

\\#RESCUELOVE\\

2018 //
EDITION //

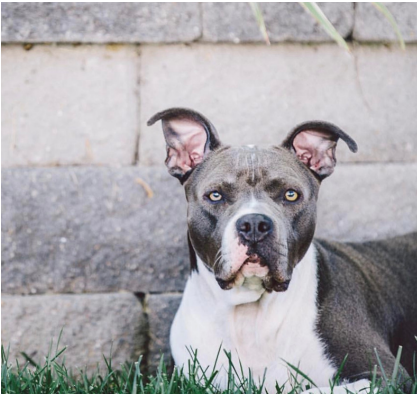
FOODS guide FOR PETS

WWW.SCRATCHMYBELLY.ORG

Inside Fostering

AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE
FROM SCRATCH MY BELLY

WHAT'S INSIDE...



FOSTERING SAVES LIVES

BY THE SMB CREW

Scratch My Belly would cease to exist without the help of our incredible fosters and volunteers who have graciously and selflessly opened their hearts and homes to dogs in need of a loving, safe space during their transition from the streets or high kill shelters to their forever families. By offering your time and home as a foster dog parent, you not only enable us to save the lives of more abandoned, unwanted,

and helpless animals, but also provide our dogs with desperately needed attention and affection as they wait to be adopted.

"We are an all breed rescue here to save and create compassion and education towards overlooked shelter animals. We apply 110% of our effort to finding not just a home for our rescued animals, but the best home."

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
[@Scratchmybelly.org](https://www.facebook.com/Scratchmybelly.org)

INSTAGRAM
[@ScratchMyBellyDogRescue](https://www.instagram.com/ScratchMyBellyDogRescue)

TWITTER
[@BellyScatched](https://twitter.com/BellyScatched)

HISTORY, MISSION & CONTACTS

Scratch My Belly is a non-profit, all breed dog rescue created to save animals from high-kill shelters in Southern California and the streets of Mexico. Since being founded in 2013 and receiving our non-profit status in mid-2014, we have worked tirelessly both individually and with the help of other rescue groups to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome over 300 pets in need.

Every year, over 10 million animals are brought into animal shelters across the USA alone, and more than 5 million of those are put to sleep via euthanasia or gas chamber. That is an average of 10,000 pets per day! At Scratch My Belly, our mission is to find loving, forever homes for these animals and to raise funds to help the many neglected, injured, and sick pets deemed unadoptable.

Our long term goals are very simple:

- Continue providing foster care to our rescued pets by growing our foster base of responsible and loving individuals
- Open a facility the public may visit to adopt our rescued dogs
- Raise funds for medical care for partnership cases with other rescues
- Educate the public about shelter animals to reduce the negative stigma associated with 'rescued' pets

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3879, Rancho Santa Fe,
CA 92067

Website:

www.ScratchMyBelly.org

Facebook Group: Search "SMB
Fosters and Volunteers" to join

Founder - Frederica Ginsburg

Phone number: (858) 344-2423

Email: info@scratchmybelly.org

General Coordinators -

Christine Wood

Phone number: (760) 214-1706

Email:

christinew@scratchmybelly.org

and

Courtney Roth

Phone number: (970) 201-4671

Email:

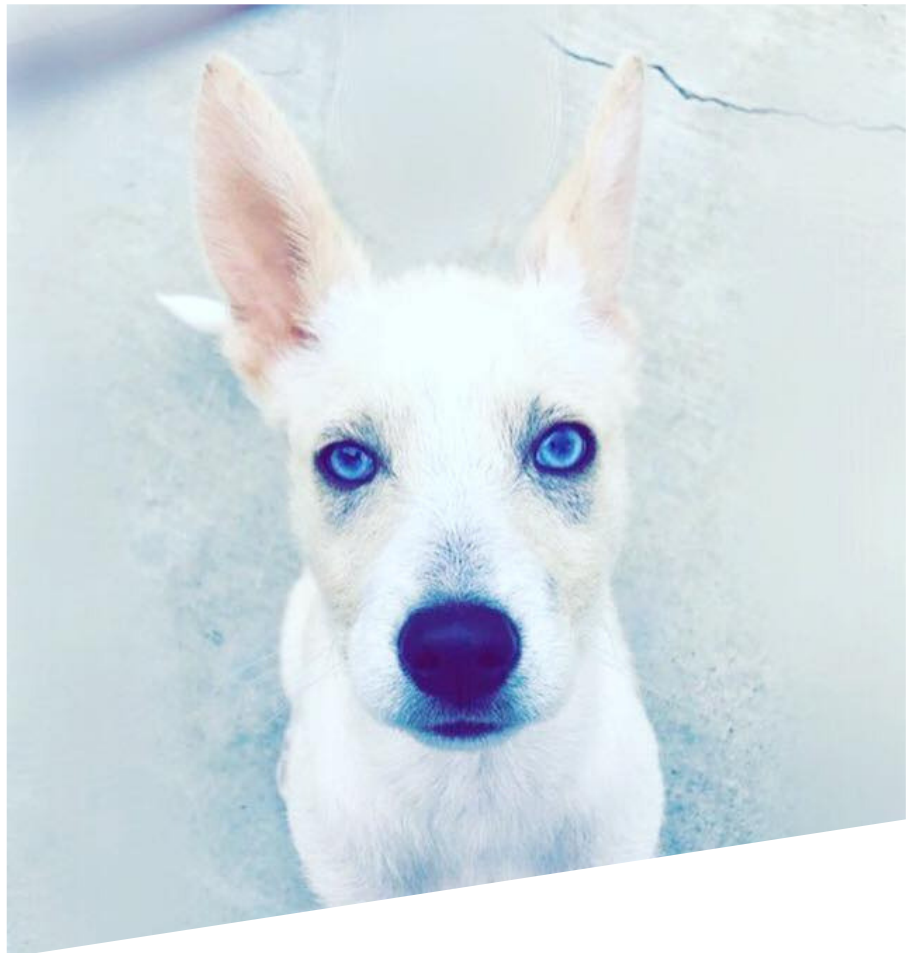
courtneyr@scratchmybelly.org

Marketing Coordinator - Danielle
Wilhelm

Phone number: (701) 200-8434

Email:

daniellew@scratchmybelly.org



GETTING STARTED

While a Scratch My Belly rescue pet is in your home, we will provide you with all the necessary supplies you will need to care for the dog(s) and will cover any costs associated with them, including medical expenses, vaccinations, or sterilization. Our primary ask of you is that you provide him/her with a safe and secure home environment and lots of love!

Scratch My Belly is happy to provide you with the following supplies:

- Dog food
- Food and water bowls
- Crate
- Bedding
- Leash, collar & ID Tag
- Flea treatment

After passing a Scratch My Belly home check as a qualified foster, and prior to introducing the foster pet to your home, please ensure that both you and your household are properly equipped to allow the animal to comfortably settle in upon arrival.

DO:

Plan ahead of time where you plan to keep your foster dog. Setting aside a designated area in your home for the foster pet and providing the animal access to a crate, bed, or other 'safe space' will help them feel more secure and confident as they acclimate to their new surroundings. If you wish to confine the dog to one particular area of your home,

we recommend the use of baby gates to block entrances to other rooms. Please note that if you do not intend to give your foster dog free rein in your home, their designated area should be appropriately sized with access to food, water, bedding, and their crate. We also recommend they be in an area that you spend time in or pass through often as a way to help with their socialization. Make sure that any potential dangers to the animal (including but not limited to: medicines, chemicals, and any toxic household plants/foods) are out of reach.

Tip: Some common household plants such as Aloe Vera, Dieffenbachia, Philodendron, etc. are poisonous to dogs if ingested. Do your research to make certain that the animal is not subject to these risks. Please also check your yard to make sure there are no poisonous or toxic plants, flowers or herbs. Ensure that trash cans, electrical wiring, litter boxes (if applicable), and other breakable objects/items of value are out of reach or put away. Double check that both your home and yard are secure to avoid the dog escaping. The adjustment period:

Once you have brought your foster dog home, it will be important to give them time to acclimate to their new surroundings. If you notice your

dog seems timid or uneasy at first, be patient! This adjustment period as they familiarize themselves with you, your family, and their foster home is completely normal and to be expected. During this time, we ask that you keep stimulation to a minimum and allow your pet to get used to your immediate family without loads of friends, neighbors, and extended family present. Too much activity may cause your dog to feel overwhelmed and behave unexpectedly towards another animal or person. Dogs need space to adjust, and moving environments can be stressful and exhausting for them. Please see below for tips to help your foster dog acclimate to your home:

Take the time to show your pet the location of their bed, food/water dish, and crate (if applicable) immediately after bringing them into your home. Give your dog time to sniff around your home and yard. Letting them familiarize themselves with the many new smells will allow them to settle in more easily.

