



QLD STAFFY & AMSTAFF RESCUE INC

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See us on the web at: <http://www.qldstaffyandamstaffrescue.org.au/>

Facebook Page: [Qld Staffy & Amstaff Rescue](#)

## Information for Foster Carers

Thank you for becoming or considering becoming a Qld Staffy & AmStaff Rescue Foster Carer. Foster carers are absolutely vital to our work of saving dogs. The more foster carers we have, the more dogs we can save.

We ask that you welcome the dog into your home and treat him or her as if he were your own and commit to keeping him until we can find a permanent home for him.

We are a volunteer organisation with limited resources so anything you can provide for your foster pet, including transport to and from the vet, will be greatly appreciated but not required. We are here to support you. Please contact your Area Coordinator, with any questions or concerns you may have.

There is a wealth of information within this document. It is advisable to read it carefully so you are well informed about our operating procedures and get a good idea of what to expect as a foster carer.

Thank you for helping to save the lives of these wonderful dogs!

# Contents

Information for Foster Carers.....	1
Contents .....	2
Fostering Process – Quick Guide .....	3
Desexing and Vaccination.....	4
Veterinary Treatment.....	4
Microchipping.....	4
Flea, Tick and Worm Prevention .....	5
Dog Transport.....	6
Walking/Leash Free Areas .....	6
Bathing, Grooming & General Care .....	6
Food and Other Supplies .....	6
Adoption Procedure .....	7
Long Distance Adoptions.....	9
Behaviour.....	9
Background – knowns and unknowns.....	10
Introducing the Foster Dog to the Family Dog .....	10
Introducing the Foster Dog to the Family Cat .....	11
Dogs and Children.....	11
Training the Dog to be Alone.....	11
Keep in Touch .....	12
Contacts and QSAR Roles .....	12
Authorised Vets .....	15

# Fostering Process – Quick Guide

1. Complete Foster Carer Application and email to QSAR [apply\\_qsar@outlook.com](mailto:apply_qsar@outlook.com)
2. If approved get added to Foster Carers and Photographers group and Area Chat on Facebook.
3. Watch the group posts, comment on a dog you think will suit your household or your Area Coordinator (AC) may tag you.
4. Transport - if the dog needs transport and you can't do it, please ask your AC and a volunteer will be found. Use a restraint/carrier for car trips.
5. Perform slow and careful introductions to existing pets. Your AC can give advice on this.
6. Speak to your AC if you need food, bedding, flea/worming treatment etc.
7. If the dog has come from another carer or is surrendered, he should come with a Transfer Form\*. Ensure this form is either scanned or photographed and sent to your AC for the database. Provide an updated version on the dog's next movement whether to another carer or new owner.
8. Take a couple of days to get to know the dog then post photos and a write-up in the Carer's group so they can be advertised for adoption.
9. Liaise with your AC regarding any vet work that needs to be done. Ask if you need help with transport.
10. Care for the dog as if he's your own - exercise and discipline are important.
11. NO OFF LEASH PARKS OR BEACHES. QSAR dogs are to remain on leash whenever they are off your property.
12. When a query is made about your foster, the details will be posted in the group and you will be tagged. Contact the person and arrange a meet & greet if they want to. Your AC can help with advice for your first call and meeting.
13. If there is more than one query, please contact them all and give the opportunity for all families to meet the dog. Adoptions are based on the most suitable home for the dog, not a first in basis.
14. We will not overwhelm you with queries if the dog is popular, we put a hold on passing on any more after you have 5 or 6 to contact.
15. If the family wish to adopt, let us know and provide an email address if we don't already have one. The family return the form and admin will obtain feedback from you on how you felt about the adoption going ahead.
16. A family can also obtain pre-approval or have a trial adoption. Talk with your AC about these options.

17. Complete the Transfer Form\*. Send a copy to your AC and the paper copy goes to the new family.
18. Ensure the adoption is final - ie payment has been made and all paperwork complete - then arrange to move the dog to the new owner.
19. Look for your next foster!

\* Transfer Form can be found under the "File" tab in the Foster Carers and Photographers group.

