



The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foster Care Program handbook

Thank you for your willingness to become a Foster Volunteer, for keeping an open heart and an open mind towards our animals in need. Our goal is to work with willing foster families that can partner with us in our mission to increase the quality of life for our shelter animals. The right home is important for the safety and success of our shelter animals and their foster family.

Being a foster parent is one of the most important, difficult, but rewarding jobs there are. By placing an animal in need - due to reasons pertaining to the medical, behavioral, or other - in a temporary home, the foster parent improves the foster animal's well being and increases their adoptability. As the foster parent and animal spend more time together, it will be increasingly and understandably harder to eventually part ways. However, the reward of allowing a foster animal to receive proper and dedicated care, boosting their chance of being placed in a permanent and loving home, and saving a life that otherwise might have been lost, is incomparable. **It is important to remember that you have helped to make this animal adoptable** and that you must trust our adoption staff to find the best possible home for your friend.

An animal is fostered because it is not, at present, adoptable or because s/he was no longer doing well in the shelter environment. For the majority of these animals, the special care you provide will be decisive and they will return to us healthy and adoptable or will go directly from your home to their adoptive families. There are those few who, in spite of your best efforts, will not become healthy, well-adjusted companion animals. Our Animal Care staff may have to make the difficult decision to euthanize such animals. This is the unfortunate risk involved in fostering animals and can be a very painful experience. You must be aware of and prepared for this possible, though unlikely outcome.

A successful fostering can be a joyful experience for the animal. We hope that the rewards you experience will outweigh the difficulty of parting with your friend. Without your help, these animals might not have a chance. We appreciate your efforts and recognize that you are providing a very special service.

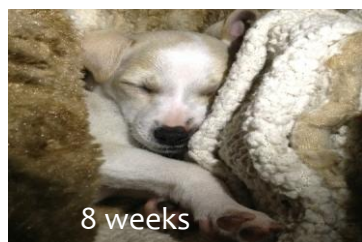
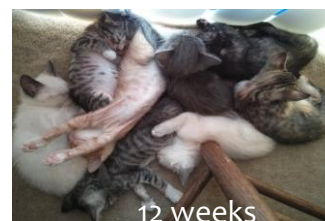


Table of Contents

Important Info quick reference sheet.....	3.4
(In case of emergency, lost foster animals, vet care while in foster, spay/neuter, prospective adopters)	
Vaccinations and treatments.....	5
Raising Foster Kittens.....	6
• Housing.....	6
• Feeding.....	6
Foster Kitten Behavior Goals.....	7
• Kitten Development & Behavior.....	7
• Routinely use of the little box.....	7
Socialization.....	8
• Behavior: Stop biting, suckling & excessive biting.....	9
Supplies needed.....	9
Kitten Ailments.....	10
Raising Foster Puppies.....	11
• Feeding.....	11
Housetraining.....	12
Teaching a puppy not to bite	13
Crate Training.....	14
Dog training while in foster care.....	14
Important contact information (recap).....	16

Important information
(Please keep this information handy.)

In case of emergency:

In the event of an after hours **emergency** or if no one can be reached at the shelter during regular business hours, please call the head of Animal Care at 831-535-8624. If the head of Animal Care cannot be reached, you will be expected to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital (SCVH) at 2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400. Please familiarize yourself with the location of SCVH and how to get there. SCVH is open 24 hours a day. Please do not call 911 for medical emergencies involving your foster animal. Only if there is an imminent threat to humans should 911 be called.

Losing a foster animal

If your foster animal escapes or becomes lost, contact the shelter immediately. Try your best to find the animal by searching the house and surrounding outside area. Alert surrounding neighbors and post flyers when appropriate. Do not rule out that the animal might still be in his or her own foster room. And unless age, illness, or injury prevents it, **please have appropriate identification on your foster animal at all times.**

Veterinary Care While In Foster Home

Routine veterinary care will be provided by an on-site shelter veterinarian. If your foster animal becomes sick or injured (**non-emergency**), please contact the Animal Care Supervisors so that we can arrange a time for our vet to see your foster animal.

In the event of an after hours **emergency**, please call the head of Animal Care at 831-535-8624. **The head of animal care MUST be contacted first otherwise all charges from SCVH will be at your expense.** Once the head of animal care has been contacted you might be expected to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital (2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400).

