

THE BEAGLE ALLIANCE FOSTER / NEW ADOPTER GUIDE (Includes Lost Dog Protocol and Martingale Collar Warning)

THANK YOU for foster / adopting a rescued dog with The Beagle Alliance! This guide provides information and tips gleaned from years of experience rescuing dogs from animal testing facilities, and other animals who have suffered trauma from harm and isolation. In addition to this guide, The Beagle Alliance has a private Facebook group for all our fosters and adopters where photos, stories, personal tips and experiences can be shared.

****Before you bring home your dog, it's a good idea to do a walk-through of your home from a dog's vantage point. Remember to store toxins (cleaners, anti-freeze, medications, etc.) out of a dog's reach, which includes countertops and easily opened cupboards! ****

SAFE SPACE

We recommend an area that can be a safe space for your foster dog, not isolated from the family, but where the dog can go and feel safe when overwhelmed or over stimulated, such as a crate WITH THE DOOR OPEN or removed in the living room, or a bed placed a little out of the general traffic area. Dogs naturally like their own little "den".

It is also a good idea to be prepared for the need for separation while introducing your own dog or cat to your foster. Baby gates or Exercise pens can be useful when a little separation is called for.

DRINKING WATER

It is very common for newly released laboratory survivors and others who have come from traumatic pasts to go into a bit of a shut-down mode both physically and psychologically. They may not eat or drink or pee or poop for a few days.

*Dogs, like animals in the wild, are most vulnerable when eating, relieving themselves, and while sleeping. Newly rescued animals can show anxiety around these natural activities.

****If this goes on beyond 2 to 3 days, though, please contact TBA. ****

Your dog may have never drunk out of a water bowl before and it may scare him/her. He/she may have had a water container that hung on the cage, or he may have been used to a water bowl in the cage that was full of his or her own urine and feces.

Some tips for getting your dog to drink:

- Try low-sodium or salt-free chicken broth in the water bowl.
- You may try cupping water in your hand to see if he/she will drink from your hand
- Try bowls with rubber bottoms. The sound of a bowl scraping or clinking on the floor may scare the dog.

TIP: You may use a small syringe to gently give your foster dog water. Be mindful that the sight of a syringe could trigger fear.

FOOD

TBA recommends raw dog food above all food for dogs, however this is your choice. Wet food is the next best option coupled with raw beef bones for teeth (supervision required). We welcome inquiries about holistic health for animals and do have expert resources.

If your dog won't eat kibble or canned food:

- Try chicken breast cooked in low-sodium broth with white rice and some canned pumpkin
- Add some broth to kibble or mixing canned food with kibble
- It could be the bowl. Try a different bowl, switch from metal or ceramic or plastic, or try cupping the food in your hand
- Add high value treats to the top of the kibble or canned food

**If yours is a multi-dog household, we recommend feeding separately until you know how your foster dog behaves around food. (Also true for toys). He or she may be a resource guarder, or your own dog may be a resource guarder with a new dog in his or her space.

Treats to try:

- Peanut butter
- Cooked chicken
- Cooked sausage links or patties
- Cream Cheese (small amounts as there is usually sugar added)
- Cubed cheese

POTTY

Assume your foster dog will not be housebroken. If your dog came from a laboratory, he/she likely spent her life in a cage so will have no knowledge about going outside to potty. Unlike training a puppy where everything is new and you're teaching the puppy from square one, your foster dog has been doing things the same way for years, so you're not starting from square one; you're starting from a place where the dog has been doing things one way for years and now must unlearn that way of doing things.

This dog will take longer to learn new ways. Patience is required.

Additionally, research dogs often are kept in cages with wire floors where their excrement is caught in a tray underneath, or in kennels where they pee and poop right where they eat, sleep, and live.

We have found that former laboratory dogs often prefer to potty on hard surfaces like concrete as opposed to grass. They often have never seen grass before being rescued and because it's new to them, it can cause them anxiety.

Some housebreaking tips:

PATIENCE and POTTY PADS!

- Create a potty schedule and try to stick to it. At the beginning, take your dog out frequently and always after meals or high-energy times. Increase the time between potty breaks as your dog doesn't have accidents in the house.
- Use potty pads or a pee and poop station in your dog's den area at the beginning.

LEASH WALKS

Your dog may not be leash trained.