Be sure to take your dog out to use the bathroom frequently. Even a house-trained dog may have an "accident" or two during this period of adjustment. Allow your foster dog ample "quiet time" and limit the amount of visitors in your home. Constant stimulus at first may stress them out.

INTRODUCTION TO RESIDENT PETS

Let your foster dog first adjust to you and their living environment before introducing them to any resident pets you may have. Take it slow! And most importantly, we urge you to spend as much quality one-on-one time with your new foster dog as possible!

Please keep in mind that rescued animals come from all types of backgrounds, so we urge you to be forgiving and loving as they adjust.

Dog introductions:

When introducing your foster dog to your resident dog(s), please be sure to supervise all interactions at first. It is always a good idea to make leashed introductions outside of the home environment in a large yard or on walk. A neutral location will create less stress and tension, and prevent your resident dog from exhibiting territorial behavior in your home. Upon meeting, allow your pets to sniff each other and praise them for positive interactions. It is also important to be cognizant of body postures, which will help you decipher whether your dogs are responding aggressively or playfully.

If the dogs have shown no signs of hostility toward each other up to this point, you may try taking them to a more

enclosed area where they may get to know each other without their leashes. Once you feel comfortable taking them both back into your home, you may do so.

Cat introductions:

In some cases, we can't be certain whether dogs have been "cat-tested", so it is always important to make these introductions carefully and safely. Begin by allowing both animals to be in the same room at the same time with your foster dog securely leashed. You should continue with this type of introduction until the dog is calm and ignores the cat, and the cat is calm, eating and using the litter box normally. If there is any fear or aggression displayed on either animal's part, continue with this step indefinitely until both the dog and cat seem happy and relaxed around each other.

Tips:

Please do not leave your foster dog unattended with your resident pets at first. Even if they seem to get along well with you present, you should separate the dogs/cats when you leave your house. After your foster dog has adjusted, you may reassess whether separation is still necessary. Provide your foster pet an area away from your resident pets. A 'safe space' for alone time will help your foster pet become more comfortable.

Feed your resident dog and foster dog separately. Dogs can be particularly possessive of food, so separating your dogs during mealtimes can prevent any unnecessary negative interaction.



****If your foster dog continually exhibits aggressive behavior towards your resident pets, it may be a good idea to keep them separated and to notify Scratch My Belly of their preference for a home without other dogs/cats.**

DAILY CARE

ESTABLISHING A ROUTINE

Establishing a daily routine of regularly scheduled feedings, potty breaks, and walk times is one way to help your dog acclimate. Dogs take comfort in having a routine they can count on! It is also important to take note of your foster dog's daily appetite and energy level, as these observations will make it easier to spot any possible medical issues.

NUTRITION

As mentioned, Scratch My Belly will provide you with premium quality dog food for you to feed your foster pet. The quantity of food will vary depending on weight, age and activity level, so please confirm with Scratch My Belly the frequency and amount that you should feed your foster dog. Please avoid feeding your foster dog any "people" food, as this can create health issues and a habit of begging.

If the dogs have shown no signs of hostility toward each other up to this point, you may try taking them to a more

SOCIALIZATION

Socializing your foster dog is one of the most critical aspects of fostering, as a well-socialized dog is a more adoptable dog. Spending quality time with your foster dog, providing them with love and attention, and encouraging them to behave politely around other animals and people helps Scratch My Belly (and thereby the dog) find them a wonderful forever home. You can greatly impact a rescue dog's quality of life by enriching it with your time and affection. This being said, we ask that you do not isolate your foster dog and that you provide them with an adequate amount of exercise and company.

