



# FOSTER HANDBOOK





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>What You Need .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Who to Contact .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TAP Adoption Process .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Helpful Tips &amp; Information about House Training, Separation Anxiety, etc .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Vet Information .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Stop Light Remedies .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Vetting Glossary &amp; Terms .....</b>	<b>27</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED

As a foster, the only thing we ask you to supply your foster pup with is lots of LOVE! The Animal Pad is happy to help with the rest! Our foster coordinators (you'll be assigned a coordinator when you start fostering!) will work with you to determine what you and your pup need. Please do not hesitate to let us know what you need to ensure the best fostering experience for both you and your pup!

**If there is ever a need for you to purchase something for your foster, TAP will reimburse you for the cost, however, the purchase MUST be approved by us FIRST.**





# WHO TO CONTACT

Once you start fostering, you'll be assigned a foster coordinator. Your assigned coordinator will be your main point of contact for the majority of your needs – questions, concerns, etc. Below is some additional info on some items we need your help with.





# FOSTER DOG BIO AND PICTURES

One of the most important parts of fostering is **COMMUNICATION!** We count on our fosters to provide us with crucial information about your foster dog. This involves sending us information about your foster pup's personality (likes, dislikes, habits, quirks, behaviors, etc.), sending **AS MANY QUALITY PHOTOS AS POSSIBLE** (the better the photos, the quicker the adoption interest), and letting us know of any special needs you think the dog may require. Some examples of helpful info are: High energy, would do best in a home with another dog, not dog friendly, not kid friendly, etc. A member of the adoptions team will reach out to you for this information. You will be sent a bio link to fill out, which will ask specific info and personality traits of your foster. After submitting, please send your foster pup photos to your Foster Coordinator.



**Note: If anything changes from the time you first fill out the bio, (i.e., Was not initially potty- trained, but now is), please send a follow-up text or email to your Foster Coordinator with any new info.**

It is also very helpful to copy Lauren, Director of Operations, on these emails, as she manages our social media platforms and can use the photos and info to promote your foster pup!

Please send any information about your foster pup and pictures to your assigned Foster Coordinator and the following:

**Mugdha Dokhale: [mugdha@theanimalpad.com](mailto:mugdha@theanimalpad.com)**

**Lauren Botticelli: [lauren@theanimalpad.com](mailto:lauren@theanimalpad.com)**

If you take any great pictures with your pup with donated food, treats, or toys from a company please also send those photos to Lauren.





# VET APPOINTMENTS AND HEALTH/SOCIAL CONCERNS

Your Vetting Coordinator will reach out to you regarding vetting needs for your foster dog. They will be your contact person to for scheduling vet appointments at our New TAP HQ Vet Clinic and health concerns or question. If you are unable to reach them or haven't received a response, please email [vet@theanimalpad.com](mailto:vet@theanimalpad.com).

**IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE A VETERINARY EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT THE VETTING DIRECTOR LISTED ON PAGE 21.**



**If you cannot reach your foster coordinator  
please reach out to the following in this order:**

**Joelle Espina - Foster Director  
je.theanimalpad@gmail.com**

**Chanté Markley-Friedman – Foster Director  
chantemf.theanimalpad@gmail.com**





# TAP ADOPTION PROCESS

Please let us know within the first week of fostering (OR ASAP) if you are interested in adopting your foster dog. Please also let us know if you have any local friends or family that are interested in adopting (we can only prioritize local applicants at this time since our process involves mandatory, in-person meet n greets and follow up appointments at our vets). You will have 2 full weeks to decide if your foster dog is the perfect fit for you before we post them on our adoption sites. The sooner we know this information the better, so PLEASE communicate this to your Foster Coordinator.

Should you decide not to adopt, we will post your foster dog to the website or suggest them to applicants that we have already been in contact with. Once we have an approved applicant that sounds like a good fit, our adoptions team will send you an email so a Meet & Greet can be scheduled. The ultimate goal is for your foster to be matched with the perfect adopters as soon as possible, so they don't have to continue to adjust to new environments.