Routine vaccinations and dewormings will be administered by Animal Care staff. No appointment is necessary.

Common Medical Problems

If your foster animal displays any of these symptoms, **CONTACT SCCAS STAFF IMMEDIATELY!**

- ❖ Diarrhea. It can be a very simple problem. Left unchecked it can kill a small kitten/puppy quickly.
- ❖ Not eating/drinking. This can be a symptom of illness and a serious problem.
- ❖ Upper respiratory symptoms (runny nose, watery eyes and sneezing).
- ❖ Lethargy (lack of interest in playing, spends a great deal of time sleeping).

Bringing a Foster Animal back to the shelter for spay/neuter

- ❖ Please contact the animal care supervisor at asa302@co.santa-cruz.ca.us or call 831-454-7208 to schedule spay/neuter for your foster animal. Most kittens/puppies being fostered due to age should be returned on Thursday to get spay/neuter Friday to go up for adoption the following day.
- ❖ Foster animals can eat and drink normally prior to spay/neuter.

Potential adopter for your Foster

If you have found a person who is interested in adopting one or more of your foster animals, please have them come into the shelter to fill out an application and meet with a member of the staff. It's always best to have potential adopters call or come into the shelter to acquaint themselves with our adoption guidelines. Please also contact the animal care supervisor at asa302@co.santa-cruz.ca.us or call 831-454-7208 with the name and contact information of the prospective adopter so notes can be made on the animal's record.

**** We love when foster homes advocate on behalf of their foster animals but please make no promises to interested parties. There is an adoption process that all adopters must go through in order to insure a safe and happy lifelong relationship between the adopters and their new companion. Under no circumstances should your foster animal be placed in a home other than yours prior to adoption.***

Vaccinations and Treatments for Foster Animals

CATS AND KITTENS

Vaccines needed: All vaccines and deworming will be done by Animal Care. Rabies vaccines will be given by the shelter veterinarian, often at time of spay/neuter, as age appropriate.

FVRCP - Starting at 4 weeks, vaccinate every 2 weeks until 6 months of age.

Dewormer – Starting at 4 weeks, repeat in 2 weeks, then every 4 weeks until 6 months of age.

Rabies - Given at 3 months of age or ASAP beyond that, then again in one year, then every 3 years thereafter.

MOST KITTENS OVER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE ARE TESTED FOR FELV BEFORE THEY GO TO FOSTER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE RISK OF SPREADING POTENTIALLY DEADLY DISEASES TO YOUR OWN ANIMALS. PLEASE KEEP YOUR FOSTERS SEPARATE FROM YOUR OWN ANIMALS FOR NO LESS THAN TWO WEEKS, OR LONGER IF DIRECTED BY SHELTER STAFF. THIS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUR ANIMALS AS WELL AS OURS.

ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER HANDLING YOUR FOSTERS

DOGS AND PUPPIES

Vaccines needed: All vaccines and deworming will be done by Animal Care. Rabies vaccines will be given by the shelter veterinarian, often at time of spay/neuter, as age appropriate.

DA2PP - Starting at 4 weeks, vaccinate every 2 weeks until 6 months of age.

Dewormer - Starting at 4 weeks, repeat in 2 weeks, then every 4 weeks until 6 months of age.

Bordetella - Starting at 4-6 week with a single booster after two weeks. If starting after 6 week old, no booster is necessary.

Rabies - Given at 3 months of age or ASAP beyond that, then again in one year, then every 3 years thereafter. **Dogs over 3 months of age in need of fostering MUST get a rabies vaccine prior to leaving the shelter.**

RAISING FOSTER KITTENS



NOTE: When bringing a foster animal home to a family that has other pets, they should be kept separate for no less than two weeks. If the animal is in foster for health reasons, please continue to follow the individual guidelines set for that animal.

Kittens needing a foster home will usually be between four and seven weeks old unless you have a mom with babies. Then the kittens may be only days old. Some guidelines apply to both situations.

HOUSING: House your mom and/or kittens in a small room. A bathroom is perfect. There should be an area for the bed. This could be a towel, small blanket or a box with low sides. Have food and water nearby. Place the litter box about three feet away from food and water. The litter box should also have low sides for easy access.

