



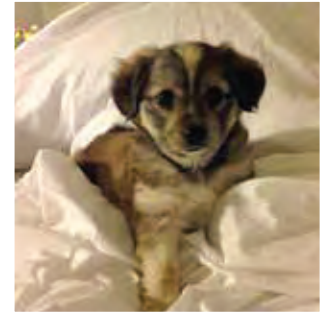
# Foster Care Program

## Foster Puppy Manual



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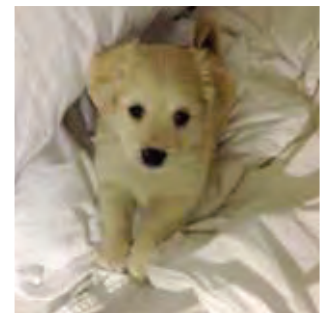
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## Important Questions to Ask Yourself

### Before you decide to foster for the SF SPCA...

- **Are you able to get to us quickly in an emergency?**
- **Will you be able to spend quality time with the animals?**  
On average, it is best to spend at least 2 hours a day with your foster animals. Socialization can be as important as feeding them and keeping them clean.
- **Will you be able to commit to appointments ranging from once a week to every two weeks whether or not they are ill?**
- **Are you aware that there is a great deal of clean-up and even possible damage to your home when you take a foster home?**  
Foster animals can ruin new drapes, carpeting, clothing, and the SF SPCA will not be held responsible for any damage incurred while fostering an animal.
- **Are you willing to work with our veterinary care system?**  
Please understand that only our veterinarians can treat foster animals.
- **Are you able to separate our animals from your own?**  
Foster animals must remain isolated from your resident pets. Can you keep them in an enclosed area away from your animals?
- **Can you commit to spending the entire foster period with the animal?**  
If something unexpected happens, you will need to contact us.
- **Do you feel comfortable explaining to friends that these animals are not yours to adopt out and that they must go through the regular adoption process at the SF SPCA?**
- **Will you be able to bring the animal back at the end of the foster period?**  
It can be difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached.
- **Are you emotionally prepared to handle the death of one of your foster animals?**  
This can be very difficult, but the sad truth is that it sometimes happens. In this event, the SF SPCA should be contacted immediately.



## Welcome and Introduction

### Welcome to the San Francisco SPCA Foster Care Program!

The SF SPCA has approximately 2,000 volunteers who donate their time

**Save and protect animals, provide care and treatment, advocate for animal welfare, and enhance the human-animal bond.**

As the fourth-oldest humane society in the United States and the founders of the No-Kill movement, the SF SPCA has always been at the forefront of animal welfare. As a result of our efforts and those of our community partners, San Francisco has the lowest euthanasia rate of any major city in the US. No adoptable dog or cat in San Francisco goes without a home, even if they have medical or other issues. By fostering animals that are too young or sick to be housed in the shelter, our foster volunteers play a huge part in helping us reach our annual lifesaving and adoption goals (5,250 animals were adopted in 2016). Many of our foster animals come from disadvantaged shelters throughout Northern California where they are at high risk of euthanasia, and placing them in a foster home helps save their lives.

Puppies in the foster program are largely those that have not yet reached the appropriate weight to undergo the spay/neuter surgery required to move on to our adoption floor. These puppies are small and require more individual care than they can receive in a shelter environment, making a foster home an ideal placement. Foster volunteers care for the puppies in their home, ensuring that their basic needs for food, warmth, safety, and socialization are met, while closely monitoring their health and growth. As caretakers, foster parents schedule and bring in their puppies for regular vaccine appointments every two weeks and monitor their weight and well-being daily, bringing them in for additional medical care if needed. Our knowledgeable and dedicated Foster team and Shelter Medicine staff are here to ensure that you have the tools and support that you need every step of the way.

Although fostering puppies can be a lot of work (a minimum of two hours per day), it is an amazing experience. You get to help these tiny babies grow to become confident, well-adjusted family pets. You also get the fun of raising a puppy without the responsibility of lifetime care! Most importantly you are saving lives.

