

### Are there reasons *Not* to foster?

**🐾 If you're interested in finding out if an Aussie is the breed for you, fostering may not be the best way to go about it. These dogs often need herding dog- experienced homes. Also, given the variety of circumstances that fosters come from, they may or may not represent the "typical aussie".**

**🐾 Dogs will be dogs. They bark, they can chew, they may not be house trained, or sleep through the night. They may jump up, steal your dinner, chase the cat, or otherwise challenge your patience and will definitely take up a good deal of your time.**

### Can I help another way?

**🐾 YES! General volunteers help raise funds, conduct home visits as part of adoption application reviews, organize adoption events, help transport dogs, and lend training expertise, among many other things.**

### How do I learn more?

**🐾 More information and a foster home application may be found on the ARPH web site: [www.aussierescue.org](http://www.aussierescue.org). The application involves a phone interview, home visit and reference checks.**

**🐾 Although not affiliated with ARPH, the [www.fosterdogs.com](http://www.fosterdogs.com) website offers additional helpful perspectives.**



*Louie,  
Rebecca Butler*

### Why Foster?

**"Every dog I foster teaches me something important - and the lesson learned is never the one I expected. As an obedience instructor, my dog skills and knowledge benefit from every foster that comes into my home..."**

*-Pamela P.  
Damariscotta, Maine*

**"I'm a breeder and feel an attachment to these dogs - whether they were originally mine or not. I value the opportunity to give back to the breed that has given me so much..."**

*-Linda M.  
Sullivan, Maine*

**"As a shelter employee, I cannot begin to tell you how vital it is to have ARPH foster homes. Many Aussies that come into shelters either shut down or bounce off the walls. Under the stress of shelter conditions they aren't good candidates for adoption. I've called ARPH many times hoping for a foster home available for another Aussie. I dread these calls, knowing that if there isn't a foster home available, another Aussie may have to be euthanized..."**

*-Chandra M.  
Olympia, Washington*



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A 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

[www.aussierescue.org](http://www.aussierescue.org)



## Fostering Australian Shepherds



*Milo,  
Orianna Richards*

**Aussie Rescue &  
Placement Helpline, Inc.  
(ARPH)**



*Hawkeye and Abbie,  
Julie Johnston*

### What is fostering?

**Temporary care of a dog until a permanent home is found. Along with the foster's Representative, you help evaluate the needs and likes of the dog to help ensure the best adoption placement. Their personalities can really develop in a healthy environment!**

### Am I a good candidate for fostering?

**Proven experience with and knowledge of dog care and ability to provide a safe, controlled environment are essential. Experience with the herding breeds is always a plus. All members of a household should want to contribute to socialization, exercise, and/or training.**

### What are the responsibilities?

**Food and equipment (leashes, bowls, crates, etc.) necessary for the everyday needs of the dog. Basic grooming and training, daily exercise, socialization, and trips to vets are also part of fostering. Regular communication with the foster's Representative is key to finding the best home possible.**

### What about vet bills?

**Vaccines, spay/neuter, flea and heartworm meds, and other medical needs are covered by ARPH. Expenses are usually reimbursed rather than paid directly by ARPH.**

### Won't I get attached?

**Yes, and that's actually a good experience for the dog. They learn to love and trust. For every dog that finds a home, there is always another desperately waiting for that same opportunity in your foster care.**

### I have pets/kids. Can I still foster?

**Your pets must be able to accept an additional dog in the household and to help your foster adapt to family life. If you have cats, only dogs believed to be safe around them would be offered to you as fosters. Children must be respectful of dogs, and supervision is essential.**

### Where do the dogs come from?

**Dogs come from animal shelters, puppy mills, as strays, from owners that can no longer care for them, or backyard breeders. They can be young or old, and may be healthy or have medical/behavioral issues. The temperament of each dog is evaluated as best as possible before intake. Dogs with a known history of aggression or showing aggressive behaviors are not accepted into the program.**

### How long do fosters stay?

**Dogs usually need to stay a minimum of 2-3 weeks for evaluation and to permit spay/neuter recovery, but with some it may be considerably longer. ARPH takes the time to carefully match each dog with an appropriate adopter through an application and interview process.**

### Do I get to choose the dog?

**You'll be matched with a dog believed to be appropriate to your household, experience, and expressed preferences. You have the option to decline any foster dog.**

### What if problems come up?

**If resolution of a problem can't be achieved in the current foster home, the local ARPH Representative will find an alternative foster home for the dog as soon as practical.**



*Shadow,  
Melinda Kay*