They must be kept warm and free from drafts. A box or crate with the door removed is ideal. Place towels inside the crate to create a cozy nest. A towel or blanket over the crate will keep the inside warm and toasty. **Kittens must remain warm; they can suffer from hypothermia very quickly.** Make sure not to block air flow completely. The bedding should be changed frequently, immediately when wet. A heating pad (using on the lowest setting only) can be placed under half of the area to allow them to choose how much heat they require. This box should be in a quiet area of your home. Kittens need plenty of sleep and an area to encourage this. Sometimes they are so busy playing they forget to rest and must be reminded by placing them in their room and closing the door. **Foster cat/kittens must be kept indoor-only at all times.**

FEEDING GUIDELINES:

ALL FOSTERED ANIMALS MUST EAT FOOD PROVIDED BY THE SHELTER UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY A SUPERVISOR OR SHELTER VETERINARIAN.

If you have a family, Mom will be in charge of feeding until they are about four weeks old. At four weeks you can start introducing canned food (they usually start showing interest in what Mom is eating). Mixing a little warm water with canned or dry kitten food and placing it in a container with low sides will usually do the trick. Expect them to walk through it too. After a few attempts, they will get the idea.

Kittens with Mom:

Mom should have free choice of dry kitten kibble and may be offered half a can of kitten food twice a day. At four weeks of age, kittens are still nursing but should be encouraged to start the weaning process. Provide canned food for them when feeding Mom. Follow the food schedule below at six weeks.

Kittens without Mom:

Kittens five to six weeks old need three small meals a day. **Too much food all at once can be harmful by causing digestive problems.**

Kittens six to eight weeks old should get $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cup of dry kitten kibble twice a day and 6 oz of wet food (1 average sized can) throughout the day ($\frac{1}{3}$ per meal if feeding 3 times a day). Even kittens can become overweight, which can cause health problems in the future. Please ensure that you are feeding accordingly.

All animals in foster care should be fed the shelter's food in appropriate rations. Please come to or contact the shelter if you are in need of food for your foster animal.

- ❖ Please provide cat and kittens fresh water at all times.

FOSTER KITTEN BEHAVIOR GOALS

Key goals for foster kittens

1. Love humans – approach people, and enjoy petting
2. Play with toys, not human hands or toes
3. Always use a litterbox

Kitten development and behaviors

Kittens between 2 and 7 weeks of age are in an impressionable period in which they can easily adapt to living situations and other species such as humans and resident pets, so it's important to get them used to a normal human home and their future lives as pet cats during this period.

The following is a description of what, ideally, a foster kitten would be able to do by the time he or she returns to the shelter. Most kittens won't be able to do everything on the list, but their adoptability and future success can be improved by achieving more of these goals.

- ❖ Routinely use the litterbox
- ❖ Sleep out in the open (instead of hiding)
- ❖ Not hiss at nice humans
- ❖ Not flinch, slink away, or hide from approaching humans
- ❖ Relax when picked up and carried (extra credit for being carried in twos and threes)
- ❖ Purr when petted gently
- ❖ Accept treats from humans (spoon or hand)
- ❖ Play with common types of cat toys (not human hands or feet)
- ❖ Get into laps voluntarily
- ❖ Remain relaxed during common household noises (doors closing, telephone ringing; extra credit for garbage disposal, vacuum)
- ❖ Remain relaxed when fingers put into ears
- ❖ Remain relaxed when toes examined, toenails trimmed
- ❖ Remain relaxed when brushed (extra credit for purring)
- ❖ Remain relaxed when teeth rubbed (extra credit for brushing)
- ❖ Remain relaxed while being bathed
- ❖ Not bite polite humans, even in play
- ❖ Not suckle
- ❖ Not climb on humans excessively

Goal: Routinely use the litterbox

The shelter uses compressed sawdust pellets and we like our foster homes to utilize these. We will provide pellets as needed.

- Kittens should be introduced to the litter box when they start eating solid foods. They need a box with shallow sides (a cookie sheet or cake pan is perfect). After they have eaten, place them in the box.
- Limit their area of freedom.
- Pick up all soft surfaces, such as rugs, towels, clothing, tote bags, etc. The kittens should have access only to hard surfaces, their own sleeping bed, and the litter box.
- Keep the box clean. Scoop at least 2-3 times a day.
- Try another kind of litter. Add a second litter box with the new type of litter; fine-grained, unscented clay litter is the most popular with typical cats.