SAFETY

All Scratch My Belly foster dogs must be kept indoors while unattended and at night. We ask that you do not leave your foster dog outside unsupervised at any time, even if you have a fenced yard. This is to ensure that they do not escape, injure themselves, or encounter any wild animals. Coyotes and are a dangerous and very real problem throughout California.

When walking your foster dog, please also ensure that your dog is leashed at all times to avoid any negative interactions with other animals or people. This includes off-leash parks or other off-leash areas.



**PLEASE NOTE

The foster dog must NOT be taken to any public dog parks or other high traffic areas until all vaccines are in place, and you are given the okay by one of the volunteers. Failure to adhere to this may subject your foster dog to potentially fatal infectious diseases such as Parvovirus and Distemper, amongst many others.

FAQ

WHAT IS THE ADOPTION PROCESS TO ADOPT A SMB DOG?

1. Potential adopters will first submit an online adoption application for review via ScratchMyBelly.org before they are introduced to any dog.
2. Upon reviewal of the adoption application, suitable applicants may be contacted for further screening.
3. Once the initial adoption application is approved, the potential adopters will be contacted by SMB to arrange a home check.
4. After passing a home check, the foster parent will be asked to schedule a Meet and Greets between the foster dog, foster parents, and potential adopters.
5. If the Meet and Greet is successful and the applicant is still interested in the dog, the foster parents will be asked for their opinions regarding the adoption by SMB. The foster dog will still remain with the foster parent at this point.
6. The adoption will then be approved or rejected by Scratch My Belly. Please note that final approval is at the discretion of Scratch My Belly.
7. Once approved, the adopter will complete an Adoption Contract and pay the adoption fees. Foster dogs cannot be taken home by potential adopters until this Adoption Contact is completed and submitted.

8. After completion of all necessary forms, the dog may go home to its forever family!

AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING MY FOSTER DOG A HOME?

No, but Scratch My Belly does need your help to do so. Once a dog has received an adoption application and the potential adopters have passed a home check, you will be asked to arrange a Meet and Greet with your foster dog and their potential adopter. As a foster dog parent, you have invaluable insight into the dog's temperament, energy level, and behaviors that potential adopters will be interested in learning about. You being there to see the the initial interaction between your foster dog and their potential adopter will also help Scratch My Belly determine whether the adoption is a perfect match.

WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE MY OWN SUPPLIES TO CARE FOR MY FOSTER DOG?

No, we offer a foster 'package' of supplies. While donations are always appreciated, Scratch My Belly will provide you with dog food, food/water bowls, a crate, bedding, xpens/baby gates/play pen if needed, leash, Adopt Me Scarf,

and flea treatment. SMB will also cover medical costs associated with your foster pet while they are in your care.

HOW LONG CAN I EXPECT TO KEEP MY FOSTER DOG?

The amount of time you may have a particular foster dog will vary. It may be as little as a one week or up to a few months; however we do ask for a minimum 30 day commitment.



**Please note that should you need to go out of town we will always strive to accommodate, and will relocate the dog during your absence.

FAQ

HOW CAN I HELP MY FOSTER DOG BECOME MORE ADOPTABLE?

One way to help Scratch My Belly find a great home for your foster dog is to regularly provide us with updates, photos, and videos for us to post to our website and social media. This not only keeps Scratch My Belly in the loop with your foster dog's personality and behavioral progress, but also allows your foster pet to gain exposure to potential adopters. You can help your dog gain additional exposure by telling your friends, family, and those you meet in public about fostering and Scratch My Belly!

Another way to help your dog become more adoptable is by providing him/her with basic training and socialization. Your foster dog will greatly benefit from the quality time you spend with them, and helping them develop manners around other animals and people will help them get adopted quicker.

WHAT IF MY FOSTER DOG NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION?

