

BOSTON TERRIER CLUB OF CANADA RESCUE

foster homes



Foster homes are a critical part of our rescue program as we do not have a shelter facility. Quite simply, without a safe place for our Boston Terriers and Boston Terrier mixes to go, we would have to turn away these dogs in need.

Fostering is a serious commitment and Boston Terrier Club of Canada Rescue (BTCCR) screens each foster applicant to ensure they will provide a safe haven for our rescued dogs. We are looking for special loving homes that will provide not only food and shelter but also any socialization and training required to help make these Bostons better companions.

There are many reasons why a dog ends up in rescue. Some were purchased on a whim by people that didn't understand the temperament of the breed.

Sometimes lifestyle changes such as job loss or divorce dictate giving up a pet. Other dogs lose their homes when their owners become too sick or elderly to provide the necessary care, when they enter an assisted-living facility, or when they pass away. Still others are dumped by owners who just no longer want them.

Whatever the reason, most Boston Terriers will come into rescue with some "baggage". Some will require special care, such as medical attention, increasing weight or strength, socializing or building trust. They may be fearful or timid. They may be sad, pining for a beloved owner. They may have suffered cruelty or indifference. Foster homes must become familiar with how to help dogs in transition adjust.

Fostering can involve housetraining and/or crate training as well as introducing some basic obedience. Additionally, you

may be asked to take the foster dog to scheduled veterinary appointments. (BTCCR does cover all related veterinary costs for our foster homes.)

Should an issue arise with a foster dog that you cannot handle, you are expected to contact BTCCR right away so that we can work to make other arrangements. However, we view taking a foster dog as a commitment similar to adopting a dog. We know fostering is not always easy, and we expect our foster homes to make every effort to work with a dog to help it overcome any issues it may have. Please remember, while we support our foster homes in whatever way possible, it may not always be practical or possible to move a dog to another foster home at a moment's notice.

Here are some important things to consider before applying to be a foster home for BTCCR:

Do you have the time required?

A rescued dog will need love and attention – and patience – so be prepared for the time commitment involved.

If you have other pets, will they be accepting of the rescued dog?

Some jealousy and 'pack hierarchy' behavior can almost always be expected – are you prepared to deal with this? Do you have a safe place to keep the rescue separate from the other animals in your home if necessary? Do you agree with crate training? If you have cats, be aware that some Bostons are cat chasers.

Do you have children? Are your children respectful around pets? Some Boston Terriers are quite small and can

easily be hurt by children who don't know how to treat them, while others can be "over-enthusiastic" around small children, and are capable of knocking them down while attempting to "kiss" their faces or engage them in play. For the safety of both the dog and the child BTCCR is careful when placing any dog in a family with children.

Are you willing to accept a dog with some behavioural issues? Again, some rescue Bostons have experienced emotional and physical trauma, while others have never received adequate obedience training.

Are you willing to give up to a new owner a dog with which you create a strong bond? This is one of the most difficult aspects of being a foster caretaker, but it is inevitable. It takes a very special person to open their hearts to one of these dogs, to love and nurture them for a period of time, and then give them up when their new permanent home is found. There are usually some tears when your foster pet leaves but there is also an immense feeling of satisfaction. It is especially rewarding to get an update from the new home and hear them brag about the most wonderful dog in the whole world, and know that it was your love and care that helped to make that pet such a special animal.

Still ready to foster? We hope so!

"You may not be able to save every dog in the world, but to the one you save you are the world."

To receive our foster home application or for further information email btccfoster@yahoo.ca
We look forward to hearing from you!