



## Canine Foster Program Overview

Are you interested in fostering dogs through ACCT Philly? Here's a list of the different foster care programs and what to expect.

If you are onsite and would like to take a dog home today, please ask an Adoption Counselor or trained volunteer for an application.

### Core Foster Programs

(medium-large sized dogs, can go home with a dog \*today\*!)

#### 1. Day Trip Foster

*Day trips to offsite locations or your home are critical to keeping our shelter dogs as stress free as possible. Studies have shown that breaks from the shelter can have a direct impact on a dog's stress hormones and overall well-being.*

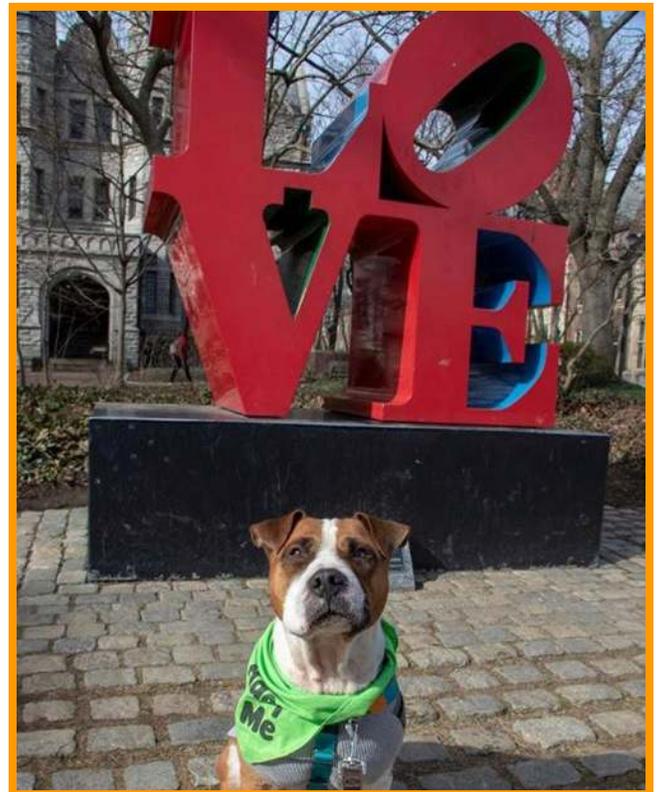
**Which dogs?** Any adoptable medium/large dog at ACCT Philly mainsite!

**Typical Length of Foster:** 1 to 6 hours.

**Why you might like this:** It's a relatively quick experience that does not require a lot of time or energy on the foster's behalf. It's also a great opportunity if you want to help pit bulls find adoptive homes, but cannot have one long term for housing reasons.

**What should I bring?** A valid state issued photo ID (must be at least 18 years of age).

**How do I get started?** Come into the Adoptions Office between 1pm and 4pm on weekdays and 10am and 1pm on weekends and holidays!



## 2. Short Term Foster

Similar to Day Trips, a few days out of the shelter provide even more stress relief. Short Term Fosters also help us document how our dogs are in a home setting.

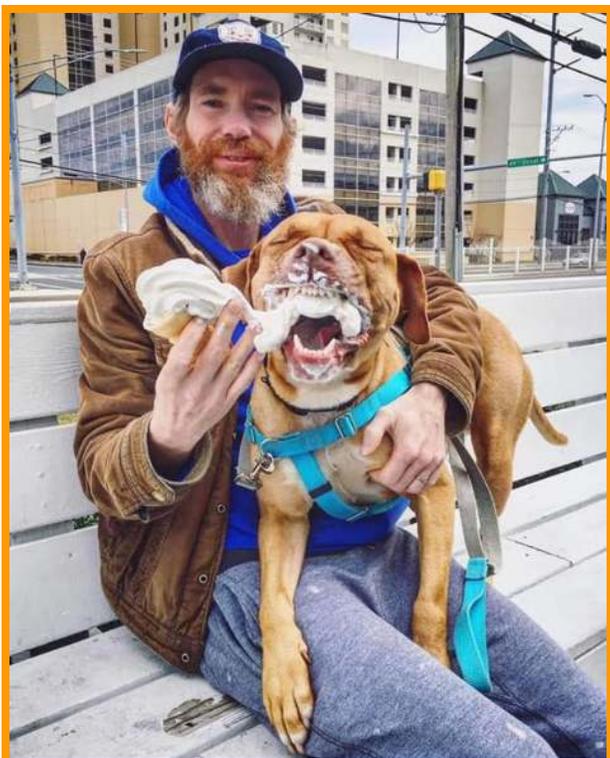
**Which dogs?** Any adoptable medium/large dog at ACCT Philly mainsite!