In your TBA pack, you'll find a leash, collar and/or harness, and ID tag, along with a martingale collar. The ID tag should be on your foster dog AT ALL TIMES, whether affixed to the harness or the collar. Do not affix the ID tag to the martingale.

The martingale collar should only be used for walking your dog. It's a collar that is difficult for a dog to maneuver out of: the dogs can't stop and pull back, pulling it off over their heads. But some dogs are Houdini-like and can even get themselves out of martingales, so always be vigilant!

The martingale is a CHOKING and STRANGULATION hazard and should never be left on the dog after walking. See WARNING at the end of this document.

We recommend starting with two: a harness and martingale with the leash attached to both.

Be ready for "triggers" while walking. Loud sounds – cars back firing, trash cans rolling on the concrete, car horns honking, etc. Your dog may startle and try to bolt suddenly, so be prepared.

Also be prepared for your dog refusing to walk - just stopping and not budging. You may need to carry him or her for a bit or even all the way home. Dragging the dog is cruel and won't help train him or her.

Tips for leash walking:

- If your dog is afraid of the collar/harness/leash, try putting it on him or her in the most relaxed way possible. High value treats may be helpful.
- If possible, carry some high value treats with you on walks, rewarding walking as you go along.
- Start with just leash walking around the backyard.
- When you venture out from the yard, keep the walks short, just halfway down the block at the beginning.

SLEEPING

As mentioned earlier, sleeping is an activity where your dog perceives himself as vulnerable. NEVER WAKE A SLEEPING DOG SUDDENLY. The dog may come out of a sleep snapping.

We're all for letting the dog sleep in your bed but also have a dog bed so your dog knows he has a safe, quiet spot to call his own where he can sleep undisturbed.

This is a situation where you'll have to assess what's best yourself. Don't let the dog sleep with a child until you are confident that a foot touching the dog in the night won't startle the dog to a behavior response that could be dangerous.

YOUR DOG and NEW DOG

It is important that your dog(s) know that their home is still theirs and is safe for them. No one is replacing them! Here are a few tips to ease in the transition. Consider them if possible.

- When picking up your new friend, leave your dog(s) at home.
- Enter the house or property with your new dog in a crate and keep closed, allowing your dog(s) to sniff at the crate and walk around it.
- Once the new dog is out of the crate, consider walking around the home and yard while leashed – yes even inside, so that your dog(s) know they still have control of the situation. (a week is suggested)
- Treat your new companion as one of the "pack". We tend to dote on our survivors because we know what they have been through, but this does not serve them. They can become possessive of treats, toys and even YOU – this is resource guarding, and we want to guard against this.
- Give them time to form a relationship, they are all different, it'll take time – but do call us asap should any aggression occur. We have resources!

If urgent, please call 204-266-1968 or 425-923-3087 for immediate assistance.

LOST DOG PROTOCOL

In the event your foster dog runs off or is lost:

***** Contact The Beagle Alliance IMMEDIATELY.
Call and Text 204-266-1968 or 425-923-3087 *****

The Beagle Alliance will mobilize and come to you as soon as possible. We will delegate roles and assign them. Be prepared TO DO THE FOLLOWING ASAP:

- DO NOT PANIC, we are with you and here for you. NO BLAMING – Just collaboration!
- Start physical search immediately
- Notify local shelters, animal control and police
- Enlist the help of friends and family right away
- Knock on doors, ask to look in backyards, TELL EVERYONE
- Share on your own social media with a good photo
- Post on Next Door if possible
- Post on Facebook neighborhood groups
- If possible, set up a grill close to where the dog ran off (maybe your front yard), and cook some chicken

WE NEED A GOOD PHOTO of YOUR FOSTER DOG

We will make flyers ASAP and have them printed at a print shop near you. We will be asking you and your friends and family, and The Beagle Alliance volunteers to get to your neighborhood and put up the flyers as soon as possible.

MARTINGALE COLLAR WARNING AND USE

The martingale collar consists of a large loop that encircles the dog's neck and is connected to a smaller loop with a D-ring for leash attachment. When a human pulls on the leash to restrain the dog, the small loop becomes taut, causing the larger loop to tighten evenly around the dog's neck, **thus preventing the dog from backing out of the collar.**

A martingale collar gives dog parents a special measure of security for dogs who are timid or fearful, especially in unfamiliar situations. **Because the collar's unique design prevents choking, it's a gentle way to safely prevent dogs from escaping their collar and running away.**

It's not unusual for a new rescue to become frightened and disoriented in his or her new surroundings. **Using a martingale collar with a leash while your new family member becomes familiar with his or her environment can help prevent accidental runaway situations.**

Martingale collars should NOT be worn all the time. Because of the martingale's tightening function, **martingales can become a choking and strangulation hazard if left on unattended dogs.** If the collar snags a piece of furniture, a branch, a stray paw, etc., it's very likely that your dog will not be able to free himself or herself. Also, due to the tightening aspects of the smaller loop, a martingale collar isn't suitable for attaching dog tags.