- Gradually increase the area of freedom. Add one or more additional litter boxes and show the kittens where they are.

SOCIALIZATION

Socializing a kitten is a lot of fun and an important aspect of foster care. A well-socialized kitten finds a home faster than one that hides in the back of his or her kennel.

Newborn to four-week-old kittens should be handled minimally. Kittens this age are easily fatigued and Mom will do the lion's share of what is needed. At four weeks of age, they will begin to come to you for attention.

Goals: Become socialized, friendly, and relaxed with humans

The next group of goals are largely achieved through two things: kindness and time. As the days go by, you will see baby steps towards these goals taken by the baby cats, simply because they've had time to get used to things. Please refer to page 5 of the Handbook, and see below for additional ways to work with undersocialized kittens.

Tips for socializing shy/fearful kittens

When working with shy and fearful kittens, it's important to be peaceful and gentle. They startle easily and take a long time to recover. Take a few deep breaths before you approach them.

NOTE: *Semi-social kittens require the same steps as below, however, the progress will be much slower and the time requirement will be much higher.*

Start with the kittens in one room, like a bedroom or bathroom. Block off inaccessible hiding places like under beds, chairs, cabinets so that you can find them when you're in the room, but give them an official hiding box or bed that you can access. Spend as much time as you can in the room with them, doing whatever you like, but with frequent short breaks with the kittens. Teach them that you are the source of all good things.

As often as possible:

1. Offer them tiny amounts of treats (food they don't normally get with meals) many times a day. Use a long-handled spoon until they get used to it. Try special flavors of canned kitten or meat baby food **without onions or garlic**. If they aren't afraid of your hands, you can dab some on your finger and hold it in front of their noses for a lick.
2. Play with them using interactive toys (wands, fleece ribbons) many times a day. Talk to them in a sweet voice. If they try to play with or grab your feet or hands, make a scared "eek" sound and leave them alone, ending the fun games.
3. When they're asleep, approach quietly and pet them briefly. Stroke the sides of their faces and top of head. Repeat frequently. After you have done this for a while, go to #4.
4. Pick them up, pet briefly, and put them down. Repeat frequently. Keep sessions short so they end on your timing, not theirs; don't let them bolt. (If they really freak out, you can release them, but the next time reduce your holding time dramatically.) Gradually increase the petting time as long as they stay relaxed. Gradually lengthen the petting strokes to cover the whole back of the kitten.
5. Wash their faces with a warm, wet washcloth many times a day.

Once they are relaxed enough to sleep in the open rather than trying to hide, and they are reliably using their litterbox, you can allow them to explore the rest of your home, if it is safe to do so and if you so desire. Electric cords, other pets, insecure screens and/or doors and other hazards may need attention.

Once they are happy to be held and/or petted, you should start touching inside their ears, toes, toenails, mouths while petting and brushing them. Gradually acquaint them with all the things adopters will have to routinely do to maintain their health. Liberally giving treats and pets while you do these things will make it a pleasant experience.

- ❖ Remember to socialize Mom too! When kittens are not nursing and being weaned, it is important to separate Mom from kittens in order to socialize her and give her a break.

Do not allow unsupervised handling by children.

Goals: Stop biting, suckling, and excessive climbing

Kittens use their teeth during play but should not use their teeth on people. Some kittens exhibit a strong nursing instinct and will try to nurse on your hand, the crook of your elbow, your soft sweater, or other creative areas. Some kittens have a compulsion to repeatedly climb up your chest to your shoulder and even to the top of your head. This can become wearying, especially since they can easily scratch you during the ascent or descent.

There is a simple way to train the kitten that these behaviors are unwanted. Blow on them! A well-timed puff of air in the face can do wonders for deterring unwanted behavior. The kittens usually learn quickly to abandon the behavior and settle down. As with any training, consistency and timing are essential.

Questions?

If you feel concerned about anything, please do not hesitate to contact the Animal Care Supervisors. The staff is happy to help with questions.

Supplies that you will need:

Litter box with low sides for easy access.

Wood pellets (litter)

Food and water bowls

Dry and wet kitten food Presently we feed Hills Science Diet and prefer dry over wet as soon as kittens can handle it. We will supply dry food for foster animals.

Newspaper

Clean towels

Kennel or carrier

Safe toys

Suggested supplies:

Heating pad

COMMON KITTEN AILMENTS

Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) is fairly common in animal shelters.