**Typical Length of Foster:** 1 night to 3 days.

**Why you might like this:** It's a relatively quick experience that does not require a lot of time or energy on your behalf. If you want to help adult dogs find adoptive homes but cannot have one long term for housing reasons.

**What should I bring?** A valid state issued photo ID (must be at least 18 years of age).

**How do I get started?** Come into the adoptions office between 1pm and 7pm on weekdays and 10am and 4pm on weekends and holidays!



### \*Please Note\*

For Day Trip and Short Term Fosters, we do not typically have the staffing capacity to facilitate meets out of kennel. You will choose 2-4 candidates and we will help you select the best fit based on the dogs' records. If you are already a canine volunteer with ACCT Philly, you are welcome to spend time with dogs of your color level out of kennel on your own before making a selection for foster.



### 3. Long Term Foster

Dogs in need of long term foster may be exceptional dogs who are overlooked for one reason or another. These dogs are very much adoptable, but may need more promotion and time before they find their "forever" home. We do ask that our long term fosters live within an hour and a half of our mainsite location.

**Which dogs?** Primarily pit bulls or larger breeds who are dog social and don't have any major medical issues.

**Typical Length of Foster:** 3 to 6 months, however this varies on the individual dog and a foster's ability to successfully promote their foster animal.

**Why you might like this:** If you like establishing a relationship with the dog you saved and want to participate in helping him or her find his or her forever home.

**What should I bring?** A valid state issued photo ID (must be at least 18 years of age), at least one of your resident dogs and at least one of your resident children under 16 years of age, if you have any.

**How do I get started?** Come into the adoptions office between 1pm and 7pm on weekdays and 10am and 4pm on weekends and holidays!



## A Few More Tips to Get You Started!

- Take a look at our adoptable dogs on our website (<http://www.acctphilly.org/adopt/available/dogs/>) and come to ACCT Philly mainsite with a few in mind that fit the criteria for the program that you're interested in. We highly recommend giving us 24 hours notice by emailing [adopt@acctphilly.org](mailto:adopt@acctphilly.org) so we can anticipate your arrival.
- For Day Trips and Short Term Fostering, please \*don't\* bring your resident dogs if you have any. We will ask you to keep the foster dog separate from any resident dogs in the home. You are welcome to bring other people who will be there with your foster dog though!
- If you want to participate in our Long Term Foster program, please \*do\* bring at least one of your resident dogs and at least one of your resident children under age 16, if you have them.

**ACCT Philly Mainsite Address:**

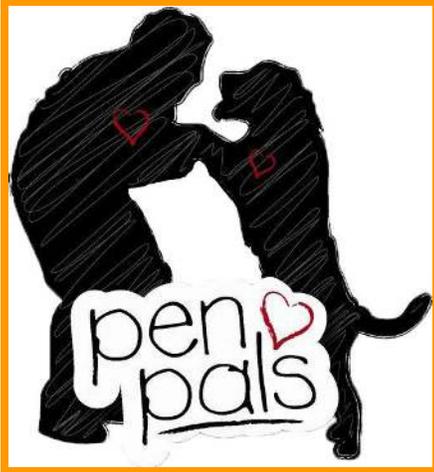
**111 West Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19140.**

**267-385-3800 x400 (Adoptions); x700 (Client Services); x600 (Field Services)**

**Adoptions Office Hours: M-F 1-7 PM; Sat-Sun 10 AM - 4 PM.**

# Specialty Onsite Foster: ACCT Philly Pen Pals

ACCT Philly's longest running onsite Canine Program has saved thousands of dogs over a period of several years. Help train, promote, and save a life by working with your Pen Pal dog onsite!



