trainer/behaviour specialist if indicated.

The primary objective of a foster provider is to get their charge ready for life in their forever home. Maintain crate training, do not sleep with the dog, restrict access to certain areas and furniture and provide the dog with some alone time daily to avoid separation anxiety.

Travel:

If you have to go out of town for any reason, work/vacation etc. please let us know as soon as possible. Do not give your foster to anyone else unless you have permission from us - this includes friends, babysitters, other fosters, foster to adopt situations, etc. The dogs are our responsibility and we need to know where they are and who is caring for them at all times. We will work with you to arrange for temporary care.

Medical Issues:

Please contact us if any medical questions/issues arise for support or permission if medical attention is necessary. We will schedule a vet appt. at one of our approved vet clinics. If you take the dog to your own vet or even to one of our vets without our knowledge (unless life threatening emergency), reimbursement may not be approved. If an emergency arises and there is not time to contact us or we cannot be reached, immediately head to emergency and let us know as soon as you can.

Supplies and General Questions or Concerns:

Please contact us and we will answer any questions and help resolve any issues that may arise. Reimbursement will be provided upon receipt submission of preapproved purchases. We cover food and essential care needs but only pre approved brands and supplies. If you would like to buy a toy or outfit or treat for your foster dog that is not covered by us, that is fine but please check with us to make sure it is considered safe. Certain treats and chews can be choking and obstruction risks for breeds like bulldogs as they often gulp down rather than chew these types of items or they may be allergy triggers in many of our dogs.

Dogs Moving Foster Homes:

We typically do not move dogs from foster homes once they have been placed in care unless it is necessary. Moving around adds unwanted stress to a dog in an already new situation. If you find yourself struggling and need advice, or if it is essential that we move the dog please contact us right away.

Dog Parks and Group Play Dates:

Do not take your foster to a dog park. Interacting with unknown dogs at dog parks can place your foster dog at risk of injury or disease. If you do, you are responsible for any and all costs that could result should an incident occur. Your foster dog may behave well however, that doesn't mean the rest of the dogs will or that your dog won't jump in on a fight. We do not know what type of issues our dogs have previously had and we want them to feel and be as safe as possible.

Adopting Your Foster:

Occasionally fosters decide that they would like to adopt their foster dog. Please let us know after 2 weeks of the dog being in your care. Contracts with adoption fees must be completed upon notification of intent to adopt. If spay/neuter is pending we will change his/her status to foster to adopt with finalization after surgery is complete. Rescue covers spay/neuter. You are responsible for other care expenses once a contract is completed. Dogs that are in foster care beyond two weeks will be listed as available to adopt once they are ready and all submitted applications will be reviewed and considered.

Meet and Greets:

Do not schedule meet and greets without our permission. We need to have all potential adopters apply online and be pre-screened before we schedule a meet and greet. This process must be followed even if a friend, family member or coworker wants to adopt your foster dog. If someone is interested in your foster have them fill out an application on our website and we will be in touch with them. Let us know to be on the lookout for their application. After a meet and greet with a potential adopter, please share your feedback with us - we will take your thoughts and insight into consideration in selecting the best home for your foster dog.

Handing a Dog Off to an Adopter:

Check with us before giving your foster dog to any adopter or alternate foster . No dogs are allowed to leave without approval.

Fostering can be like a roller coaster ride, with an assortment of ups and downs, but in the end there is nothing more rewarding than knowing that you have made a positive difference in the life of a French Bulldog dog in need.

Welcome to our Rescue team and thank you for your offer to foster!
Without our foster families we could not help these most deserving dogs find their way to the forever homes they so deserve.