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**HOUSE MANAGEMENT FOR FOSTER DOGS**

**Goal:** to provide consistent rules and handling in order to maintain or improve house behavior and general manners. Please refer to *Chapter 5: Home Management* in the Foster Care Manual.

**First 3 days:**

* The foster dog should be kept on leash with the Foster Care Provider, or on a tie-down in the same room as a person a minimum of 3 days. Always use a crate when the dog is not directly supervised.
* Most foster dogs are coming from a kennel environment, and need to re-establish a relieving routine. Take the dog outside to relieve on leash every couple hours for the first 3 days, until a relieving schedule is established.
* By keeping hold of the leash as you move through the house with the new foster dog, you are able to prevent inappropriate behaviors such as: picking up inappropriate items (anything that is not a dog toy), sniffing counters or trash cans, eating food or crumbs on the floor, jumping on furniture, rushing through doors, or pestering other household pets. This allows a new dog to acclimate to your home and prevent them from practicing inappropriate behavior. **Use the leash to prevent or interrupt any attempts at undesirable behavior.**

**After settling in (3 days to 2 weeks):**

* Once a dog has settled into your house routine, is on a consistent relieving schedule, and is no longer attempting any inappropriate behavior while on leash with you, you can have the dog drag a leash (use the 4’ black nylon leash that is provided, not the leather leash).
* The foster dog should be in the same room as the Foster Care Provider while dragging a leash or while on tie-down. Use a crate if the dog cannot be directly supervised.
* If the foster dog attempts any inappropriate behaviors while dragging a leash, step on the leash to gain control of the dog, then pick it up and redirect them. This will help prevent a dog from running away or playing “keep away” as the Foster Care Provider can gain control without grabbing for the collar. **If negative behaviors consistently happen, go back to holding onto the leash.**
* The leash can also be used to enforce basic obedience commands (come, sit, wait, etc). Keep the dog on a drag leash until they are consistently responding to basic obedience.

**After 2 weeks:**

* When your foster dog is consistently responding to your basic obedience commands and showing appropriate house manners *without you needing to utilize the drag leash*, you can remove the drag leash. **This may take longer than 2 weeks.**
* Continue to be aware of where the foster dog is, and do not let them wander the house unsupervised (they should continue to stay in the same area of the house as the people are). **Foster dogs should never be trusted unsupervised.** Always use a crate if the dog cannot be supervised.