



## **VOLUNTEER MANUAL**

## CONTENTS

- 3. Mission Statement
- 3. PBFL Dogs
  - Definition of a Pitbull
  - Intake procedure
  - Exclusions
- 4 – 6 Volunteering
- 7 - 8 Board of Directors
- 10 – 19 Adopting
  - Process
  - Telephone Interview – questions to ask and reporting
  - Homecheck – guidelines and reporting
  - Application
  - Pre adoption Agreement
  - Adoption Agreement
- 20 – 33 Fostering
  - Process
  - What PBFL provides
  - Veterinary Care and Approval
  - Foster Programs
  - Telephone Interview – questions to ask and reporting
  - Homecheck – guidelines and reporting
  - Application
  - Foster Care Handbook (attached) and Agreement
- 34. Adoption Days
- 35. Fundraising Events, Expo's and promo events
- 36. Merchandise

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Pit Bulls for Life Foundation of Alberta is a not for profit foundation that is dedicated to rescuing and re-homing unwanted and abandoned Pit Bulls and other pit bull type breeds from shelters, veterinary surrenders and animal controls in and around the Alberta area.

## **PBFL DOGS**

Pit Bulls for Life takes pride in knowing that all dogs adopted have absolutely NO human aggression and have little to no animal aggression. All dogs and potential adopters are carefully screened to ensure that dogs are placed in their forever home.

## **DEFINITION OF A PITBULL TO OUR ORGANIZATION**

American Pitbull Terrier

American Staffordshire Terrier

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Crosses of any above breed that include the characteristics of the breed. This includes the boxed head and strong body type with a human friendly, energetic, cuddly personality that all pits have.

## **INTAKE PROCEDURE**

- Breed Specific
- Non Aggressive to humans and little to no animal aggression (controllable animal aggression if needed).
- Pitbulls from animal control, SPCA, Humane Societies, other rescue groups, and veterinary clinic surrenders in Alberta, as well as Canada if room warrants.
- Personal surrenders are only considered under specific circumstances and if room warrants. A surrender fee will apply.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

- Human Aggression
- Severe Animal Aggression
- A life threatening illness that significantly shortens the life of the Pitbull
- Private Surrenders

## **VOLUNTEERING**

The foundation is completely volunteer-based and relies heavily on foster homes and donations. As we do not have a shelter for our rescued pit bulls we are limited to the number of dogs we are able to take in at any one time.

We understand that you may not be in a position to work directly with the dogs, but our volunteers do plenty for us. Our volunteers love and are dedicated to this breed. We do not have a facility to work in, but do need help regardless. Volunteers provide any of the following tasks:

- Transporting dogs
- Airport pick ups
- Pet Expo and other related events
- Fundraising Events
- Adoption Days
- Product and Supply pick-ups
- Home checks
- Behaviour Assessments (may need to travel)
- Interviews for foster homes
- Interviews for potential adopters
- Photography
- Board of Directors
- Dog Walking (in foster homes areas)
- Obedience and socialization (in foster homes areas)
- Media relations (for articles or television)
- Donation (cash and products) requests

***Our volunteers are what represent our entire organization. As a volunteer you are expected to be knowledgeable of how our organization runs and the processes to becoming a volunteer or foster home as well as our adoption process fully. If you cannot answer a question please do not try to answer it and direct them towards a PBFL board member who can. During a volunteer opportunity with our organization you must remember that you are a representative and your personal values and beliefs towards rescuing animals or the pit bull breed specifically must be kept to a minimum as at times we may not fully agree with what one says towards our organization.***

A volunteer must fill out and complete a volunteer form as well as sign the release waiver provided.



## Foundation of Alberta

Box 3608 Spruce Grove, AB T7X3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### Volunteer Application

#### **Volunteer Information**

Volunteer(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following areas that interest you:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of directors (meetings once a month) | <input type="checkbox"/> Home checks        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering (ask for our foster form)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent auction     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transporting dogs, food and supplies       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Expo           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption interviews                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption Days      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster home interviews                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience training |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____       |

*To get to know you better we ask that you answer the following questions:*

Why do you want to volunteer for this particular breed?

What experience do you have with the various bully breeds?

Do you have any other pets in the house?

