



LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA DOG GUIDES

FOSTER PUPPY MANUAL

Last reviewed: March 2024

CONTACTS:

During Business Hours Mon-Friday 8:30 to 4:30
Breslau: 519-648-3780 or 1-888-624-5291, ext. 229
Oakville: 905-842-2891 ext. 287

After Hours/Emergency Cell Phone: 416-807-0892

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Foster Puppy Manual. This manual will offer helpful advice and information to assist you in raising and caring for your foster puppy.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is a federally incorporated charitable foundation created by the Lions Clubs of Canada.

Our Mission

Empowering Canadians with disabilities to navigate their world with confidence and independence, by providing a Dog Guide at no cost and supporting them in their journey together.

In 1983, Lions Foundation of Canada undertook a project to develop a national Dog Guide training school for Canadians with disabilities. Since then, the lives of many men, women, and children of all ages have been enriched by the services of specially trained Dog Guides. These individuals have travelled from as far east as St. John's, Newfoundland, and as far west as Victoria, British Columbia, to receive a Dog Guide.

Our seven Dog Guide programs are Canine Vision Dog Guides, Hearing Dog Guides, Service Dog Guides, Seizure Response Dog Guides, Autism Assistance Dog Guides, Diabetes Alert Dog Guides, and Facility Support Dogs. Dog Guides greatly improve the quality of life for those who become handlers. These handlers often express the confidence, independence, and freedom they feel when a Dog Guide is brought into their lives.

We could not accomplish this mission without the dedication of our foster families who provide our puppies with loving homes and a solid foundation in preparation for formal Dog Guide training.

Staff members of the Foster Puppy Program team are committed to offering foster families the highest quality guidance to help them best prepare the puppies for a future as a working Dog Guide. This guidance is provided via remote video and email communications, group puppy classes, outings, and one-on-one visits.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the information in the puppy manual. Thank you for participating in this program. We hope you enjoy the experience of raising a future Dog Guide!

Sincerely,
Lucy Harbach,
Foster Puppy & Early Training Unit Manager



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PART 1: Responsibilities and Guidelines



GENERAL

- The main goals of the foster puppy program are:
 - 1. Socialization
 - 2. Good Manners
 - 3. Basic Obedience
- Foster families are required to attend group puppy classes, virtual training sessions and individual visits with Foster Puppy Program staff as outlined in the training schedule.
- Classes and visits are held during Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides' regular business hours.
- Foster families must be willing to take the time to socialize the puppy to a variety of different locations and experiences including but not limited to busy traffic, malls, elevators, stairs, fire escapes, and public transit.
- To best prepare them for their future careers, foster puppies should not be left home alone for more than 3 hours per day.
- Foster puppies are not permitted to bark excessively, jump up on people, get on furniture or beds, beg at the table, eat people food, pull on leash, or any other behaviour that would be inappropriate for a working Dog Guide
- Foster families must NEVER physically discipline the puppy.
- All members of the fostering household must agree to consistently follow Foster Puppy Program guidelines.
- Other dogs in the foster home must be friendly, up to date on vaccines, neutered, and over 1 year of age.
- Foster Families must notify their puppy rep of any substantive change in their household: eg new baby, new pet, moving, marriage, divorce etc.
- Foster families are required to return the foster puppy to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides as requested for purposes such as evaluation, assessment, health checks or recall to formal training.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides provides the following for all foster puppies:
 - A large crate
 - Identification card and jacket
 - Head halter (introduced at 3-4 months old)
- A \$100 equipment deposit is collected when you receive the puppy to cover the loan of these items. It will be refunded (or a tax receipt issued) when the equipment is returned in good condition. Damaged or lost equipment will result in a reduction of the refundable deposit.
- Food for foster puppies is supplied by the Pet Valu family of stores and can be picked up from either of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides facilities.
- The foster family is responsible for providing the following:
 - Flat collar and leash
 - Food and water bowls
 - Toys and treats.
 - Grooming supplies or grooming costs (including nail clipping at a vet or groomer)

- Municipal dog license if required by local laws.
- Other equipment such as harnesses, or martingale collars should only be used with permission from Foster Puppy Program staff.
- Foster puppies must NEVER wear choke chains, pinch collars, or muzzles.

STAFF SUPERVISION

- Foster Puppy Program staff are responsible for supporting and supervising foster families on a day-to-day basis and are familiar with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides policies and procedures regarding training, behaviour, and veterinary care.
- Foster families must keep Foster Puppy Program staff informed of any concerns with their puppy including, but not limited to injury or illness, running away, ingestion of foreign objects, unplanned matings, and behaviour changes/problems.
- Foster families must have permission from Foster Puppy Program staff prior to attending any outside obedience classes or training events with the puppy.
- Only training equipment and techniques approved by Foster Puppy Program staff are to be used with foster puppies.

SAFETY

- Foster puppies are never allowed off leash in an unfenced area.
 - In public settings, the leash should always be held securely, never dropped on the ground
- Foster puppies should never be left unattended outside or in a car.
- Extra care should be taken around pools, open water, and icy areas.
- Foster puppies should never be allowed on balconies unless securely on leash.
- Foster families should carefully examine their home for potential safety hazards such as heights, electrical wires, plants, medications, cleaning products, or objects which may be ingested.
- Foster puppies should be confined to a crate or a puppy-proofed area whenever not under close supervision of the foster family.
- Car Travel: Puppies should be in a crate or secured with an approved seat belt while traveling in a vehicle.

VET CARE

- Veterinary care for foster puppies is provided by Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in-house veterinarians and select associated veterinary clinics.
- Foster families may contact the Oakville vet clinic directly at 905-842-2891 ex 288 with any veterinary concerns.
- In case of an after-hours medical emergency (that cannot wait until the next business day), foster families should call the Emergency Cell Phone (416-807-0892) for guidance.
- ONLY in the case of a life-or-death emergency should foster families contact a vet clinic prior to speaking to Foster Puppy Program or Vet Clinic staff. Approved emergency visit expenses will be reimbursed to the foster family on a case-by-case basis.

PUBLIC ACCESS

- Although foster families are encouraged to expose their foster puppies to as many different environments as possible, it is important to remember that a foster puppy is not yet a Dog Guide and does not have the same public access rights as a working Dog Guide with its handler. □
- While most businesses and organizations are very welcoming to our foster puppies, you may encounter situations where you are refused access with your foster puppy. □
 - In cases where your plans are not flexible, it is wise to call ahead and ask permission to bring the foster puppy with you, or else plan to leave puppy at home or with a sitter.
- Remember that you are acting as an ambassador for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides anytime you take puppy out in public. We ask that you are polite and respectful even in situations where you are refused access with the puppy. □
 - Foster families may politely explain the purpose of the Foster Puppy Program if asked, but must follow the rules of the establishment. Foster families may not demand access in any form including through media or social media.
- When taking puppy in public, always ensure that they are well groomed, are wearing their identification jacket, and that you have a clean-up kit with you in case of accidents. □
- Out of consideration for others, be willing to leave if the puppy is being disruptive. □

TRAVEL AND PUPPYSITTING

- If you plan to travel with your foster puppy, please discuss your plans with Foster Puppy Program staff to ensure that they are appropriate for your foster puppy. □
 - It is important that Foster Puppy Program staff know the location of the foster puppy, and how to contact you if needed.
 - Foster puppies are not typically permitted to travel outside of the fostering area for periods longer than 2 weeks.
 - Foster families may be responsible for vet care costs incurred while travelling if they are not able to travel back to our vet clinic when our veterinarian is available.
- Foster Puppy Program staff are happy to help you find an approved puppy sitter at times when you are unable to care for the puppy. Contact our volunteer sitting coordinators at sittingrequests@dogguides.com 2 weeks' notice of the dates you will be away is required. □
 - We receive a lot of requests for sitters over March Break, long weekends, summer holidays, and Christmas. If you will need a sitter or if you are able to look after another puppy during these times, please let us know well in advance.
- If you make your own arrangements with another foster family to look after your foster puppy, these arrangements must be approved by Foster Puppy Program staff. □
 - Intact (not spayed or neutered) male and female puppies over 6 months old should not be housed together
- As a foster family, you are responsible for ensuring that any necessary supplies, food, and medication are provided to the puppy sitter when you drop puppy off.

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

- ALL presentations, events, or media about or involving your foster puppy must be approved in advance by Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides
- If you are interested in volunteering at promotional events with your foster puppy, please contact our Event and Volunteer Coordinator

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Foster families are not permitted to disclose or make personal use of any information belonging to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides/Lions Foundation of Canada
- Confidential information includes, but is not limited to:
 - Client, donor, and foster family data
 - Data and statistics relating to the breeding, training, and foster puppy programs.
 - Financial information and fundraising strategies
- Do not share information about your foster puppy's behaviour or health online or in other public forums.
- Foster families should not share photos of or information regarding other foster families, volunteers, staff members, or graduates without permission.

REMOVAL

- The role of a foster family is critical to the foster puppy's future success as a working dog.
- Failure to follow the above conditions will result in the removal of the foster puppy from the foster family, and termination of any future involvement with Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides

CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Any concerns or suggestions about the Foster Puppy Program, or any Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides programs, may be brought to the attention of the Puppy Program Supervisor, the Director of Canine Development, or the Chief Executive Officer.







PART 2: Training Tools






EQUIPMENT

The following pages list the equipment that will be required for proper care and training of your foster puppy. Use of alternate or additional equipment should be approved by Foster Puppy Program staff.