**Which dogs?** Any dog currently at ACCT Philly mainsite who has been evaluated for the program.

**Typical Length in the Program:** 1 day to 3 months. Pen Pals spend a minimum of two 45 minute sessions a week with their Pen Pal dog.

**Why you might like this:** If you want to help pit bulls find adoptive homes, but cannot have one long term for housing reasons. If you like establishing a relationship with the dog you saved and want to participate in helping him or her find his or her forever home.

**How do I get started?** Email [PenPals@acctphilly.org](mailto:PenPals@acctphilly.org) and explain your interest in becoming a Pen Pal volunteer.

## Supplemental Foster Programs

(dogs with particular needs, get matched via email)

### 1. Relief Foster

*Sometimes the unexpected occurs and a foster needs temporary care for their foster dog. Relief fosters step in and ensure a dog does not have to be returned to the shelter.*

**Which dogs?** Any dog currently in foster care with ACCT Philly.

**Typical Length of Foster:** 1 day to 1 month.

**Why you might like this:** You don't like to think of foster dogs having to re-enter the shelter environment. You want to help other fosters take a break!

**How do I get started?** Relief fostering is on an as needed basis, so we will keep you on an email list. When a dog needs foster, an email will be sent out to you and other relief fosters! Please wait for confirmation from our Adoptions or Lifesaving team before heading to ACCT Philly.





## 2. Puppy Foster

Because we are an open intake shelter and receive animals with unknown medical histories, it is best that puppies who are not ready to be altered stay in foster care. Fosterers will take an active role in teaching these dogs how to "dog" by helping them learn basic skills such as crate training and housebreaking.

**Which dogs?** Puppies, mom and puppies.

**Typical Length of Foster:** 2 weeks to 3 months.

**Why you might like this:** You enjoy socializing with people or have a family with cats, dogs, and children. You don't mind things getting dirty and like to teach.

**How do I get started?** Puppy fostering is on an as needed basis, so we will keep you on an email list. When a dog needs foster, an email will be sent out to our you and other puppy fosterers! Please wait for confirmation from our Adoptions or Lifesaving team before heading to ACCT Philly.

## 3. Event/EAC Foster

Sometimes we need fosters for dogs who are destined for adoption events and/or the Everyday Adoption Center (ACCT's offsite adoption center). These dogs are typically our most "highly adoptable" dogs. Dogs selected for events and offsite placement are required to go to their prescribed destination.

**Which dogs?** Small breeds, puppies, behaviorally exceptional medium and large breed dogs.

**Typical Length of Foster:** 4 days to 3 weeks.

**Why you might like this:** It's a relatively quick experience that does not require a lot of time or energy on the foster's behalf. There is no need to individually promote your foster dog.

**How do I get started?** EAC fostering is on an as needed basis, so we will keep you on an email list. When a dog needs foster, an email will be sent out to our you and other Event/EAC fosterers! Please wait for confirmation from our Adoptions or Lifesaving team before heading to ACCT Philly.



#### 4. Medical Foster

Dogs need medical foster for a variety of reasons. Foster care providers should be ready to take their dog to checkups and veterinary appointments as needed. Fosters have found this program extremely rewarding!

**Which dogs?** Various breeds; non-chronic but serious medical conditions (broken bones, severe upper respiratory infection, ringworm, etc).

**Typical Length of Foster:** Varies depending on the diagnosis and the dog's placement.

**Why you might like this:** You enjoy helping an urgent animal who needs medical rehabilitation and seeing the rewards of recovery. You have a more open schedule or do not mind visiting our medical clinic or meeting with veterinary services.

