



@ArcticRescue



New Foster Orientation

Harnessing Passion.
Saving Lives.

WELCOME!

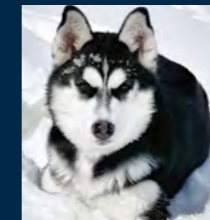


Thank You For Helping Us Save a Life!

Arctic Rescue is an all-volunteer entirely foster-based rescue. Without foster homes, we cannot rescue dogs. Period. Foster homes allow us to pull dogs and give them a stable place to learn, grow, and get ready for their forever homes.

It takes a special kind of person to give a rescue dog a home while they find their forever family. Thanks for being that person.

Our Volunteer Team



Maren Gibson



Sue Whetton



Elizabeth Sodja

for more information visit us at
arcticrescue.com

What We Provide:

While we are grateful for whatever support our foster homes can provide, Arctic Rescue is able to provide almost all supplies a foster may need while fostering.

We cover all of the following needs for all our dogs:

- Crates
- Food
- Collars
- Standard Leashes
- Belt Leashes
- Tie-outs
- Muzzles
- Approved Veterinary Expenses*
(*Learn more about this on page 14)

NOTE: For fosters far from our volunteers or with special needs (belly bands, etc.) approved purchases can be reimbursed by the rescue.



What You Can Expect From Us:

1. Support & Logistics

We will work with you to arrange the logistics for your dog, whether that's transport to you from the shelter, getting you food (if needed) or communication with potential adopters.

2. Responses as quickly as possible.

You will have a primary volunteer contact who you can reach out to with any questions or concerns, and who will help facilitate the adoption process. When fosters have questions or need additional support, the volunteer will try to arrange help as quickly as possible (around their additional full-time jobs, families, and other obligations outside of rescue).

3. Social Media Posting

We try to post our dogs on social media as frequently as possible, but cannot post without photos or content. Please tag us in any posts or stories you share and send photos/videos to your designated volunteer as we will try to post those as quickly as possible.

4. Respect for your time outside of being a foster parent.

We will do our best to reach out in a timely manner to schedule vaccine appointments, re-checks, or supply pickups.



What We Expect From Our Foster Parents:

1. Respect for our time and energy.

We are an all volunteer team with full time jobs and families, who do as much as we can during our free time. Because of this, logistics, supplies and transport can sometimes take longer than anticipated. That said, we often are managing the logistics for multiple dogs at once and things can fall off our radar. If you feel we overlooked or haven't addressed something urgent, please reach out and let us know.

2. Humane housing for our dogs.

Ensure that no cords, inedible or poisonous foods, or other potentially harmful items are nearby. Close windows, doors or gates to prevent escaping. Some of our dogs may be more successful away from other pets, for the safety of everyone.

3. Proactive care for all animals.

If you see a potential behavior or medical concern with your foster animal, please take steps to remedy the issue (such as separating animals or feeding separately). Then reach out to us - before it becomes a real problem!



What Fosters Provide:

Fosters are expected to provide the following:

- Love!!
- Patience, training if needed (potty, crate, etc.)
- Regular exercise
- Careful monitoring and updates on behavior and interactions with other animals and children.

Standards for Foster Dogs:

1. Watch for symptoms of illness such as not eating or drinking, sneezing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, or dehydration.

2. Always keep the collar on with the foster tag attached.

3. If you need to leave town and have your foster watched by someone else, please communicate that to Arctic Rescue. Depending on the circumstances we may need them to sign a waiver.

4. Do not promise anyone that they can adopt your dog. All adopters must be approved prior to adoption. If you would like to recommend an interested friend or family member, please let us know

5. (If medical) Give all medications as prescribed and let us know immediately if you are not able to give them for any reason.

Introducing Fosters to Your Dogs:

We don't know how fosters will react in every situation. While some rescues have been dog tested, others come to us with no background history with other dogs, cats, or children. Additionally, the shelter can be a very stressful place for dogs – especially if they've been there an extended period.

If having your dog meet a foster dog in the shelter is not possible before you choose to commit, allow your foster dog time to decompress and get to know your home on their own before introducing them to resident pets.

