

Greetings Foster Carers,

Thank you to everyone who sent the reports on their foster dogs to their mentors and RSC (Rescue Sub Committee.)

It was wonderful see the success which so many of you are having with your current fosters and we look forward to seeing many of them on the website soon.

Those of you experiencing difficulties or needing help will be contacted soon to plan the next step. All current members of the RSC are foster carers themselves so we realise how difficult this role can be.

At the moment there is a dedicated team working to bring the new website on-line as soon as possible. This has been a huge undertaking and the site is continuously being tested to try to eradicate glitches before the 'big day.'

Once the new site is up and running, forms such as the Mentor Report will be much quicker and easier to complete.

Meanwhile, hang in there, the information you are sending us is vital to our future planning and assisting and supporting you in the best possible way.

Just a reminder, especially for our newer foster carers: our Pound Liaison Officers, who are all members of RSC are –

DAS (Domestic Animal Services) Canberra – Symonston: Emma Benedetti
Queanbeyan and Yass – Lyn Boyer
Goulburn – Karina Peck

When you are picking up your new foster, it is the Pound Liaison Officer who will coordinate the arrangements. They will notify the relevant Pound that the dog is safe with ARF and help you with any other arrangements. This way ARF maintains the best possible relationship with each of the Pounds.

Do you have the equipment and supplies you need to care for and train your foster dog? If not, then the ARF Store may have just what you need.

We have three locations full of wonderful goodies just waiting for you. Please make use of these many great products.

Wendy is southside at Wanniassa – email: parsnips@grapevine.net.au
Lyn is northside at Kaleen – email: sophie89@grapevine.net.au
Kay is northside at Florey – email: walandkay@gmail.com

If it is difficult for you to pick up, then we can organise a delivery.
If you no longer need some of your bigger items of ARF equipment such as crates/dog runs and you return these when no one is at home, would you please send a follow up email so that the equipment register can be kept up-to-date and as accurate as possible. Then we know who has what and where.

Foster Carer Information Session

As you may be aware, the RSC has been holding information sessions for members

of the public who are interested in becoming foster carers. The sessions provide detail on what people can expect as an ARF foster carer – the good, the bad and the ugly! – and also provides them with the opportunity to meet current carers and ask questions about the fostering process. So far, feedback we have received indicates the sessions have been useful in providing people with realistic expectations about what being a carer entails – the fun stuff, as well as the paperwork and the potential for unexpected behavioural traits. Here are four sessions held each year. They will be advertised on the ARF Facebook page but if you know of anyone who might be interested or you think would make a great asset to ARF, feel free to invite them along. Equally, if you would like to attend a session to offer your expertise and experiences please feel free to do so, the more the merrier!

If you have suggestions on what you would have liked to know before becoming an ARF carer please let us know! We're also always on the look out for both cute and disastrous pictures of our fosters and their impact on our lives. Both can be sent to carer.recruitment@fosterdogs.org or any RSC member.

Where: Burns Club, Kambah
When: Monday, 30 September
Time: 6pm

ARF Training

For those of you lucky enough to attend, ARF has provided some great Training opportunities so far this calendar year.

1. Resource Guarding – Dallas Burkevics (January)
2. Noseworks – John Sam (March)
3. Clear Canine – Sharonika Williamson (March)
4. Puppy Training – Dallas Burkevics (May)
5. Safe Dog Handling – Andre Clarke (August)
6. The Bravery Workshop – Birdy O'Sheedy (August)

The next ARF training will be held on Friday 20 September at 7pm and will cover the first two weeks of fostering. The venue is yet to be confirmed but we are hoping it will be at the Dickson Tradies. More information to come early next week. There is also an event set up in the ARF Volunteers facebook page.

If you are a new foster carer it is expected that you will attend at least a couple of our training sessions each year.

We know that you are all busy, but in order for us to provide the best training most relevant to you as our current foster carers, we would ask that you take some time to answer a few questions and send it back to us at rsc@fosterdogs.org.

We value your input so that ARF and RSC can continue to evolve to meet your needs. Please answer as many questions as you wish and just use the numbers as an indicator.

1. Do you attend ARF Training Sessions/Workshops? Why/Why not? Please elaborate.

2. How can we make it easier for you to do so eg time of day/length of session?
3. Please suggest some workshops you would like to attend eg separation anxiety/correct nutrition.
4. From your experience, is there anyone you can recommend as a possible worthwhile presenter/facilitator
5. What is the most difficult thing about being a foster carer eg choosing the right dog/training/paperwork?
6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Please send your reply to rsc@fosterdogs.org rather than reply all as our mail server won't cope with the traffic if everyone replies all.

We are looking forward to your feedback so that we can organise the best presentations possible.

Warmest regards,
Sue Robinson
for Rescue Sub Committee
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