BASICS




	<p>COLLAR A flat, nylon or leather collar should be loose enough to allow a finger or two to be slipped between it and your puppy's neck, The collar should be tight enough that it cannot slip over your foster puppy's head.</p>
	<p>LEASHES A flat, 6-foot, nylon or leather leash should be used for training and public outings. A leash that can be attached around the handler's waist is also useful for hands-free exercises and outings. Flexi leashes are not to be used.</p>
	<p>FOOD & WATER BOWLS Separate, stainless-steel bowls are preferred to prevent chewing and for ease of cleaning.</p>
	<p>TREATS Food rewards are an important part of training your foster puppy. In general, a portion of your foster puppy's daily meals can be set aside and used for training throughout the day. Higher value treats can be used in moderation. Look for treats that are small (or easy to break into small pieces), soft, and smelly.</p>
	<p>TREAT POUCH A treat pouch helps to keep food rewards easily accessible so that they can be quickly delivered to your foster puppy during training.</p>
	<p>CLEAN UP KIT All puppies may have accidents. It is important that you bring a clean-up kit containing poop bags, paper towels, and wipes any time you take your foster puppy out in public.</p>

SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY DOG GUIDES







	<p>CRATE</p> <p>The crate should be large enough for your puppy to comfortably turn around and lay down. Some crates have a divider that can be used to make the crate smaller for a young puppy.</p>
	<p>IDENTIFICATION JACKET</p> <p>Your puppy should wear their “Future Dog Guide” jacket whenever out in public places. Remove the jacket whenever you are not closely supervising or toileting the puppy. Jackets may be exchanged for a larger size as your puppy grows and must be returned to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides when the puppy is recalled.</p>
	<p>HEAD COLLAR</p> <p>A head halter or Gentle Leader will be introduced to your puppy at approximately 4 months of age. It should fit snugly around the back of the neck, but loosely around the muzzle, allowing the mouth to open normally.</p>

APPROVED TOYS



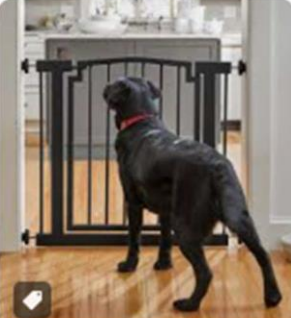


All toys should be regularly inspected for signs of wear and discarded if damaged or when they become too small for your foster puppy. Foster puppies should not play with water bottles, ropes, clothing, shoes, etc.

	<p>KONGS</p> <p>Kong toys come in a variety of sizes and strengths (choose black Kongs for strong chewers). They can be stuffed with kibble, treats, and a bit of wet dog food. Freezing a stuffed Kong can make it last longer.</p>
	<p>NYLABONES or Benebones</p> <p>Nylabones are durable nylon bones that come in a variety of shapes and sizes.</p>
	<p>OTHER DURABLE TOYS</p> <p>When picking out toys, look for products designed for strong chewers. For your puppy’s safety, avoid anything made of fabric or with small pieces that could be ingested.</p>

GROOMING SUPPLIES

	<p>BRUSH AND/OR COMB Puppies with short coats require only a brush, while puppies with long coats (poodles, golden retrievers) will also need a comb.</p>
	<p>NAIL CLIPPERS Nail clippers come in two styles: scissors or guillotine. Select whichever style you are more comfortable with.</p>
	<p>EAR CLEANING SOLUTION Ear cleaner from a pet store or vet clinic can be used for routine ear cleaning to prevent ear infections.</p>
	<p>DOG SHAMPOO Look for a shampoo that is oatmeal-based or labelled for puppies.</p>
	<p>TOOTHBRUSH Either a soft-bristled regular toothbrush or a finger brush are good options for brushing your foster puppy's teeth.</p>
	<p>TOOTHPASTE Use only enzymatic toothpaste made for pets when brushing your foster puppy's teeth. Human toothpaste is not appropriate for dogs.</p>

OPTIONAL

	<p>Small puppy car carrier</p> <p>Puppies should be safely restrained in a moving vehicle. Carriers are an easy way to travel during their first month or 6 weeks. Puppy program has a number available to borrow. Ask your puppy rep.</p>
	<p>Seat Belt</p> <p>Dog Guide puppies are safest being restrained in a moving vehicle. If your car allows, you may use a larger crate as the puppy grows. Seat belts are another option. They must be paired with a suitable body harness as shown. The chest part must wide to distribute force. Puppies should travel in the back seat of your car.</p>
	<p>BABY GATE</p> <p>Baby gates can be used to safely contain your puppy to certain areas of the house and to prevent access to other areas.</p>
	<p>X-PEN</p> <p>An x-pen can also be used to safely contain your puppy at times when you are nearby but can't be closely supervising them.</p>
	<p>LONG LINE</p> <p>A long line is a longer (20-50 foot) leash that can be used to practice comine when called and to give your puppy more freedom when in an unfenced area.</p>

HOW PUPPIES LEARN:

Dogs (and other animals – including you!) learn based on the consequences of their actions:

- Behaviours, that result in something the puppy enjoys, become more likely to occur in the future □
 - this is called REINFORCEMENT.
- Behaviours, that result in something that the puppy dislikes, become less likely to occur in the future □ this is called PUNISHMENT □
- Reinforcement and punishment can be further categorized as positive (something is added) or negative (something is removed) □

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

A behaviour results in the puppy getting something that they want. The behaviour becomes more likely to occur in the future.

- o For example:
 - Your puppy sits and is rewarded with a piece of kibble -> more sitting
 - Your puppy jumps on the counter and eats a sandwich. -> more counter surfing
- o Positive reinforcement will be the foundation of our training in the Foster Puppy Program

NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT

- o A behaviour results in something that the puppy finds unpleasant going away. The behaviour becomes more likely to occur in the future.
- o For example:
 - Puppy barks at a dog outside the window and the dog walks out of sight-> more barking
 - Puppy fusses with the head halter and the head halter is removed -> more halter fussing
- o Negative reinforcement is not something we actively use in our training, but it important to be aware that it may influencing your foster puppy's behaviour.

NEGATIVE PUNISHMENT

- o A behaviour results in something that the puppy wants being taken away. The behaviour becomes less likely to occur in the future.
- o For example:
 - Puppy nips you in play and you end the play session and walk away-> less nipping
 - Puppy jumps on you and you turn your back and remove your attention -> less jumping
- o We do use these techniques in the puppy program.

POSITIVE PUNISHMENT

- o A behaviour results in something that the puppy finds unpleasant. The behaviour becomes less likely to occur in the future.
- o It is very difficult to deliver positive punishments appropriately. There can be fallout in the form of stress, fear, and even aggression. Puppies become afraid of training and the trainer.
- o **Positive punishment is NOT something that we use in the Foster Puppy Program**

TRAINING: POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

At Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, our training methods are based on the use of positive reinforcement. This is the most humane and effective way of training a puppy. It allows for a seamless transition into formal training and life as a working Dog Guide.

Although much of our training will involve food rewards, reinforcement can take many forms, and depends on what that dog finds desirable. Something that is reinforcing for one dog may be considered undesirable by another dog.

Some examples of possible reinforcers are:

- Food rewards (kibble, treats, bones)
- Attention, praise, scratches
- Toys
- Going for a walk
- Play time
- Freedom (being let out of the crate, being allowed to explore the house)

Because we have control over many of these reinforcers, we can use them to shape our puppy's behaviour. Our goal is to deliver the reinforcer during or immediately after the desired behaviour.

We must also be aware of unintentional and environmental reinforcement. Even if we are not deliberately reinforcing a behaviour, the puppy may be receiving reinforcement from our actions or the environment. For example:

- Puppy pulls towards another dog and is able to greet them-> results in more pulling on leash.
- Puppy barks and you tell him to be quiet (even this form of attention can be reinforcing)->more barking.
- Barking, digging, and chewing can be self-reinforcing as they are inherently enjoyable.

REINFORCEMENT SCHEDULES

- When first teaching puppy a new behaviour (or teaching an established behaviour in a new environment), you will use a continuous reinforcement schedule.
 - o Each time the puppy performs the desired behaviour, they receive reinforcement
- Once your puppy has learned the behaviour, you will switch to a variable reinforcement schedule
 - o The puppy will receive reinforcement randomly a proportion of the times that they perform the desired behaviour (e.g. 1 out of 3, 1 out of 10, 1 out of 50)
 - o During variable reinforcement, we act like a slot machine.
 - o It is important to continue reinforcing your foster puppy often enough that it is still "worth their while" to perform the desired behaviour.

MARKER WORD

- A marker word allows us to be more precise with our timing by acting as a bridge between the desired behaviour and the reinforcement.
 - o Puppy will learn that the marker word indicates that they are doing the correct behaviour at that exact moment, and reinforcement will follow
- In the Foster Puppy Program, we use the marker word “YES”
- To be effective, the marker word is ALWAYS followed by a food reward.
- We ask foster families not use a clicker or mechanical marker. This tool may be introduced in formal training.

WHEN TO USE THE MARKER WORD:

- Puppy is exhibiting a desired behaviour at this precise instant.
- You have rewards available.

WHEN NOT TO USE THE MARKER WORD:

- Puppy is exhibiting an undesirable behaviour.
- Puppy performed a desired behaviour but has now moved on to something else.

MANAGEMENT: Setting up for success

Navigating a human environment takes practice for a puppy. Management strategies help puppies learn the rules and prevents them from “practicing” undesirable behaviour.

Management strategies can include the use of:

- Crate and exercise pens
- Baby gates or other barricades
- Visual barriers
- Leashes or tethers

Examples of management include:

- Confining puppy in the crate or an x-pen when you cannot supervise them.
- Putting puppy in the crate when visitors first arrive at your house.
- Closing the blinds so that puppy does not bark at dogs going by the window.

PART 3: Essential Skills



HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

- This section of the puppy manual outlines various behaviours that will be important for the foster puppy during their first year and as they move into formal training. □
- Most behaviours are broken down into a series of steps. Unless otherwise specified, work on each step over several training sessions and make sure that puppy is successful 8 out of 10 times before moving on to the next step of that behaviour. □
- When introducing any of these behaviours, keep in mind the following guidelines: □
 - o Training sessions should be short (<5 minutes). Puppies have short attention spans and 2-3 training sessions spread throughout the day will be much more effective than one longer one.
 - o Always introduce a new behaviour in a quiet environment with minimal distractions (for example, the kitchen) before moving on to busier environments
 - o Dogs don't generalize well – just because they can perform a behaviour at home doesn't mean that they will know it at the mall. Teach behaviours (starting from step 1) in a variety of different environments.
 - o Your goal is to set puppy up for success. If they are making the same mistake two or three times in a row, you need to consider how you can make that exercise easier for them to understand (ask Foster Puppy Program staff if you need help)
- Please do not teach puppy any additional cues or “tricks” (shake a paw, speak, etc.) These behaviours can interfere with skills they will learn in formal training. □
- Never hesitate to ask Foster Puppy Program staff for a demonstration or guidance if you are confused or if puppy is struggling with a cue. □

PUPPY consistently performs the basic skills– what next?

