

Title: Dog Foster Carer Volunteer

Responsible to: Dog Foster Care Coordinator & Volunteer & Foster Caring Manager

Location: Foster carers home & visits to Mayhew (Trenmar Gardens, Kensal Green)

Dog Foster Carer

If you have experience caring for dogs as an adult, and want to support dogs on their journey to finding their forever home, then fostering is for you!

The role of a foster carer can be challenging and emotional but it is also an incredibly rewarding role which provides support for dogs who find the kennel environment challenging. Not only will you be supporting the foster dogs, you will also be supporting Mayhew better understand the foster dogs needs and behaviour in a home environment, which will help us match the dog to the right adopter. Fostering also enables us to help more dogs by freeing up space in our kennels.

All of our foster carers adore dogs and have previous experience caring for dogs independently in adulthood. Some foster carers choose to foster as they may plan on relocating in the future and wouldn't want to have to move an animal abroad. Some choose to foster as a way to care for dogs without having the financial worry of caring for them (as it's all covered by us 😊). Whatever your reason, we are so grateful for you showing interest in this role.

Mayhew will provide everything you need to support the foster dog in your home, including food, equipment and veterinary care. We will also support you with basic training to begin with and individual training & support with each foster dog.

Still interested? Read on to find out more...

Please note, we are only able to accept applications from those who are over 18 years of age.

Main Duties

- Transporting to and from and attending vet visits and/or visits at Mayhew
- Providing 24/7 shelter and daily care for the foster dog; feeding, socialising, walking, training & grooming following Mayhew's policy's and guidelines
- Submitting weekly and monthly foster feedback forms
- Assisting the animal welfare and clinic staff in maintaining the health and welfare of the dogs in our care by providing them with a temporary home environment
- To allow potential adopters to visit the dog in your home (or at Mayhew if preferred)
- Replying promptly to members of the Mayhew team via email, phone or WhatsApp and providing any updates as and when required

Reasonable Expectations

- As this role requires a large amount of onboarding resources and training, we are only able to accept applications from those who are **able to foster for at least 1 year**.
- Our aim is that once a foster dog is placed in your care, the dog will stay with you until they are adopted, therefore, we need assurance that you will be able to foster for as long as each dog needs you (most dogs are adopted within a few weeks to months but in very rare cases could be with you for a lot longer).
- Foster carers **must not** leave their foster dog alone for longer than 4 hours. With each new foster dog, you will need to build up to 4 hours over a number of days/weeks.
- Please give us as much notice as possible for any holidays you have booked and we will take the dog into our care whilst you are away. Only the foster carers and Mayhew are allowed to care for the foster dogs.

What kind of dogs need a foster home?

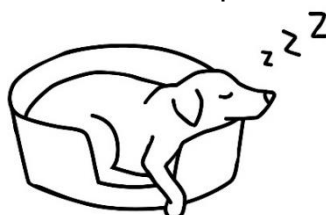
At Mayhew, we care for all types of dogs, from small chihuahua's to very large German Shepherds, timid/shy dogs to very confident dogs, puppies needing hand rearing to senior dogs needing a cosy sofa and some gentle strolls. Some dogs will need support with training and some might need support with their health (giving medication, or transporting to frequent vet visits).



Our foster carers are vital lifelines to the dogs who aren't coping well in a kennel environment. Some of the dogs that are surrendered into our care are used to living in a home with their owners by their side, so living in a kennel can be quite daunting for them. Some of the dogs aren't happy near other dogs, and therefore their neighbours in the kennels can make them a little stressed. When a dog is stressed we can see changes in their health and behaviour which can then in turn can negatively impact the speed in which we can find a suitable adopter.



By placing a dog in foster care, we hope that the dog can relax, feel comfortable and benefit from more human interaction whilst we find their forever home. By lowering their stress, we hope they can flourish and show us exactly who they are so we can better support their needs when finding a suitable adopter.



Skills/Qualifications Required

- As an adult, you have independently owned, worked with or fostered dogs
- Good knowledge of dog body language
- Strong communication skills
- Computer literate
- Passionate about animal welfare and dogs in particular
- A commitment to the work of Mayhew and our policies and ethics
- Trustworthy and reliable

Ideal home environment

- A safe environment with enough space for a dog to comfortably live and have their own space when needed
- Most of our dogs that need fostering will need a pet free home, however, in certain circumstances we may be able to accept foster homes with existing pets
- No private garden necessary, as long as you have some nice green space close by
- If you do have a garden, we ask that it is enclosed fully by a 6ft fence
- No young children – this is not a reflection of your children, but our duty of care to protect both your children and our dogs
- Most importantly, a home with patience, love and understanding

Personal and Professional Development

- Gain knowledge in animal welfare and behaviour
- Become involved in the community
- Apply personal skills and experiences to help in a positive way
- Volunteers can be provided with a reference at the end of their time with Mayhew

Travel

- Please note, we are only able to accept applications from those who live up to an hour away from Mayhew by car or public transport (no underground)
- We are unable to pay volunteer expenses at this current time

How to Apply

Please complete an online application form by clicking the link below:

[APPLY HERE](#)

or to request a hard copy application form please email:

volunteer@mayhewanimalhome.org