Thank you for considering this important and rewarding volunteer opportunity!

The Foster Team



### Join our Facebook group!

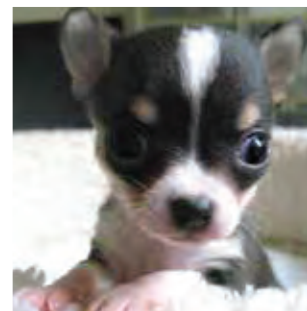
This private group allows foster parents to share photos, stories, and connect with experienced foster volunteers.

Search for **“San Francisco SPCA Foster Parents Support Group”** and request to join.



### Shopping List

- Food Bowls
- Water Bowls
- Towels for Bedding
- Pee Pads
- Appropriate Toys/Chews (see page 8)
- Enclosure (Optional—depending on space available)







### Common Symptoms of Illness

The most common symptoms of illness in a puppy are vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and lack of appetite. These may appear in any combination.

If your puppy exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact our Foster Tech and Emergency Line **(415) 740-1646**.

## Important Notice for Foster Parents

### All foster puppies MUST be kept at home!

One significant aspect of fostering underage puppies is that you are dealing with animals that have not yet developed immunity to a variety of potentially fatal canine diseases. While you might be anxious to play with the puppies in the park, etc., the puppies must not walk on any surfaces (such as parks or sidewalks) where another dog may have urinated or defecated in the past. Even if it appears clean it may still be harboring contagious diseases. It is imperative for puppies to stay in the home until they have been fully vaccinated – which is usually around 4 months of age.

The most common symptoms of illness in a puppy are vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and lack of appetite. These may appear in any combination. If your puppy exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact our Foster Tech and Emergency Line at (415) 740-1646.

Thank you for helping the SF SPCA save the lives of animals in need. You are invaluable to us, and we appreciate you opening your hearts and homes. Please feel free to contact us with any questions – our staff is here to support you.



## Foster Care Agreement

By signing below, I, the foster parent, agree that I will foster the animal(s) identified below on the basis set out in this Foster Care Agreement.

<b>SF SPCA Contact Information</b>	201 Alabama Street, San Francisco Email (preferred): Fosterhelp@sfsPCA.org Emergency line: 415.740.1646
<b>Foster relationship</b>	I understand that I am not adopting the animal, and that the foster relationship is solely to provide temporary care for the animal. I understand that SF SPCA maintains legal guardianship of the animal.  I understand that I am a volunteer, not an employee or contractor, and will not be paid for fostering the animal.
<b>Supplies</b>	SF SPCA will provide a carrier, which I will use to transport the animal, and food and medical care for the duration of the foster relationship. I will pick up food at SF SPCA's facility.  I will supply food bowls, water bowls, toys, bedding, and litter (for cats). I will clean and disinfect all supplies and indoor spaces used by any previous foster or animal.
<b>Daily Care</b>	I will be responsible for the daily care and feeding of the animal. I will feed the animal only the food provided or approved by SF SPCA.  I will keep the animal separate from any resident pets and confined to a kitten/puppy-proofed space indoors at all times.
<b>Return</b>	I will return the animal prior to the stated date if requested by SF SPCA, or if circumstances develop where I am unable to give the best possible care.  Upon the end of the foster relationship, I will immediately return the animal and any supplies provided by SF SPCA.
<b>Vaccinations</b>	I will keep the animal current on its vaccinations and bring the animal only to the SF SPCA Medical Department for vaccination.
<b>Health and Behavior</b>	I will notify SF SPCA if the animal has not eaten for more than 24 hours, or if the animal experiences diarrhea for more than 24 hours.  I will notify SF SPCA if the foster cat/kitten is not using the litter box in an appropriate fashion.
<b>Medical Care</b>	I will give the animal medications only as prescribed by the SF SPCA Medical Department.  Should the animal become ill, I will take it to the SF SPCA Mission Hospital during business hours, or to the SF SPCA night emergency hospital after SF SPCA Mission Hospital business hours. I understand that SF SPCA is not responsible for charges incurred at any other veterinary hospital.