Species:                      Breed:                      Age:                      Sex:                      Spayed/Neutered:

Species:                      Breed:                      Age:                      Sex:                      Spayed/Neutered:

Species:                      Breed:                      Age:                      Sex:                      Spayed/Neutered:

Species:                      Breed:                      Age:                      Sex:                      Spayed/Neutered:

Do you have a regular veterinarian clinic that may be willing to provide discounts to our cause?  
If so, please provide name and contact number:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Pitbulls for Life Waiver of Liability & Assumption of Risk**

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in Pitbulls for Life Foundation of Alberta activities I:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Pitbulls for Life Foundation of Alberta activities and that I am qualified , in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activities. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in such Activity at that time.
2. FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT: (a) Pitbulls for Life Foundation of Alberta ACTIVITIES MAY INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF PERSONAL INJURY, (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inaction's, the actions or inaction's of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW; (c) there may be OTHER RISK AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.
3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO HOLD PITBULLS FOR LIFE FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owner and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which may incur as the result of such claim.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT

Printed Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### President

- Oversees and represents PBFL
- Takes care of any position that is not filled or needs temporary assistance
- With support of the board and behaviourists assessment and available foster homes takes in dogs suitable for the PBFL program
- Assists Events Coordinator with any events for advertising and education purposes such as pet expo's and canine related events
- Overseas Casino fundraising with assistance of the vice president
- Maintains relationships with all humane societies and SPCA facilities as well as reputable rescues throughout Alberta as well as Canada
- Maintains relationships with the City of Edmonton, City of Calgary, and any other areas of Alberta that is affected by PBFL
- Applying for Grant Funding with the assistance of the Treasurer
- Signing Authority

### Vice President

- Assists president and other board members if president is unavailable to do so
- Takes over for president when president is unavailable
- Assists in coordinating any events for advertising and education purposes such as pet expo's and canine related events
- Assists president with the casino fundraising

### Secretary

- Takes minutes at monthly meeting
- Prepares Agenda's for meeting with the help of the president
- Preps letters for donation requests, thank you letters, grant applications etc.
- Works directly with Treasurer for donation receipt preparation and mail out yearly

### Treasurer

- Bookkeeping for PBFL
- Works directly with auditor yearly for tax purposes
- Prepares donation receipts yearly and logs all donations received
- Works with President in applying for Grant Funding
- Signing authority

### Volunteer Coordinator

- Welcomes all volunteers to PBFL
- Keeps in contact with volunteers for event coordination
- Works directly with fundraising coordinator
- Coordinates Volunteer appreciation day yearly

### Fundraising Coordinator

- Coordinates events to raise funds for PBFL
- Works directly with the volunteer coordinator
- Establishes Fundraising Committees and meetings if needed for each event

### Foster/Adoption Coordinator

- Oversees adoption and foster applications
- Directs volunteers for phone interviews and home checks for potential adoptions
- Finalizes adoptions via volunteer help
- Oversees foster home care and informs president of any issues or medical care needed
- Works directly with president for animal care needs
- Works with volunteer coordinator to provide adoption days for the public

### Donation Coordinator

- Responsible for collecting free stuff
- Helps Fundraising Coordinator with Silent Auction Donations
- Works with volunteer coordinator to get stuff collected

### Events Coordinator

- Oversees events PBFL is involved in such as:
- Pet Expo
- Dogapalooza
- Pit Bull Awareness Day
- Establishes Event Committee and meetings if needed for each event



## *Foundation of Alberta*

Box 3608, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### Board of Directors Agreement

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a list of agreements you will make as a board of director member:

- ✓ Be aware of the nonprofit's mission, plans and policies, and be sure that they indeed serve the needs of the community that the Board members represent.
- ✓ Be sure that all nonprofit activities are in accordance with the mission, plans and policies, and are in accordance with rules and regulations of the society and community.
- ✓ Fully participate in Board meetings, deliberations and decisions.
- ✓ Adequate preparation for meetings.
- ✓ Read, evaluate and ensure accuracy of all reports, including minutes, financial and evaluations.
- ✓ Ensure the organization has sufficient resources, including people, funding and other assets.
- ✓ A willingness and commitment to get to know the organization and the environment in which it operates.
- ✓ Full participation in the governance process.
- ✓ A commitment to teamwork.
- ✓ A commitment to speak with one voice.
- ✓ A collective commitment to improvement.
- ✓ Sincere support for the chief executive.

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADOPTION PROCESS

Our adoption protocol if not followed can become lengthy and complicated. Our adoption process is intended to ensure that all new dogs placed in the home are going to be in the same home for the lifetime of the newly adopted family member.