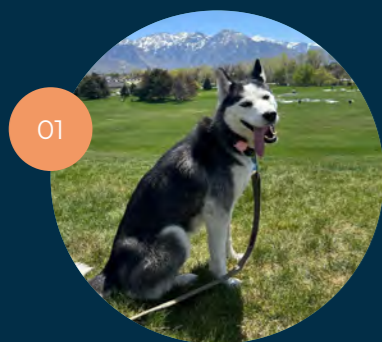
RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. Never leave your foster dog alone with resident children.
2. If you decide you would like to introduce your foster dog to your own dog, please make sure you do so safely and properly. [Click here for a short video](#) and page with information on good ways to do so.
3. If you do not feel safe with any animal, please contact us as soon as possible so we can find alternate arrangements.

Before Introducing Your Dog to a Foster:

- If we haven't verified vaccines on your foster dog, keeping them separated from current pets can help prevent the spread of illness. Having your dog vaccinated will reduce the risk of illness.
- Have a plan ahead in case the dogs don't get along as well as you hoped. Set up an extra spot in your home, such as a quiet bedroom or bathroom, where your foster dog can stay if challenges arise. This alleviates stress from your resident dog, and gives the foster dog a calm place to rest and recover. Even if your foster dog and resident dog get along, it's nice for them to have a space of their own to rest and take a break from playing.
- **There's a rescue rule of thumb: 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months.**
 - * 3 days for a dog to decompress from the shelter stress,
 - * 3 weeks for them to settle in with other dogs in the home
 - * 3 months to feel at home

Tips for successful intros



01

Neutral Location

A park or a sidewalk is a great place for dogs to meet new friends. Keeping everyone on leash for the first bit is best as well.



02

Go for a Walk

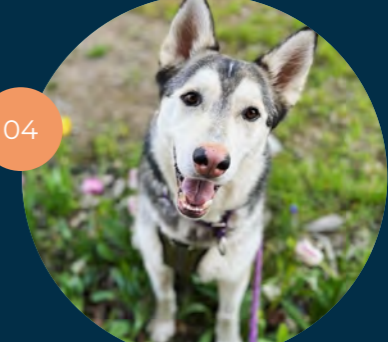
Walks are great! You can be in neutral territory and get to check out a bunch of new smells together. Win win!



03

Move Resources

Shelter dogs come from challenging situations, often with scarcity. Keeping toys or food separate until you know their behaviors can minimize conflict.



04

Take your Time!

It may take a few days for dogs to figure out how they relate to one another, so don't stress if everyone doesn't get along right away. It can take a few days.!

Doggy Body Language Tips:

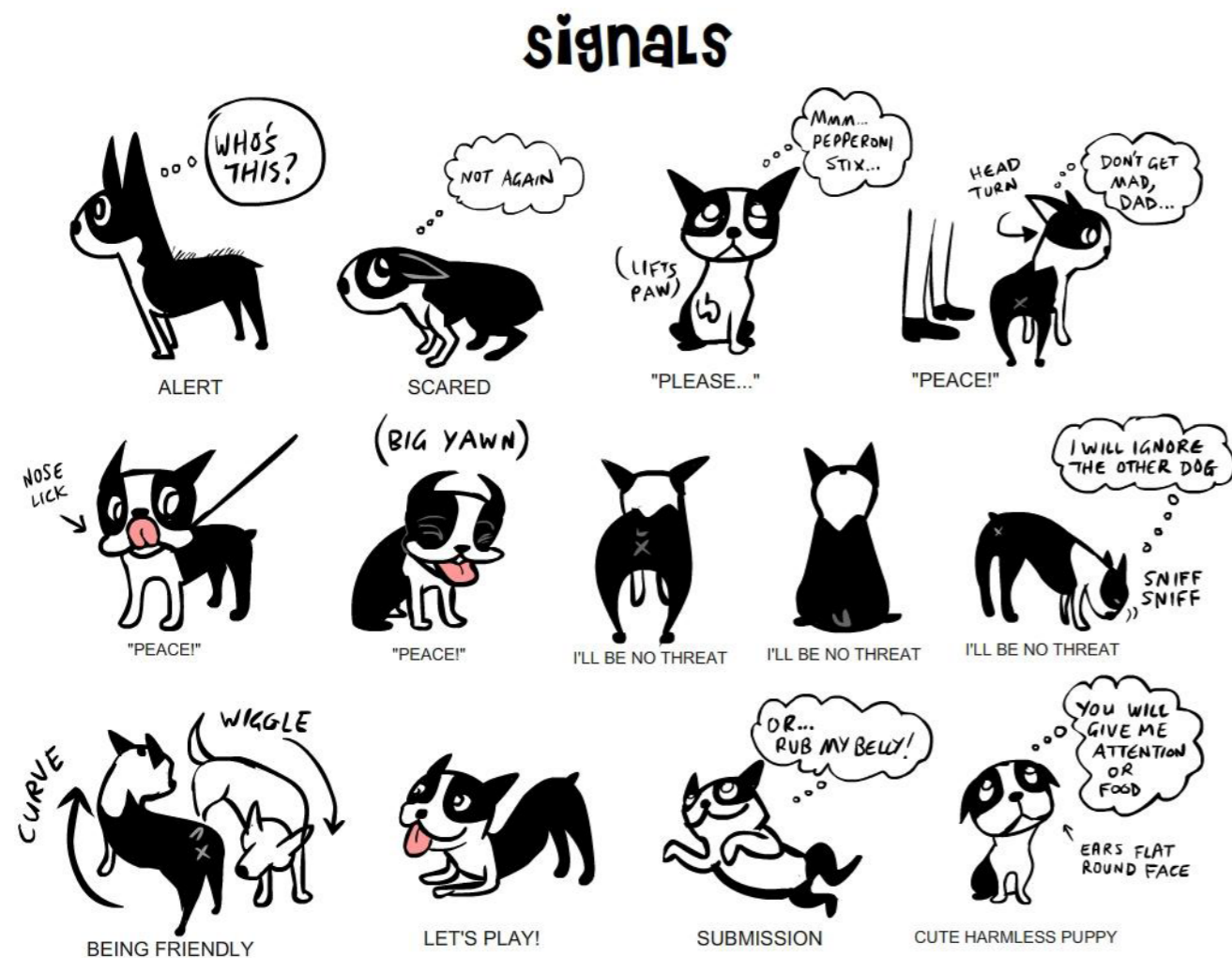
DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



© 2011 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net *lili*

Doggy Body Language Tips (continued):



Veterinary Procedures:

We know you love your foster pup, and so do we! Veterinary costs are the most expensive part of rescue, so we want to make sure they're handled well.



Rules for Vet Care:

- 1. All non-emergency vet work must be authorized** by Maren. Your foster dog is technically considered the rescue's dog, and we are responsible for their care.
- 2. Vet records should be put under Arctic Rescue,** not your personal name or address. Your foster dog is legally considered the rescue's dog, so this is for our documentation as well as tax purposes.
- 3. Medical emergencies needs to be communicated to your main contact ASAP.** After almost 30-years of rescue, AR has seen a few medical emergencies! Your volunteer point of contact can help you decide what is the best way to proceed if a medical issue arises. That said, if you feel a dogs life is in danger, please get them to a vet as quickly as possible.

What is **NOT** a **Medical Emergency:**

- One-off instances of diarrhea, vomiting bile, and/or vomiting undigested food - from an otherwise healthy animal
- Symptoms of upper respiratory infection such as coughing, sneezing, eye discharge, nasal discharge, or lethargy
- Not eating in the first 24 hours. If recently brought home and not eating due to stress, this is somewhat normal. Please contact us - we can suggest options to make your foster more at home.
- If your animal requires non-emergency care, contact your main point of contact and we can work on setting up an appointment with you.

VETS WHERE AR ALREADY HAS AN ACCOUNT:

Cottonwood Animal Hospital (Standard & Emergency)

Advanced Veterinary Care (Emergency)

Angel Paws (Non-emergency)

What **IS** a **Medical Emergency:**

- If your foster suddenly stops eating and does not resume within 24 hours.
- Laboured breathing, difficulty breathing, extreme lethargy, pale or blue gums are signs of potential shock.
- If your animal is actively injured, bleeding or hurt from an unknown cause, especially if they are not behaving normally.
- Liquid, bloody, and/or dark colored diarrhea, and/or excessive vomiting, especially if a puppy - this can be a symptom of parvovirus or panleukopenia. Contact us immediately.
- **NOTE:** Fosters who seek medical treatment for foster animals without approval from Arctic Rescue will have to pay for all expenses out of pocket.



