

Virtual Foster FAQ Sheet

What is a Virtual Foster?

The purpose of the Virtual Foster is to allow the dog to get the same support that a dog in a foster home gets from their foster parent regarding marketing, enrichment, and adopter interaction. You're an important connection between a potential adopter and the dog you're advocating. Oftentimes, this personal touch helps the adopter feel like they have someone helping them along the entire process.

Why should I become a virtual foster?

If you enjoy being an integral part of a pup's journey during their time at APA! and having a hands-on role in getting them adopted, being a virtual foster is for you! Oftentimes, the relationship you establish with the adopter during this process continues after the pup has been adopted and is truly rewarding.

Since your role is more hands-on, you will also have VF only access to staff communication and become part of the VF Facebook community.

What is my role?

- You're the point of contact regarding info shared with the behavior, clinic and matchmaker staff.
- You're the point of contact for other vols to share the dog's training and health updates.
- Answer inquiries from adopters forwarded from the adopt@ email or from the 1-sheet.
- Update the dog's profile so that it is personalized and stands out to potential adopters. The VF team can assist you with the bio, photos and video.
- Continue to advocate and spend time with your dog.

Which dogs should you virtual foster?

- Please select a dog that you have an established relationship with. This will enable you to have the background to answer inquiries from adopters, etc. You can always be their Big or spend a length of time with the dog before becoming a VF.
- The dog will need to be in your collar training level. If the dog has been upgraded, you will have to get behavior team approval to continue taking out the dog which will also enable you to become/remain their virtual foster.
- A long stay dog and/or one that doesn't show well in the kennel would be a good candidate.
- You can be a VF for up to five dogs.

How will I be contacted when there's a potential adopter?

- Several ways. When a potential adopter contacts the adopt@ about a dog who has a VF, you are forwarded that email. At that time, you reach out to the adopter and help to screen for the right fit and set up to meet the dog with a matchmaker. We have a sample response letter you can use to vet the adopter before setting up a meeting.
- The matchmaker may contact you for additional information if the adopter is a walk-in.

- The adopter may contact you via the 1-sheet if they have any questions before or after the adoption.

How do I become one?

Email virtualfoster@austinpetsalive.org with the information below. You will receive a welcome letter that will walk you through the next steps.

Dog:

Email:

Ph # (if you want to be contacted by text while your VF dog is being adopted):

Ph Carrier:

Let's get started!