## Desexing and Vaccination

1. We will book your foster dog in to our vet for desexing and vaccination usually within a fortnight.
2. We will book the appointment time to suit you.
3. After desexing, please keep the dog clean to prevent infection. Keep an eye on the stitches and watch out for any signs of infection such as redness, swelling, or feeling hot to the touch. Don't let your dog lick the wound.
4. Scan or take a photo of the desexing certificate and post in the Foster Carers group and tag the Vetwork Coordinator and your Area Coordinator.
5. Retain the original with any other paperwork you have for your foster dog. All paperwork is passed onto the adoptive family.

***Please ensure that your own dogs, or any other pets in your care, always have their annual vaccinations, flea and worm treatments up to date and you shouldn't have any problems with their health.***

## Veterinary Treatment

If you have any concerns regarding the health of your foster dog please contact QSAR immediately. The cost of veterinary treatment is covered by QSAR provided you contact QSAR BEFORE you seek treatment and you take the dog to a QSAR approved veterinary clinic. We have vets who provide special rates to us and prefer our dogs are taken to these clinics. Approval is essential before any vet visit, we cannot stress this enough.

**If you seek veterinary treatment for your foster dog without first obtaining QSAR approval you will be liable for any costs incurred.**

**Please don't take your foster dog to the After Hours Emergency Vets without getting approval from QSAR first unless you are willing to pay for any treatment yourself.**

## Microchipping

1. At the initial vet appointment the dog can be checked for a chip.
2. If a chip is found, you will provide the number to the Microchip Coordinator to arrange to transfer the details to QSAR.
3. If there is no chip, the vet can insert one and the form is to be complete with QSAR's details. The number is provided to the Microchip Coordinator and the form posted to the microchip company.
4. Keep a copy of the completed form with the dog's paperwork.

# Flea, Tick and Worm Prevention

1. We will provide flea treatment, tick prevention (if in a required tick area - but there is no substitute for checking your dogs for ticks daily) and worming treatments.
2. Please speak to your Area Coordinator if you believe your foster is due for treatment and you haven't received anything.

## Dog Transport

If you cannot drive your foster dog to appointments, we can arrange a volunteer to do the driving. Sometimes the driver may volunteer via Facebook and may not be known to us. In that case we need to take the following precautions:

BEFORE handing over a dog for transport to someone who hasn't transported for QSAR before, please leave the dog secured in your house or car while you do the following:

- (1) Write down or photograph the number plate of the car, and
- (2) Ask to see the drivers licence of the driver and photograph it or copy down the full name, address and drivers licence number. Look on the reverse side in case there is a sticker with a change of address.
- (3) Optional - Take a photo of the person.

**Please use a seat belt restraint** for car trips. Alternatively, a pet carrier can be used for car trips. No dog should be unrestrained in a vehicle. It is dangerous for the dog and the driver.

## Walking/Leash Free Areas

1. **Your foster dog should be kept on a lead at all times when outside your property.** Your foster dog should not be allowed off leash in public areas/dog parks/beaches.
2. Those who choose to go against this instruction may and/or will be liable for any vet or other costs involved in any mishaps that may occur. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this.

## Bathing, Grooming & General Care

1. Please bathe and brush your foster dog regularly.
2. It is important to regularly check your foster dog's ears, ensure they are clean, free of excessive hair, discharge or abnormal smell. If you have any concerns please contact QSAR.
3. If your dog is scratching, getting red skin, bald patches, is losing hair or showing other signs of skin irritation, please contact QSAR promptly so the problem can be treated quickly before it gets worse.

## Food and Other Supplies

1. Toys, bones or food bowls can all become objects worthy of 'owning' and guarding in some dogs. This is commonly called "food aggression" or "bone aggression" whatever the case may be. It is recommended not to leave the dogs unsupervised with food/toys until you are completely comfortable that they are being friendly in their interactions.
2. Be quick to distract or interrupt any aggressive or overly playful behaviour. Be aware that you may never be able to leave the object of the aggressive behaviour (bone/toy/food) out when the dogs are alone - ie. some dogs are unable to have

bones unless separated and supervised with the bones being removed after a set period of time.

3. It is a good idea to feed dogs separately and keep an eye on the dogs while they are eating.
4. Both stress and diet change can cause stomach upset and diarrhoea, so keep an eye out for any signs of illness.
5. QSAR supporters donate food items and we have wonderful volunteers who make up packs of food using the donations. When available, you can be provided with containers of mince/rice/pasta/vege/fish that can be frozen and thawed for feeding. Dry food and treats are also often donated and that can also be provided when available. Please speak up and ask if you need anything.
6. QSAR will supply (depending on availability) a lead, collar and ID tags for you. A collar and ID tags must be left on your foster dog at all times. If the dog gets loose there is a much greater chance of him being returned quickly with a QSAR ID on. If these items aren't immediately available, they will be provided as soon as possible.
7. QSAR id tags come with a number on them. Please supply the tag number to your Area Coordinator if they aren't already aware. QSAR keeps a record of which dog has which tag on.
8. Bedding and coats can also be supplied to carers when we have them in stock.