**ANY AND ALL INTERESTED ADOPTERS, INCLUDING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, OR SOMEONE YOU MEET OUT AND ABOUT, MUST FILL OUT AN ONLINE ADOPTION APPLICATION ON OUR WEBSITE BEFORE THE ADOPTION PROCESS CAN BEGIN. PLEASE DO NOT POST YOUR FOSTER DOG ON ANY THIRD-PARTY SITES SUCH AS CRAIGSLIST, FB MARKETPLACE, OR NEXTDOOR; WE HAVE OUR OWN PROCESS IN PLACE AND WILL ADVERTISE YOUR FOSTER DOG WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT! FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR DOGS AND THE SAFETY OF OUR FOSTERS, IF ANYONE REACHES OUT TO YOU VIA SOCIAL MEDIA, THEY MUST GO THROUGH THE ADOPTION PROCESS BEFORE MEETING YOUR FOSTER DOG.**



# THE ADOPTION PROCESS OUTLINED:

1. TAP will receive the adoption application, review it, and screen the applicant. This can take about a day or two.
2. If all looks good, the adoption team will connect the potential adopter with the foster VIA EMAIL. Email is the most efficient way for us to communicate, so we ask that you make every effort to check your email regularly while fostering. If you are unable to check your email regularly, please let us know ASAP!
3. The foster and any potential adopters will arrange a meeting at a time & location that works for both parties. You are free to meet at a park, or if you wish, meet at the potential adopter's home where you can also do a basic home check. However, please do not feel obligated to meet at the potential adopter's home, especially if they live far away. The adoptions team is more than happy and prepared to perform the home check if the meeting goes well. Please keep the TAP team in the loop on all scheduled meetings, or if a potential adopter is unresponsive or no longer interested.
4. The meeting! At the meeting you will get to know the potential adopters, while they get to know the pup! If they have another pet or child, always insist that they attend the meeting. If necessary, set up an additional meeting so that all members of the household can be in attendance. We want to ensure that every family member meets the pup, and vice versa to be sure that it is the best possible fit.





5. After the meeting, both parties will report back to TAP on how the meeting went. Please communicate to the potential adopter that the next step for them is to email the adoptions team to let them know if they are interested in moving forward with the adoption process. Please report back honestly if you don't feel it is a good fit; we trust our fosters' gut instincts because you've spent the most time loving on your foster pup and getting to know them in a home environment. If they are not a fit, our adoptions team will be the ones to gently let them down or suggest other dogs available that might be a fit!
6. Moving forward with adoption! If they have decided to adopt, the adopters will sign the adoption agreement and pay the adoption fee.
7. Time for the pup to go to their forever home! TAP will assess how soon this can happen based upon the status of their vaccinations and spay/neuter. BEFORE ARRANGING A TRANSFER DAY & TIME, PLEASE CHECK WITH THE ADOPTIONS TEAM TO BE SURE THE ADOPTION PROCESS HAS BEEN FINALIZED!
8. Adoption is finalized! YOU DID IT! Please provide the TAP team with the details once you and the adopter have set the day/time of the transfer. AFTER YOUR FOSTER DOG GOES TO HIS/HER NEW HOME, PLEASE EMAIL THE ADOPTIONS TEAM TO LET THEM KNOW! This will ensure our team begins communicating any vetting or other needs with the new family. This will also help us to know when to reach out to the adopter for a 'Happy Tail' once they've gotten settled. This helps us grow our online presence!
9. If you do not plan to foster again in the near future, please arrange with your Foster Coordinator for pick-up of all foster supplies.



# HELPFUL TIPS & INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSE TRAINING, SEPARATION ANXIETY ETC.

It's important to remember that your foster dog has gone through a lot of changes in a short period of time before he/she came into your care. They come from tough situations and are very often not showing a lot of their true personalities. Here are a few things we recommend, even if your foster seems well adjusted, and some tips on handling some of the issues a lot of our dogs have when they experience what is likely their first warm and loving home/family.

1. Always feed your foster dog separate from any other dogs in the home. In many cases, our dogs are not used to getting a steady meal, and may show signs of food aggression at first, until they start to understand this new life.
2. Please always secure your foster dog when traveling via car. Attach the leash to the seat belt (recommended), or be very cautious when opening the car door, as they may be a flight risk, until trust is established.





## PREVENTING RUNAWAY DOGS

When your foster dog is new to a home, whether their temporary foster home or their permanent adoptive home, the risk that they will run away is the greatest. Your dog is not familiar with the neighborhood yet and does not have a relationship with the people they are with to entice them to stay where they are. Changing homes can be stressful and scary and even dogs who aren't normally fearful may get startled and bolt. And runaway dogs are in serious danger of injury or death from being hit by a car. **Always assume your dog is a potential flight risk** and take precautions to ensure they can't run away.