Our Adoption Process:

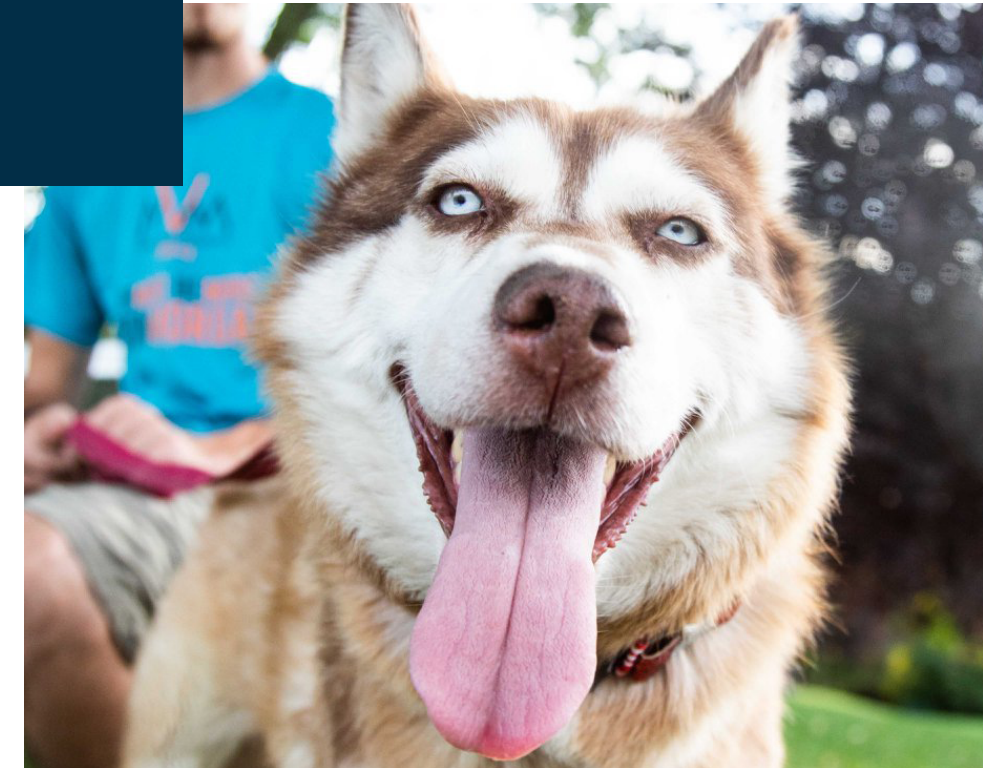
Helping dogs find their forever homes is the most exciting part of fostering! One thing that makes Arctic Rescue different is our commitment to finding the right homes for our special dogs. It can take anywhere from a few days to a few months for your foster dog to find their forever home. and we'll try to support and keep you in the loop the entire time. The approval process can take a few days up to a couple of weeks from application to adoption, depending on volunteer capacity.

Here's how it all goes down:

Can I Foster to Adopt?

Yes!

Some people would like to see how they do with the dog before committing for a lifetime. We understand! **The only thing we ask is that you see the dog through to their forever home, even if it isn't with you.** Foster homes are a precious resource and we only pull dogs based on them having a home, so it can be challenging to re-house them quickly. If you choose to adopt, you will still be asked to pay the adoption donation fee so we can cover the spay/neuter of the dog and rescue liability expenses.



Application

A potential adopter will apply on our website, Our volunteers will review the application, if we have any concerns we'll set up a phone call with the adopter and discuss with them.



Review & Approval

Then we'll do a "home check", primarily involving a fence check to verify they're ready to take on a pup who could be an expert at escape. If they're approved, then they're an approved adopter.



Meet & Greet

Next your main contact will either give you the adopter's phone number or set up a meet and greet for the adopter (and their pups, if applicable) to meet the dog and see how everyone gets along.



Papers & Adopted!

If everything went well at the meet and greet, we'll send the adopter our adoption contract and paperwork. Once returned, they can pick up their new family member whenever convenient for them and you!