- ❖ These air-borne viruses are contagious and can spread very quickly. URI is typically caused by one of two virus's: Herpes and Calici.
- ❖ Your foster kitten may appear healthy here, but may become symptomatic in your home.
- ❖ Common Symptoms are:
 - Sneezing and yellow or green discharge from eyes or nose
 - Congested breathing
 - Loss of appetite
 - Lethargy
- ❖ It is important to contact us as soon as your foster animal shows any signs of URI. Underage kittens are extremely fragile and can crash very quickly.

NOTE: Cats, just like people, often get colds and / or have Herpes virus outbreaks when they are stressed out. Herpes in cats, just like in people, is forever. (People can't get cat Herpes and cats don't get people Herpes). Both Herpes and Calici virus's are contagious to your cats so, just in case, keep them separate from your fosters and always wash hands and arms before and after handling the fosters. In fact, your cat might already have Herpes and can pass that on to the fosters.

If you are fostering a kitten that is known to have a cold, make sure to talk with the vet staff regarding your kitten's special care and to set up follow up appointments."

Always wash your hands before and after handling your fosters!

OTHER DISEASES KITTENS MAY HARBOR:

- ❖ **Panleukopenia (Feline Parvovirus)** Watch for: vomiting, diarrhea, bloody stool, lethargy, dehydration, lack of appetite.
- ❖ **Ringworm:** (caused by a fungus not a worm) is highly contagious to other pets and humans. Watch for patchy areas of hair loss.

If your foster kitten is displaying any signs or symptoms of illness, it is imperative that you contact the shelter ASAP so that it may be addressed by the shelter veterinarian.

THE FADING KITTEN SYNDROME

Also known as "Failure to thrive" syndrome, usually happens within the first two weeks of life. It can come from environmental factors, such as maternal neglect, or it can be physical, such as congenital birth defects, low birth weight, anemia. Various infections also can play a role.

Affected kittens will begin to lose weight, stop nursing, eating and will stop growing. Kittens fade very quickly. If you notice your kitten fading, please contact the head of animal care at 831-535-8624. You may be directed to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital: 2585 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065. (831) 475-5400. **The head of animal care MUST be contacted first otherwise all charges from SCVH will be at your expense.**

- ❖ If an animal in your care should pass away, please contact us immediately. It is imperative that the Animal Care staff has the opportunity to examine the animal.

Please contact us if:

- ❖ Your foster has continuous diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- ❖ Your foster is lethargic and refuses to eat/drink for more than a day.
- ❖ You notice any suspicious looking hair loss on your foster animals.
- ❖ Your foster animal is scratching excessively or if you see fleas or flea dirt.

RAISING FOSTER PUPPIES

While many puppies are raised with little or no input from people other than a steady supply of food and routine cleaning, the litters that get systematic early conditioning and handling have the best chance of becoming sound, well adjusted companions.

FEEDING:

- **Newborn to Four Weeks:** Mom's milk. Mom should be eating free choice Hills Science Diet Puppy dry food twice a day and may be offered small amount of wet food.
- **Four to Six Weeks:** Puppies are starting to get interested in food. Free feed ground up Hills Puppy dry food mixed with warm water to make gruel. Adding a small amount of plain yogurt or a little canned food might make it more interesting. The first few feedings may result in more of a mess than actual eating, but they will start to get the hang of it. If Mom is present, allow her to help them out.
- **Six to Eight Weeks:** Three times daily: Add dry kibble to above to give them the opportunity to chew on the food. By eight weeks they should be eating dry food well.

Supplies for puppies and dogs:

Nylon leash and collar (provided)

Identification tag (provided)

Dry puppy and/or dog food Presently we feed Hills Science Diet and prefer dry over wet as soon as puppies can tolerate it. We will be supplying dry food for foster animals.

Food and water bowl

Newspaper / puppy pads

Safe chew toys (we recommend a "Kong")

Treats for training They should be healthy, tasty and able to be quickly consumed to punctuate training. Use a very small amount, the reward to the dog is the same and the stress on the digestive track will be less.