- Practice in different environments (home, work, mall, outdoors, etc) □
- Practice around distractions like loud noises, bouncing balls, or other dogs. □
- Practice both on and off leash (in a safe, enclosed area) □
- Practice with puppy wearing their head halter, their jacket, both. □
- Practice while you are standing, sitting, or lying down. □
- Practice with puppy at a distance from you (start close and gradually work farther away) □
- Increase the duration of time that you are asking them to perform a behaviour. □
- Give cues in a whisper, a different tone of voice, or an accent. □
- Have a different handler working with puppy. □

HOUSETRAINING

GOAL: Puppy will relieve itself on cue (“Busy Busy”) in an appropriate place. Puppy should be comfortable relieving while on leash and on different surfaces.

- When puppy first arrives home, select a specific outdoor area for relief. □
 - Future Dog Guide puppies should NOT be trained with newspapers or an indoor potty
- Give puppy lots of opportunities to be successful – take them to the relief area: □
 - First thing in the morning
 - After eating, drinking, napping, or play time
 - If they are sniffing or acting restless
 - At regular intervals throughout the day (set a timer if needed)
 - Last thing before bed
- At first puppy may need to go out once or twice during the night. Keep these trips brief, with minimal talking. Return puppy to their crate after they have relieved. □
 - Aim to gradually increase the length of time between trips outside until puppy can sleep through the night.
- While puppy is in the process of toileting, say the cue “Busy Busy.”. When they are finished, reward them with praise and/or a treat. □
 - Immediately after relief is a good time to take the puppy on a walk or have playtime
- If you take puppy to the relief area and they do not eliminate, put them in their crate to prevent any accidents. Try taking them outside again 10-15 minutes later. □
- We do not want to train the puppy to “ask” to go out. Continue taking the puppy outside at regular intervals appropriate to their age. □
- If you catch puppy relieving inside, use your voice to interrupt them, and then immediately take them outside to the relief area to give them a chance to finish. □
 - Housetraining a puppy requires supervision. If you find a mess on the floor, simply clean it up and supervise the puppy more closely next time.
- Remember that puppies housetrain at different rates. Be patient and contact Puppy Program staff if you are concerned with your puppy’s progress. □

NEXT STEPS:

- After a period of pairing the cue “Busy Busy” with the action of eliminating, you will be able to begin to use “Busy Busy” as a cue to encourage your puppy to relieve itself.
- Practice relieving puppy on various different surfaces such as gravel, wood chips, and cement. There may be times when grass is not available.
- Always remember to give puppy an opportunity to relieve itself before going out in public. Bring along a clean-up kit regardless of how old puppy is.

***Puppies should not toilet while wearing their working jackets. ***

CRATE TRAINING: *Remove collar when puppy is in crate*

GOAL: Puppy can settle in the crate both when alone and when people/distractions are present.

- The crate should be placed in a main living area of the house.
- The crate should allow the puppy enough space to turn around and lie down comfortably.
 - o A large crate can be partitioned with a divider for a young puppy
- Initially, puppy should be in the crate overnight, any time they are left home alone, and any time that you cannot be closely supervising them.
 - o The crate is essential for keeping puppy safe and helps with house training and prevention of bad habits in the home.
 - o Regular use of the crate helps to prevent separation anxiety. Incorporate some time home alone into your weekly schedule.
 - o Being comfortable in their crate will also help puppy with the transition to the kennel environment when they are recalled for formal training.
- Start making the crate a comfortable place to be as soon as puppy arrives home.
 - o Every time the puppy goes in the crate, reward them with praise and/or a treat.
 - o You may choose to feed your puppy their meals in the crate.
 - o Puppies may have a bed or blanket in the crate AS LONG AS THEY DON'T CHEW IT.
 - o Do not allow anyone to tease or bother puppy while they are in the crate.
- Some crying in the crate is typical when puppy first arrives home. Be prepared to ignore this behaviour so that it does not become a habit.
 - o Do not give puppy any attention or open the crate when they are barking or whining.
 - o Toss treats into the crate at times when puppy is being quiet.
- Although the crate should not be viewed as a punishment, it can be used to give puppy a time out if they are getting overtired or overstimulated (ideally, watch for patterns of behaviour and use the crate just before this occurs). Use a calm tone of voice and gently lead or carry them to the crate. You will often find that puppy quickly falls asleep.
- Crate time is a wonderful opportunity to give puppy a special treat like a stuffed Kong.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Introduce the cue “kennel” to tell your puppy to enter their crate.
- o Teach puppy to wait in their crate until released with “OK” when you open the crate door.
- o Over time, reliable puppies can gradually be given more freedom in the house.
 - As puppy gets older (over 8 months), practice leaving them loose in the home for short periods. Allow them to spend some nights sleeping out of the crate. Ensure that they are confined in a safe, puppy-proofed area.
 - Safety is always our biggest priority. If you think that puppy may get into trouble when unsupervised, always err on the side of caution and use the crate.
 - Continue to use the crate regularly. Both when you are out and when you are home with puppy.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE FOR A DG PUPPY (3-6 MONTHS OLD)

7:00 am	Wake up, outside to toilet
7:15 am	Fun training: follow the leader, hide and seek
7:30 am	Breakfast
7:35 am	Outside to toilet
7:45 am	Play time, handling
8:30 am	Crate
11:00 am	Outside toilet
11:10 am	Outside training time, exploring, management using long line in older pups, toilet
12:15 pm	Lunch
12:20 pm	Toilet outside
12:30 pm	Fun training or basic skills for older puppies
1:00 pm	Crate
3:30 pm	Out to toilet
3:40 pm	Outside training: Off, follow the leader, recall, attention then playtime
4:30 pm	Crate for chew toy training and settle practice with distractions around home
5:15 pm	Outside to toilet
5:30 pm	Dinner
5:40 pm	Out to potty
6:00 pm	Crate so family may have peaceful dinner
7:00 pm	Out to toilet
7:15 pm	Playtime or leash walk in neighbourhood for older puppy
7:45 pm	Cuddle time
8:00 pm	Settle down for evening quiet time. Puppy umbilical corded to handler.
10:00 pm	Outside to toilet
10:15 pm	Fun around crate: toss cookies in etc
10:30 pm	One more toilet then crate for the night.

- The schedule is a guide. It helps to point out how much training and socialization work you accomplish during your daily routine.
- Crate time is vital to a working Dog Guide. They must learn calm behaviour.
- Socialization outings should be brief with young puppies but may become more involved as the puppies mature.

*Reach out to your Puppy Staff Rep if you are having trouble with nighttime waking, excessive toileting needs, eating concerns, or anything else that seems problematic.

SOCIALIZATION

GOAL: Puppy is positively introduced to a wide variety of people, animals, sounds, smells, locations, and experiences.

- Socialization is one of the most important things we do in the Foster Puppy Program. It is an ongoing process of getting puppy familiarized with the many things that they may encounter as a working Dog Guide □
 - Varied exposure to many experiences is vital preparation for their future dog guide career.
- Socialization starts as soon as the foster puppy comes home but should be age appropriate. □
 - Start with short trips to low-distraction areas (e.g., visit the bank, sit on the bench at the mall, greet some neighbours on the street), and gradually build the length and intensity of outings as your foster puppy is successful.
 - Always monitor your foster puppy for signs of stress (e.g., panting, scratching, refusing to walk, loose stool) and be willing to leave if an outing is not going well.
- Remember that foster puppies do not have legal public access rights. In some cases, it may be best to call ahead for permission before visiting a public place. □
- Toilet your foster puppy before entering a public place and give additional opportunities to toilet as needed during an outing. □
 - Always be prepared and bring along your clean-up kit in case of accidents.
- Avoid unknown dogs and areas with heavy dog traffic (trails, dog parks, pet stores, vet clinics, etc.) until your foster puppy is fully vaccinated. □
- See the following page for a list of recommended exposures for foster puppies. □
 - Socialization will be accomplished by incorporating puppy into your daily routine. You may wish to plan some outings specifically to provide new exposures for puppy.

FEAR PERIODS

It is not uncommon for a puppy to begin to act fearfully towards stimuli that they were previously comfortable with. Puppies may go through several fear periods during their first year. Keep the leash loose and allow the puppy to approach at their own pace, rewarding them for doing so. Do not try to comfort the puppy when they act fearfully. Praise them for acting bravely. Never force a puppy into a situation where they are uncomfortable.

NEXT STEPS:

Socialization is an ongoing process. It is never finished or mastered. Please continue to expose the foster puppy to both familiar and unfamiliar people, animals, sounds, smells, locations, and experiences throughout their time with you.

Puppy Milestones:

Age	Milestone	Done
8 Weeks	Pup should be getting used to the crate	
Reminder	Pup should be eating 1/3 cup per meal	
9 Weeks	Pup should know their name	
Reminder	Pup should be eating 1/2 cup per meal	
10 Weeks	Pup should be waiting for food bowl to be placed down	
Reminder	Vaccines & First puppy class	
11 Weeks	Pup should have a bath	
Reminder	Pup should be eating 2/3 cup per meal	
12 Weeks	Pup should have nail trim	
Reminder	Pup should be eating 3/4 cup per meal	
13 Weeks	Pup should be doing all bathrooms outside	
Reminder	Pup should be eating 1 cup per meal	
14 Weeks	Pup should be sleeping through majority of the night (at least 6 hours)	
Reminder	Vaccines & Second puppy class	
15 Weeks	Pup should be able to go up and down stairs	
16 Weeks	Pup should know sit/down/stand commands	
Reminder	Poodles should have first groom	
5 Months	Pup should be walking nicely with flat collar	
6 Months	Pup should know 'leave it' command	
Reminder	Pup needs to switch to two meals a day	
7 Months	Pup should be calm in the car or public transportation	
8 Months	Pup should know come/recall command	
9 Months	Pup should be walking nicely with head halter	
10 Months	Pup should be able to greet visitors calmly	
Reminder	Pups to switch to adult food	
11 Months	Pup should be able to handle distractions of dog/food/people	
12 Months	Pup should be confident and well	

Outing Ideas: Pup not fully vaccinated	Outing Ideas: Pup fully vaccinated
Coffee shop	Outdoor patio, restaurant
Car ride with drive thru	Grocery store
Play different sounds in home	Library
Seasonal weather distractions: Falling leaves, snow, mulch	Farmer's market, Family BBQ, Holiday Parade

FOSTER PUPPY SOCIALIZATION CHECKLIST

Please use this list as a guideline for things that the foster puppy should be comfortable with.