### Volunteer Tetanus and Rabies Waivers

SF SPCA encourages all foster volunteers to be current on tetanus vaccinations. SF SPCA also offers volunteers who handle animals a reimbursement of up to \$50 to complete a rabies pre-exposure vaccination series. I am advised to discuss this series with a physician in advance, at my own expense. SF SPCA will reimburse me only if I provide written

documentation from a physician that I have completed the series. I understand that my decisions regarding these vaccinations are at my own risk.

**Insurance**

As I am not an employee, I understand that I am ineligible for state workers' compensation coverage. SF SPCA maintains an alternative medical insurance policy that provides limited coverage for injuries that are sustained while a volunteer is helping SF SPCA. If I am injured during while fostering the animal, I will complete an injury report as soon as possible, whether or not I intend to file a claim. If I intend to file a claim, I must notify SF SPCA in writing within ten days of the injury. If the ten-day requirement is not met, I understand that I may not receive benefits.

**Understandings about Risks**

I understand that serving as a foster parent and participating in SF SPCA activities may be dangerous or result in damage to my property. I understand that the animal, or other animals with whom I may interact, may be unpredictable and may bite, scratch, or transmit zoonotic diseases. Other risks may arise from the other behaviors of the animal, my own actions or inactions, physical exertion, the actions or inactions of SF SPCA or others present at SF SPCA facilities, traveling to or from SF SPCA facilities, or being present at an SF SPCA facility.

**Assumption of Risks**

I confirm my understandings of the risks stated above. With that information and awareness, I assume and accept the risks of all injury, illness, disease, death, property damage or loss, financial obligation, loss of privacy, and all other consequences that may result, directly or indirectly, from my service as a foster parent and volunteer, my presence at SF SPCA facilities, or my participation in other SF SPCA activities, regardless of the cause.

**Waiver; Release of Legal Claims**

In consideration for my participation as a foster parent and in other SF SPCA activities, I waive and release any and all claims against SF SPCA's directors, officers, agents, employees, volunteers, and affiliates (collectively, "Released Parties"), for any liability, loss, damages, claims, expenses, and attorneys' fees, resulting from death, property damage, financial obligation, loss of privacy, and all other consequences that may result, directly or indirectly, from my service as a foster parent and volunteer, my presence at a SF SPCA facility, my participation in SF SPCA activities, or my failure to obtain a tetanus vaccination or complete the rabies pre-vaccination series, regardless of the cause and even if caused by negligence, whether passive or active. I waive the protections of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that a general release does not extend to certain claims not known to me at the time I signed this Agreement. I will not sue any of the Released Parties on the basis of these waived and released claims.

**Publicity**

I consent to the use by SF SPCA of my name, city and state of residence, biographical and personal background, statements, voice, image, and likeness story in any format, including photos, video, audio, print, or electronic (collectively, "Materials"), as SF SPCA may deem appropriate to promote its activities. SF SPCA may make the Materials available on its website, in its publications, or through any other media, including social networking platforms. I understand that I am not entitled to inspect or approve the use of the Materials, receive notice of their use or publication, or receive any payment.

Checking the box at the end of the sentence means I do not agree to the publicity consent: ☐

**Non-Disparagement**

Subject to applicable law, I will take no action which is intended, or would reasonably be expected, to harm SF SPCA or SF SPCA's reputation, or which would reasonably be expected to lead to unfavorable publicity for SF SPCA.



**Termination of Foster Volunteer Status**

I understand that SF SPCA may terminate my foster parent and volunteer status at any time, for any or no reason.

**General Provisions**

This agreement will cover all my foster parent activities for SF SPCA, whatever their nature or location. This is the final, complete, and exclusive agreement between SF SPCA and me, and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous communications or understandings, either oral or written. This agreement will be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any provision of this agreement is found to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, the remaining terms will be effective.