## Adoption Procedure

1. We will list him on our website, Facebook page, Pet Rescue website and Gumtree.
2. One of the QSAR admin will tag you on a post in the Foster Carers group on Facebook to advise when someone is seeking information about a dog or wishing to organise a meet and greet.
3. Contact the person as soon as convenient to you but endeavour to do it within 24hrs.
4. After an initial conversation, if you decide to go ahead with a meet and greet it is up to you if you would like to meet on neutral ground at a park, or somewhere else appropriate or in your own home or even their home. As a foster carer you are encouraged to use your judgement as to whether the family will be a good adoptive family for the dog in your care and provide us with your feedback.
5. The prospective family can request an adoption form either before or after the meet & greet. However, the adoption is not guaranteed until they receive official approval via email. Often there is more than one application for a dog and each is assessed and the best home chosen.
6. The dog is never released to anyone without authorisation from one of QSAR admin.
7. Once we have received the completed paperwork and we have received feedback regarding the meet and greet from the foster carer, we will consider the adoption application and if it is approved, ask the adoptive family to deposit the adoption fee into our account, provide a receipt and then contact the foster carer to organise picking the dog up.

8. If we mutually decide not to approve the adoption one of the QSAR admin will advise the prospective adopter.
9. We have Adoption Coordinators who follow up with the adoptive family several times to ensure everything is going well and the family and dog are happy. One of the coordinators should be tagged in a post when a dog is adopted so they can access details and arrange follow up calls.



## Long Distance Adoptions

1. We do get interest from families living outside Brisbane and sometimes outside Queensland. With these families the process is a little different.
2. The family is contacted by the foster carer to discuss the dog and what type of lifestyle the family has - generally all the same things you would ask in a face-to-face conversation to ascertain if there is a good fit.
3. An adoption application is emailed with photos and admin consider the application. If approved, the family and foster carer are notified.
4. If the family is in a position to drive to pick up the dog, the fee can be handed over in cash and banked into QSAR's account by the foster carer. Alternatively the fee can be paid and receipt provided as proof of payment.
5. If the dog needs to be transported by a transport company or airline, the family organises and pay for transport for the dog. The foster carer is kept in the loop regarding when the fee is paid and when the dog is to be transported.

## Behaviour

1. Keep in mind that a foster dog may be confused and not understand what is happening when he gets moved around. He needs time to get used to the new routine. This may lead to toileting problems, going inside instead of asking to be let out - especially at night. Of course you may also receive a dog who has never been allowed inside and needs to be toilet trained. It may be a good idea for the dog to sleep in an easy to clean area in the initial stages.
2. Stress can also lead to chewing behaviour. This of course, is also a common thing faced with young dogs. You might want to look at dog-proofing the area where your dog will spend most of his time. Keep shoes put away, children's toys separated from the dog, electrical cords hidden or taped to skirting boards, pot plants removed from the dog's area, rugs removed etc. Provide toys that can be chewed and ensure the dog has sufficient exercise.
3. It is important that everyone in your family knows the training vocabulary to use so the dog isn't confused by different commands. The most effective training involves consistency and patience. Repetition and reward is how the dog will learn best. Also discuss 'house rules' like whether the dog will be allowed to sit on couches, lay on human beds, be in the kitchen and so on. If everyone is consistent in enforcing the rules, the dog will quickly learn where his place is and become a confident and well-mannered pet.
4. Some dogs need to be crate trained due to anxiety leading to destruction of property or just needing a safe place to allow them to retreat for a while. QSAR will assist with getting a crate to you if you need one. **Children should be taught not to disturb the dog when he is in his crate.**
5. Once you receive the dog, take the dog straight to his toileting area and spend a good amount of time with him so he will get used to the area and relieve himself.

Let him explore his new surroundings without getting in his way too much. Show the dog his new sleeping area and water bowl.