Please use another collar that fits more loosely and affix the ID tag to that. That way, if your dog's collar becomes snagged on something when no one's around, he or she can back out of it more easily. We do not suggest crating these dogs, as they have spent their lives in cages. **If you must crate, please do not leave a collar on your dog.**

AGREEMENTS FOSTER OR ADOPT

I understand that as a Foster, I am caring for this animal for TBA. My foster animal belongs to TBA and TBA holds sole discretion regarding all decision making, including but not limited to, the animal's health, veterinary care, and placement.

I understand that the fostering period is a MINIMUM of 4 weeks but may take longer. I also understand that once the initial fostering period has ended, it will take additional time to find a forever adoptive home for the animal. Potential adopters must go through a screening process, including interview, home check, and a meet and greet when possible. I understand that this may take time and I am willing to be patient as TBA searches for a home.

This TBA animal and I are now "ambassadors" who can be examples of cruelty-free living and advocates against animal testing and cruelty.

I am allowed to have animals where I live.

I agree to provide love, proper and sufficient nutritious food, water, shelter, and medical attention to the TBA animal and humane treatment always.

I agree to never leave the TBA animal unattended in a public place, or tied outside of any facility, store, etc. This includes never leaving the TBA animal unattended in a car.

I agree to never take the TBA animal on vacation or leave the TBA animal with anyone else while on vacation unless discussed and approved by TBA in writing.

I agree to always have a collar and ID tag on the TBA animal at all times.

I agree to double leash the TBA animal using the Martingale collar when outside of a confined space and to remove Martingale once I return.

I understand that I am responsible for the whereabouts of the TBA foster animal.

I agree to keep doors and gates closed and secure at all times, including vehicles.

If the TBA animal becomes lost or stolen, I agree to notify TBA immediately, so that TBA can mobilize rescue efforts.

In the above event, I agree that my home will be the operational headquarters for the search efforts. I agree to assist in searching and contacting local shelters and vets and cooperating with TBA staff and volunteers until the animal is found. All of this will be done at the discretion of TBA and I agree to follow their direction.

If I move to a new home, I agree to notify TBA and provide TBA with my new address and be available for another home-check.

****Meetings** with potential adopters: You may need to make time for a meet and greet with potential adopters when the time comes. This includes limited transportation to and from the meeting locations.

****Please note** that in most cases, fosters and adopters do not meet either in person or on the phone.

If I would like to adopt this animal, I will contact TBA to let them know I am interested. I understand that TBA makes the final decision regarding adoption, and that fostering an animal does not guarantee that I will be the best fit for the animal's final adoptive home.

I understand that if I would like to adopt the foster animal, there will be another interview (discussion) and an adoption fee. This fee is required to adopt and is non-refundable. A signed adoption agreement will also be required for adoption.

TBA reserves the right to repossess the TBA animal for any reason that TBA believes that the fostering is not mutually beneficial for either the animal or the foster(s).

I agree that no members of my household have been convicted of an animal welfare law violation such as neglect, cruelty, abandonment, etc.

DISCLAIMER

By fostering this The Beagle Alliance animal, I agree to hold harmless any person or persons involved in the foster process of this animal. TBA has not made any representations regarding this animal, and no promises as to his/her temperament, health and is not responsible for any injuries that may occur as a result of the actions of the animal or any health issues. Foster(s) understands that this TBA animal came from either a testing laboratory or unknown background and that the full extent of their circumstances cannot be determined.

YOU ARE SO SPECIAL!

We are so grateful that you chose to FOSTER / ADOPT a TBA animal. Their circumstances have been less than ideal to say the least and without you, we could not bring them to safety and freedom. Thank you!

We do hope that you will continue to keep in touch and advocate against animal testing and cruelty long after you foster and or adopt.

THANK YOU!

THE BEAGLE ALLIANCE TEAM