Italicized items are optional but encouraged. Don't limit yourself to these items only. The more you can expose the foster puppy to, the better!

PEOPLE

- Babies
- Children
- Adults
- Seniors
- People with Mobility Aides
- People in Uniform
- People in Costume

ANIMALS

- Other Dogs – On Leash
- Other Dogs – Off Leash
- Cats
- Birds
- Squirrels
- Small Pets (Hamster, Rabbit)
- Large Animals (Cow, Horse)

SOUNDS

- Quiet Traffic
- Busy Traffic
- Thunderstorms
- Loud / Sudden Noises
- Applause
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Construction Site
- Sirens

PLACES

- Stores
- Mall
- Grocery Store
- Restaurant
- Park / Playground
- Vet Clinic
- School
- Office
- Doctor or Dentist
- Hospital
- Movie Theatre

SURFACES

- Grates
- Slippery Floors
- Closed Stairs
- Open Stairs
- Fire Escapes

OTHER EXPERIENCES

- Heights
- Elevators
- Walk at Night
- Walk in the Rain
- Concert
- Fair or Festival
- Sporting Event
- Party
- Stay in Hotel or Another Home

TRAVEL

- Travel by Car
- Public Transit
- Train Ride
- Subway Ride
- Airport / Plane Ride
- Boat Ride

NAME RESPONSE

GOAL: Upon hearing their name, puppy turns their attention to you and awaits further direction.

STEP 1: CAPTURE ATTENTION/EYE CONTACT

Starting in a quiet environment, wait for puppy to offer you some eye contact. If necessary, make a noise to bring their attention to you. As soon as puppy looks at you, mark with “Yes” and reward with a treat. Once puppy is willingly offering eye contact, move to step 2.

STEP 2: ADD CUE

Once puppy is consistently offering eye contact, start adding the cue (puppy’s name). As they look at you, say puppy’s name, then mark with “Yes” and reward.

STEP 3: TEST THE BEHAVIOUR

After a few sessions of introducing the puppy’s name, test their response by waiting until they are not looking at you and say their name. If they immediately turn to look at you, mark with “Yes” and reward. If not, return to step 2 for a few more training sessions.

STEP 4: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-3 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Practice name response when you are at a distance from puppy. Initially, mark and reward each time they respond to their name, and then move to a variable reinforcement schedule.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Once puppy has a reliable name response, you can use it in real life situations to get their attention before giving another cue (“Fido, Sit,” “Fido, Come,” “Fido, Heel,” etc.)
- o Take care not to overuse puppy’s name or using it in distracting situations where you know that puppy is unlikely to respond. Doing so can lead to puppy tuning out their name.
- o To keep the name response behaviour strong, be sure to reward puppy simply for reacting to their name from time to time.

GENTLE

GOAL: Puppy takes treats and interacts gently, using only lips and tongue, not teeth.

- Although it is normal for puppies to explore the world with their mouth, we need to teach them that it is never appropriate to use teeth on human skin. □
 - Anytime puppy puts their teeth on you, immediately end all attention. Stand up and cross your arms or walk away if it is safe to do so.
 - Keep approved chew toys handy and praise puppy for appropriate chewing.
- Puppy nipping tends to subside around 4-6 months of age when they lose their puppy teeth, but it is important that nipping does not become a habit. □
- Often, nipping can indicate that puppy is overtired or overstimulated. □
 - Calmly give puppy a timeout in their crate if they start lunging, spinning, or snapping
 - Watch for patterns in nipping behaviour (triggers or time of day); pre-empt the behaviour by giving puppy a break in their crate BEFORE the nipping starts.

STEP 1: HAND FEEDING

Hide a kibble in your closed fist and place your hand in front of puppy's mouth. If they use their tongue or lips to try to get the kibble, mark "Yes," and then open your fist so that they can eat the kibble. If they instead nip or use their teeth (no matter how gently), yelp "Ouch" or use a low growly voice to say "No". You may need to be dramatic about it. This is like what a littermate would do when a puppy bites too hard. This should cause puppy to back off temporarily and come back with a more gentle mouth. Feeding a few kibbles this way at each meal is a great way to start teaching the gentle exercise.

STEP 2: TAKING TREATS GENTLY

Take a kibble between your thumb and index finger and offer it to puppy. As before, look for them to use only their tongue or lips to try to get the kibble, then mark "Yes," and allow them to take the treat. If you feel any teeth on your skin keep your hand where it is but yelp or growl. Only release the kibble when puppy is using a gentle mouth to take it.

STEP 3: ADD CUE

Once puppy is consistently taking the kibble gently as soon as you offer it, add in the cue ("Gentle"). Say "Gentle" as you present the kibble, marking "Yes" and releasing the kibble when you feel only lips and tongue on your fingers. Initially, practice this exercise with minimal distractions and when puppy is very calm. Gradually increase the distraction level to simulate real life situations where you want puppy to use a gentle mouth.

NEXT STEPS:

- Anytime you give puppy a treat, you should be expecting them to take it gently.
 - Until puppy masters this skill, deliver treats in an open palm at times when you are not specifically working on "Gentle".
- Teach other family members and friends to practice this exercise with puppy. This will help puppy learn that they must be gentle with all people.

SIT

GOAL: Puppy will place their hind end on the ground when they hear the verbal cue “Sit.”

STEP 1: LURE INTO POSITION

Holding a treat in your hand right in front of puppy’s nose. Slowly move the treat from in front of their nose to just above their head. As they follow the treat, their hind end will naturally fold down into a sit position. As their rear hits the floor, mark “Yes” and reward with the treat.

Step 2: Puppy sits for an empty lure hand

Have treat in both hands. Lure puppy into a sit, say “yes” and then reward from your other hand. They do not get the lure only a reward.

STEP 3: ADD VERBAL CUE

Once puppy is following the empty lure hand, 8 of 10 times, add in the cue (“Sit”). Say “Sit” just before luring puppy into position, continuing to mark “Yes” and rewarding from other hand each sit.

STEP 4: FADE OUT LURE

Over time, puppy should begin to anticipate that you will lure them into a sit position each time you give the cue “Sit.” Test this association by asking for a “Sit” and waiting a few seconds. If they sit without further prompting, say yes and reward. Congratulations, puppy can sit on only a verbal cue! If not, continue to pair the verbal cue with the empty lure hand, gradually making your hand motion smaller and smaller until you can fade it out completely.

STEP 5: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-4 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Practice sit when you and puppy are in different positions (e.g. with puppy starting from a down position or when you are sitting in a chair) and when you are at a distance from puppy. Initially, say yes and reward each time they sit. Move to an intermittent reinforcement schedule, mixing in rewards other than food.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Build duration by rewarding puppy after they have maintained sit for a period. Give positive feedback and praise as they hold position.
 - Start with just a second or two, and gradually delay the reward for longer.
- o Incorporate the sit position into daily life with puppy, for example:
 - At feeding time
 - Before entering or exiting a door
 - When allowing someone to greet puppy
 - While you are waiting in a line

DOWN

GOAL: Puppy will lie with elbows and belly on the ground, eventually relaxing onto one hip, after the verbal cue “Down.”

STEP 1: LURE INTO POSITION

It is easiest to start this exercise on a slippery floor and with puppy in a sit position. Hold a treat in your hand against the puppy’s nose. Slowly move the treat down to the floor.

Their nose and head should follow. You may need to pull the treat forward a little or push it slightly back between their paws. As they follow the treat, they should slide into a down position.

As their elbows and rear hit the floor, mark “Yes” and reward with the treat.

STEP 2: Puppy lies down for an empty lure hand:

Have treat in both hands. Lure puppy into a down, say “yes” and then reward from your other hand.

They do not get the lure only a reward.

STEP 3: ADD CUE

Once puppy is following the lure, 8 /10 times add in the cue (“Down”). Say “Down” just before luring your puppy into position, continuing to mark “Yes” and reward each down.

STEP 4: FADE OUT LURE

Over time, puppy should begin to anticipate that you will lure them into a down position each time you give the cue “Down.” Test this association by asking for a “Down” and waiting a few seconds. If they lie down on a hip without further prompting, mark and reward. Congratulations, puppy can lie down on only a verbal cue! If not, continue to pair the verbal cue with the empty lure, gradually making your hand motion smaller and smaller until you can fade it out completely.

STEP 5: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-4 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Practice down when you and puppy are in different positions(e.g. with your puppy starting from a stand position or when you are behind them) and when you are at a distance from puppy. Initially, mark and reward each time they lie down, and then move to an intermittent reinforcement schedule, mixing in rewards other than food.

NEXT STEPS:

- o If pup is perched on both hind legs like a sphinx, use your lure over to one shoulder so that pup rolls onto one hip.
 - o To build duration, praise puppy as they hold position. Say “Yes” and food reward. Release with Ok. That means puppy may get up from the down position.
 - Start with just a second or two, and gradually delay the reward for longer.
- o Incorporate the down position into daily life with puppy, for example:
 - When you stop to speak to someone
 - When you are on public transit
 - When you are at a restaurant

STAND

GOAL: Puppy will be up on all four feet on the verbal cue “Stand.”

STEP 1: LURE INTO POSITION

With puppy in a sit or down position and holding a treat in your hand right in front of the puppy’s nose. Slowly move the treat from in front of their nose forward, keeping it at nose level. If they follow the treat, they will have to move forward into a standing position. Mark “Yes” and reward with the treat.

STEP 2: Puppy Stands for empty lure hand:

Have treat in both hands. Lure the puppy into a stand, say “yes” and then reward from your other hand. They do not get the lure only a reward.

STEP 3: ADD CUE

Once puppy is following the lure 8/10 times, add in the cue (“Stand”). Say “Stand” just before luring puppy into position, continuing to mark “Yes” and reward each stand.

STEP 4: FADE OUT LURE

Over time, puppy should begin to anticipate that you will lure them into a stand position each time you give the cue “Stand.” Test this association by asking for a “Stand” and waiting a few seconds. If they stand on all fours without further prompting, mark and reward – congratulations, puppy can stand on only a verbal cue! If not, continue to pair the verbal cue with the empty lure, gradually making your hand motion smaller and smaller until you can fade it out completely.