- Fill out an adoption questionnaire
- The application if accepted will be followed by a telephone interview
- Home Check
- Meet and Greet
- Trial at home or immediate adoption
- Adoption finalization

*The potential adopter must be at least 18 years of age.*

The process starts by the potential adopter filling out an adoption questionnaire. Once the foundation has received the questionnaire, a member of Pit Bulls for Life will contact you to discuss both your questionnaire and the dog you are interested in adopting. Dogs are adopted based on suitability of the dog and the family, not on a first come, first serve basis. If we feel this dog is not a suitable adoption we will offer suggestions regarding other dogs we have in the program. After it is determined which dog the adopters would like to meet, the foster home will contact you to discuss more about their foster dog and set up a time to do a meet and greet at their home. We do ask that all members of the family attend the meet and greet.

A home check will be made during the adoption process. A Pitbulls for Life member will visit your home after contacting you.

If the meet and greet goes well at the foster home and you are still interested then a 2 week pre adoption can be done as long as a home check has already been made. You may take the potential foster dog home for a week and see how they do. A Pitbulls for Life member will then contact you to finalize the adoption if you so choose to.

Pit Bulls for Life will not ship any dog to a potential home. If you live outside of the area that the foster dog lives all family members of a potential adoption must come to the foster home to visit the dog that they are interested in. Our foster homes are located all over Alberta.

The adoption fee is **\$300** which includes:

- Spaying or neutering
- Vaccinations including rabies
- Microchip identification

## **ADOPTION PROGRAMS**

### **Two Week Pre-Adoption Program**

Our 2 week Pre-Adoption Program is designed to ensure that the dog you are interested in, is the right dog for you. This program is encouraged only for those seriously interested in adopting one of our dogs. Before a pre-adoption date can take place, the other prerequisites outlined in the adoption protocol must be fulfilled. We recommend this period to include a weekend as well as a day or two of your normal working schedule. If you are interested in adopting the dog after the program or know beforehand this is the dog for you, one of the Pit Bulls for Life representatives will come to your home and complete the adoption. If you have decided that this is not the dog for your family the dog will be placed back into its foster home and the Pit Bulls for Life team can determine if a pit bull is the breed of dog for you and if we have a more suitable candidate.

### **Foster to Adopt Program**

In some cases you apply to adopt a dog through our regular program but none of the dogs we have in the program would be a suitable match. If this happens we offer the foster to adopt program where we match you up with a dog that is in need of placement directly from a shelter. This program allows you to be the foster home for this dog prior to adoption. As a foster home everything will be supplied for you as any other foster homes would be and as a foster home you would be responsible for ensuring that you get your foster dog to the spay / neuter and vaccination appointment. Take a couple of weeks to decide if this is the dog for you and then we will either place your foster dog up for adoption or finalize the adoption with you and pick up the foster supplies. The dog will stay with you until we find a suitable home for his/her adoption or another foster home is available for transfer.

### **What support do we have after the adoption?**

Pit Bulls for Life takes pride in helping newly adopted dogs and their families with the transition into their forever homes. If the need arises Pit Bulls for Life is always there for questions or concerns that the home may have. Although we are not in any position to financially care for your dog after adoption we can assist you in behaviour issue's your dog may have as well as recommend a behaviourist to assist in whatever you may need. We highly recommend you take your dog to obedience classes as it helps ensure that you bond with your dog and understand canine behaviour at a higher level. Pit Bulls for Life will not take dogs back into the program for convenience purposes if you can no longer care for your dog, a surrender fee will still apply. We enjoy hearing from the adoptive families with updates and photos on their new family member.

**Pit Bulls for Life have the right to refuse any potential adopter without reason.**

## INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL ADOPTION HOMES

Before making the call, reading over the application is of utmost importance. We then have an idea of whom and what kind of animals, live in the household. As well as an idea of the lifestyle of the potential home. Of course we cannot know for sure until speaking to them and doing a home check. We prefer the interview and home check to be done by two separate people as then we can get two different opinions on the person(s). If the dogs they are interested in may not suit their home let them know why and recommend another that may.

