
Behavioral Protocol Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of the Behavior Protocol Policy is to ensure that Colorado Canine Rescue (CCR) is only offering well-adjusted dogs for adoption into new homes. This will reduce the number of adoption returns and provide a better transition and experience to our adoptive homes.

Scope:

Foster Homes, the Intake, Adoption, and Foster Home Coordinators, and a Behavioral Specialist.

POLICY

I. Policy Statement

Any dog within the rescue that has received an abnormal mark on its Foster Dog Information Form or Foster Dog Update Information Form, which indicates that the dog is exhibiting questionable behavior problems in the Foster Home, will be assessed by a behavioral specialist prior to being placed up for adoption.

II. Procedure

A. The Foster Home will complete the Foster Dog Initial Observation Form 10-14 days after the foster dog's intake into CCR. Monthly updates will be documented via completion of the Foster Dog Observation Update Form within the first five days of each month.

1. If there are abnormalities on either form that indicate a behavioral issue, the Foster Home Coordinator will consult a behavioral specialist.

B. During the foster period, if there are any changes in the foster dog's behavior, if any unwanted behaviors develop, or any improvements in behaviors occur, the Foster Dog Observation Update Form will be submitted with the changes indicated.

1. The Foster Home is welcome to contact the Foster Home Coordinator directly with more information or for urgent situations.

2. Any possible dangerous or urgent behavioral situations will be handled immediately by the Foster Home Coordinator and/or a behavioral specialist.
- C. A behavioral specialist will work together with the Foster Home and Foster Coordinator to determine what the plan of care should be for the foster dog.
1. It will be determined if the Foster Home is capable and willing to do what is needed for rehabilitation of the dog or whether a board and train program is needed.
 - a. If the Foster Home is not able to continue fostering, the Foster Coordinator will work in conjunction with the Intake Coordinator to see about possible transfers within the group or to a training program.
- D. The behavioral specialist, Foster Home and Foster Coordinator will determine when the dog is ready to be adopted.
1. Together, the behavioral specialist, Foster Home and Foster Home Coordinator will determine if there are any special considerations that need to be considered during the adoption process. These needs will be communicated to the Adoption Coordinator.
- E. All behavioral assessments, updates, and treatment plans will be documented and kept permanently in the foster dog's file.
1. Full disclosure of all behaviors and characteristics of the dog, including any bite incidents towards humans or other dogs, will be provided to the potential Adopters.