

**DOG FOSTER SCARED DOG EMAIL
(Emailed to newly matched foster at time of placement)**

Subject: Scared Dog Protocol

Thank you for fostering! Because your foster dog is undersocialized and/or a flight risk, there are some special precautions you need to take to ensure that your foster dog does not escape and to keep your foster dog safe and your foster experience successful. Please read the following and reply to this email to confirm that you agree to comply with this protocol.

- If given the chance, your foster dog may try to run away. Please agree to take the following precautions:
 - Your foster dog must be in an APA! approved collar (a martingale collar) or harness at all times. Martingale collars are designed to stop the collar from slipping over the dog's ears and off of the dog. If the dog is not picked up at APA!, then a secure collar should be used until you obtain an approved collar or halter from APA!
 - Your foster pup must be on a drag leash at ALL times, including inside your residence (this is to ensure that when/if the dog is cornered, scared, or gets loose, there will always be a safe way to catch the dog without having to touch him/her).
 - If your foster pup is outside, they must be on a leash that you are holding at ALL times. The dog cannot be off leash, even in a fenced back yard or patio. They should not be walked outside of a yard until the Behavior Team agrees that they are sufficiently acclimated to the leash and under your control.

- Your foster dog may be frightened or uncomfortable around small children. To avoid any behavioral issues, it is your responsibility to supervise young children while they are handling the dog and to show them how to safely handle the dog. For the dogs' safety, children should not be allowed to pick up the dog without an adult present.

- The dog must be transported in a crate and not taken out of the crate until the dog is safely indoors with all escape routes blocked. If the dog is too big to be transported in a crate: (i) he/she can be transported with just a collar and leash but you must use extreme caution; (ii) tether your foster dog inside your car or use a doggie seatbelt; and (iii) make sure that you can control your foster dog before transporting him/her without a crate.

- Make sure that everyone in the home and all visitors understand that your foster dog is a flight risk and that extreme caution is used when opening doors.

- Check your home to make sure that doggie doors and windows are securely closed and that there are no other means of escape. Also check any fenced enclosure for holes or weaknesses and eliminate hiding places before taking the dog outside. Be advised that a scared dog may also try to climb your fence.
- Make sure that new people go very slow with your foster dog and give him the time and space necessary to feel secure prior to reaching for him, petting him, or attempting to pick him up.
- Your foster dog requires extra attention to overcome his fears. If you have questions or need help, please contact our Behavior Team at dogbehaviorfollowup@austinpetsalive.org.
- In addition to the Behavior Team's support, there is an optional volunteer group for scared dogs called the BOO Dawgz Team. The group offers training tips and assistance and also holds occasional classes. To join the BOO Dawgz Team, please email Sarah Lyons at boo_lala@yahoo.com.
- Should your foster dog escape at any time, please email dog-foster-manager@austinpetsalive.org ASAP.

Thank you again for saving this dog's life and helping them learn to trust people again!