STEP 5: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-4 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Practice stand when you and puppy are in different positions (e.g. with puppy starting from both sit and down positions or when you are on the floor with them) and when you are at a distance from puppy. Initially, mark and reward each time they stand, and then move to an intermittent reinforcement schedule, mixing in rewards other than food.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Build duration by rewarding puppy after they have maintained stand for a period. Praise as they hold position.
- o Start with just a second or two, and gradually delay the reward for longer. Say “yes” and reward then OK so they know they may move out of position.
- o Incorporate the stand position into daily life with puppy, for example:
 - For putting puppy’s jacket on
 - When wiping puppy’s paws
 - During grooming sessions
- o Once puppy knows the sit, down, and stand positions, mix up the order of your cues so that puppy doesn’t start “guessing” what comes next.

WAIT

GOAL: On the verbal cue “Wait,” puppy maintains position until released with the cue “OK” or given another cue.

- In teaching or practicing “Wait,” we want to ensure that puppy is successful in maintaining position until they hear the release word or another cue.
 - o Each time you increase the difficulty of this exercise (by adding duration, distance, or distraction), do so in small increments.
 - o If puppy breaks position, make things easier for a few repetitions.
 - o Never “test” puppy to see how long they can maintain a wait. This is setting them up to fail.
 - o Always food reward puppy while they are still in position BEFORE releasing them so that puppy does not break position in anticipation of the reward.
- Always hold on to the leash when practicing in public or in an unfenced area

STEP 1: BUILD DURATION

Start with puppy in a stationary position (sit, down, or stand), say “Wait,” and then deliver a treat BEFORE puppy moves out of position. After delivering the treat, say “OK” to release puppy from the wait. Repeat this exercise, waiting 1 second after saying “Wait” before delivering the treat. Slowly increase the time that puppy maintains position after the cue “Wait” before being rewarded and released with “OK.” During this step, you will remain standing right beside puppy. Move onto the next step once puppy can maintain the position for at least 30 seconds.

STEP 2: INCREASE DISTANCE

With puppy in a stationary position, say “Wait,” and take a single step. Return immediately to puppy’s side and deliver a treat BEFORE puppy moves out of position. After delivering the treat, say “OK” to release puppy from wait. Slowly (onestep at a time), increase the number of steps you take before returning to reward and release puppy. Practice walking in different directions or around puppy.

STEP 3: ADD IN DISTRACTION

Repeat steps 1 & 2 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. You can also add in your own distractions such as turning around, clapping your hands, or bouncing a ball.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Practice this exercise in all three positions (sit, down, and stand), starting from Step 1
- o Use wait in daily life with puppy and incorporate real life rewards, for example:
 - At feeding time
 - Before entering or exiting a door, crossing a street, or walking onto an elevator.
 - When allowing someone to greet puppy.

COME

GOAL: Puppy returns to the front of the handler on the verbal cue “Come”

- Take care not to associate the “Come” cue with things that puppy might dislike such as going into the crate, putting on the head collar, or the end of playtime. Call puppy □ for fun things like mealtimes, cuddles, or a favourite toy. □
- Remember that foster puppies should never be off leash in an unfenced area. Practice these exercises on leash or in a safe, enclosed area. □

STEP 1: BUILDING ENTHUSIASM

Coming when called should be fun! Begin by getting puppy’s attention by clapping your hands or making noise like “Puppy, puppy”. Then call them WITHOUT using the word “Come”. Take a few quick steps backwards and bend down, inviting puppy to come to you. Mark “Yes” as they step towards you and reward with a treat as they come in close to your body.

STEP 2: ADD CUE

Once puppy is reliably coming to you, put this behaviour on cue. Get puppy’s attention, say “Come,” and then use your happy puppy voice to encourage them to come to you as in step 1. Mark “Yes” as they step towards you and reward with a treat as they come in close to your body.

STEP 3: TEST THE BEHAVIOUR

Over time, puppy should begin to anticipate that you will encourage them to come to you each time you give the cue “Come.” Test this association by getting puppy’s attention, saying “Come” and waiting a few seconds. If they come to you without further prompting, mark and reward. Congratulations, puppy can come on only a verbal cue! If not, continue to pair the verbal cue with your happy puppy voice and inviting body posture, gradually standing up straighter and using less verbal encouragement until puppy is responding to the verbal cue alone.

STEP 4: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-3 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Begin with puppy very close to you, and gradually practice calling them from further and further away.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Practice gently grabbing puppy’s collar, giving them a treat as you do so. This will desensitize puppy to having their collar grabbed and help prevent them from staying just out of reach when called.
- o Call puppy over to you several times during a play session with other pups, reward them for coming, and then release them to go back and play. We don’t want pups to associate being called with the end of playtime.
- o Because this is such an important behaviour, continue to reward puppy frequently for coming to you when called even once the behaviour is well established.

Leave it

GOAL: On the verbal cue “Leave it,” puppy moves away from an object (or person, etc.)

- Remember that puppy does not come “pre-programmed” knowing the “leave it” cue, so you cannot use this cue until you have taught puppy what it means

STEP 1: CAPTURE BEHAVIOUR

Hold a kibble securely in your hand and place your hand just above puppy’s nose. Allow puppy to nudge, lick, or nibble your hand but DO NOT allow them to get the kibble. Simply wait them out, and as soon as puppy moves away from your hand, mark “Yes”. Do not give the kibble they have moved away from. Give them a treat from your other hand. The first few times this movement will be a fluke, but in time you will start to see puppy catch on. Once puppy is deliberately moving several inches away from your hand, move to step 2.

STEP 2: BUILD DURATION

Instead of marking immediately when puppy backs away from your hand, wait for them to resist the kibble for 1 second before marking “Yes” and deliver the kibble from your other hand. If puppy’s nose returns to your hand simply wait for them to back away again before marking and rewarding. Gradually increase the time puppy must resist before you mark and reward.

STEP 3: ADD CUE

Once puppy is consistently moving away from your hand and resisting for several seconds, start adding the cue (“Leave it”). As they move away, say “Leave it”, then mark with “Yes” and reward. After a few sessions of introducing the cue, start the next session by proofing puppy’s response. Present a kibble in your hand and say “Leave it” BEFORE puppy moves away from your hand. If they immediately move away, mark “Yes” and reward. If not, continue this step to pair the command with the behaviour for a few more training sessions.

STEP 4: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-3 using higher value treats and then other objects (e.g. a box, a toy, a stick, or a table). Practice with the object in your hand or on the ground (only objects that puppy could not pick up or eat), marking “Yes” and rewarding when puppy moves away from the object. Practice in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Initially, mark and reward each time they move away from an object, and then move to an intermittent reinforcement schedule.

NEXT STEPS:

- After puppy is reliably moving away from an object, wait for them to give you eye contact, then say “Yes” and reward. We want them to start thinking that paying attention to their handler is the way to understand the world.

*OFF cue is used to redirect a puppy if they put their feet on people or furniture. It is never followed by food reward. *

LOOSE LEASH WALKING

GOAL: Bolt of the leash hangs down as the puppy walks on left side of handler.

- Loose leash walking is one of the most difficult and most important skills for a Future Dog Guide puppy. □
 - You are aiming to teach your puppy that when they feel pressure on their collar or head halter, instead of leaning into it, they should release the pressure by moving closer to you
- A loose leash will hang down in a “J” shape between you and your puppy. Your arm should be relaxed. □
- It is important to give puppy a long enough leash so that they can keep it loose. Be careful not to wrap the leash up in your hand □

STEP 1: STATIONARY LOOSE LEASH

For your first few training sessions, simply stand in place with puppy on leash, rewarding them frequently as long as the leash is loose. If puppy gets distracted and pulls, tap your leg and make a kissy noise until puppy moves towards you releasing the tension on the leash, mark “Yes” and reward. Deliver a few more treats while the leash remains loose.

STEP 2: MOVING LOOSE LEASH

With puppy on a loose leash, take one step in any direction. As puppy moves towards you, mark “Yes” and reward, delivering the treat beside your leg. Repeat several times, stepping in different directions. Just as in step 1, anytime there is any tension on the leash, tap your leg and make a kissy noise until puppy moves towards you releasing the tension on the leash. Mark “Yes” and reward. If this is going well, try two steps in the same direction. Gradually increase the number of steps that puppy is maintaining the loose leash before a reward.

STEP 3: LOOSE LEASH WITH DISTRACTIONS

Now the fun part – adding distractions! Start with an “easy” distraction (e.g. a kibble on the floor) and work up to more difficult distractions (e.g. a dog nearby). Remember that the further you are from a distraction, the easier it will be for puppy. Practice walking by the distraction, rewarding puppy frequently for maintaining a loose leash. If puppy pulls towards the distraction, causing tension on the leash, tap your leg and make a kissy noise until puppy returns towards you releasing the tension on the leash. Mark “Yes” and reward. Deliver a few more treats while the leash remains loose. Next time, choose an easier distraction or work further away so that they can successfully walk by without pulling. As they are successful, gradually work closer to the distraction, and choose more challenging distractions.

NEXT STEPS:

- Work on loose leash walking EVERY time that puppy is on leash.
- Practice loose leash walking on both the flat collar and head halter.
- Practice speed and direction changes while walking. Have some fun weaving around poles, benches, and garbage cans.
- Work on keeping puppy on your left side as this is where they will walk as a Dog Guide.

HEEL POSITION

GOAL: Puppy will assume the heel position (on the left side, front legs approximately in line with handler's legs, facing forward) on the verbal cue "Heel"

- Your focus when puppy is on leash should be on general loose leash walking, however heel position is useful at times when you need them to come in more closely by your left side.

STEP 1: LURE INTO correct "HEEL" POSITION

Stand with your feet together toe to toe with puppy. Holding a treat in your left hand, get puppy's attention and slowly move the treat back behind you in on the left side as you take a step back with your left foot. Once puppy has moved back past your left leg, bring the treat in towards your body and forward as your left leg steps back in line with the right (which should not move). Puppy should swing around to be parallel with you and then continue to follow the lure forward. As their front legs come in line with your legs, mark "Yes" and reward with the treat. After a few repetitions try using the same hand motion without a treat in your hand. Continue to mark "Yes" and reward with a treat from your treat pouch as puppy reaches the heel position.