- Secure your dog when traveling with them by car with a seatbelt or in a crate, and make sure someone has a hold of them before opening any car doors.
- Use caution when entering and exiting the home, blocking the dog from the door with your body. Consider setting up a playpen or baby gate around your entryway, to block your dog's access to the door.
- Keep your dog on leash in unfenced areas, including your front yard or driveway, at all times.



- Work on door manners every time you take your dog outside, to teach them to wait at the door and not go out until you say okay.
- Make sure everyone in the household (including children) knows to keep yard gates and entry doors closed.
- When leaving your dog unattended at home, make sure any windows they could reach and push screens out of are closed, or secure the dog in a kennel.
- Do not leave your dog unattended in the yard. Resourceful rescue dogs may jump or climb fences, dig their way out, or figure out how to open the gate when left alone.
- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with a TAP ID tag at all times.
- Never take your dog to an off-leash dog park.



If your foster dog does run away, let your foster coordinator know **immediately** and our team will provide instructions to help get the dog home safely.

# HOUSE TRAINING

## **When/How to Begin With House Training**

Experts recommend that you begin house training your puppy when he/she is between 12 weeks and 16 weeks old. At that point, the pup has enough control of his bladder and bowel movements to learn to hold it. If your foster pup is older than 12 weeks and not potty-trained in the slightest, house training may take a bit longer. You will have to reshape the dog's behavior -- with encouragement and reward.

## **Steps for House Training Your Pup**

Experts recommend confining the puppy to a defined space, whether that means in a crate, in a room, or on a leash. As your puppy learns that he needs to go outside to do his business, you can gradually give him more freedom to roam about the house. When you start to house train, follow these steps:

Keep the puppy on a regular feeding schedule and take away his food between meals. Take the puppy out to eliminate first thing in the morning and then once every 30 minutes to an hour. Also, always take him outside after meals and when he wakes from a nap. Make sure he goes out last thing at night and before he's left alone. Take the puppy to the same spot each time to do his business. His scent will prompt him to go. Stay with him outside, at least until he's house trained. When your puppy eliminates outside, praise him or give him a treat. A walk around the neighborhood is a nice reward.



## Using a Crate to House Train Your Pup

A crate can be a good idea for house training your puppy, at least in the short term. It will allow you to keep an eye on him for signs he needs to go and teach him to hold it until you open the crate and let him outside.

Here are a few guidelines for using a crate:

Make sure it is large enough for the puppy to stand, turn around, and lie down, but not big enough for him to use a corner as a bathroom. If you are using the crate for more than two hours at a time, make sure your puppy has fresh water, preferably in a dispenser you can attach to the crate. If you can't be home during the house-training period, make sure somebody else gives him a break in the middle of the day for the first 8 months. Don't use a crate if your puppy is eliminating in it. Eliminating in the crate could have several meanings: He may have brought bad habits from where he lived before; he may not be getting outside enough; the crate may be too big; or he may be too young to hold it in. Signs that your puppy needs to eliminate: Whining, circling, sniffing, barking, or, if your puppy is unconfined, barking or scratching at the door. Take him out right away. House training setbacks: Accidents are common in puppies up to a year old. The reasons for accidents range from incomplete house training to a change in the puppy's environment. When your puppy does have an accident, keep on training. Then if it still doesn't seem to be working, consult a veterinarian to rule out a medical issue.





## **Do's and Don'ts in Potty Training Your Puppy**

**Keep the following in mind while housetraining your puppy:**

- Punishing your puppy for having an accident is a definite no-no. It teaches your puppy to fear you.
- If you catch your puppy in the act, clap loudly so he knows he's done something unacceptable. Then take him outside by calling him or taking him gently by the collar. When he's finished, praise him or give him a small treat.
- If you found the evidence but didn't see the act, don't react angrily by yelling or rubbing his nose in it.
- Puppies aren't intellectually capable of connecting your anger with their accident.
- Staying outside longer with puppy may help to curb accidents. He may need the extra time to explore.
- Clean up accidents with an enzymatic cleanser rather than an ammonia- based cleaner to minimize odors that might attract the puppy back to the same spot.

### **Quick Tip for Unwanted Behavior**

If you are having issues with your pup misbehaving a great way to curb any unwanted behaviors is with a spray bottle filled only with water and a stern "NO". Don't overdo it, and ONLY do it in the middle of an unwanted behavior. For example, if the dog barks at something that you don't want it to bark at, you cannot spray it AFTER it barks and say no- it won't understand what you don't want it to do. You must spray it mid bark or it won't understand. Immediately after the behavior stops, praise the heck out of the pup and let them know that they are doing the right thing!