\* \* \* \* \*

**I have read this agreement and understand its terms and that I am giving up certain legal rights by signing it. I sign it freely and voluntarily.**

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**Volunteer Name**

**Volunteer Signature**

**Date**

\* \* \* \* \*

SF SPCA is deeply grateful for the vital services contributed by our caring foster volunteers. Thank you for volunteering to serve as a foster parent.





## Enclosure Diagram





### Food, Puzzle, and Chew Toys

#### Toys for kibble and dry treats

Make sure that the food pieces are smaller than the hole for puzzle balls and the like.



**Busy Buddy Squirrel**



**Molecuball**  
Fun because it bounces unpredictably



**Tricky Treat Ball**  
Soft rubber so it's quiet



**Twist n' Treat**  
Untwist to make it easier then tighten it once puppy gets better at unpacking

#### Toys for canned food, canned/kibble combo, and peanut butter



**Hollow, Sterilized Beef Bones**



**Kong: Medium Sized**

#### Edible toys for chewing

Monitor the puppy to ensure that small pieces are not ingested. Throw these toys away when they get down to 1 inch.



**Bully Sticks**

**Pressed Rawhide**  
(no strips or ground rawhide)



#### Toys that satisfy "dissection" urges

Stick pieces of chicken or (non-salty) lunchmeats inside, so the puppy can practice extraction.



**Kong Stuff A Ball**



**Spheron**



### Not Eating!

Not eating  
can become  
an emergency  
quickly, so  
please call if  
your puppy has  
not eaten for  
**24 hours.**

## Feeding Puppies

How you feed the puppies will vary depending on the age of the puppies. They may just be learning how to eat on their own. Start them with a gruel mixture of puppy wet food and warm water. You may need to hand feed them to start, and then lure them to the bowl. After they are eating the gruel well, you can start decreasing the amount of water you're mixing in. You can also start offering them the dry kibble moistened with a little warm water in a separate bowl. If they're not interested in the kibble, you can mix a little kibble in to the wet food. If the puppies are not eating well, please contact the foster department.

The amount of food you offer will vary depending on the size and age of the puppies, so check with the foster department when you pick up the puppies. Puppies should be gaining weight every day.

Don't offer puppies any treats. Their digestive systems are still fragile so feed them only the food given to you or suggested by the foster department. If the puppies are not eating the food supplied, contact the foster department and we will give you something else to try.

If the puppies are pushing each other out of the way or fighting over food or toys, contact the foster department immediately. If they're fighting over toys, remove all toys (see note below\*\*). If they are fighting over food, feed the puppies separately until we can get you a special feeding tray and talk to you about how to help the puppies get over their possessiveness.




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\*\*Don't attempt to take a toy or food away from a puppy if s/he is growling. Move the other puppies away and wait till the toy or food is abandoned, then pick it up and put it away. Call the foster department for advice.

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### Puppy Mouthing/Biting

Puppies are programmed to bite; in a litter of puppies they bite each other continuously. But, when one puppy bites the other too hard, the bitten puppy will yelp and stop playing. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite. Probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth... if a puppy is never allowed to mouth from the very beginning, he will grow up to have a hard mouth. The best technique for hard bites is to remove the thing the puppy wants most – YOU! To do this effectively, the puppy must be on a collar and leash.

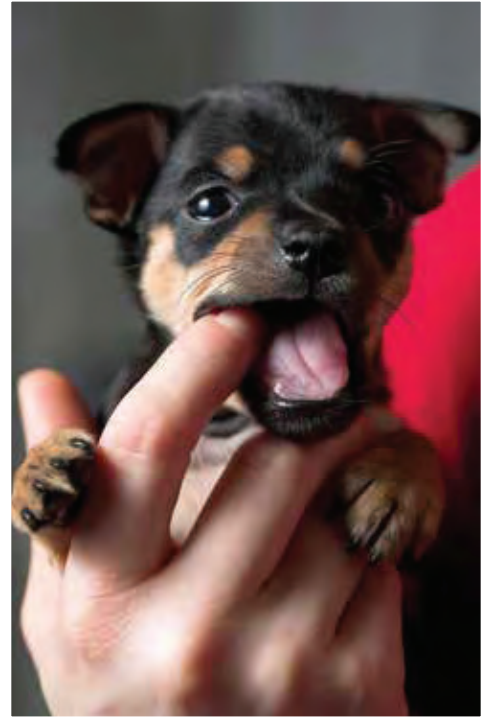
When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp “OUCH!!” in a high pitched voice. If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, immediately praise and continue playing. If he does not immediately stop biting hard, quickly take hold of the end of the leash, extend your arm, holding the leash (and puppy) away from you; turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Just before you turn your back, make it a big deal – “OKAY THAT’S IT! I’M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE!”