*The following are suggested questions you can ask during the interview:*

- ✓ Ask about their animal(s) personalities
- ✓ The daily routine of their animals
- ✓ Ask about the lifestyle of the family, what they do for fun, work, etc? (this is to get an idea of what kind of personality type would fit into their home)
- ✓ What level of training are you looking for in your newly adopted dog?
  - Almost totally trained (knows all basic commands, is housebroken, easy to walk, want a "ready made" pet)
  - Average (knows sit and stay already, but will teach more commands, must be housebroken and relatively easy to handle on leash)
  - Below average (dog needs all the basics, can handle a dog that is difficult on a leash, may not be housebroken, may have some basic behavioural issues)
  - Needs extensive continuous training (dog needs to learn all basic commands, is hard to handle on leash, may have dog aggression issues/cat aggression issues)
- ✓ Have they ever been to obedience classes or a behaviourist of any kind?
- ✓ Would they be willing to go to weekly socialization/obedience classes if needed for their dog? We highly recommend this for bonding purposes and homes that have never owned a bully breed.
- ✓ How do they feel about off leash parks? (if they live in town)
- ✓ How much exercise does their current dog(s) get?
- ✓ The following questions are dependent on the dog at hand (these should be asked by the foster parent only if it applies):
  1. Are they prepared to and how would they handle food aggression issues?
  2. Are they prepared to and how would they handle dog aggression issues?
  3. Are they prepared to and how would they handle separation anxiety issues?
  4. Are they prepared to and how would they handle cat aggression issues?
  5. Are they prepared to and how would they handle resource guarding (toy possession)?
- ✓ Where would their dog stay while they are out?
- ✓ How would the feeding ritual go in their household?
- ✓ Under certain circumstances we may ask if they are prepared to keep this dog for the lifespan of him/her?



## *Foundation of Alberta*

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pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### **HOME CHECK GUIDELINES**

The following is a general guideline to follow while doing a home check for PBFL.

#### **Outdoor Area**

- ✓ What the yard looks like, approximate size and care
- ✓ Preferably fenced
- ✓ Clean – no garbage or items for the dog to hurt themselves or chew on while unattended.

#### **Home Interior:**

- ✓ What the outside and inside of the home looks like; type, good size for a big dog and care
- ✓ Clean – no garbage lying around or things for the dog to chew on while unattended.

#### **Dog Sleeping Arrangements:**

- ✓ At the discretion of the new owner

#### **Animal Eating Arrangements**

- ✓ How do they feed their dogs; free, once daily, twice daily. How do they plan on feeding the dogs if this is an addition to the family.

#### **Exercise:**

- ✓ What the family dose for fun and exercise, daily routine?

- ✓ **Dogs should be routinely walked at least ½ hour daily – we understand that this is not always feasible. It always depends on the situation and the dog being adopted.**

**Routine:**

- ✓ **This is to give us an idea of what the general routine of the family is on a daily basis as well as on weekends. This would be hours of work, activities etc.**

**People:**

- ✓ **General demeanor and vibe you get from the people. What kind of dog owners are they.**

**Animals:**

- ✓ **Other animals in the home, what are they and how do they act and respond to their owners?**

**Potential Concerns:**

- ✓ **Any potential concerns you may have during the home check. This could be the environment, people, pets or a general comment that may have been made during the home check.**

**Good Matches for:**

- ✓ **Sex, age and grade of dog they could handle**
  - **Grade I – easy dog, no pitty experience needed (may never have owned a big dog)**
  - **Grade II - no Pitty experience but has owned big dogs or an easy Pitty**
  - **Grade III – Pitty experience with a fairly energetic but non aggressive dog**
  - **Grade IV – Pitty experience with a somewhat difficult dog. Willing to work with a foster dog that needs special attention and discipline (willing to take them to classes and rehabilitate them as needed)**
  - **Grade V – A lot of Pitty or difficult dog experience willing to work with and rehabilitate a specific problem dog (please let us know what type they are willing to work with)**

**General Comments:**



## *Foundation of Alberta*

Box 3608, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

**PBFL Volunteer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adoption Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINDINGS:**

**Outdoor Area:**

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**Home Interior:**

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**Dog Sleeping Arrangements:**

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**Animal Eating Arrangements:**

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**Exercise:**

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**Routine:**

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**People:**

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**Animals:**

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**Potential Concerns:**

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**Good Matches for:**

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**General Comments:**

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## Foundation of Alberta

Box 3608, Spruce Grove, Alberta T7X 3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### Pre-Adoption Visit Contract

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Animal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pit Bulls for Life # \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Colour/Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male Female Spayed Neutered Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am taking the above said dog until \_\_\_\_\_ as a potential adoption but do not have any legal rights to the above said dog until the above specified date when I will sign an adoption contract with one of the Pit Bulls for Life representatives present. I promise to treat the dog with care and respect as if it were my own dog. I promise to supply the above said dog with adequate food, water and shelter. If I am not satisfied with the above said I will return the above said dog to Pit Bulls for Life who is the above said dog's rightful owner.

