

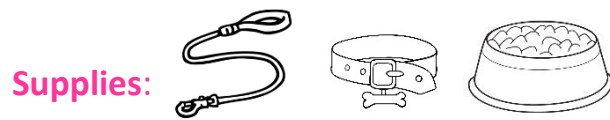


# FOSTER CARE PROVIDER MANUAL

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Thank you for being a fostering a Free Korean Dog in need. Your role as foster parent is essential in ensuring our dogs have a soft place to land while they await their forever homes.

In order to ensure your experience goes as smooth as possible for both you and your foster dog, please follow these guidelines.



Free Korean Dogs will provide necessary foster supplies, which include:

- ✓ Collar
- ✓ ID Tag
- ✓ Harness
- ✓ Leashes
- ✓ Safety Strap (if needed)
- ✓ GPS with Subscription (If needed)
- ✓ Pet Gate
- ✓ Poop Bags/Pee Pads (If needed)
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Bowls
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Bed

### Replenishing Supplies

If you require more supplies, please connect with us. To ensure you do not run out of essential supplies, we ask that you inform us of your needs 1 or more weeks before your supply will run out. We may sometimes have more supply with our volunteer, or may order them and have them sent directly to you if we cannot arrange logistics.

### Purchasing (Approved) Supplies

If you have purchased items that have been approved by the organization, please send us a copy of your receipts for which we will reimburse you via e-transfer.

### Additional Requests

For all other requests, please contact a member of our team. While we make every effort to provide supplies, please note that as a not-for-profit charity organization, we must discuss with our Board of Directors prior to approving the purchase of other/additional items. As such, we regrettably cannot guarantee reimbursement for purchase of items that have not been approved.

### Safety Protocol:

Free Korean Dogs recognizes the potential of all dogs to be a flight risk in new environments and with new people. Please ensure you are familiar with and understand our safety protocol to keep our dogs safe from becoming lost or injured as a result.

**Safety is our top priority.** While these safety precautions may seem extreme, they have been developed from our experiences in far too many cases where dogs have escaped from what appeared to be adequate safety equipment/protocols, or have escaped/become injured from owners who did not advocate for them and pushed them too quickly. We want to be proactive in keeping them safe. Should the dog become lost, contact us IMMEDIATELY.



### HANDS-FREE LEASH

In order to prevent dropping the leash and the dog bolting as a result, the hands-free leash should be attached around your waist at all times.

Most double ended (having clips on both ends) can be configured to become a hands-free leash attached around the waist. If you have trouble adjusting the leash, please see [this video](#) or connect with us.



### MARTINGALE COLLAR

A properly fitted martingale collar is more effective at preventing escape and provides more control over the animal without the choking effect of a slip lead or choke collar.

Martingales are specifically designed NOT to be cruel. Unlike choke collars, you can set the limit to which the collar can close when your dog is pulling, so that it will never cause them serious harm.

It is fitted like a regular collar. When worn, you should be able to comfortably fit 2 fingers in between the collar



### WEBMASTER HARNESS

After pulling the harness over your dog's head, their right leg goes through the front loop. Make sure the chest section and both body straps are buckled and secured.

All straps of the harness should be perfectly tapered to the dog's body when standing up or sitting down, but not restricting movement. You should be able to comfortably fit one finger through the strap.

Please see a video reference [HERE](#) on how to adjust and fit the harness properly.