After just 5-10 seconds, resume interacting with the pup where you left off – without any grudge. Go back to him talking in your happiest, giggliest voice. The important thing is that the puppy learns that there is an immediate consequence for hard bites – being without a playmate and without the freedom to roam! Repeat several times, as needed, until you notice a marked difference in the pressure of the bites. ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND IT’S THE HARD BITES WE WANT TO DISCOURAGE – NOT THE PUPPY’S PLAYFULNESS OR LOVE OF PEOPLE AND LIFE!

You can practice mouthing exercises. Feed the puppy kibble or tiny treats one by one, releasing only for gentle takes. If he takes it hard, say “OUCH!!” and withdraw the food. Say “gentle” and offer him a treat. Do this over and over until he begins to learn that a gentle mouth will earn him a treat.

### Housetraining

Put the puppies on the pee pads as soon as they wake up, right after eating and at last once an hour to start. Reward him with enthusiastic praise **EVERY TIME** he urinates or defecates on the pad. Change the pads frequently and encourage them to use it. Never rub an animal’s nose in their urine or feces – this doesn’t teach them housetraining.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
A# \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Foster Parent**

[illegible]

1/27/03





## Signs of Sick Puppies and What to Do

### Signs of Sick Puppies and What You Should Do About Them

Due to the shelter environment and the fact that these puppies have very fragile immune systems, puppies are prone to catching colds and other illnesses. These range from mild to life-threatening in nature. The SF SPCA provides treatment and medications for any illnesses that occur. You can help your foster puppies by keeping them on schedule for vaccinations (every two weeks) and keeping them completely separate from other dogs and puppies.

Keeping puppies up to date on their vaccinations is extremely important and is the responsibility of the foster parent.

#### How do I know if the puppies are sick?

Healthy puppies have a lot of energy when they are awake. They are playful and will only spend a short time in your lap. Their eyes and nose should generally be free of any discharge. The stool will be firm and well-shaped. They should be gaining weight every day.

**ALERT** – Diarrhea, vomiting, and lethargy may be symptoms of serious diseases like Parvo and Distemper. If your foster puppies are exhibiting any of these symptoms for more than 8 hours, call the Foster Tech and Emergency Line (415-740-1646) and speak to a technician. You may need to make a medical appointment for them right away or if it's after hours, you may be asked to take them to the emergency clinic. Do not wait! Your puppies' lives may depend on you getting them in for an appointment in a timely fashion.

**Diarrhea** – Normal stool will be firm and well-shaped but soft stool is also fairly common in puppies getting used to eating on their own. If the soft stool continues or turns into diarrhea (completely liquid stool) make a medical appointment and bring a fecal sample with you to the appointment. Diarrhea can lead to dehydration and become serious very quickly, so make an appointment to bring them in as soon as you can.

Follow the directions on how to take a fecal sample (see next page). Make sure to label the fecalyzer with the A-number of the puppy. To drop off a sample, bring the fecalyzer to the Spay/Neuter front desk at 201 Alabama Street between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. It's better to drop the sample off earlier in the day so the technician can run a fecal test. If the test is positive a technician will call you. Keep the sample in the refrigerator until you are able to drop it off.



#### Revaccinations

Puppies are vaccinated every two weeks. You are responsible to make appointments – no one will call you to remind you. To schedule a revaccination appointment, contact the foster team.