This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Alberta.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_ in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Province of Alberta.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Potential Adopters Name, printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Potential Adopters Name, printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Potential Adopters Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Potential Adopters Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Pit Bulls for Life Representative, printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Pit Bulls for Life Representative, Signature)





## **FOSTER PROCESS**

Our foster homes are the most important aspect of our rescue because they are the ones that spend countless hours rehabilitating and loving their foster dog, making him or her more adoptable.

As a potential foster home the initial procedure is similar to our adoption procedure as well as reading and agreeing to our foster care handbook, agreement as well as understanding fully the animal bylaws in the area of which the potential foster home lives.

### **What is supplied?**

All items are supplied to our foster homes including:

Kennel

Collar and Leash

Training and Behaviour Assistance

Veterinary Care

Toys (indestructible) if available

### **What Support is there?**

A Pit Bulls for Life representative is always available for questions through email or by telephone. We also have trainer's and behaviourist's available, dedicated to helping our foster dogs and their foster families with any behavioural concerns.

### **What is the Commitment?**

We want your foster dog to be treated like part of the family. You can take them for car rides, visit family, go hiking, whatever your life style, we would love to see your foster dog be a part of it. This will help with socialization and enable your foster dog to be more adoptable. If your foster dog requires seeing the vet for spaying, neutering, vaccinations or any other health concerns we would ask that you make the appointment to ensure that it is convenient for you. All costs are covered by the foundation. It is hard to determine how long any particular dog will be in a foster home. Once the dog is accepted into the program and goes up for adoption Pitbulls for Life is a no kill rescue and will do everything in its power to provide rehabilitation and medical care to the foster dog in need. If Pitbulls for Life is not capable of caring for this dog to its ability Pitbulls for Life will sought out all other avenues for the dog before considering euthanasia. Please see our Euthanasia protocol for further information.

Although our dogs are temperament tested by the facilities we receive them from as well as by a Pit Bulls for Life approved certified trainer when they come into the program we do not always know if there are issues that come with these dogs. As we tell our adoption homes these dogs tend to take time to become comfortable in their surroundings before "coming out of their shell". Behaviour issues may not arise immediately, but if any do our behaviourists are available to help and our foster homes enjoy working together to socialize the dogs to increase their adoptability.

We recommend before you consider fostering for us that you become familiar with the breed and the

reputation that they have. We pride ourselves on providing the public with advocates for the breed and believe any dog is capable of doing so under the right leadership. If you would like to learn more about the breed or canine leadership our behaviourists and local trainers can assist you before you consider fostering.

### **Veterinary Care and Approval**

Veterinary care is provided for the foster dogs by PBFL. If they need veterinary care while in the foster home a PBFL Representative must first sign an approval for the veterinary clinic before any procedures are approved. If the approval is not signed than the foster home is responsible for the fees incurred if over \$250.00. If an emergency takes places and a representative is not available PBFL will allow for the care provided it is an emergency and the dog needs temporary relief from any pain or damaged caused to the foster dog up to \$250.00. PBFL is not responsible for any damages incurred to the foster homes own dogs or other animal in the home.

#### ***The PBFL approved clinics are listed below:***

##### *Calgary*

Centre Street Veterinary Clinic

Ranchlands Veterinary Clinic

##### *Edmonton Area*

Spruce Grove Veterinary Clinic, Spruce Grove

Riverview Veterinary Clinic , Devon

## **FOSTER PROGRAMS**

**The following are specific programs we offer to facilitate our dogs**

### **Temporary or Emergency Foster Home**

These are the foster homes that will provide a transfer place or dog sitting while their regular foster home takes a break. We feel our foster homes should not have to dedicate their whole lives to these dogs and cannot always take them on their holidays.

*Transfer Homes:* When dogs come into the program we often need a place for them to stay until they can be transported to their foster home that may be in a different area of the province. In case there is a few days delay we use a transfer home. If you are interested in providing a transfer home please state so on your application.

*Emergency/Relief Homes:* These homes will provide temporary care for our foster dogs in case of an emergency or planned holidays for our foster parents. In case of an emergency the homes must be prepared to move quickly to provide the appropriate care for the dog in need. When there are planned holidays we will have the relief home and foster home meet to discuss the dog and any other arrangements. This may be in your own home or in the home of the foster parent in charge. If you are interested in providing a temporary foster home or dog sitting service throughout the year for our foster dogs please state so on your application.

