Pup Profile



Medical Foster Guide

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Hello and Welcome!

Thank you for fostering.

Pup Profile is grateful for your willingness to open your home to a dog needing medical treatment, and for giving them a safe and comfortable place to heal.

This is a generalized guide to help you with your foster and their treatments. **Pup Profile always recommends deferring to your rescue organization and/or veterinarian's protocols.**

Always know where a 24-hour vet is located should an emergency arise.

Medical Foster Guide Content:

- **Common Medical Foster Scenarios**
- **Basic Medical Treatments**
  - **Administering Oral Medication**
  - **Administering Topical Medication**

Common Medical Foster Scenarios

Medical issues impact how we approach diets, enrichment, exercise, and general care for our foster pups. Please follow your rescue organization and veterinarians' guidance. The goal is to get them healthy and healed so they can find their forever homes.

Below is an overview of common medical foster scenarios:

- **Fracture Healing:** Broken bones take time to heal and a foster home is a much more comfortable environment for healing than a shelter or kennel.
- **Weight Gain:** Dogs may need to gain weight to improve their body condition prior to surgery or being made available for adoption.
- **Pending Surgery:** At times a dog will need surgery but may not be able to have the surgery right away due to scheduling. Dogs do better in a foster home while they wait for their surgery as this decreases their chance of getting stressed in the shelter environment.
- **Post-Surgical Recovery:** Dogs may require surgery for many reasons. Time in a foster home after surgery leads to a better recovery.
- **Skin Issues:** Dogs with skin issues need several weeks of treatment as well as time to recover.
- **Contagious Disease:** For dogs under treatment for contagious disease, foster care is the best environment to keep stress levels down during their isolation period. No other animals should be present in the home if a foster pup has a contagious disease.

- **Ringworm:** Ringworm is a fungus and is considered both a skin issue and a contagious disease.
- **Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT):** TVT is a tumor that is treatable but involves weekly IV injections of a chemotherapeutic agent. Since the tumors are contagious, no other dogs should be in the home with a foster pup who is being treated for TVT.
- **Distemper:** Distemper is a contagious disease in dogs that requires a quarantine period.
- **Heartworm Treatment:** Heartworm is a parasitic infection that can impact dogs (and sometimes cats). Heartworm is most prevalent on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in the United States. While it is rare to see this condition in animals in Southern California, it is possible.

Basic Medical Treatments

This section includes some basic medical treatments that may be required for your foster pup.

Remember, it is important to keep foster pups and resident pets separated while your foster is recovering.

Administering Oral Medication

Oral medications are given to animals by mouth. They can be prescribed for pain control, sedation, antibiotic needs, supplements, etc. Oral medications may be in a pill or liquid form.

- **Pills:** Easiest to administer if hidden inside of a tasty treat! Pill pockets, cheese and hot dogs are all great options for hiding pills.
- **Liquid:** An oral suspension may be provided in a syringe and must be given at the prescribed dosage. Pay special attention to the quantity prescribed because a decimal point can be easy to misread and completely change a medication dose (i.e. 0.02ml & 0.20ml). Liquid medication can also be given in food if the animal is eating well or can be delivered by syringe followed up with a tasty treat.

Administering Topical Medication

Topical medications are given externally on the skin and are generally in cream, ointment, liquid or gel form. Common topical medications include flea control, appetite stimulants,

cream/ointment for wounds, anti-fungals and eye medications. Eye medications usually come in the form of drops or ointment.

- **Eye drops:** To administer, gently pull down the bottom eyelid, add drop to the inner corner of the eye and continue to hold open for a few seconds while the drop disperses over eye and release.
- **Eye ointment:** To administer, point tip of tube away from eye to prevent injury if the dog jolts, gently pull down the lower eyelid, squeeze a thin strip (approx. ½ inch long) of ointment along inner area of lower eyelid, allow them to close thier eye, gently massage the area to disperse the ointment over eye and release.

No matter what medical issues your foster pup is experiencing, the goal is to keep them as comfortable and pain-free as possible while administering appropriate treatment as directed by your rescue organization and veterinarian. Always reach out to your rescue with any questions or concerns regarding your foster pup's treatment.

Have Fun and Enjoy!

Fostering is a truly rewarding experience. You are saving a life! Rescue dogs are such a joy and are so grateful to have a safe, comfortable home. We hope these tips help you to have an amazing experience, and that you'll continue to foster in the future.



Thank you for stepping up for the dogs who need it most.

– The Pup Profile Team