## Signs of Sick Puppies and What You Should Do About Them (continued)

**Vomiting** – Vomiting is not serious unless it happens more than once. If your puppies keep vomiting, call the Foster Tech and Emergency Line (415-740-1646) right away. If the puppies ingested something poisonous, the faster it is treated, the better the outcome.

**Eye Discharge** – It is normal for puppies to wake up with a little dark crust in their eyes. If you notice that the puppies have yellow or green discharge coming from their eyes all the time, refer to the emergency protocol. You can treat the symptoms of the eye infection by wiping the eyes with a warm, wet towel until it is time for your appointment.

**Sneezing/Nasal Discharge** – Occasional sneezing is quite common in puppies. If the sneezing becomes frequent, examine the discharge coming from the sneeze. If it is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed but it is important to monitor the puppies in case the problem gets worse. If the discharge becomes colored (e.g. green or yellow), make a medical appointment by following the emergency protocol – the puppy may have a bacterial infection. Be sure to monitor the puppies' breathing as well. If the puppies seem to be struggling to breathe or are breathing with their mouths open, also refer to the emergency protocol. Also, be sure that the puppies are still eating, as a puppy won't eat what he or she can't smell.

**Lethargy** – Healthy puppies are normally active when they are awake. Sick puppies may have low energy and want to just sit in your lap. Each puppy is different, depending on their socialization level, but if you notice a drop in the puppy's individual energy level, it is best to follow the emergency protocol provided at pick-up. Some undersocialized puppies will have a tendency to move less because they are frightened, so it may be difficult to monitor their energy level. If you are not sure whether your puppy is lethargic or just being quiet and still, please follow the emergency protocol. If a puppy can't be roused or seems weak, this is an emergency! Please refer to the emergency protocol.





## Signs of Sick Puppies and What to Do

### Signs of Sick Puppies and What You Should Do About Them (continued)

**Fleas** — Many of the puppies we receive in the foster care system were born outdoors so they may come to us with fleas. Also, fleas are just a fact of the shelter environment. Puppies with fleas will scratch themselves a lot. Daily brushing with the flea comb and daily bedding changes will reduce and maybe even eliminate the fleas. If you see lots of fleas despite these efforts, please contact us to decide the next step. You may be able to use the flea shampoo the SF SPCA provides (do NOT use store-bought flea products on the puppies as they are not safe for puppies)

**Ringworm and Demodectic Mange** — Normally the fur around the lips, on the eyelids, and on the ears is a little thin. This is nothing to worry about. However, if you notice any change in the fur or skin, or you see fur thinning or completely coming out in patches, please make a medical appointment. Fur loss is the first indicator of ringworm and demodectic mange.

Ringworm is a fungus that can be spread to humans and other household pets. The young, the elderly, and people and animals with suppressed immune systems are most susceptible. While it is not fatal, ringworm is itchy to people and very hard to get out of your home. Wash your hands and any clothing that you wear in the fostering room with the puppies before touching your pets. If you are treating puppies with ringworm at home, you can ask the Foster Coordinator for protective gowns, gloves, and/or booties. You also have the option to return the puppies to the SF SPCA for treatment SF SPCA for treatment (which takes 6 weeks to complete).



Fur loss may also indicate Demodectic mange, which is caused by mites and is not contagious to people or other animals. Although it is not contagious, demodectic mange needs to be treated right away with an oral medication once daily and occasional bathing. Please contact the Foster Coordinator or make a medical appointment if you see any signs of fur loss or skin irritation.



### A-Numbers

Each puppy is assigned an **A-number**.

You'll see this A-number on the collar and on your foster paperwork.

Refer to the puppy's A-number whenever you call the SF SPCA— it's easier to find information on the computer using the A-number.