### **Mom and Tots Foster Program**

Although this seems like a lot of fun it is often a lot of hard work and heart break! Occasionally we will be asked to take in a pregnant mom or a new mom with plenty of babies to care for and socialize properly. The little ones go quick but the mom is often left behind. In this case if you are interested we ask that you are familiar with whelping and puppy care as well as socializing new babies. We also want to ensure you are available to these puppies and mom majority of the time due to the equivalency of a full time job training these puppies appropriately to ensure a high adoption rate and caring for mom's needs at the same time. The puppies will be in the program until they are at least 8 weeks of age and mom is often with us longer. Be prepared for lot of sleepless nights, veterinary visits, play, poop but more importantly fun and satisfaction in knowing that you have saved many lives!

### **Hospice Care Foster Program**

Occasionally we do get some geriatric pit bulls in need of extra special care and attention. These dogs rarely are adopted out due to their age and medical care so their foster homes are sometimes their final home. This can be a very difficult program to become a part of as we often have to say good bye. We do keep these dogs up for adoption in case an angel comes to their rescue, but we do understand that most applicants want younger dogs. In this case you will be supplied with all the general foster home supplies and medical care for the dog. We do ask that you provide a senior diet and spoil the dog with lots of love and attention during their elderly years. If you are interested in becoming a guardian angel for a geriatric pit bull please fill out a foster application and we can discuss the program further.

**Foster to Adopt Program**

In some cases you apply to adopt a dog through our regular program but none of the dogs we have in the program would be a suitable match. If this happens we offer the foster to adopt program where we match you up with a dog that is in need of placement directly from a shelter. This program allows you to be the foster home for this dog prior to adoption. As a foster home everything will be supplied for you as any other foster homes would be and as a foster home you would be responsible for ensuring that you get your foster dog to the spay / neuter and vaccination appointment. Take a couple of weeks to decide if this is the dog for you and then we will either place your foster dog up for adoption or finalize the adoption with you and pick up the foster supplies. The dog will stay with you until we find a suitable home for his/her adoption or another foster home is available for transfer.

## **INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL FOSTER HOMES**

Before making the call, reading over the application is of utmost importance. We then have an idea of whom and what kind of animals, live in the household. As well as an idea of the lifestyle of the potential home. Of course we cannot know for sure until speaking to them and doing a home check. We prefer the interview and home check to be done by two separate people as then we can get two different opinions on the person(s).

*The following are suggested questions you can ask during the interview:*

Ask about their animal(s) personalities

The daily routine of their animals

Have they ever been to obedience classes or a behaviourist of any kind?

How do they feel about off leash dog parks?

How much exercise does their current dog get?

Are they prepared to and how would they handle food aggression issues?

Are they prepared to and how would they handle dog aggression issues?

Are they prepared to and how would they handle separation anxiety issues?

Are they prepared to and how would they handle cat aggression issues?

Are they prepared to and how would they handle resource guarding (toy possession)?

Would they be willing to go to weekly socialization/obedience classes if needed for their foster dog?

How would they crate train their foster dog?

How would the feeding ritual go in their household?

Are they comfortable feeding a good quality food at their own cost?

How long are they prepared to take on a foster dog?

How much are they willing to be a part of the adoption process? Do they understand that the adoption will ultimately be decided by a PBFL representative.

Tell them what is entailed in fostering a PBFL dog as well as a rough idea of how the adoption application goes so that they are somewhat prepared when this happens. We can also let them know of the different programs we have for our foster dogs, in case one interest's them more than others. Keep in mind moms and tots program must only have foster parents that have done this before.



## *Foundation of Alberta*

Box 3608, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### HOME CHECK GUIDELINES

The following is a general guideline to follow while doing a home check for PBFL.

#### Outdoor Area

- ✓ What the yard looks like, approximate size and care
- ✓ Preferably fenced
- ✓ Clean – no garbage or items for the dog to hurt themselves or chew on while unattended.

#### Home Interior:

- ✓ What the outside and inside of the home looks like; type, good size for a big dog and care
- ✓ Clean – no garbage lying around or things for the dog to chew on while unattended.

#### Dog Sleeping Arrangements:

- ✓ We prefer the dogs to sleep in their kennel or with the foster parent (in their room or on their bed)

#### Animal Eating Arrangements

- ✓ Dog should have a specific area to be fed.