STEP 2: ADD CUE

Once puppy is consistently following the lure, add in the cue ("Heel"). Say "Heel" just before luring puppy into position, continuing to mark "Yes" and reward each time they reach the heel position.

STEP 3: FADE OUT LURE

Over time, puppy should begin to anticipate that you will lure them into a heel position each time you give the cue "Heel." Test this association by asking for a "Heel" and waiting a few seconds. If they move into the heel position without further prompting, mark and reward. Congratulations, puppy can move into heel position on verbal cue! If not, continue to pair the verbal cue with the lure, gradually making your hand motion and step back smaller until you fade them out completely.

STEP 4: GENERALIZATION

Repeat steps 1-3 in a variety of different environments, starting with minimal distractions and working up to busy environments. Practice heel with the leash on and off. Initially, mark and reward each time your puppy achieves the heel position, and then move to an intermittent reinforcement schedule, mixing in rewards other than food.

NEXT STEPS:

- The "Heel" cue can be used on walks when puppy gets ahead of you and you want them to return to your side
- With puppy in the heel position, practice "Sit," "Down," and "Stand"
- Begin working on a moving heel - from a stationary heel position, take one step forward and mark "Yes" and reward puppy as they move forward in line with you.
 - Gradually build up the number of steps that puppy can maintain the heel position.

ACCEPTANCE OF HEAD HALTER

GOAL: Puppy is comfortable wearing a head halter without fussing with it.

- The head halter will be introduced at approximately 4 months of age □
- As a Dog Guide, the foster puppy will wear a head halter as part of their working uniform. This tool gives the handler more control over the dog and is particularly important for clients who may have mobility issues. □
 - o The head halter slips over the puppy's nose and clips behind the back of the head.
 - o The head halter should fit snugly (like a regular collar) behind the head but be loose around the nose allowing the puppy to open their mouth comfortably.
 - o The leash will clip to the metal ring under the puppy's chin.

STEP 1: POSITIVE INTRODUCTION

For the first week or two after receiving the head halter build a positive association with wearing the head collar. Lure the puppy's nose through the nose portion and let it sit on the bridge of their nose for a second or two, reward and remove.

Step 2: Further acclimation:

Put the head halter on, clip it closed at each meal time and remove it after puppy has eaten. For picky eaters, pair the head halter with high value treats.

STEP 2: WEARING THE HEAD HALTER around the house

Once puppy has been introduced to the head halter, have them wear it round the house, no leash, under close supervision. Lots of rewards. Start with just a few minutes at a time. Remove before they fuss. If that goes well, attach a light line to the metal ring under their chin and let them drag that around for a bit. ALWAYS SUPERVISE!

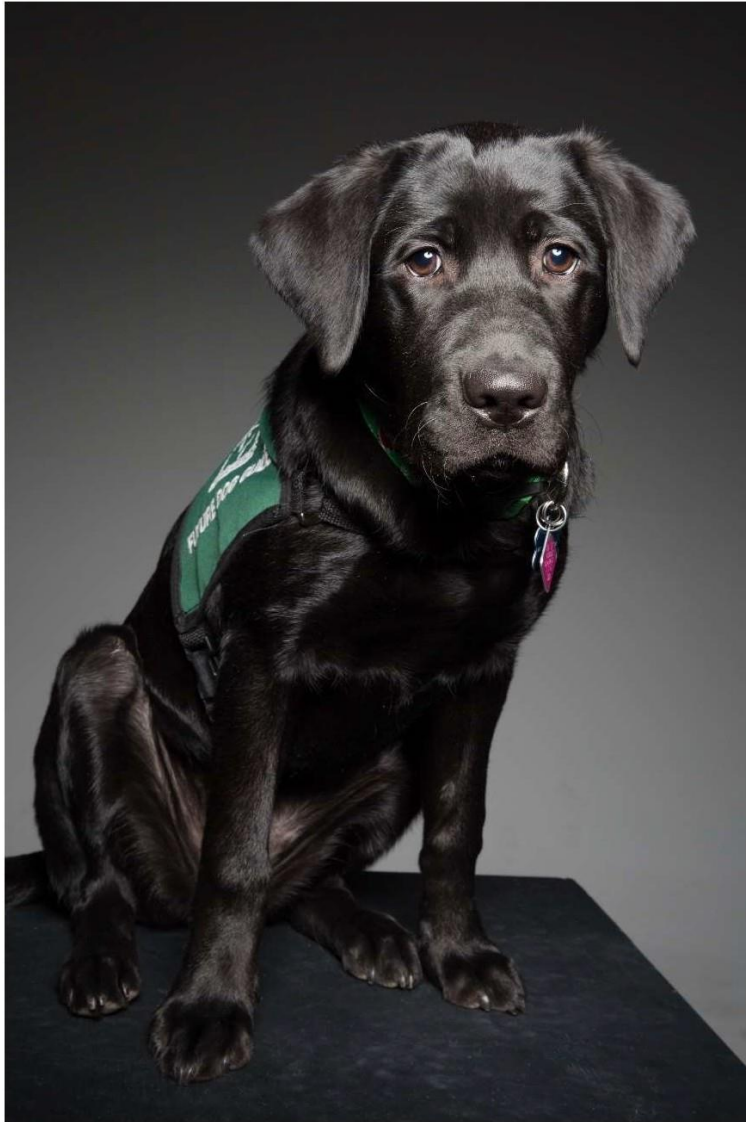
STEP 3: WEARING THE HEAD HALTER ON WALKS

Now you can take puppy out on your driveway with the leash attached under their chin. They will feel some pressure on their face rather than neck if there is tension on the leash. Continue to discourage any fussing with the head halter, and gradually build the length of time that puppy wears it.

NEXT STEPS:

- o Encourage puppy to put their nose into the head halter by luring them with a treat
- o Continue to use the head halter throughout the time you have puppy. You should use the head halter 50% of the time that puppy is on leash.

PART 4: Health



FEEDING GUIDELINES

All Dog Guides foster puppies are fed diets donated by the Pet Valu family of stores. Food is available to be picked up by foster families at our Oakville and Breslau facilities during regular business hours. Dog Guides will not pay for any other food purchased for foster puppies. Foster puppies may not be fed any diet other than that provided, with the exception of temporary diets prescribed by our veterinarian.

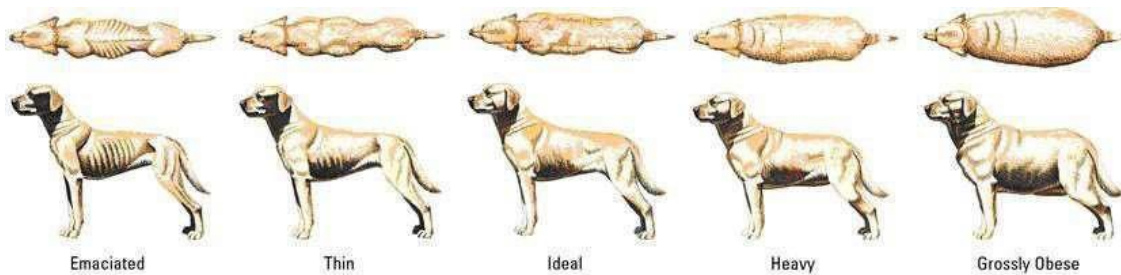
Foster Puppy Program staff will give you feeding instructions when you pick the puppy up and continue to work with you to adjust puppy's food as needed. Puppies are fed three times a day until they are six months old, then twice a day from then on.

Puppies are fed growth diets (puppy food) until approximately 8-10 months of age. Foster Puppy Program staff will advise when it is time to switch to a maintenance (adult) diet.

- Foster puppies should not be “free-fed”. The food bowl can be left down for 10-15 minutes and then should be removed until the next mealtime.
- Please do not add any supplements to puppy's food unless directed by Foster Puppy Program staff or our veterinarian.
- Avoid high intensity exercise around meal times.
- Notify Foster Puppy Program staff immediately if puppy has any sudden changes in eating habits.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WEIGHT

- All Dog Guide puppies should be kept at an ideal body condition:



UNDERWEIGHT	IDEAL	OVERWEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ribs easily palpated and may be clearly visible - Back and pelvic bone visible, minimal fat covering - Obvious waist and abdominal tuck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ribs palpable with moderate fat covering - Waist observed when viewed from above - Abdomen tucked up when viewed from the side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat covering - Waist absent or barely visible - Abdominal tuck may be absent

EXERCISE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Be cautious about over exercising puppies. Over exercise can damage young joints leading to lifelong consequences.
- Rule of thumb: five minutes of leashed, deliberate exercise per month of age (up to twice a day) until the puppy is fully mature. (3 months = 15 minutes)
- This does not include free dog-initiated exercise.
- Off leash play time with other dogs should be monitored. Only allow play in a fully fenced environment with dogs you know well. Too much unrestricted rough housing can lead to dog distraction and other dog related issues. Even one negative incident during a critical time can create problems in the future.

ROUTINE CANINE CARE

A working dog must be in excellent physical condition to perform their job well. Regular grooming and health checks can prevent health issues and help to prepare your foster puppy for necessary handling and vet care in their future. Remember to make grooming and handling a positive experience by taking things slowly and rewarding puppy with praise and treats. Contact Foster Puppy Program staff if you notice any concerns with puppy during routine maintenance.

