

A black and white cat and a brown and white dog are looking at the camera. The cat is on the left, with its head slightly tilted. The dog is on the right, with its mouth slightly open. They are both looking directly at the camera.

# TRAINER GUIDE

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PREPARING FOR  
YOUR NEW FOSTER





In this guide, you will find step-by-step instructions on how to conduct the online training.

Each page contains images of the slides you will use from the slide deck, questions of what to ask, and activities to direct.

You can write notes or reminders in the margin on the sides as needed.

Use this trainer guide to facilitate the training, lead great discussions, and help learners apply the concepts.

Happy Training!



# NOTES

## SLIDE 1



(5 minutes)

As attendants enter the online meeting, make sure each participant has received a copy of the Learner's Guide and has something to write with.

## SLIDE 2



(5 minutes)

Introduce yourself.

To help the group feel comfortable around each other, have them introduce themselves and share the name of their new foster pet in the chat.

*Optional: You can also assign breakout rooms to facilitate smaller introduction discussions.*

# NOTES

## SLIDE 3

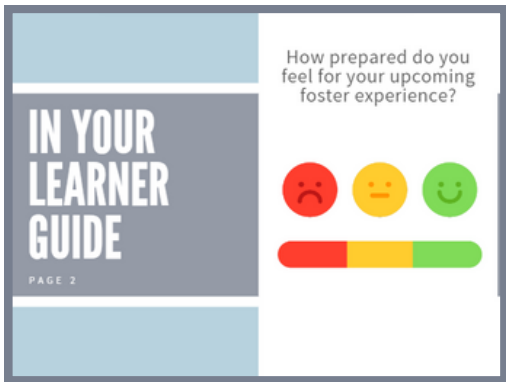


(5 minutes)

Say: "Thank you for fostering a homeless pet. They are gaining a new chance at happiness because of your generosity!"

Ask: "Raise your hand if you want to share why you chose to foster." Allow participants to share

## SLIDE 4



(5 minutes)

Say: "Please turn to page 2 in your learner's guide. Rate your mental preparedness on the scale. Feel free to jot down some notes on the page explaining your rating. We will rate ourselves again at the end of the training."

# NOTES

## SLIDE 5



(3 minutes)

Say: "By the end of this training you will feel more prepared in the following areas: Preparing your home for your new foster animal, identifying and responding to common medical issues that your pet may have, marketing your foster to find a new forever home, and feeling overall more confident going into this experience."

## SLIDE 6

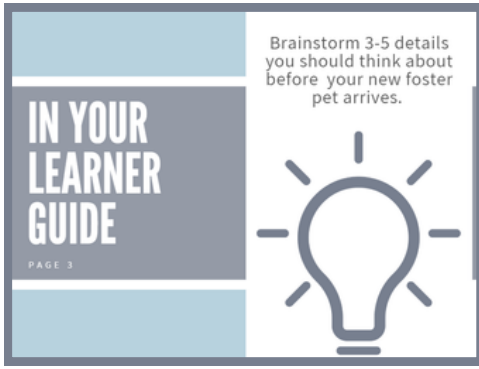


(5 minutes)

Say: "We have many people in this training that come from different foster backgrounds. Some of you may be seasoned and well-versed fosters, while others may be fostering for the first time. Please take a minute to share your level of experience, from the numbers on the presentation, in the chat."

Allow participants time to share, while reading out loud and acknowledging the varying experiences.

## SLIDE 7



(7 minutes)

Say: "Please turn to page 3 in your learner's guide. Before we discuss how to introduce your new foster pet to your home, take a moment to brainstorm 3-5 important factors you should consider prior to their arrival."

Give participants a few moments to record their answers in their workbooks. Then, invite them to share their top response in the chat.

## SLIDE 8



(5 minutes)

"Before your foster animal arrives, plan where they will stay to ensure a smooth transition.

For dogs, crating is an effective way to provide a secure space, especially for housetraining, though it's not mandatory. Baby gates can also help manage their space. Never use a crate as punishment.

Cats and kittens do well in a quiet area like a kitty condo, crate, or spare room. Provide a cozy spot, such as a box with a blanket, for them to feel secure. It's normal for mother cats to move their kittens.

The key is to create a safe and comfortable space for your new foster."

# NOTES

[illegible]

## SLIDE 9



(5 minutes)

Say: "For those of you fostering a dog, you will want to keep these points in mind."

*Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.*

## SLIDE 10



(5 minutes)

Say: "For those of you fostering a cat, you will want to keep these points in mind."

*Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.*

# NOTES

[illegible]

# NOTES

## SLIDE 11



(2 minutes)

Say: "Is the following statement true or false: Animals can get sick just like humans. Put your response in the chat."

## SLIDE 12

COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS		
<b>FLEAS</b> CONTACT FOSTER TEAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affect both dogs and cats.</li><li>• General flea treatment provided before leaving the shelter (if age-appropriate).</li><li>• Do not use over-the-counter flea treatments.</li><li>• Contact the foster team if fleas are noticed within a week.</li><li>• Flea and tick preventative is required for all foster animals.</li></ul>	<b>URI: UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION</b> CONTACT FOSTER TEAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affect both dogs and cats, but not transmittable between species.</li><li>• Similar to the human cold (sneezing, coughing, discharge, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever).</li><li>• Treatment: Rest, fluids, and comfort.</li><li>• Monitor closely, as untreated URIs can develop into</li></ul>	<b>DIARRHEA</b> CONTACT FOSTER TEAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loose, watery, discolored.</li><li>• Healthy feces: Brown, well-formed.</li><li>• Possible causes: illness, parasites, overfeeding, or new environment stress.</li></ul>

(5 minutes)

Say: "It's important to be aware of some common illnesses that your foster pet may experience during their stay with you. While these conditions are typically not life-threatening, it's crucial to contact the foster team as soon as you notice any of the symptoms we'll be reviewing."

*Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.*



# NOTES

## SLIDE 13

### COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS CONT...

<b>RINGWORM</b> <small>CONTACT FOSTER TEAM</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fungal skin infection (not a worm).</li><li>• Transmitted primarily through contact with infected animals.</li><li>• Symptoms: Dry, scaly spots; hair loss.</li><li>• Contact the foster team if suspected.</li></ul>	<b>WORMS</b> <small>CONTACT FOSTER TEAM</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affect both dogs and cats, but not transmittable between species.</li><li>• Similar to the human cold (sneezing, coughing, discharge, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever).</li><li>• Treatment: Rest, fluids, and comfort.</li><li>• Monitor closely, as untreated URIs can develop into pneumonia.</li></ul>	
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(3 minutes)

Do: Continue reviewing the slides as outlined previously.

## SLIDE 14

### GET YOUR PET ADOPTED!

FINDING THEM A LOVING HOME



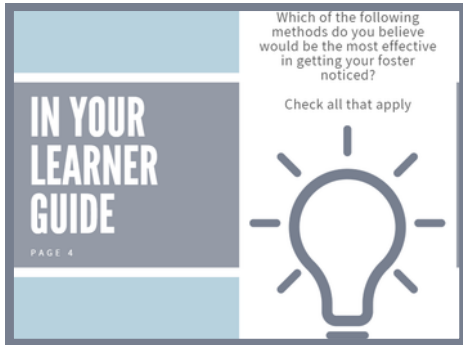
Let's discuss some effective ways to promote your foster!

(1 minute)

Say: "As we mentioned earlier, there are some first-time fosters in the group today. It's important to know that there are several effective ways to get your foster noticed by potential adopters. While the goal is always adoption, it does require your active involvement and hands-on approach to make it happen."

# NOTES

## SLIDE 15



(5-7 minutes)

Say: "Take a moment to review the various ways you can help increase your foster's visibility to potential adopters. Check the methods you believe will be most effective."

Do: Send the participants into breakout rooms to discuss which methods they believe will be most effective and why.

## SLIDE 16



(5 minutes)

Say: "Getting your foster pet noticed by potential adopters is one of the most important aspects of fostering. It takes dedication and a hands-on approach, but no single method is more effective than another. Each foster has strengths in different areas, and that's perfectly okay."

Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.

# NOTES

## SLIDE 17



(5 minutes)

Say: One of the key elements of marketing your foster pet is sharing those adorable photos. So, how can you capture the perfect shot of your foster?"

Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.

## SLIDE 18



(5 minutes)

Say: "Another key responsibility for foster families is keeping the foster team informed about any personality or behavior observations. This is crucial so the foster team can update the pet's bio on the website, ensuring potential forever families have the most accurate information."

Do: Review the information on the slide, and feel free to share any relevant anecdotes or personal experiences to make it more engaging. Be sure to invite questions from the group once the slide is covered.

# NOTES

## SLIDE 19



(5 minutes)

Say: "Let's practice writing a bio. In your learner guide, on pages 5 and 6, you'll find the same pictures and details as shown on this slide. Choose either Skye or Julius to write a bio for, and be sure to apply the tips we discussed earlier."

*Do: Give participants about 5 minutes to write their bios. At the 4 minute mark, ask if they need more time. Extend the time as necessary.*

## SLIDE 20



(5 minutes)

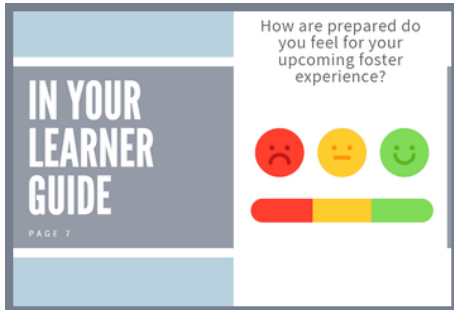
Say: "Take a moment to share the bio you've written in the chat. As responses come in, feel free to read through your peers' submissions."

"Let's read a few of the bios aloud to the group. As we do, I'll highlight aspects that align with the tips we discussed on slide 18."



# NOTES

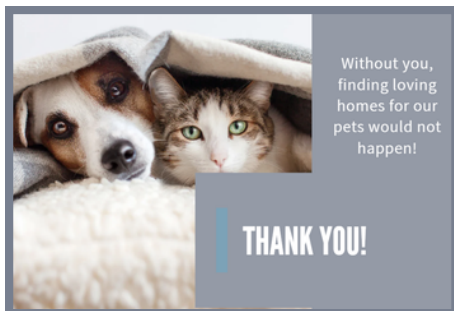
## SLIDE 21



(2 minutes)

Say: "Now that our training has concluded, please turn to page 7 in your learner's guide and rate how prepared you feel for your new foster. Hopefully, you'll notice that you feel more confident— even if just a little bit more—than before!"

## SLIDE 22



(2 minutes)

Say: "Thank you all for your time and attention today! I hope you're feeling more confident and prepared for your fostering journey. Remember, every foster experience is unique, and you're not alone—there's a whole support network here to help you along the way. Trust yourself, take things one step at a time, and know that the work you're doing is making a huge difference in these pets' lives."

## SLIDE 23



(2 minutes)

Say: "Feel free to reach out to me or the foster team if any additional questions come up. I'll be staying on to answer any questions you may have now. If you're all set, you're welcome to leave the session. Best of luck with your fostering journey!"

*Do: Stay in the training until all participants leave.*

# NOTES

This image shows a vertical rectangular page filled with evenly spaced horizontal grey lines. The lines are thin and extend across the width of the page, leaving small gaps between them. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.