# SEPARATION ANXIETY

## How to Work Through Separation Anxiety

Your foster pup is going through a lot of changes, and may feel anxious and/or overwhelmed at the beginning of your foster experience, especially when left alone. If your foster dog is showing signs of separation anxiety (excessive barking/crying when away, destructive behavior, ect), here are some tips to combat this! We recommend crate training, and if a crate is unavailable use a closed off section of the house (laundry room, a gated area), wherever you think is best in your home.

First, we need to make the crate a positive place:

- Feed breakfast and dinner in the crate (You do not need to close the crate, you can just place the food in it)
- Put bones, antlers, and toys to redirect energy in crate.
- Put your dog in the crate for short periods of time while you are home. (If they are only in the crate for long periods of time or while you are gone it's going to be a negative place.)
- Have them go in the crate, reward with treats.
- Do not react to crying or howling (It will be hard in the beginning but worth it!)
- Have your dog sleep in the crate at first, to desensitize your dog to the crate practice:



1. Go to your crate.
2. Close the door.
3. Ask for a SIT and WAIT.
4. Open the door – if they start whining or getting anxious during the WAIT, stop, backup, and ask for a SIT again.
5. Say OK to release them out of the crate.
6. Once they are out ask for a SIT again! Usually once they hear the release word OK they go crazy and do whatever they want.

#### Next Steps to Take:

1. When you arrive home do NOT acknowledge the crate! Let them whine it out and relax before letting them out.
2. When letting them out of the crate practice having them SIT, WAIT (for me to open the door), say OK to release them out, AND a SIT once they are out of the crate. This is teaching them self-control! Anxiety is a complete loss of self-control, and the SIT after coming out of the crate is super important for this.
3. Don't make hellos and goodbyes a big deal! This only feeds into the anxiety.



If you need any additional training help or advice, please do not hesitate to reach out! We have an amazing support team around the county who are able and willing to support our fosters and our pups! As the foster, you have your finger on the pulse, so we rely on you and your communication for so much of what we do! Contact your Foster Coordinator.

Thank you so much for your love and kindness; It truly takes a village, and we are lucky to have you as a part of ours!





# VET INFORMATION

**Lena Cosopodiotis - Vetting Director**  
**lcos.theanimalpad@gmail.com | 619-490-5743**

**IN THE CASE OF A VETERINARY EMERGENCY, ATTEMPT TO CONTACT A TAP TEAM MEMBER. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO REACH SOMEONE, AND IT IS A TRUE EMERGENCY, TAKE YOUR FOSTER DOG TO THE BELOW EMERGENCY CENTER, AND STATE THAT YOU ARE A FOSTER WITH THE ANIMAL PAD.**

**VSH SORRENTO VALLEY**

10435 Sorrento Valley Road  
Sorrento Valley, CA 92121  
(858) 875-7500 | <https://vshsd.ethosvet.com/>

**VCA HOTEL CIRCLE**

2317 Hotel Circle S  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 299-2400 | <https://vcahospitals.com/emergency>

**VEG ENCINATAS**

260 N El Camino Real  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
(760) 377-6611 | [www.veterinaryemergencygroup.com](http://www.veterinaryemergencygroup.com)



## **Vetting Regulations:**

1. All vet care (except spays/neuters and dental cleanings) will be performed at our in-house vet clinic at TAP HQ (4620 Avocado Boulevard, La Mesa, CA). Our standard vetting includes: 2 rounds of DHPP, Bordetella vaccine, Rabies vaccine, Microchip, and Spay/Neuter. In some cases, your foster dog may need to see a specialist our TAP vet will give a referral to a specialty hospital.
2. If you have a medical concern regarding your foster dog, please do not hesitate to contact your Vetting Coordinator or email [vet@theanimalpad.com](mailto:vet@theanimalpad.com), we have several clinics a week and can squeeze a dog in for a last minute appointment.
3. We are unable to allow any fosters inside during our vet clinics to speak to the veterinarian. Please be sure to let the Foster Liaison (person that greets you and checks you in for the appointment) know if you have any questions or concerns.
4. We are unable to do dental cleanings or Spay/Neuters at TAP HQ Clinic. You will be referred to a Partner vet. Please book your appointments under your foster dog's given TAP name, and identify yourself as a foster for TAP when scheduling these appointments.
5. Please do not contact the vets directly for direction or advice. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your Vetting Coordinator.



The Animal Pad will no longer be using Partner Vets for services like wellness or sick visits, vaccinations, x-rays or lab work. We have our own vet clinic at TAP HQ in La Mesa. All vet care is required to be done here.