EYES

- Check eyes daily and wipe away any discharge with a clean, damp cloth
- WATCH FOR: Redness, significant discharge (especially yellow or green coloured), squinting

EARS

- Dogs with floppy ears should have their ears checked weekly and cleaned as needed to help prevent ear infections. Follow vet clinic directions for proper ear care.
- Dogs that are prone to ear infections may require more frequent ear cleaning.
- Water in the ear canal can lead to ear infections. Be sure to clean and dry puppy's ears after a bath or swim.
- Some breeds (such as poodles) have hair in their ear canals which should be gently plucked with your fingers to prevent excessive hair and wax buildup.
- WATCH FOR: Redness, swelling, black dirt/discharge, foul odor, head shaking

TEETH

- Just like humans, puppies have a set of deciduous teeth that fall out (usually around 4 months of age) and are replaced with permanent teeth
- While puppy has their deciduous teeth, practice gently handling their mouth and examining their teeth.
- Once puppy's adult teeth have grown in, start introducing teeth brushing into your grooming routine
 - Use a toothpaste designed specifically for dogs. It is not safe to use human toothpaste
 - You can choose to use either a regular toothbrush or a brush that fits over your fingertip
 - Start with brushing just a few teeth at a time, and work up to brushing all teeth as your puppy becomes comfortable with the procedure
 - Aim to brush puppy's teeth at least once a week, or more often if possible
- WATCH FOR: Broken or discoloured teeth, redness or swelling of gums

NAILS AND FEET

- Foster puppies should be accustomed to having their paws handled and nails clipped on a regular basis
 - Use nail clippers designed for an appropriately sized dog.
 - Hold the dog's paw steady and cut just the tip of the nail off in a single stroke
 - Dog nails contain a blood supply called the quick and may bleed if cut too short. Keep a supply of Nail-Safe (available at pet stores) handy to stop the bleeding.
 - Weekly nail trimming is preferable to waiting until the dog's nails get long
- Don't hesitate to ask Foster Puppy Program staff for assistance if you are uncomfortable cutting puppy's nails. Continue to practice handling their paws in the meantime
- WATCH FOR: Broken or torn nails, redness of the paws, cuts or punctures

SKIN AND COAT

Future Dog Guide puppies should be brushed regularly to ensure that they are well-groomed and comfortable with being handled.

- Keep brushing sessions short, just a few minutes is sufficient if done regularly
- The type of brush used will depend on the length of your puppy's coat
 - Puppies with long coats (Golden Retrievers, Poodles) require a brush and comb. Extra care should be taken brushing behind the ears, under the front legs, and on the backs of the legs where fur can easily become matted
- Puppies with short coats (Labrador Retrievers) require only a brush.
- In addition to regular brushing, poodles that do not shed need to have their hair clipped regularly (approximately every 4-8 weeks). We recommend a professional grooming for the first few times. It helps puppy develop good grooming manners.
- WATCH FOR: Fleas, ticks, rashes, lumps, hot spots, cuts or other lesions

BATHING

- Bathing is generally only required if puppy gets into something smelly. Bathing too often can strip the natural oils from puppy's coat and lead to dry skin.
 - Ensure that the coat is well-brushed prior to bathing in order to prevent mats.
 - Wet the puppy using lukewarm water and lather with a shampoo labelled for puppies. Do not use human shampoo
 - Rinse thoroughly, making sure that there is no shampoo left in the coat as it can irritate the dog's skin. Don't forget the feet, under the tail, and other hard to reach areas.
 - Pat dry with a towel. If desired blow dry using a low setting (this may require some practice to ensure that puppy is comfortable with the blow dryer)
- Even if puppy does not require a bath, it is a good idea to practice putting them in the bathtub and running some water over them so that they will be comfortable with the procedure when needed.

HEAT CYCLE

- Most female puppies will remain intact until recall, and may experience their first heat cycle while in a foster home
- Female dogs typically experience their first heat around 8 – 14 months of age, and approximately every 6 months thereafter
- Signs of heat include swelling of the nipples and vulva and a bloody discharge from the vulva lasting approximately 21 days
- The fertile period occurs during the middle portion of the heat cycle. Puppy will be very attractive to male dogs while she is in heat
 - NEVER leave foster puppy outside unattended
 - Do not visit dog parks or any other area where you might encounter an intact male dog while puppy is in heat
- In the home, a dog in heat can be confined to an easily-cleaned area, or can wear “doggie diapers” available from the pet store. Remember to remove the diaper when she is in her crate.
- Some dogs will experience behavioural changes prior to or during heat.
- Foster puppies should not go out in public settings while in heat.
- Please notify Foster Puppy Program staff immediately each and every time your foster puppy comes into heat

PREVENTATIVE MEDICATIONS

- Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides provides foster puppies with monthly medications to prevent heartworm, fleas, and ticks.
- Every spring, puppies over 6 months old will need a blood test to check for heartworm

VACCINATIONS

Future Dog Guide puppies will receive the following vaccinations as recommended by our veterinarian:

	Approximate Age	Vaccinations Given
1 st Puppy Vaccines	6-8 Weeks	DA2PPv, Corona, Bordetella
2 nd Puppy Vaccines	10-11 Weeks	DA2PPv, Lepto
3 rd Puppy Vaccines	13-15 Weeks	DA2PPv, Lepto, Rabies
1 Year Boosters	14-16 Months	DA2PPv, Lepto, Bordetella, Rabies

- It is important to keep puppy on schedule with their vaccinations.
- If you are unable to attend your scheduled vaccine appointment, contact Foster Puppy Program staff in advance to rebook.

IMPORTANT: Until your foster puppy is fully vaccinated (1 week after their 3rd puppy vaccines), avoid introducing them to unknown or unvaccinated dogs, or taking them to areas with heavy dog traffic.

COMMON HEALTH ISSUES

The following guidelines will help you when puppy encounters common health issues.

DIARRHEA

- Diarrhea is one of the most common medical issues seen in puppies. It has many possible causes including:
 - Overfeeding
 - A treat or chew does not agree with them.
 - Parasites, viral or bacterial infection, or other illness
 - Dietary indiscretion (puppy ate something it should not have)
 - Stress
- Ensure that puppy always has access to water to prevent dehydration
- If puppy is over 6 months old, fast them (no food or treats) for 12 hours. Younger puppies should not be fasted
 - Next, begin feeding small, frequent (every 1-2 hours) meals of a bland diet consisting of plain white rice and chicken or scrambled egg (no dairy, or spices)
 - Once puppy's stool has returned to normal, start gradually mixing in their regular kibble with the bland diet
- Puppies experiencing diarrhea should be kept quiet. Avoid public outings, events, and contact with other dogs until stools have returned to normal.

Contact vet clinic at 905-842-2891 ext 288 if puppy:

- Has blood in their stool
- Is not drinking water or shows signs of dehydration
- Is also vomiting, lethargic, or has a poor appetite
- Is still having diarrhea after 48 hours of a bland diet
- Is having repeated bouts of diarrhea

VOMITING

- Occasional vomiting is relatively normal for dogs and does not typically require any treatment
- When puppy vomits, ensure that they have access to water. Wait a few hours before offering a small amount of food
- Some puppies will vomit bile early in the morning when their stomach is empty. If this occurs, try feeding them a small snack at bedtime.

Contact Vet clinic at 905-842-2891 ext 288 if puppy:

- Vomits more than 3 times in an hour or 5 times in 24 hours
- Is not able to hold down any food or water
- Ingested (or may have ingested) something potentially harmful
- Is also having diarrhea or is lethargic

KENNEL COUGH

- Kennel cough is the general term for an upper respiratory infection which can be caused by a variety of viruses or bacteria, similar to a human cold
- Typically, kennel cough does not require any specific treatment other than rest. It may take 7-10 days to run its course.
- Kennel cough is highly contagious between dogs. Avoid any contact with other dogs until several days after your puppy has stopped coughing.
- Foster puppies receive a vaccine for Bordetella, but it will not prevent all cases of kennel cough

Contact Vet clinic at 905-842-2891 ext 288 if puppy:

- Is lethargic or off their food
- Appears to be having trouble breathing
- Has green discharge from their nose

LAMENESS

- If you notice your foster puppy limping, carefully check their paws for any signs of injury or infection
- Confine puppy to their crate except for short leash walks for toileting. Do not allow any running, jumping, or off-leash activity.
- Once puppy's gait is back to normal, allow them to slowly return to their normal activity over several days.

Contact Vet clinic at 905-842-2891 ext 288 if puppy:

- Is not able to bear weight on their affected leg
- Is lethargic or off their food
- Has not improved after 24 hours of strict rest

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

- Dogs can experience allergic reactions to many things including insect stings, plant matter, cleaning products, medications, or vaccinations
 - Very often, we are not able to determine what the cause of an allergic reaction is
- Signs of an allergic reaction include localized or generalized swelling, hives, and itchiness
- Ice packs can also help to relieve swelling and pain

Contact Vet clinic at 905-842-2891 ext 288 if puppy:

- Was recently given vaccinations or started on a new medication
- Is lethargic or appears to be having trouble breathing
- Puppy appears lethargic, disorientated or dull.

FLEAS

- Foster puppies are given flea prevention year round
 - o It is recommended that other pets in the home are also given flea prevention as fleas are easily transmitted between infested animals or through the environment
- During grooming sessions, check for fleas using a flea comb and watch for flea dirt (little black specks) on your puppy's skin
- Contact Foster Puppy Program staff if you notice fleas or flea dirt on your foster puppy

TICKS

- Foster puppies are given tick prevention year-round.
- Check your puppy for ticks especially after walks and outings during spring and summer. Be sure to check armpits, ears, face, under the tail, and feet.
 - o Ticks can carry a variety of diseases including Lyme disease. The less time a tick feeds on a dog, the less chance they will transmit disease.
- Remove ticks right away using a tick removal device or tweezers.
 - o Wear gloves and avoid handling the tick with your hands.
 - o Using tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull straight upwards to remove it
- Contact Foster Puppy Program staff if you have seen a tick on your foster puppy. They may require a blood test to check for tick-borne disease.

WARM WEATHER HAZARDS

- Take care to avoid heatstroke and sunburn on warm summer days.
 - o Keep outdoor walks and playtimes short and avoid the hottest parts of the day. Outings to air-conditioned malls or stores can be a great option on hot days
 - o Check that sidewalks are not too hot before taking puppy for a walk.
 - o Never leave foster puppy in the car. In warm weather, cars can quickly reach dangerously hot temperatures.
 - o Always provide clean water to foster puppy throughout the day.
 - o Watch for excessive panting or abnormal behaviour.
- Foster puppies should always be closely supervised around water, and should remain on leash unless they are in a securely fenced area
 - o After swimming, be sure to rinse and dry foster puppy well and clean their ears to prevent skin irritation and ear infections.

COLD WEATHER HAZARDS

- Clean and dry foster puppy's paws well after walking or playing in the snow to prevent skin irritation.
- Avoid heavily salted areas as walking on the salt can irritate foster puppy's paws.
- During extreme cold weather, avoid spending long periods of time outside. If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for puppy. Outings to indoor malls or other public areas are a good option.

COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS

The following is a list of some of the many items that may be found in or around your house that can be hazardous to foster puppy. Take care to keep these products safely away from puppy. If puppy ingests anything on this list (or anything else that might be harmful), contact Foster Puppy Program staff immediately. If it is after business hours, please call the emergency line 416-807-0892

FOOD ITEMS

Remember that foster puppies should never be given human food

- Alcohol
- Avocados
- Bones
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Garlic
- Grapes or raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Onions
- Tomatoes
- Xylitol (sweetener found in some gum, candy, power bars and even peanut butter)

POISONS

- Antifreeze
- Organophosphates
- Rodenticides
- Slug bait
- Marijuana
- Many human or veterinary medications
- Household cleaning products
- Wild Mushrooms

PLANTS

Many indoor and outdoor plants can be harmful to dogs, with effects ranging from a mild rash, to vomiting or diarrhea, to more serious organ damage.

The ASPCA has compiled a list of toxic plants and their effects which can be found at:

www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants

PART 5: Next Steps



RECALL

Shortly before or around recall, the foster puppy will undergo several evaluations including an eye screen by an ophthalmologist and x-rays of the hips and elbows. Intact dogs that are not selected for the breeding program will also be spayed or neutered at this time.

Foster puppies are recalled as needed by the training programs, typically between 12 and 16 months of age. Puppy Program staff will contact you approximately 2 weeks prior to your foster puppy's scheduled recall date to make arrangements for their return to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

On recall day, please bring the following items with you:

- o Crate
- o Puppy Jacket
- o Head Halter
- o Any medications including heartworm and flea/tick prevention
- o Leftover prescription diets
- o Completed CBARQ
- o Completed foster recall questionnaire.

While living in the kennels, the foster puppy will be housed with another dog for company. In between training sessions, they will have playtime, walks, and cuddles with staff and volunteers.

It is at recall that foster puppies are assigned to one of the following seven Dog Guide Programs:

CANINE VISION

Canine Vision Dog Guides are trained to assist a person who is blind or visually impaired. They will learn to carefully navigate daily routes including stopping at curbs, making precise turns, and avoiding obstacles.

HEARING

Hearing Dog Guides are trained to assist a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. They will learn to alert their handler to common sounds such as the fire alarm, doorbell or door knocking, telephone, timer, alarm clock, or their name being called. In most cases, a Hearing Dog Guide will paw to alert their handler and then lead them to the source of the sound. However, when they hear a fire alarm, they are trained to alert their handler and then spin in circles to indicate the potential danger.

SERVICE

Service Dog Guides are trained to assist a person with a medical or physical disability. They will learn tasks such as fetching a dropped item, opening and closing doors by tugging on a rope, pushing a button to open an accessible door, and barking for help. Additionally, they will practice these skills while their handler is using a mobility aid such as a wheelchair, walker, or cane.

SEIZURE RESPONSE

Seizure Response Dog Guides are trained to assist a person with epilepsy. They will learn to bark for help when their handler starts to have a seizure. Additionally, they can be trained to activate an alert system to call for help, go get another person in the home, or fetch a phone or medication kit to assist their handler.

AUTISM ASSISTANCE

Autism Assistance Dog Guides are trained to assist a child with autism. One of the most important skills that they learn is tethering, where they will act as an anchor to help to prevent a child from bolting. Additionally, the hugs and visit skills can help calm a child in situations where they get anxious. Most of all, Autism Assistance Dog Guides provide companionship and unconditional love to their partner.

DIABETES ALERT

Diabetes Alert Dog Guides are trained to assist a person with Type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness. They will learn to use their nose to identify sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar and then nudge their handler to alert them. Additionally, they can be trained to activate an alert system to call for help, go get another person in the home, or fetch a kit containing something sweet for their handler to eat.

FACILITIES SUPPORT

Facilities Support Dog Guides are for use by professional agencies with individuals in traumatic situations. These Dog Guides are trained to provide comfort to victims or witnesses of a crime or sudden tragedy. Support Dog Guides will provide on-scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in the community.

FORMAL TRAINING

Formal training starts with review and fine-tuning of the basics that were introduced in the foster home. From there, the dogs begin learning the specialized tasks that will allow them to assist their future partner. All these skills will be practiced extensively in a variety of environments and in the presence of various distractions.

Most dogs will be in formal training for approximately 6-8 months. This training time depends on the dog's progress. Additionally, some dogs may "switch majors" if the instructors believe that they would be better suited to a different Dog Guide program than the one that they were originally assigned.

While foster puppy is in formal training, you will receive quarterly progress reports from their instructor.

BREEDING PROGRAM

All intact (not spayed or neutered) dogs are assessed for possible inclusion in the breeding program. Only a small percentage of dogs will be selected for this career path after careful evaluation of their health and temperament, as well as that of their littermates and other relatives. Our goal is to improve the quality of our dogs with each generation, so if your dog is chosen as a breeding dog you can be assured that it is because they are one of the best of the best!

Dogs selected for the breeding program are placed with long-term foster families. Female breeding dogs will retire by 7 years old and have a maximum of 5 litters, while male breeding dogs do not have a set retirement age or number of litters. Breeding dogs continue to be good ambassadors for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, but do not have public access.

CAREER CHANGE

Not every foster puppy has the traits necessary to graduate as a Dog Guide. Dogs can be released from the training program for medical or behavioural reasons. This can occur at any point during the foster puppy program or formal training.

Career changed dogs might find other careers (for example, working as detection dogs for Canada Border Services) or may be placed as pets. The decision to career change a dog, the adoption fee, and placement in an adoptive home are at the discretion of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

GRADUATION and MEET and GREET

One of the most exciting parts of fostering a puppy is attending their graduation ceremony and meeting their new partner. Our graduation ceremonies are held online to allow greater accessibility and reach. You will receive an invitation from the Puppy Program for this very special event.

You may also be invited to meet your foster puppy's new partner. These Meet and Greets are scheduled by the Dog Guide's instructor.

Please keep in mind the following guidelines when meeting the new Dog Guide Team:

- Ask the client's permission before petting or greeting their dog
 - Do not allow the dog to jump up on you or behave inappropriately
 - Do not take the leash from the client
- If the client has questions about medical or behaviour problems, refer them to the instructor

- Remember that the Dog Guide and their partner are a new team and still learning to trust each other. Keep stories and comments about the foster puppy or other dogs in the program positive and affirming.
- You are more than welcome to bring puppy photos to share with the Dog Guides new partner.
- Do not ask the client personal questions about the nature of their disability.
- Do not share photos of the client without their permission.
- Enjoy this time as it is a celebration of the hard work you have done raising a puppy that is now a working Dog Guide!

AUTISM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MEET and GREETs

In the Autism Assistance program, it is a parent/caregiver who comes to Dog Guides to learn to work with the Dog Guide and the final stage of training is completed in the home with the child. Foster families will be invited to a “Meet and Greet” at the Dog Guides facility to visit with the foster puppy and meet the parent/caregiver of the child they will be placed with.

HOME PLACEMENTS

Nearly all clients come to the Dog Guides facility in Oakville to train with their new Dog Guide, but sometimes special circumstances require that a home placement is done instead. This involves an instructor travelling to the client’s home and training with them one-on-one. If your foster puppy is scheduled for a home placement, you will be invited to visit with them at the Dog Guides facility before they travel to their client. You will receive a graduation photo in the mail after the home placement is completed.

SPONSORSHIPS

While it costs approximately \$35,000 to train each Dog Guide, all Dog Guides are provided free of charge to our clients. Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides receives no government funding and relies on fundraising and donations to fulfill our mission. Sponsors are generous individuals, groups such as Lions Clubs, or corporations who donate a significant portion (\$4,000 - \$12,000) of the cost of training a Dog Guide team. Sponsors are invited to graduation and to meet the team that they have sponsored. Sometimes, a sponsor will request a specific name for the dog they are sponsoring. If your foster puppy’s name is changed due to a sponsorship you will be informed prior to graduation. We require that you respect the name change at meet and greet and during further communication.

CONTACT AFTER GRADUATION

It is up to both the foster family and the client whether they choose to keep in touch after graduation. While you are welcome to exchange contact information, please do not feel obligated. Please respect the client’s wishes if they choose not to keep in touch.

CONTACT LIST

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides Facilities:

Oakville Location	Breslau Location
152 Wilson Street, Oakville ON, L6K 0G6 1-800-768-3030 or 905-842-2891	3751 Chilligo Road, Breslau ON, N0B 1M0 1-888-624-5291 or 519-648-3780

Puppy Program Staff Members:

Puppy Program staff are your point of contact for any questions regarding your foster puppy.

Lucy Harbach	905-842-2891 x 228	lharbach@dogguides.com
Heather Schaefer	519-648-3780 x 229	hschaefer@dogguides.com
Heather Staunton	905-842-2891x229	hstaunton@dogguides.com
Hyunah Kim	905-842-2891 x 287	hkim@dogguides.com
Shannon Graham	905-842-2891 x 287	sgraham@dogguides.com
Mackenzie Brown	905-842-2891 x287	mbrown@dogguides.com

Emergency Cell #: 416-807-0892

Please call this number in the case of after hour emergencies that cannot wait until the next business day. For emergencies during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30 – 5:00), please contact Puppy Program staff. Email is the best way to reach us. If extremely urgent, call reception (905-842-2891 x 0) to be redirected.

Other Important Contacts:

Meryllyn Defazio Director, Resource Development	905-842-2891 x 231 mdefazio@dogguides.com	- Direct Marketing info, annual giving, and fundraising.
Julie Jelinek Director, Capital Campaign	905-842-2891 x 223 jjelinek@dogguides.com	- Capital Campaign for new building
Maria Galindo Director of Communications	905-842-2891 x 298 mgalindo@dogguides.com	- Ideas/approval for media (including social media) coverage involving Dog Guides or your foster puppy
Travis Forbes Events Coordinator	905-842-2891 x217 tforbes@dogguides.com	- Volunteer opportunities at events with your foster puppy - PetValu Walk for Dog Guides
Danielle Rosenblum Community Partnerships Manager	905-842-2891 x300 drosenblum@dogguides.com	- Lions Fundraising - Grants and Community Groups
Avery McConkey Career Change Program Coordinator	905-842-2891x291 careerchange@dogguides.com	- Inquiries about the Career Change Dog adoption program