



**Q: When the dogs are trained and ready to be placed, is it hard to give them up?**

A: Of course it is! Fosters do become very attached to the dogs they foster. Foster care providers will tell you that the work they do is incredibly meaningful and they are comforted knowing that their dogs go on to save the lives of their diabetic partner. These dogs also provide companionship and enrich the lives of their partner. Fostering is a selfless gift of love that does require some sacrifice. But it is not every day that you have such a profound impact on someone else's life. Our fosters are able to give the dogs up because they understand that there is someone who needs the dog much more than they do.

**Q: Where can a foster care providers take their dogs?**

A: A service dog should be exposed to a variety of socialization experiences. Foster care providers take their pups to malls, grocery stores, school and work, among other places. Our foster care group leader also teaches our fosters the appropriate ways in which to expose the dogs to a wide range of socialization experiences.

**Q: What happens to a dog that is released from the program?**

A: Not all dogs in our program graduate and become a D4D service dog. We receive our dogs from Guide dog for The Blind and Canine Companions for Independence. A dog that is released from our program is always offered back to the donating organization. The puppy raiser of that organization is given priority to keep the dog as a pet. Because of this, the vast majority of the time the dog is returned to its original puppy raiser. If the raiser is unable or chooses not to keep the dog, the dog will be placed in a loving adoptive home, which could be the foster care provider.

**Q: How long do foster care providers keep a dog?**

A: The length of time may vary depending on the needs of the dog, the foster care provider, and Dogs4Diabetics. Fosters can choose to be a short term (1-4 wks) or long term (1-6 month) foster care provider. It takes on average 4-6 months for our dogs to complete their training and be placed with a diabetic.

**Q: Is it time-consuming to be a foster care provider?**

A: Fostering a D4D dog does involve spending time bringing the dog to and from the Dogs4Diabetics training center. That is why we ask that our fosters live within a close proximity to Dogs4Diabetics so that it is not such a time-consuming task for our fosters. Foster also spend time grooming, socializing and caring for the dog. Foster are taught ways in which to work ongoing training into a daily schedule.

**Q: What are the main responsibilities of foster care providers?**

A: Foster care providers are responsible for maintaining good behavior both at home and in public, as well as keeping the dogs obedience at a level that would be expected of a service dog. Fosters are also responsible for providing endless amounts of love for their dog. Fosters are encouraged to have fun with their dog and allow their dog to blow off a little steam when they are not at the training center. Dogs4Diabetics relies on its foster care providers to:

- Nurture and love a foster care dog or puppy

- Provide transportation for the dog to and from the training center (M-Th)
- Provide the dog with a safe home environment
- Keep the dog safe and healthy
- Keep the dog under control through the use of D4D approved dog handling techniques
- Attend weekly foster care training classes (Thursdays) at the D4D training center
- Provide appropriate socialization for the dog
- When requested, return the dog to D4D for training, permanent placement or to reunite with the primary custodian.

**Q: Do you need dog training experience to be a foster care provider?**

A: No. It is, however, helpful if you have a pet dog, or have had one in the past. But it is certainly not necessary and we will help you through every step of the way.

**Q: Are there training meetings to attend with the dog?**

A: Yes. Foster care providers meet weekly (Thursdays) under the direction of our foster care group leader. These informational meetings offer a place to learn about training techniques, share ideas, meet other fosters and occasionally participate in socialization outings with the dogs. The training meetings generally last one hour, depending on the activities scheduled..

**Q: Where does a D4D dog stay if their foster has to go out of town?**

A: D4D foster care providers frequently trade off and supervise each other's dogs when the primary foster is away. In some cases, a dog can accompany the foster on an out-of-town trip (with a leader's approval) in order to further the dogs socialization.

**Q: Can a foster care provider have other pets?**

A: Yes. Controlled, supervised interaction between a D4D dog and other animals can be beneficial.

**Q: Does a D4D Dog require any special foods?**

A: Yes. Dogs4Diabetics does require that their dogs be fed a chosen brand of high-quality dry dog food. This will be provided to you at no cost. A D4D dog should never receive table scraps.

**Q: Who pays for the D4D dogs food and other expenses?**

A: Dogs4Diabetics supplies a service dog identification jacket, collar, and other necessary supplies such as flea and tick medication. Dogs4Diabetics also provides all veterinary care, food, toys, head collars, grooming tools, long lines and crates.

**Q: Are the costs of fostering a D4D dog tax deductible?**

A: Yes. Dogs4Diabetics is a nonprofit charitable organization, and all expenses incurred by the foster care provider are considered a donation to D4D. The largest write off for our fosters is mileage for transporting the dog to and from the training center. Dogs4Diabetics suggests all foster care providers consult with a tax advisor to receive the proper IRS requirements for documentation.