**How do I get started?** Medical fostering is on an as needed basis, so we will keep you on an email list. When a dog needs foster, we will email you and our other medical fosters! Please wait for confirmation from our Adoptions or Lifesaving team before heading to ACCT Philly.



# Commitments as an ACCT Philly Foster



## Homework

- Train your dog to be the best he or she can be.
- Integrate your dog properly into your home.
- Promote your foster dog, ACCT Philly, and fostering in general through social media with photos \*and\* videos.

## Force Free Methods

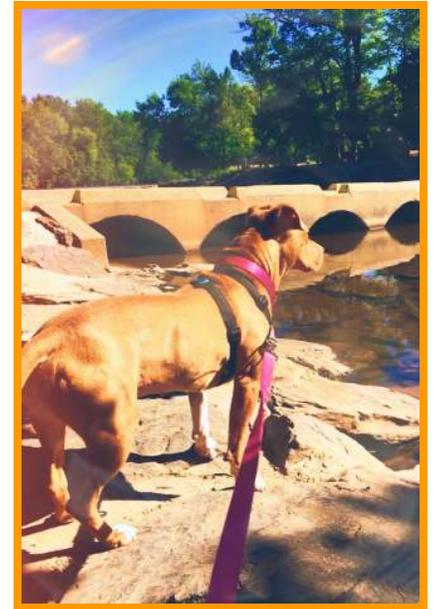
- Use positive reinforcement and rewards based training.
- Avoid training techniques that apply physical force to your foster dog.

## Safe Housing and Outings

- Separate your foster dog from children under 16 and other animals when left unattended.
- Avoid off leash areas with other dogs.

## Reporting Concerns

- Stay committed to public safety and your foster dog's well-being by communicating behavioral and medical concerns to ACCT Philly staff.
- Be preventative by being proactive!



## Proper Processing

- Have your adopter finalize the adoption onsite or at the EAC before having the dog enter the adoptive home.
- Have a potential adopter's children under age 16 and resident dogs meet your foster dog before approving the adoption.

## Post Adoption Support

- Follow-up with your foster dog's adopter.
- Offer those resources available to ACCT Philly adopters.
- Notify ACCT Philly if your foster dog may be getting returned from the adoptive home.

# ACCT Philly Support



## Medical

- Our foster clinic is open 7 days a week.
- You get free medication, spay/neuter surgery, and flea/tick preventative.

## Behavioral

- We have an open door policy with the Canine Programs Coordinator.
- Our Foster Mentors are individually assigned to help new fosters thrive.
- Our dog playgroup typically takes place onsite once a week. Fosters are welcome to bring their dog and safely learn more about their dog's dog-on-dog behavior.
- A private Facebook page for ACCT Philly foster parents provides community support.

## Supplies (via donation)

- Crates and dog beds
- Dog food and treats
- Kongs and other interactive toys
- Leashes, collars, and harnesses
- Adopt-Me swag!



## Promotion

- Your adoptable foster dog on several adoption websites
- Promotional boosts via ACCT Philly's social media accounts
- Tons of events to bring your foster dog to, so you can find an adopter for him or her
- Monthly Photoshoot
- Foster binders onsite and at events for the public to view available dogs in foster care
- [Promotions@ACCTPhilly.org](mailto:Promotions@ACCTPhilly.org) ~ ACCT Philly's volunteer run promotion support



**Thank you so much for your interest and for taking the time to learn about our foster program. We hope to see you soon!!!**

Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/acctphilly/>

Become an Onsite Volunteer: <http://www.acctphilly.org/how-to-help/volunteer-page/>

Donate - General Funds: <http://www.acctphilly.org/how-to-help/donate/>

Donate - Specific Items: <http://www.acctphilly.org/how-to-help/wish-list/>

Career Opportunities: <http://www.acctphilly.org/about/careers/>