

Labs4Rescue



[www.Labs4Rescue.com](http://www.Labs4Rescue.com)

"Save a Lab, have a friend for life!"

## Labs4Rescue Urgently Needs Foster Homes

Welcome to Labs4Rescue! Thank you so much for your interest in fostering a lab.

Labs4Rescue continues to struggle with the need for more foster homes. There are so many wonderful labs in high-kill shelters that have only a couple of days to be adopted. Most never are. We constantly struggle to try and get them out before they are euthanized. As a result, some of our labs are taken to boarding, which is expensive and does not give us the opportunity to assess their individual temperaments, needs and qualities. Fostering helps us save more labs by providing them a place to go when they are pulled from the shelter.

Foster homes always have the right to adopt their foster, as long as they are not "spoken for" when they come to you. Most of us are "foster failures," having adopted at least one of our own fosters!

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### Some common Questions and Answers:

#### How do I get assigned a foster lab?

- We send out a weekly list of labs in need of foster homes. We allow you to choose the lab you would like to foster, which fits best with your lifestyle. We have puppies, adults, and seniors, so there really is something there for all.

#### When can I choose a foster? What if I have commitments and need to not take a foster?

- You can foster as your time permits, coming in and out. We always have other volunteer opportunities when your schedule will not permit you to take a foster, but you would like to still volunteer.

#### How long will I have my foster?

- Our fosters on average only have a lab for 2-3 weeks before they are placed in their forever homes, but that time makes the difference between life and death for that lab!

#### What do you need to foster?

- Large amounts of patience and love.
- A willingness to accept a rescue Lab as part of your family.
- The willingness to evaluate temperament and reinforce basic commands (sit, stay, come).
- A schedule that allows you to exercise the Lab regularly and a safe place for the dog to stay while you are gone.

#### What will Labs4Rescue ask of you during fostering?

- Rescued Labs need regular feeding, fresh water and a safe home. Most of all, a foster family provides the love and attention these dogs so desperately want. Foster families also provide insight to the dog's behavior, attitude and temperament so that we can place him or her in the proper forever home.
- We will ask you to talk to potential adopters and ask your opinion on the fit of your foster lab with the applicant. If you have a meet and greet, your impressions on the "fit" of that lab with the family are appreciated.

### **What happens if my foster needs to go to the vet?**

- Labs4Rescue will cover the cost of all vaccinations and all other medical bills. You may need to take your foster to the vet for removing stitches or for treatment for worms (we treat, but sometimes they need an additional treatment). We ask you speak with your vet before you take a foster in, to explain what you will be doing. Please do ask them if they will provide any sort of discount to us as a rescue. If they need paperwork proving we are a non-profit organization, we can provide this. We can also recommend vets who give “rescue rates.”

### **How do I know what vet work has been done for my foster before I get them?**

- They will come with an envelope with all vet records and shelter records, which you will send along with the lab to his new home.

### **Will I have any other responsibilities?**

- We ask that you provide food and love.
- Some of our rescues have been through a lot and have special needs so need extra patience. Many need to learn some basic obedience and to learn house manners.
- Occasionally, we have adoption events in your area, and will invite you to bring your foster. After all, this is where they will most likely meet their prospective adopters!
- We may ask you to help update their bio on Petfinder and to take new pictures for the website.
- If you are comfortable with it, Labs4Rescue may put you in contact with potential adopters to tell them about the dog. If not, we will field the questions for you.

### **How can I help acclimate the lab into my home?**

- We provide a crate for you while you foster, if you don't have your own.
- Our group members are always available to discuss any issues you are facing. Most problems have been encountered by someone who will offer their help.

### **What if the Lab doesn't get along with my other dogs?**

- If the foster dog is not able to get along with your other dogs, cats or family members, we would place the dog in another home or in a boarding facility.

### **What are the advantages and disadvantages to fostering?**

- The advantages are that you are providing a valuable service, perhaps saving a Lab's life. You will meet some wonderful dogs along the way and learn more about the breed.
- Fostering is a way to enjoy companionship without making a lifelong commitment. You would be helping to rehabilitate a Lab that may have been abandoned, neglected or even abused. It is also very rewarding to see a dog you have cared for, placed in a loving permanent home!
- You will also make some wonderful friends along the way. Many forever families will continue to send you updates and photos, year after year.
- The disadvantages are that it is very easy to get attached to the Lab you foster and it can be hard to see them go. Of course, if you decide your foster dog is “THE ONE” for you, adoption is always an option.

### **How can I become a foster home?**

- If you are interested in fostering a Lab, please fill out our online application at [www.labs4rescue.com](http://www.labs4rescue.com).

***Thank you for supporting Labs4Rescue!***