## Foster Puppy PAWES

**P**ointers:

**A**ppetite

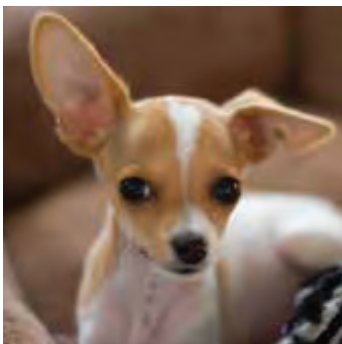
**W**eight

**E**nergy

**S**tool

## Puppy Cheat Sheet

Situation	What To Do
<b>Puppies are losing weight, not very energetic, and/or are having diarrhea</b>	Make a medical appointment to have the puppies seen <b>AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</b> . Puppies are so small that any weight loss is significant. You should also talk to the Foster Coordinator or a tech on the Foster Tech and Emergency Line to determine if this is an emergency.
<b>Puppies are having liquid diarrhea for more than 12 hours</b>	Make a medical appointment to have the puppies seen right away. Bring a stool sample (see page 13). Diarrhea can cause dehydration which can kill your puppies. If the puppies are having liquid diarrhea, are not eating well, and are not energetic, this could be an emergency and you should call the Foster Coordinator or the Foster Tech and Emergency Line.
<b>Puppies are not eating, don't seem interested in food but are energetic</b>	Try adding Gerber's baby food and call the Foster Coordinator. Do not give puppies any food that is not supplied by the SF SPCA Foster Program.
<b>Puppies are having very soft stool but are eating and energetic</b>	Collect a fecal sample (see page 13) and drop it off at the spay/neuter desk. The fresher the sample, the better, and if you are unable to bring the sample in immediately, please place it in the refrigerator. If there are any parasites, a tech will call you and have you come in for medication. If you don't hear from anyone but the puppy continues to have soft stool, make a medical appointment and bring in a fecal sample.
<b>Puppies are not losing weight, but are not gaining weight</b>	If the puppies are energetic, eating well, and not having diarrhea, keep monitoring the puppies and if they do not gain weight in 24 hours or if their appetite or energy level drops, call the Foster Coordinator or the Foster Tech and Emergency Line.
<b>Puppies are sneezing and having thick or yellow/green discharge</b>	Make a medical appointment. Warm up the wet food, if puppies can't smell the food they don't eat.
<b>Puppies eyes look weepy and are red or having green/yellow discharge</b>	Make a medical appointment. In the meantime, use a cotton ball or soft cloth to gently clean the eyes (don't rub!) of any discharge and apply a warm compress for a few minutes once or twice a day.
<b>Puppies are due for vaccinations</b>	Make a revaccination appointment. You can make the appointment for up to two days after the due date, but no later. If puppies are late on their vaccinations they are susceptible to diseases which can be lethal .
<b>Foster Care Phone Numbers</b>	Foster Coordinator fosterhelp@sfsPCA.org
	Foster Tech and Emergency Line (415) 740-1646 — every day, 8 am – 6 pm







## General Criteria for Emergencies

### Emergency situations include:

- Continuous weight loss
- Continuous diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind—nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma—hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on, unconscious
- Difficulty in breathing/blocked airway
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- If the animal has vomiting or diarrhea, but is still active, eating, and drinking, it can probably wait until the next day to receive help. **However, if the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, it is wise to seek emergency help at that time.**
- Coughing or sneezing should pose no immediate problems unless accompanied by blood or symptoms such as lethargy or dehydration.







### Returning Your Foster Puppies

Usually, you will be fostering your puppies until they get their second set of vaccinations. Please make sure that you call and make a revaccination appointment for them, it's very important that they stay on their vaccination schedule! Revaccinations cannot be given before the due date, so please schedule their appointments accordingly.

