



## There's no place like a home

We want every mutt to have the best possible new beginning in the perfect forever home. That's where foster families come in. They're key to finding the right fit.

"Dogs arrive here as mystery mutts," says Hannah Kaye, our senior manager of canine care. "Our shelter partners are wonderful about sending all the information they have. But there's only so much we can know. Living in a home is just different.

"Fosters get to know these dogs as the perfect, quirky, special individuals they are," says Hannah. "They're able to give a potential adopter all kinds of information that sets up the dog and human for success."

Fosters come back again and again to bring new dogs into their care. Yes, it's hard to say goodbye, but it's worth it, says foster LeAnne Smith. "You may get a little 'attached' (that's the result of loving something), but then you get that text with a photo of your foster thriving and valued. And then you're hooked!"



In 2024

**439**

people fostered  
at least one dog  
and

**305**

people joined  
the foster team

So far in 2025

**116**

people fostered  
two or more dogs

Foster Care Coordinator Sherry Diep (left) sends Oak home with foster Mary Meyer.



The team is available for any help a foster family needs, says Hannah, senior canine care manager. "You're the only one with a dog in your house, but we do everything we can to make it a team sport!"

## HEALING THE BROKEN

Michele Bihari is magic with dogs like Ethan, this little Shih Tzu. He was so filthy, so shut down, and so prone to snap that his previous shelter suspected dementia. Turned out he was in terrible pain. Michele took him home and allowed him to come to her when he was ready.

“To me,” she says, “fostering is a privilege, and I feel like the lucky one. These dogs have taught me so much about perspective, resilience, and life. The least I can do is welcome them into my home until they find their perfect forever home.”



## FOSTER WIN!

(Last year, 6% of our adoptions were foster families adopting their foster dogs.)

Bonita was Jason Mandell’s third foster, and when he left town, he told himself that if she wasn’t adopted, then it was meant to be. She wasn’t, and it was. “Bonita deserved to be in a home that could let her be the high-energy dog she is for the rest of her days,” he says. “I feel so blessed and lucky to be the guardian to give that to her. I’ll cherish every day with her.

“Dogs are angels, and humanity needs to provide the safe and loving homes they deserve.”

## ALMOST 100!

“I started fostering senior dogs almost seven years ago,” says Lisa Arden. “I’ve now fostered nearly 100 dogs and each one changed my life in some way. I’ve cared for hospice cases, medical cases, and dogs that came to me broken and scared. I’ve seen them blossom.

“Being part of the Muttville family as a volunteer and foster has truly been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.”