Crate for crate training

Bed or blanket

Please contact us if:

- ❖ Your foster has continuous diarrhea and/or vomiting.
- ❖ Your foster is lethargic and refuses to eat/drink for more than a day.
- ❖ You notice any suspicious looking hair loss on your foster animals.
- ❖ Your foster animal is scratching excessively or if you see fleas or flea dirt. Flea dirt looks like pepper grounds and will be found in the bedding or on the floor.

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Houstraining

To begin with you will require the following:

- a) a crate only large enough for the puppy to stand up and turn around comfortably in
- b) a schedule for going outside
- c) treats for whenever you go outside with the dog
- d) good observation skills to prevent accidents
- e) patience and a sense of humor!

A) Crate

The puppy must be safely contained whenever you're away or can't actively supervise, i.e. when you're busy around the house, sleeping etc. A crate can be your best friend when it comes to house training. If you find the puppy is soiling his crate, the likelihood is that the crate is too large or the puppy needs to go out more often or with more strategic timing. Speak to us if your foster puppy is a chronic crate-soiler.

B) Schedule

You must provide the puppy with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than 4 hours, have someone come to the house to take the puppy out. Optimally, there is always someone at home during the houstraining period. A typical puppy elimination schedule looks like this:

1. First thing in the morning
2. A few minutes after each meal. This is often when puppies will have a bowel movement. You will discover your foster puppy's rhythm.
3. Every hour on the hour. Take the puppy outside on leash for five minutes in a small area. Always return to the same spot so he begins to associate the area with its purpose. Don't interact with the puppy. Have a play period once he is finished. If nothing happens after five minutes, bring him back into the house and crate him for another thirty minutes, then try again. If he does eliminate, he may have a free period in the kitchen or confinement area, or a play session in your fenced yard. This acts as an added bonus for performing.
4. During the night. A very young pup (6-7 weeks) may need to go out once during the night.

C) Treats

Every time the puppy eliminates outside, lavish him with enthusiastic praise during the act and follow with an extra special treat (a small piece of cheese, hot dog, liver). If you find that the praise makes him stop in the middle of eliminating, save it until just after he finishes.

D) Good Observation Skills

Your puppy will give off signals that he needs to eliminate. It's essential that you learn what these are so you can prevent mistakes. Common behaviors include circling, restlessness and sniffing. Whenever you see these, take the puppy out!

E) Patience

Don't lose your cool. Most puppies will have accidents, especially in the beginning of training. Since your puppy will be supervised at all times when loose in the house, you will be able to provide the proper feedback as the dog begins to eliminate or, even better, take him out before he even starts (see "good observation skills..." above).

If you catch him starting to eliminate inside, interrupt him with a sharp sound. This may even prevent him from finishing. Urgently say "outside" and then get the puppy there as quickly as possible. Stay outside for the 5-minute period and praise & treat if he finishes eliminating. If not, bring him back inside and either supervise or crate him for another try later.

If the puppy has an accident in the house or in the crate and you did not see it happen, it is futile and even detrimental to punish him after the fact. Simply clean up the spot and then apply a commercial odor neutralizer or 50% vinegar to water. This will help prevent a certain location from smelling like an "indoor toilet". Most importantly after any accident, vow to supervise more closely in future and/or add another outing to your schedule.

Teaching A Puppy Not To Bite

Dog-Training While In Foster Care:

A foster puppy or dog returning to the shelter has a better chance of being adopted if s/he has learned basic training skills while in your home. Potential adopters who are able to see a dog sit, stay, lie down or shake "paws" on request realize the importance of training and just how intelligent their new companion will be. For these reasons, we would like you to attempt basic training with your foster puppy or dog in your home.

Why should we train?

Communicating with a dog or puppy is best achieved through behavioral management, play, socialization, and training. Training, play, and socialization should intersect; a student who's having fun is more engaged, more enthusiastic, and learns more quickly. The quality of life of a companion dog within a family is directly proportional to how well that animal can obey the rules of human society. Their relative obedience is a function of how we have taught them and what we have taught them. The type of education they receive will largely define the nature of the human-canine relationship, as well as prevent many behavior problems. Because we can train effectively without the use of force we should do so, just as we would in teaching our children. The pain of the choke chain is not kind-- ***dogs do feel pain***, and choke chains, prong collars, and electric shock collars cause pain. As we are responsible for the education of our children, so are we responsible for the education of our dogs. We must provide them with the education and direction to enable them to live safely and happily. Dogs tend to suffer from under-stimulation. We must provide them with a good job (training, playing, etc.) or they will find their own job, more often than not a job that will not please us (digging, chewing, etc.). Training can be very straightforward. Teaching a dog to sit early in training is good for two reasons: first, it is relatively easy for human and canine to accomplish, instilling a winning feeling in both from the start; second, because "sit" is an appropriate behavior which is incompatible with many inappropriate behaviors, jumping up for example.