6. The dog may be confused and anxious and may act out by barking, whining or chewing things he shouldn't. He also might just look sad or depressed - remember he has been moved around and won't know what is happening to him. Having a safe space such as a crate for your dog to rest, dog-proofing your home as well as monitoring your dog, will help solve behavioural problems like this. If you aren't crate training, you may try keeping your dog in one or two rooms so the dog is not overwhelmed by the new space. Have TOYS, Kongs and frozen ice blocks are great.
7. QSAR has access to trainers who can assist with advice if needed.

## Background – knowns and unknowns

1. Be mindful that QSAR doesn't always know the background of the dogs they rehome. Dogs are often rescued from shelters with very little information on how they came to be there or what their life was like before.
2. When dogs are surrendered by the owners, QSAR often find that the whole truth isn't given about why the dog is being rehomed despite their best efforts to find out.
3. Be assured that you will be given all the information known about the dog but also be aware that the dog may be the result of a lot of scrambled communications and expectations that will require patience on your part to work through.

## Introducing the Foster Dog to the Family Dog

1. When you first come home, it is advisable that you take both your existing dog and the foster dog out for a walk together on neutral ground before entering your home. Your home is currently the domain of your dog whereas going for a walk in a safe, non-threatening environment is a good way for them to get to know each other a little without territorial issues.
2. It is never advisable to just put your new foster in the yard with your pet and let them run freely. They need to be slowly introduced and supervised until you are confident they are getting along. **This can sometimes take several days.**
3. It is good for the dogs to learn that when they are around each other, good things happen. This will help each dog to form a positive association with the other. You can establish this by rewarding good behaviour and distracting and redirecting undesirable behaviour.
4. Allow the dogs to establish their social status with each other - within reason of course, you don't want to let them fight it out viciously. Who came first is not indicative of who should be in charge. The social system of dogs is a hierarchy, not a democracy. Who is in charge may vary based on the context of each situation.
5. QSAR has access to trainers who can assist with advice if needed.

# Introducing the Foster Dog to the Family Cat

1. The key here is to introduce slowly and ensure your cat is safe. Don't rush things, especially if the dog is very excitable and difficult to handle. When you are ready to introduce your dog and cat, do so when the foster is at his calmest. Put the dog on a leash and give him a tasty treat to distract him while you bring your cat in. Keep your cat in a carry cage or introduce through a screen door or other safe option. In the initial stages there may be some hissing and tail swishing - but this should settle down.
2. Keep a close eye on both animals and do not punish either of them for aggressive behaviour as this will be associated with the presence of the other animal. Rather, give the dog tasty treats during these introductions, particularly when he is obedient and calm. If he becomes highly excitable at any time during the introduction remove him from the room.
3. If the foster dog is very aggressive and/or the cat is stressed and you cannot see any way they will be able to share a space, the dog may need a carer without a cat so please let your Area Coordinator know.
4. QSAR has access to trainers who can assist with advice if needed.

## Dogs and Children

1. Supervise, supervise, supervise. Remember, dogs are animals and animals can bite. Never leave children and dogs unsupervised under any circumstances.
2. With children, having a dog is the same as having a backyard pool. Neither the pool nor the dog is bad, but both could produce devastating effects if the child is left unsupervised.
3. Like people, every dog has its limits. Many dog bites occur because the child was not interacting appropriately with the dog, i.e. disturbed the dog while it was sleeping or eating, pulled its hair, ears or tail, stepped on or even hugged the dog.
4. Teach your children how to treat dogs while you are teaching the dog how to be with children. The most important aspect of helping the dog acclimatise to children is to reward it for obedient and relaxed behaviour in the presence of the child.

## Training the Dog to be Alone

Dogs need to learn to be alone as there is a very good chance they will be adopted by a family who works or is otherwise away from the house for periods of time. Set the precedent right away. Leave the dog alone for brief durations over and over - go pick the kids up from school, go get groceries, out for coffee etc.

Do not let the foster dog have the run of the house. He must be confined until he has been trained and can be trusted to be alone. With many mini-departures, the dog will learn two things:

1. People are not always going to be available.
2. When people leave, they come back again.

Do the dog a favour by training it that being alone is a good thing.