- ✓ Dogs should eat at least once daily by the recommended feeding guide on the dog food of choice. We do not allow our foster dogs to free feed as we believe feeding is part of being a pack leader. We prefer that the foster dog sit, stay and wait until it is told it is okay to eat.
- ✓ A healthy higher end dog food is preferred, but whatever the owner can afford within reason (no Old Roy or Costco Brand) – we want the foster dogs to have a clean shiny coat to keep them looking adoptable.

**Exercise:**

- ✓ What the foster parents plan to do for exercising the foster dog.
- ✓ Dogs should be routinely walked at least ½ hour daily – we understand that this is not always feasible.
- ✓ We do not want the foster dogs at the dog park due to them being in an adoptive program if something were to happen we would be liable.

**Routine:**

- ✓ This is to give us an idea of what the general routine of the foster family is on a daily basis as well as on weekends. This would be hours of work, activities etc.

**People:**

- ✓ General demeanor and vibe you get from the people. What kind of dog owners are they.

**Animals:**

- ✓ Other animals in the home, what are they and how do they act and respond to their owners?

**Potential Concerns:**

- ✓ Any potential concerns you may have during the home check. This could be the environment, people, pets or a general comment that may have been made during the home check.

**Good Matches for:**

- ✓ Sex, age and grade of dog they could handle
  - Grade I – easy dog, no pitty experience needed (may never have owned a big dog)

- **Grade II - no Pitty experience but has owned big dogs or an easy Pitty**
- **Grade III – Pitty experience with a fairly energetic but non aggressive dog**
- **Grade IV – Pitty experience with a somewhat difficult dog. Willing to work with a foster dog that needs special attention and discipline (willing to take them to classes and rehabilitate them as needed)**
- **Grade V – A lot of Pitty or difficult dog experience willing to work with and rehabilitate a specific problem dog (please let us know what type they are willing to work with)**

**General Comments:**



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**PBFL Volunteer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Foster Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **FINDINGS:**

#### **Outdoor Area:**

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#### **Home Interior:**

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#### **Dog Sleeping Arrangements:**

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#### **Animal Eating Arrangements:**

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**Exercise:**

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**Routine:**

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**People:**

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**Animals:**

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**Potential Concerns:**

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**Good Matches for:**

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**General Comments:**

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## Foundation of Alberta

Box 3608, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8  
pbflcanada@yahoo.ca

### Foster Application

#### **Foster Parent Information**

Foster Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Program Interest:

- Regular Foster Home
- Mom and Tots Foster Program
- Hospice Care Foster Program
- Transfer Foster Program
- Emergency/Relief Foster Program
- Foster to Adopt Program

Living Accommodations:

- |                                    |      |       |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> House     | own: | rent: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condo     | own: | rent: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment | own: | rent: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:    |      |       |

Landlords contact information:

*The following information is not intended to be used against you, it will be used to determine the proper foster match that will create the maximum adoption quality of the dog placed with you (your full honesty will provide this for us and is greatly appreciated):*

Why do you want to foster a bully?

What experience do you have with the various bully breeds?

List of persons in the household (including yourself):

Name: Age: Sex: Occupation:

Name: Age: Sex: Occupation:

Name: Age: Sex: Occupation:

Name: Age: Sex: Occupation:

Do you have any other pets in the house?

Name: Species: Breed: Age: Sex: Fixed:

Name: Species: Breed: Age: Sex: Fixed:

Name: Species: Breed: Age: Sex: Fixed:

Name: Species: Breed: Age: Sex: Fixed:

Do any of your current pets have issues with other animals, if yes, explain

Are your current pets up to date with vaccinations: Yes No

Do you have a regular veterinarian clinic that may be willing to provide discounts to our cause?  
If so, please provide name and contact number:

Are you willing to travel to one of Pitbulls for Life Veterinarian clinic(s) in the event of an emergency?

On average, how many hours per day are you away from your home with your job:

How many hours do you feel you can spend with your foster dog?

Do you have a designated area for the dog to stay while you are out of the house or at night, explain:

Is there anyone else in your household that would be responsible also for the general care/exercise of the foster dog:

Do you feel comfortable teaching the dog basic manners to help its adoptability?

What methods will you use to teach your foster dog basic obedience?

What is the length of time you would be willing to foster a particular dog:

How would you deal with the following?