1. You first need to discover a food sufficiently palatable as to hold your dog's attention. Soft treats like cheese, small pieces of hot dog or bologna are just a few examples of motivational rewards. Use small pieces, so you won't fill your dog up too quickly! If your foster animal is not food motivated, you may want to use a favorite toy, or just praise.
2. You then take a small piece of that food or a toy and use it as you would use a magnet if your dog's nose were made of metal. Hold the piece of food or toy very close to your dog's nose.
3. Begin to lure your dog into a sit—by moving the treat or toy up and back above the dog's head, move the treat down if your dog lurches up, move the treat up if your dog lurches down. During this process you must avoid moving too quickly, and you must keep the treat close to your dog's nose the whole time.
4. You want to keep things simple for your dog at this stage. Begin to use the word "sit" only after your dog sits consistently for the lure. If your dog won't sit all the way that's okay; all behaviors can be broken down into components, and if your dog sits halfway reward by giving a treat or toy. You should not force your dog into a sit, because if your dog wants to sit, i.e. chooses to sit, then the "sit" behavior will be a more consistent behavior.

You can use the above process to teach a dog other positional behaviors such as stand, down, heel etc. You can use tasty treats to reinforce appropriate behavior at any time whether the behavior was solicited or not.

Crate Training Your Puppy Or Adult Dog

Many behavior problems in puppies and dogs can be controlled or eliminated by the careful use of dog-crates. Like other training aides, the crate can be misused and do more harm than good. Used correctly, the crate can make such a dramatic difference that dogs that otherwise might have been brought to shelters have become excellent family pets. The crate is not a foolproof method that will solve all problems, but is a valuable tool.

When can a crate help?

Using the dog's natural denning instinct, a crate can be beneficial to potty training. A mother dog will set up a den for her pups and keep it clean until the pups are old enough to go outside on their own. She teaches them it's not okay to soil the place where they sleep. Puppies also need to chew; between five and nine months old, it may seem they chew non-stop. For them, a crate can be likened to a play pen, allowing them access only to safe chew toys and a safe space to play in. During adulthood some dogs can never be left loose in a house alone or may need to travel regularly with their family. A crate can be used to keep a dog confined and safe in these circumstances.

Building positive associations with the crate

Crate training should be done positively with no negative associations. When you first bring the puppy or dog home from the shelter, have the crate ready and comfortable for him. A towel or washable blanket will help make the crate a more satisfying place to sleep. (Puppy training pads may be useful for easy clean up of possible potty accidents.) A small yummy treat (i.e. raw hot dog) can serve as a lure to get him into the crate. Once he is inside the crate, leave the door open for him to come and go freely. It's best not to force him into the crate but repeatedly put treats inside, allowing him to go in on his own. Praise him gently while he's inside and associate a word or phrase for going in the crate. ("Kennel up" is a common example.) Use the word association as you place the treat in the crate with the puppy following it in. Repeat this procedure about five times then quit for a while and continue later for several rounds the first day.

Closing the crate door

When the puppy seems to be comfortable going in after the treat, and when he has finished playing and going potty and is tired, lure him into the crate with a treat as you have done before. This time close the door. Include a new toy in the crate this time, something he hasn't seen before that will hold his attention for a few minutes. A rawhide chew would be a good one for adult dogs. After you close the door sit on the floor in front of the crate to talk to the puppy, reassuring him that you're still there. He may whine for a short while. Wait till the whining subsides and the pup calms down, and then open the crate door. (5-10 minutes usually.) If the puppy happens to fall asleep in the crate, let him rest until he wakes up. Don't use a lot of fanfare and praise when you open the door and ignore the pup for a few minutes after he exits so that he doesn't get the impression getting out is much more fun than being in the crate. Then take him immediately outside to go potty. If the puppy insists on whining while in the crate try to distract him with another toy to give him the chance to calm down and be quiet before letting him out. DO NOT let him out, especially the first time, until he is quiet!