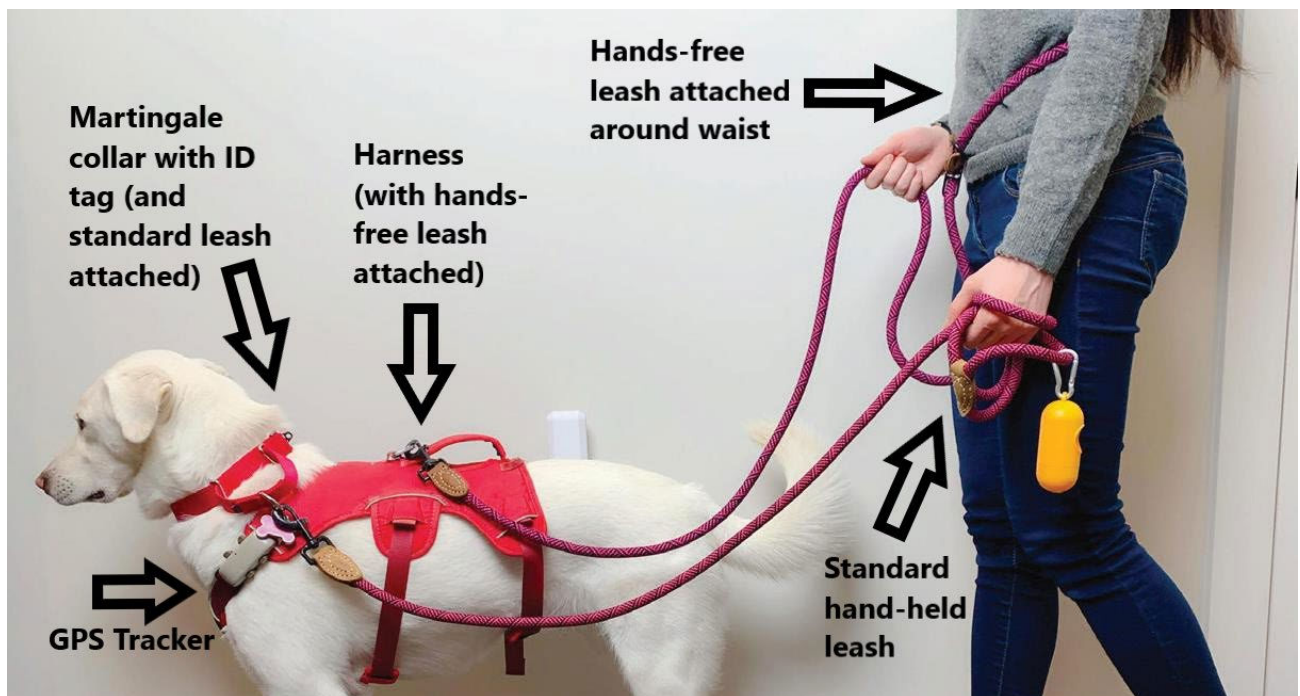


### HARNESS SAFETY STRAP (or “Back up collar”)

The harness safety strap provides a back-up if the harness or leash clip breaks/detaches.

If the harness or leash clip becomes detached, the dog will still be securely connected to the collar thanks to the safety strap!

### 2 LEASH SYSTEM (FOR DOGS 12KG/25LB & OVER)



## OTHER USEFUL TIPS & REMINDERS:

- Remember to inspect all safety equipment on a regular basis to ensure everything is in working order and free of any faultiness, wear and tear, etc.
- If the GPS unit is a bit bulky for your dog, attach it to the harness rather than the collar for more comfort.
- If the straps become long after tightening the band, tuck in the excess into the belt's protective padding.
- We recommend attaching the hands-free leash to the harness, and using the standard hand-held leash with the martingale. This provides more control while walking (especially for dogs who pull) and allows you to better "steer" your dog in the correct direction. The hand-free leash also helps counter the weight with your body when attached to the waist when the dog pulls.



## BRINGING YOUR FOSTER DOG HOME & SETTLING IN



Allowing your foster dog to decompress in order to process their new circumstances and surroundings is the best support you can provide to ensure a smooth and minimally stressful transition.

Although the following is a guide, there is no universal timeline as each dog is different. Allow your foster dog to set the pace of their own adjustment period. Provide time and space, but also be present and supportive.

### For the First 24-48 Hours of Arrival

- DO NOT take the dog outside for any walks or excursions. Only potty breaks are permitted.
- DO NOT take the dog outside if they express any fear. Use pee pads instead.