# Keep in Touch

1. Please make sure we have your current address, phone numbers and email addresses and notify us of any changes.
2. You will be added to the QSAR Foster group page on Facebook and most communication is done on this page, via private message and area group chats. You will receive a friend request from a profile called "Foster Carer", please accept the request ASAP.
3. Remember, you are not alone, if you have any problems or concerns please contact your Area Coordinator or one of the Executives if the Area Coordinator is not available.
4. If we need to contact you or vice versa, our preferred method of communication is by Facebook. Feel free to tag us on the Foster Group in Facebook or send us a private message.
5. Please note that you have NO authority to act on behalf of QSAR or to make claims concerning any foster dog on QSARs behalf without prior approval of the executive committee.

## Contacts and QSAR Roles

Need	Contact
Approval for vet treatment	Area Coordinator (will liaise with Exec team)
Report desexing, vaccination or other vet work	Vet Work Coordinator and Area Coordinator
Report microchip number	Microchip Coordinator and Area Coordinator
Food, flea/worm treatment, bedding, collars, leads etc.	Area Coordinator
Report an incident - eg. fight, escape.	Area Coordinator
Advice for meet and greet	Area Coordinator or Carers Group
Advice for first contact with potential adopter	Area Coordinator or Carers Group
Donation drop off point	Area Coordinator
QSAR general email	enquire_qldstaffyrescue@outlook.com.au
QSAR vet work email	vetwork_qldstaffyrescue@outlook.com
QSAR Secretary email	secretary_qldstaffyrescue@outlook.com
QSAR Bank Details	BSB: 084 259 Account: 842 431 624

### Who's Who at QSAR (As at 26 September 2017)

Public QSAR phone number: 0431 327 799

#### Executive Committee

President - Andrea Miszczuk - 0468 928 761

Secretary - Sue Olsen Gross - 0409 366 919

Treasurer - Jacinda Lownds -0437 380 071

The Executive Committee make the decisions no else wants or likes to make - which dogs come in, which ones don't and which ones are too broken. They are the behind the scenes people. They make the decisions regarding the money side of things and authorise all vet work and spending. This team also assess adoption applications and discuss with foster carers to see if the applicant is a good fit and make the final decisions relating to the adoption.

### **Management Committee**

Executive Committee plus Area Coordinator Manager - Michelle Colquhoun

### **Sub-Committee**

*Assistant to Executive Team* - Carla Oxley

*Area Coordinators*

Sunshine Coast - Sharna Gollogly-Scott

Nth Qld Region - Jenny Korn

Brisbane Northside Area - Suzi McLachlan

Brisbane Eastside Area - Shannon Eden

Brisbane Southside Area - Sue Olsen

Brisbane Westside and Outer Ipswich Area - Jacinda Lownds

Gold Coast and Northern NSW Area - Michelle Colquhoun

Your Area Coordinator is your first point of contact for any questions or for anything you need for your dog/s, for example, vet work, food, worming/flea treatment, bedding/leads/collars, assistance with settling/managing dogs.

Vet Work Coordinator - Sharna Gollogly-Scott

Sharna needs to be advised of any vet work performed on QSAR dogs. She can be tagged in the Facebook group or paperwork can be emailed to [vetwork\\_qldstaffyrescue@outlook.com](mailto:vetwork_qldstaffyrescue@outlook.com) Sharna will chase everyone for any outstanding paperwork as she loads up all the information into our database and keeps all the records up to date.

Microchip Coordinators - Amy Court (incoming dogs) and Reannon Brown (outgoing dogs)

Amy will ask for details of anything relating to microchipping. Once your dog has been to the vet you need to pass on the details to her. Reannone does the changing of ownership when a dog is adopted.

Adoption Liaison Officer - Denise Devon

Denise makes follow up calls to all new adoptive families and helps/talks them through the first day and week and is a point of contact if they need information etc after adoption.

Photography Coordinator Alexandra Plasier

All the photography people we have are in the coordinator's team and that person organises the photos for our dogs.

Document Coordinator - Sue Olsen

Transport Coordinator - Jacinda Lownds

Fundraising/Marketing Coordinator - Vacant  
Puppy Vet work Coordinator - Sharna Gollogly-Scott  
Pet Rescue Listings - Carla Oxley  
Gumtree Listings - Sharna Gollogly-Scott  
Instagram - Jess Wilson  
Interstate Pound Liaison - Vacant  
Bookkeeper - Jacinda Lownds  
Receipt Coordinator - Jacinda Lownds  
Research Officer - Vacant  
Newsletter Coordinator - Vacant  
Equipment Inventory Officer - Kris (Abby) Knight