The first night at home

If you brought your foster puppy home during the day, you will have had time to do the above steps and get him used to the crate before bedtime. If you bring him home too late to do extensive training, here's what you can do. Play with the puppy until he's tired, make sure he's gone potty outside, and place the crate next to your bed where you can reach it while you're lying down. Remove any collar that may be unsafe, then place or lure the puppy into the crate with a toy, and go to bed as usual. If the puppy whines, place your

fingers in the grate and talk softly till the puppy falls asleep. You may lose a little sleep the first few nights, but do not open the door for the puppy for at least four hours. Do not show anger or yell at him, but don't give in either. If the crate is comfortable and warm enough, the lights are out and you are right there to talk softly, then usually he will fall asleep within an hour.

At eight weeks of age you can't expect the puppy to go more than four hours without going potty. As soon as the puppy whines after waking up, take him outside. Carry the puppy to the potty area immediately, praise softly and gently for a job well done, bring him back in without a play session and return him to his crate. Go back to bed and repeat placing your fingers at the grate, speaking softly if the puppy fusses before settling down for sleep. If you happen to sleep through the puppy whining and he is forced to potty in his crate because he can't hold it, don't scold him. It is your responsibility to get the puppy out BEFORE he has a chance to soil his den. Clean it up with a urine neutralizer and place clean towels in the crate and return to your routine. The crate should not be too big for the pup or dog, otherwise there will be enough room for him to soil in the crate and not think of it as soiling his sleeping area. Later on, after the puppy is used to his routine and no longer needs to go out every four hours, you can move the crate to somewhere else in the house.

Crating when you leave the house

At some point you may have to leave home and can't bring the puppy. He has made it through his first day and night at his new home. He is familiar with his crate and does not have unpleasant associations linked to it. Make sure he has played and gone potty and will be ready to rest. Place safe toys into the crate and lure him in with a treat using your association word. Close the door and leave the house without further ado. It may be good to explain to your neighbors ahead of time that you are crate training your new puppy to keep him safe from chewing electrical cords, etc., and teach him good potty habits. Explain he might whine for a while after you leave and hopefully they will understand. Don't stay away too long. If you have to go to work and have no other choice, then arrange to come home at lunch to feed, exercise and give the puppy a potty break during your lunch hour. If you absolutely cannot come home for lunch, have someone else come in and tend to the puppy for you. He cannot be expected to go longer than four hours without a potty break and it is very hard to retrain a puppy that has become accustomed to soiling his crate.

A place to get away from it all

After the puppy has grown a bit and is used to spending time in his crate, you will see him go into his crate voluntarily, for down time. If there is a lot of commotion in your house (i.e. young children), the puppy may go into his crate to curl up and go to sleep. Children should not be allowed access to the puppy's crate for play purposes and should leave the puppy in peace when he is inside. Leave the door to the crate open so your dog can escape the hubbub when he wants or needs to.

Travel and crate training

Dogs can ride safely and relatively stress-free in the car or plane if they've been crate trained. If you have to board your dog or have someone dog-sit, crate training helps the dog adapt to the unfamiliar situations more easily. You can bring the dog's own crate to allow him the comfort of his own bed to sleep in.

Crate training adult dogs

It may be easier to crate train when the puppy is young but you can still train an adult dog to accept his crate. The key is to find an irresistible lure as a treat to build up the positive associations with the crate. Introducing the crate to an adult dog may take a little more time. Start by feeding him inside his crate and do the same routine with going into the crate for treats as discussed previously. When the dog starts going into the crate without having to be lured, start closing the door for short periods of time. You can gradually increase the time he stays in the crate. Within a month or more, you may work up to four hours at a time.

Overuse of the crate is abuse of the dog

Dogs can sleep overnight in the crate, but during the day while they're awake they shouldn't be left for more than four hours on a regular basis. There are many safe and comfortable containment options. Feel free to discuss these with staff.

Important Information

Animal Care Supervisor: Andrea Jordan asa302@co.santa-cruz.ca.us, 831-454-7208

In the event of an after hours **emergency**, please call the head of Animal Care at 831-535-8624. **The head of animal care MUST be contacted first otherwise all charges from SCVH will be at your expense.** Once the head of animal care has been contacted you might be expected to take the animal to Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital (2585 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-475-5400).