### For the First 2-4 Weeks

- Take only short walks around the neighborhood. Take the same route every time to allow your dog to become comfortable and familiar with their new neighborhood.
- When approaching the front door, say “go home” and reward them. Positive reinforcement helps them associate home with positive experiences.
- Gradually build up to longer walks until your dog grows in confidence and has bonded with you.
- If your dog is nervous outside, or afraid of putting on their leash/harness, DO NOT force the situation. Instead, acknowledge their fears and advocate for their comfort and safety. Forcing them will worsen the situation.

### DO NOT - For the First 2-4 Weeks

- DO NOT force your dog into the harness or force them outside if they are showing signs of fear.
- DO NOT take your dog on any car or public transportation excursions unless you need to go to the vet. Car, trains, and subway rides can be stressful for dogs who are still adjusting.
- DO NOT host guests in your home, or take your dog to visit family and friends in their homes.
- DO NOT take your dog to visit dog parks (including fenced in dog parks) or doggy day care.

### Other Tips & Reminders

- Predictability and consistency are comforting. Knowing what to expect and what comes next avoids additional adjustment and subsequent stress.
- Hand-feeding meals is an excellent way to bond and build trust
- Establish clear rules and boundaries with your dog to establish a leadership role and discourage the development of dominant, aggressive, or resource guarding behaviors. For example, do not allow your dog free access to the sofa or bed unless invited. Dogs who do not know the rules will make up their own.
- DO NOT stick your face in your dog’s face until you know they have settled and you are aware of their triggers.
- DO NOT play tug of war with your dog if they display any signs of possessiveness. This may induce resource guarding related aggression.
- DO NOT use a long leash or allow the dog off leash

## BEHAVIORS YOU MAY EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRST WEEKS/MONTH

*Most of these challenges will subside and become manageable over time as your dog gains confidence and settles in with the proper support. Should you require any support or guidance for any of these behaviors (or others), please connect with us.*

**Skittishness:** The most common part of the adjustment period. This can include refusal to leave the crate or safe space, hiding under furniture, running away when approached, or becoming startled over sudden movements or noise.

**Barking:** Barking is a communication method of dogs, and also an emotional outlet. Your dog may become vocal when it is reacting to something it is triggered by (ie: barking at people, especially men, when they are too close for comfort).

**Noise sensitivities:** A dog's hearing ability is heightened in new and unfamiliar places because they, by instinct, are on high alert. They may respond by barking or attempting to flee the scene.

**Reversed sleep patterns:** Given the vast time difference, it is not uncommon for dogs to be jetlagged, just as humans are. More skittish dogs may be more active in the middle of the night when everyone is asleep, at a time they feel more at liberty to roam and explore their surroundings.

**Agoraphobia:** It is not uncommon for a dog, who is accustomed to life within a kennel or boarding house, to be afraid of wide, open spaces. This includes outdoor dog parks, and may also include condo hallways and foyers.

**Fear towards harness, collar, and/or leash:** Such items can feel restrictive and be fearful for a dog with limited or no experience with them. Consider how a human would feel when put into a strait jacket without any context of the situation. It will take time for your dog to understand their new "gear".

**Fear of being left alone (also known as separation anxiety):** Dogs are naturally social creatures and may feel insecure, stressed, and anxious without their guardians. Symptoms can include excessive barking, whining, chewing, scratching, attempts to escape, and general destructive behavior when left alone.

**Irregular Potty Patterns:** Relieving themselves is a vulnerable position for a dog, and some are not comfortable doing so in the presence of people. Stress can also impact the digestive system, commonly causing either constipation or diarrhea.

**Refusal to eat or drink:** A dog who is nervous typically will not eat nor show any interest in food or water due to physiological effects. Interest in food will resume when stress levels have lowered. (Also note: Not all dogs are food driven.)

**Possessiveness of space, food, or toys (also known as resource guarding):** Rescue dogs had few things to call their own in their past life, and can fear their belongings (which they consider of high value) to be taken away. Responses are commonly exhibited by barking or growling to ward off "thieves" but can also include hoarding and hiding items.

**Scent marking:** Leaving traces of urine in several places are dogs' communication of marking/claiming territory. This is more common in males, although not exclusive.

**Submissive urination:** Dogs will sometimes urinate on the spot when feeling exceptionally excited or anxious. It is a communication method of showing social appeasement and that they are not a threat to others.