**TAP HQ VET Clinic**  
**4620 Avocado Blvd**  
**La Mesa, CA**

We have at least 2 clinics a week, usually one during the week and one on the weekend to accommodate everyone's schedule. If you are unable to transport your foster dog to an appointment, please let your Vetting Coordinator know and they will try to find a transporter.

Please only park in our front or back lots, which are marked with bright green parking blocks. Please do not park in the nearby business lots.





# STOPLIGHT REMEDIES

**(How to proceed with medical concerns from foster parents to coordinators)**

Green – please try these suggestions before reaching out. If the problem persists, please send an email to your vetting coordinator or [vet@theanimalpad.com](mailto:vet@theanimalpad.com). Itchiness: All dogs from Mexico will be itchy. Has it been 2 – 4 weeks? Most dogs need 2-4 weeks to get accustomed to a healthier diet, let their medication/vaccines work their magic, and adjust to being a healthier dog. We can try bathing them with oatmeal/medicated shampoo, using fish oil in their food, or rubbing coconut oil on the rough spots. If itchiness persists for longer than 4 weeks, please reach out. Diarrhea: This could be caused by a number of things (medication, parasites, new diet, stress, etc).

o Try giving the dog:

- Canned pumpkin
- A small meal of boiled white meat chicken (no bones or skin) and white rice.
- Different dog food/eliminate wet food





Yellow – Proceed with caution. Use best judgement.

Worms: All dogs from Mexico will have worms. Are these worms dead or alive? If dead, the dog is just passing the worms through. Is their medication finished? They will need a 2 – 3 weeks on the medication in order to kill all the worms.

Sneezing/Coughing: Many dogs from Mexico may have some sort of cough. During intake they are prescribed antibiotics and given a Bordetella vaccine, which reduces the risk that a dog will bring kennel cough into the facility and spread it to other dogs. It also reduces the likelihood that a dog will acquire kennel cough if another dog brought it in.

If all medications are finished, and the cough lasts several minutes or there are additional concerns, please contact the vetting team.

Eye discharge: If the dog allows it, you can try to wipe the eyes clean of the discharge with a moistened cotton ball, using a fresh cotton ball for each eye. If the problem persists, the amount of eye discharge increases, or color and/or consistency changes, please contact the vetting team.

Red – reach out to the vetting team right away.

- Foster dog is acting lethargic AND not eating or drinking for over 24hrs
- Injured/bleeding heavily
- Broken bones/dislocation
- Persistent/sudden conditions

- DISCLAIMER: Please use google for questions first if possible. Everyone on the vetting team is a volunteer, not a vet or vet tech. The vetting team often uses google for any non-threatening concerns.



# VETTING GLOSSARY & TERMS

- **4dx Snap Test**

- o Use: A blood test used to screen for antigens for tick borne diseases (Lyme disease, Ehrlichia and Anaplasma) and Heartworm.

Cured by 56 day course.

- **Bordetella**

- o Use: A vaccine that is given to dogs who are frequently exposed to other dogs in boarding or social settings.

- o Concerns: Can also be known as “kennel cough” which is a highly contagious respiratory disease. Unfortunately, even when a dog is vaccinated for Bordetella, it’s still possible for the dog to contract the disease.

- o Treatment: Antibiotics are usually given

- **Bravecto**

- o Use: Flea, tick, and mange preventative
  - o Length: This protects your dog for up to 12 weeks.



- **Carprofen**

- o Use: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication that helps relieve the pain and inflammation that occurs with arthritis in dogs. It also helps bring relief from other joint problems and can help your pet to feel better after surgery.

- **Cefpodoxime Proxetil**

- o Use: An oral antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections of the skin, such as wounds and abscesses as well as bladder and respiratory infections in dogs.

- **Clavamox**

- o Use: Broad-spectrum antibiotic, a combination of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid, used for infections caused by bacteria. Most commonly used to treat the following: Skin infections, soft tissue infections (wounds, abscesses, pyoderma, cellulitis, etc.).

- **Dewormer**

- o Different kinds are Pyrantel, Panacur, and Strongid-T

- o Length: Usually it takes 2 doses (2 weeks apart) for worms to completely disappear. The reason for this is that worms produce in stages, and although you might kill them in stage 1, they could reappear in stage 2. You may notice your dog vomiting or excreting dead or alive worms. Please wait until 2 doses have been completed to become concerned about the presence of worms.