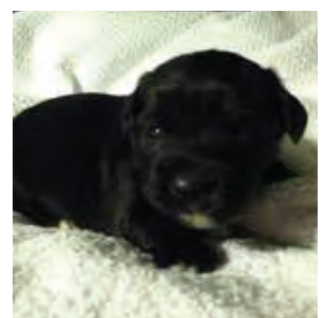
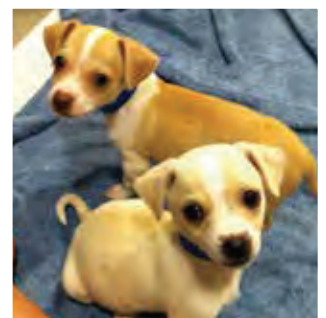
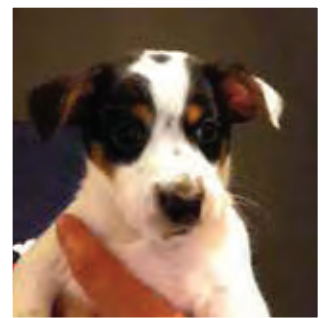
A few days after the puppies have had their second set of shots, they will be ready to return to the shelter. Call the Foster Coordinator to schedule their return. Returns must occur during the SF SPCA's business hours

Please make sure the puppies have their ID collars on, and remember to fill out the puppy return forms. The return forms will give us information on the puppies and their behavior while in your home. Please bring your puppies and all the foster puppy supplies to the Spay/Neuter Clinic located on the second floor of the Leanne B. Roberts Animal Care Center at 201 Alabama Street.

Be sure to **ALWAYS** keep your foster puppies in their carrier when outside or traveling in a car. Even if you think you are holding the puppies securely, they can be startled and dash away if they are not enclosed.

### Cleaning Up Between Litters

When you return the foster puppies, you will need to sanitize the fostering room before putting new puppies in. Start by removing everything the puppies slept on, ate from, played with, and eliminated in. Scrub everything the puppies could reach (don't forget the walls) with a weak bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts **cold water**, or 1 ounce per quart—you should always mix the bleach with **cold water** to reduce any harmful vapors). Food and water bowls can be washed in the dishwasher; the heat will disinfect the bowls. If you don't have a dishwasher, then soak the bowls in the bleach solution for approximately 10 minutes. Clean the puppy space and any reusable toys with the bleach solution as well. Wash all bedding using bleach and hot water. Throw away any toys made of cardboard or other non-cleanable materials. This should prevent any new litters from catching anything that the previous puppies contracted.





### Procedure for Foster Emergencies

SF SPCA Foster/Shelter Medicine  
201 Alabama Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Foster Emergency Phone (415) 740-1646

#### When to call Foster or VetTriage:

- Sudden drop in energy that's out of place, lethargic
- Vomiting 3x within 1 hour
- Diarrhea (score 7) combined with vomiting and/or lethargy
- Sudden loss of appetite if combined with any of the above symptoms
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizure
- Trauma of any kind
  - Stepped on
  - Stuck in door
  - Dropped
  - Hit by car
  - Bleeding profusely

Contact	Sun - Sat
8 am – 6 pm Please Call	Foster Phone
Emergency Hospital	SF SPCA
6 pm – 8 am Contact	Vet Triage
Emergency Hospital	See Red Box Below

#### Vet Triage

Video Call/Contact: [vettriage.com/sfspca](https://vettriage.com/sfspca)

Use coupon code SFSPCA50

If you call VetTriage or take your foster animal in for emergency care, please text the foster emergency phone or email [fosterhelp@sfspca.org](mailto:fosterhelp@sfspca.org)

#### When to take directly to emergency care:

- Not breathing
- Laying on side, not responsive
- Unconscious

#### When to monitor and wait for daytime care:

- One instance of vomit
- Diarrhea (score 7) without any other symptoms
- Coughing or sneezing
- Nasal/ocular discharge
- Superficial wound

#### Overnight Emergency Vet Hospitals

*\*Please bring this form with you to the hospital*

**OakVet Animal Specialty Hospital 1133 7<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland, (510) 879-4888**

**SAGE Veterinary Center 600 Alabama St, San Francisco, (415) 566-0540**

**ACES Animal Care & ES 1333 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Francisco, (415) 578-5405**

***\*\*Please note that if you do not follow our emergency protocol and/or bring your animal to an unlisted vet hospital, SF SPCA can NOT reimburse you for any expenses incurred\*\****