Barking:

Chewing:

Mouthing (chewing on you in play):

Pulling you around on leash:

Housebreaking:

Crate Training:

Do you feel comfortable exercising an energetic dog or one with no leash manners?

Do you have any other restrictions for your household, if yes, explain:

Will you foster (please check all that are applicable)?

- puppies (under 4 months) - if you are away from your home for longer than 4 hour increments due to work, puppies may not be a suitable foster for housebreaking purposes
- adult dogs
- male
- female
- a dog that is not housebroken yet
- a dog with a litter
- a dog that may not get along with other dogs
- a dog with very little obedience training
- a dog with separation anxiety

## **FOSTER AGREEMENT**

Foster agreements are specific to the area the potential foster homes lives in:

Foster Agreement Edmonton  
Foster Agreement Calgary  
Foster Agreement Other Areas

Due to this reason we have attached the foster agreements separately to look over. They are very similar, the only difference is in accordance with the animal bylaws in the area.

## **FOSTER CARE HANDBOOK**

The foster care handbook is attached due to its size, please look over it so that you may understand what is expected of a foster home incase the potential home has any questions pertaining to caring for a PBFL dog. There are many recommendations PBFL on how to handle certain situations.

*Please be advised the only volunteers that should be giving advise on the potential for dogs fights in a home and how to handle them should be given only by the foster coordinator (or anyone approved by the foster coordinator). If you have not been given previous permission to do so you may be asked to no longer volunteer for PBFL. The reason for this is the information given or how to handle one is a very touchy subject due to the illegal nature of dog fighting and the tools used for these events are also illegal. We do not support this event at all! And understand fully that these dogs have the potential to harm another dog and the foster coordinator will deal with it appropriately if this so happens.*

ADOPTION DAYS – COMING SOON!

## Expo's and Promo Events & Fundraising Events

Information as per Event will be sent out prior to registration to each volunteer of interest. The following are general guidelines to be followed when volunteering at one of these events.

- Volunteers are asked to engage people in conversation; don't wait till they come to you.
- Volunteers are asked not to answer any question unless fully aware of the correct response for the organization in regards to all areas:  
Ex. Fostering, adoption, training, behaviour assessments  
If an answer cannot be given at that time respond with I am not sure but I can find out for you.
- There will always be listed information at any merchandise table; Volunteers are to study and know costs of merchandise before the event
- Shifts will be limited if possible to 3-4 hours at most. There will always be a senior volunteer or board member present to supply answers to question(s). We must work together as a team and ensure the same (and correct) information is being handed out, verbally & physically.
- Volunteers should always be wearing Pitbulls for Life merchandise during events to promote the organization. T- Shirts can be supplied at this time free of charge.
- Volunteers should have familiarity on the dogs available for adoption; especially those that have been in our program for a longer period of time
- When asked or approached by questions regarding training or behaviour assessments direct these question to our approved trainers & behaviourists that will be provided prior to the event. If this is not enough ask them to contact the board (website via email) to get the correct information. Hopefully we may have one in the booth with us to benefit the event!
- We cannot promote another company within a booth at Pet Expo via pamphlets, cards, etc. This is written in the rules of each Expo we attend. We are supplied with this information ahead of registration. This opens us up to a possible fine or not being allowed back to the next event.
- Private ownership of dogs by volunteers are not to be present during such events unless foster dogs are not available as it takes away from the foster dogs.
- Petitions of any kind cannot be signed under the Pitbulls for Life name as we must remain impartial on such petitions as an organization. (signing a petition as an individual – is your own choice).



## PBFL MERCHANDISE

T-Shirts	\$10.00	Available in Navy, Grey and Pink
Sweaters	\$15.00	Available in Navy and Grey
Tanks	\$25.00	Available in Black and White
Hoodies	\$40.00	Available in Black and Grey
Zip Up Hoodies	\$40.00	Available in Black Only
Hats Profit	\$30.00	Black Only
Profit Youth	\$30.00	Black Only
Military	\$30.00	Available in Charcoal or Stone
Magnet Rescue	\$5.00	
Magnet Dog Fighting	\$8.00 / \$5.00 with other magnet purchase	
Car Fresheners	\$5.00	
Paw Charms	\$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00	
Key Chains	\$5.00	Available in Pitbull and Am Staff
Coffee Mugs	\$20.00	
Water Bottles	\$20.00	Available in black or red
Vinyl Decals	\$5.00	Various Head Styles and Bodies
	\$2.00	Dog Paw