- **DHPP/DAPP/DHLPP**

- o Use: Combo vaccine protecting against Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvo, Canine Coronavirus Enteritis, and Leptospirosis.



- **Doxycycline**

- o Use: An antibiotic that can be used to treat bacterial infections in dogs. It is a broad-spectrum antibiotic, which means it can fight multiple types of bacteria.

- **FortiFlora**

- o Use: Probiotic to help with digestive issues.

- **IDEXX**

- o Use: Provides diagnostic products and services to veterinary practices, 24/7 diagnostic reference laboratory and consulting services enable practice integration.

- **Ivermectin**

- o Use: a heartworm preventative and for the treatment of certain types of external and internal parasites in dogs. May be used in the treatment of mites (demodectic mange, scabies, and ear mites), intestinal parasites (hookworms, roundworms), and capillaria.

- **Ketoconazole**

- o Use: An antifungal medication used to treat fungal infections.





- **Metronidazole**

- o Use: A prescription antibiotic used in dogs and cats to treat various conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, nonspecific diarrhea disorders, infections caused by Giardia, and periodontal disease.
  - o A common brand is Flagyl

- **Panacur**

- o Use: Dewormer used to treat hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, and whipworms in dogs. It is also used by veterinarians to treat other parasites.
  - o Length: Taken for 3-5 consecutive days.

- **Prednisone**

- o Use: Steroid used in dogs to treat various conditions such as Addison's disease, inflammation from arthritis, allergies, and certain autoimmune diseases.

- **Pyrantel**

- o Use: A dewormer that is used to treat intestinal roundworm, hookworm, and stomach worm parasites in dogs.
  - o Length: Usually taken for 3 consecutive days and then retaken 2 weeks later at the same dosage.

- **Strongid-T**

- o Use: most commonly used to treat hookworms and roundworms
  - o Length: usually given as a single dose that is repeated in two to three weeks to kill any parasites that have matured during that time.

- **Trazodone**

- o Use: An antidepressant that can help with anxiety and/or behavioral problems. Usually used after surgery so dogs can rest.



# GENERAL FAQ

## VETTING INFORMATION

We love our mexi-mutts and want the best care for them! They come from less than ideal situations and we want them to be showered in love. But, we usually have little to no history on their past. We prioritize the most important vetting needs and the facts that make them unique are usually missed. Please see below in answering any basic information about your foster dog.

### ✓ **How old is my dog?**

We usually don't know, but can make a guess by their teeth and some other factors:

#### **Teeth:**

- o 0 -1 year = small, spiky, little teeth. Usually missing some as they are falling out
- o 2 – 5 years = cleaner teeth with little to no decay or tartar build up.
- o 5 - 7 years = more decay, tartar buildup. Typically less pointed and more worn down.
- o 7+ years = significant decay, tartar build up, especially the teeth in the back. Usually worn down considerably.



- **Fur Coloring:**

Some dogs begin to gray when they're about 7 to 10 years old. The muzzle usually turns the grayest.

- ✓ **What breed is my dog?**

This is a complete guess to us and usually it's what they look like and how they act! Feel free to form your best guess and let us know!

- ✓ **Is my dog spayed or neutered?**

Obviously it's much easier to tell on males, as they do not have testicles. For females, it's usually a scar and/or a green tattoo. Please let us know if you see either, so we can mark in our records.

- ✓ **What medical does my dog need?**

We cover all necessary vet visits and medical care. Most dogs are vetted before going into their foster home, but will require 1 or 2 more vet visits (depending on health of the dog).

All dogs receive\*:

- Intake exam, 4dx snap test , if from Mexico
- Flea/tick coverage
- 2 DHPP shots (3 shots if it's a young puppy)
  - o Usually given 3-4 weeks apart
- 1 Bordatella shot
- 1 Rabies shot
- Microchip
- Spay or neuter
- Additional procedures that are necessary to the dog's well being

\*Please note: we follow the advice of the veterinarians based on their professional recommendations.



✓ **Can I take my foster dog to my personal vet?**

If you are willing to financially cover the costs at your personal vet then we have no problems with this. However, we would like all of our foster dogs to be seen by our TAP HQ Vet as they are familiar with our processes and types of ailments.

✓ **How can I get a vet visit?**

If you have questions about anything medical related, feel free to email [vet@theanimalpad.com](mailto:vet@theanimalpad.com). We will do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible.

**If urgent, please contact your vetting coordinator and cc [vct@theanimalpad.com](mailto:vct@theanimalpad.com)**