Common Arctic Breed Behavioral Challenges & Solutions

- **CHALLENGE:** High Energy

SOLUTION: Lots of exercise AND brain work! Arctic breeds are working dogs and are used to having a job to do. That job used to be pulling sleds, but now it can be pulling a bike (bikejoring) a skier (skijoring) or just running! Additionally, they're very smart and love to use their brains. 15-minutes of brain exercise can be equivalent to a 1-mile walk.



- **CHALLENGE:** High Prey Drive

SOLUTION: Keep them separate from all small animals, and keep them on a leash. Though some can develop recall on trails, arctic breeds have a very strong prey drive that can be challenging to overcome.

- **CHALLENGE:** Aggressive Playing

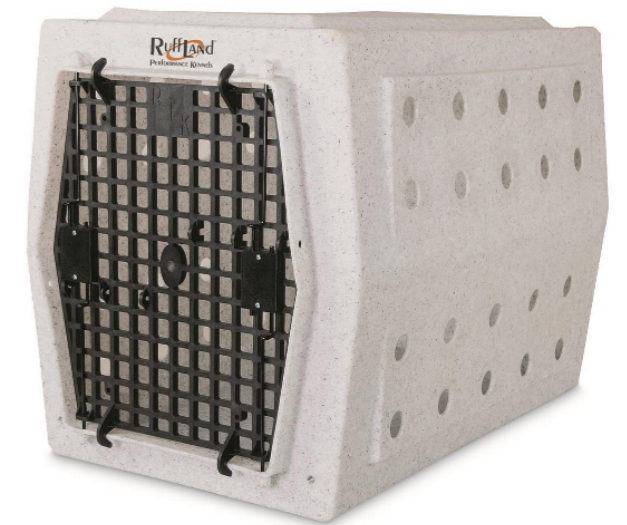
SOLUTION: Only let play with other dogs who also want to play aggressively. More gentle playing

dogs can get overwhelmed and scared by arctic antics! While noise and growling is standard in husky play, keep an eye on body language to make sure it is still play and doesn't turn aggressive. If another dog is sending signals that they're done playing and the foster is ignoring them, you can let them set the boundaries more firmly or end playtime.

- **CHALLENGE:** Separation Anxiety

SOLUTION: Exercise, consistent training and anxiety crates. This is one of the most common struggles we see with our foster dogs. Between the shelter environment, being surrendered by their families, and having high energy with nowhere to go, they can often become vocal and/or destructive when left alone.

We provide anxiety crates to fosters both for the safety of their property and the dog -- dogs can hurt themselves trying to escape when they are anxious. Training them to like the crate (feeding them in there, treats for being in there, etc) helps make the process easier.



- **CHALLENGE:** Escaping

SOLUTION: Lots of exercise AND brain work!

We cannot stress how many arctic dogs who end up in shelters are just not getting their basic exercise and stimulation needs met. That said, some dogs also struggle with anxiety and are more prone to escape no matter how much exercise they get, so:

EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS: 6-foot minimum fence, re-inforced fence bottom, tie downs with a stake.



- **CHALLENGE:** Destructive Chewing

SOLUTION: Lots of exercise AND brain work!

Again, Arctic breeds are working dogs and are used to having a job to do. If you don't give them a job, they're good at giving themselves one... and you might not like what they pick.

- **CHALLENGE:** Resource Guarding

SOLUTION: If you have a foster who is showing resource guarding behavior you don't feel equipped for, please reach out. If they are resource guarding with other dogs, feed dogs separately and remove potential objects of conflict, or monitor interactions to head off any potential conflicts..

- **CHALLENGE:** Loners

SOLUTION: Arctic breeds can be slower to warm up and show affection than other breeds, it's part of their independent nature. Sometimes they just need time to warm up, and other times they are solo doggos who just want their person. They're individuals, just like us!

More Training Resources

ADDITIONAL ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES:

1. [NORTHERN BREED UNIVERSITY FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

2. [YOUR DOG'S FRIEND YOUTUBE AND WEBINARS](#)

3. [HSU DOGGY HANDOUTS](#)





Thank you for helping us save a life!

SOCIAL MEDIA: @ArcticRescue

EMAIL: adopt@arcticrescue.com