**Excessive energy:** New experiences and people can be overstimulating. Dogs may display anxiety by aimlessly pacing around the room and walking in circles. Other times, changes can be exciting and difficult to contain. Over time, dogs will learn to control these emotions and help themselves settle down.

**Leash Reactivity (Also known as leash aggression):** Occurs when a dog becomes anxious or over excited when they encounter another dog only when attached to a leash. This may include barking and/or lunging and can be placated by approaches such as understanding your dog's triggers, teaching your dog to focus on you, practicing impulse control, and setting your dog up for success by diffusing the situation before it escalates into anxiety or over excitement.

DO	DO NOT
Take things slow, one small step at a time	Set expectations on what milestones should happen, and when
Give them space and time to decompress	Hover around or crowd their space
Allow them to choose their own safe space and respect boundaries	Dictate or determine space and boundaries for them
Create positive associations when possible	Introduce new concepts too quickly
Try to understand their feelings by looking at the situation through their eyes	Push them into uncomfortable situations to teach them to cope
Resist the urge to pet	Frequently pet or cuddle
Maintain a calm and composed body language and environment	Make fast movements or loud sounds
Establish a consistent routine	Drastically change schedules or environment



## INTEGRATING WITH OTHER RESIDENT PETS



For the first 2-3 days of arrival, allow your foster dog to decompress in their own space, and for the dogs in the household to get acquainted with each other at a distance.

After the initial 2-3 days, you can slowly allow them supervised interaction. Take note of body language, dominant and submissive behaviors, etc.

Although many of our dogs have lived with and are used to the company of other dogs, stressed and insecurity brought on by lack of decompression can cause a dog to lash out. Be patient and do not rush introductions.

Establish a neutral meeting place	It's best to introduce your dog to other dogs, especially family dogs, in a neutral place outside to avoid any risk of territorial behavior. Let them follow each other, giving them the opportunity to catch whiffs of the other dog's scent. Don't force them to interact and watch for any distressed body languages.
Provide each dog with their own personal space	Once they are indoors, have your dogs in separate rooms or areas divided by a safety gate, this will allow them to acknowledge each other's presence without feeling threatened or stressed.
Supervise during meal times	Set up separate food and water bowls for each dog to avoid altercations. Feed them in the same room where they are close enough to each other's presence, but still allowing for personal space. Use the aid of baby gates and play pens if necessary. Slowly allow them to get used to one another and feel secure eating in each other's presence.
Supervise toys and playtime	Avoid resource guarding. Manage "what" to give "whom" and "when". There are no free rewards. Ensure all doggy items are put away and off the floor when not supervised.
Privileges are equal and fair	Both dogs should be treated equally. Attention, treats, and rewards are balanced. For the first few weeks, do not allow either dog to sleep with you in your bed to avoid either dog viewing you as a "resource"
Intervene when needed	Dogs for the most part will figure out their relationship on their own and it is important to remain neutral and as "hands off" as possible. Allow them to communicate with each other by letting each know their boundaries, likes and dislikes, alpha and beta roles, etc. This sometimes means growling or snapping at one another, which is normal. It's how they establish their roles in the relationship. Intervene only when problems escalate too far, and safety is compromised.

## TRAINING

Fostering is about providing a safe space to decompress and settle in. There is no expectation for you to train your foster dog. However, providing your foster dog with basic training and obedience will increase their chances for adoption and set them up for success in their new home.

If you require any support for specific or general behaviors, please connect with us so that we can provide you with some guidance and resources.

## MEETING WITH POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

Meet and greets with potential adopters help us determine if it would be a good fit for both the dog and potential family. We value the opinion of our fosters and take their feedback into consideration when reviewing applications.

During the meeting, feel free to ask the applicants questions to get to know them better. You are also free to answer any questions they have.

However, please do not set any expectations for the process (ie: tell the family they would be a great fit, etc.)



## We're here to help

Our goal is to help both you and your foster dog have the smoothest transition possible together. Do not hesitate to reach out for any support or guidance needed.