

Volunteer Position Description: Interim Foster Parent

(Available in NY, NJ, CT, RI & NH)

Major Objective: This position was created because Underdog ResQ's MA foster program continues to grow but NY dogs need our help more. The MA Department of Agriculture requires all out of state shelter dogs go into quarantine prior to transfer into MA foster homes. Interim Foster Parents provide a stable, caring and loving environment for underdogs as they come out of NY animal shelters for a minimum of 2 weeks and until the dog is healthy to be transferred to an MA foster home. Many of the dogs we admit from NY shelters need to be treated for kennel cough (a canine cold).

Responsibilities:

- Provide basic animal care and TLC needs, including food, accessories, toys, etc. (everything but medical care unless Underdog can lend you items like crates and leashes)
- Provide transportation for animals to and from shelter, veterinary visits, etc, if possible
- Provide a safe and healthy environment for animals in your care and to treat each dog as a member of your family; experience level to be matched with anticipated level of care needs
- Improve training and adoptability while in foster care
- Increase social interaction
- Keep identification on animals at all times
- Report any good and undesirable behaviors to assist with matchmaking, marketing and training to the dog's coordinator
- Administer medications as necessary
- Supply information to Underdog ResQ about the dog's behavior and health
- Photograph and videotape dog for adoption promotion
- Responsible for returning supplies and equipment borrowed to Underdog ResQ
- Open communication with Underdog ResQ

Qualifications

- Prior experience of dog care preferred but not required
- Limited restrictions on types of dogs that will be accepted a plus!
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Acknowledge that Underdog ResQ retains ownership of animals and makes decisions on each animal case
- Completion of Foster Care Application and must sign foster agreements

Training Involved

- Foster Toolkit includes behavior, medical, training, etc. info.
- Familiarization of typical shelter medical concerns, such as upper respiratory infection, kennel cough, parasites, parvo, etc.
- Orientation by phone for all adults in household.
- Canine Communication DVD

Supervision

- Report to Volunteer Coordinator

Benefits

- Save lives of animals that may have otherwise been euthanized in a shelter
- Help assess animals' behavior in a home setting
- Improve socialization and training of animals
- Rewards of part-time pet parenting

Requirements

- Sign a foster care agreement and protocol