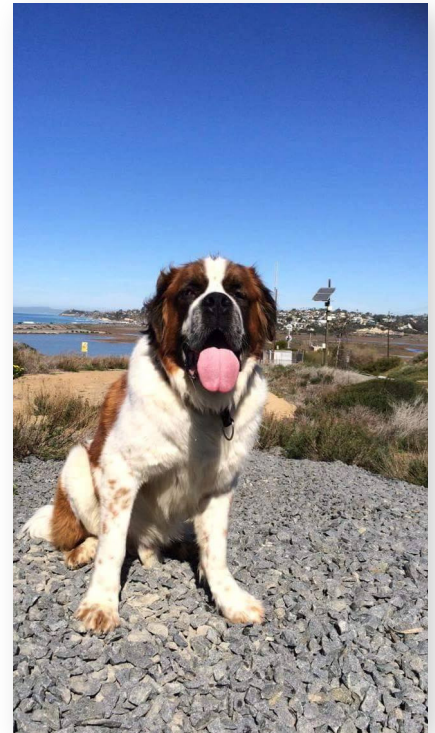
All veterinary costs are paid for by Scratch My Belly. If your foster dog becomes sick, please always contact Scratch My Belly prior to bringing your dog to the vet. If it is decided that medical attention is necessary, please reference the "Rescue Partner Vets" page found in this guide. Because SMB has established relationships with particular vets, we ask that you not take your foster dog to animal hospitals outside this list.

AM I EXPECTED TO ADOPT MY FOSTER DOG?

No, in no way are you expected or obligated to adopt your foster dog. A foster's job is to provide a temporary, loving home for Scratch My Belly rescues as we find them their forever family.

BUT... CAN I ADOPT MY FOSTER DOG?

Absolutely! It is a common occurrence with foster dog parents! We are always happy when one of our pups find their forever home, what could be better?



HELP! IS THIS NORMAL???

Please see below for common occurrences during your foster dog's adjustment period. If you encounter any of these, please don't panic! Most of these behaviors are normal and a result of the transition from a frightening shelter environment to a peaceful and loving foster home.

My foster dog is having "accidents" in the house?

Your foster dog is more likely to have an "accident" in the house during their first few days in your home. During this adjustment period, it is important to take your foster dog out to use the bathroom frequently. If your dog does go to the bathroom in your house, please remember react calmly without punishing your foster dog. Particularly with young dogs, house training is just a part of the fostering process.

Keep in mind, dog's only have a 3 second recall for correction, so be gentle and stern. Most dogs understand subtle nuisances easily and will pick up if you are displeased.

My foster dog is acting timid?

As mentioned in the "Introducing Your Foster Dog to Your Home" section of this guide, dogs always need time to adjust to new environments. Initial timidness is completely normal, and should subside with time, love, and patience.

My foster dog is sleeping a lot?

It is normal for your new foster dog to sleep often in the first few days. Most Scratch My Belly pups are rescued from high stress environments and were likely unable to get enough sleep in the shelter or on the streets. Take them sleeping as a compliment; they finally feel safe and comfortable enough to get some much needed rest.

My foster dog has diarrhea?

Unfortunately, yes, this is also normal. The transition from poor quality shelter food to the high quality food provided by Scratch My Belly will be an adjustment for your foster dog's digestive system. Your dog's diarrhea will most likely go away after a few days of nutritious food and a decompression period.

My foster dog won't eat?

During the first day or two, your foster dog may be too nervous or scared to eat. If this occurs, make sure that he/she is staying hydrated and monitor them closely. Let Scratch My Belly know if this behavior persists, as this may be a sign of other health issues.

A VET CONTACT LIST IS ATTACHED AND MAKE SURE YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR RESCUE CONTACT PRIOR TO TAKING THE DOG IN SO SERVICES CAN BE AUTHORIZED



VET CARE DIRECTORY

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Bay Animal Hospital

3681 Sports Arena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 481-3007

College Animal Hospital

5653 El Cajon Blvd
San Diego, CA 92111
(619) 286-1980

Dr. Pearson's Animal Hospital

1903 W San Marcos Blvd
San Marcos, CA 92078
(760) 598-3214

** For vaccines, fecal test and
heart worm test

**VCA Mission Animal and Bird
Hospital**

655 Benet Road
Oceanside, CA 92058
(760) 433-3763

** just in extreme situations
ONLY

ORANGE COUNTY

Pro Pet Fix

1714 E. McFadden Ave. Suite M
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 973-1840

**Family Member Veterinary
Hospital**

28731 Los Alisos Blvd
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
(949) 472-3555

Trinity Pet Hospital

24861 Alicia Pkwy Ste D
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
(949) 768-1314

MURRIETA

RIVERSIDE

WALNUT