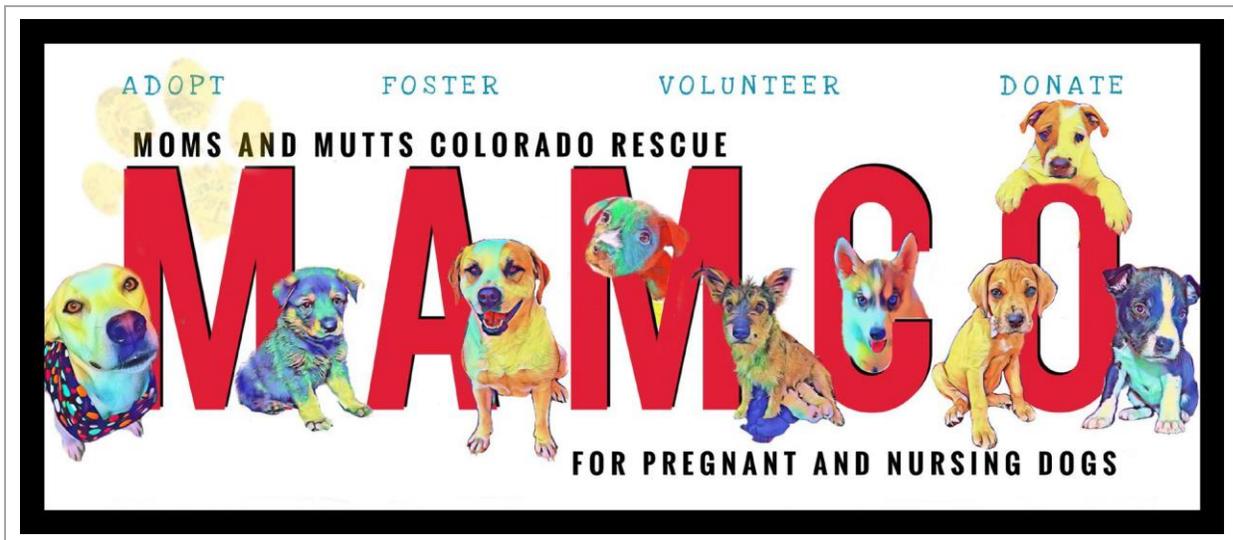


# Foster Handbook



**MOMS AND MUTTS COLORADO RESCUE**

For Pregnant & Nursing Dogs

## Our Purpose & Mission

Our mission at MAMCO is to provide shelter for pregnant and nursing dogs who have been surrendered or abandoned in Colorado and surrounding states.



## Who Are We?

We are a foster based, 501c3 non-profit rescue, dedicated to the health and wellbeing of dams and their litters. We see our rescue dogs through pregnancy, birth (whelping), nursing, weaning, and adoption.

## How Do We Do Things?



In addition to providing necessary care, we also work to socialize, train, and evaluate each dog to ensure that they find permanent forever homes. This involves establishing close and trusting relationships with fosters, volunteers, adopters, and the community.



## Contact Us

Moms and Mutts Colorado

Rescue Email: [info@mamcorescue.org](mailto:info@mamcorescue.org)

Web: [mamcorescue.org](http://mamcorescue.org)

Foster Coordinator Phone:

**720-469-7830**

Foster Care Denver/Metro:

**720-353-2674**

EMERGENCY NUMBER:

**303-517-0586 (Text Only)**

# All About Shelter Dogs

## The Past is Not Always Left in the Past

- 🐾 Shelter dogs often come from situations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Thus, many of these animals will enter your home with high levels of anxiety and fear. Being patient with a shelter dog and providing a safe place for them to hide is very important in building an initial bond.
- 🐾 The shelters these animals are rescued from are often overcrowded and poorly funded. As a result, many of these animals may be exposed to fleas, ringworm, kennel cough, and other types of health conditions.
  - It is a good idea for foster homes to provide a temporary quarantine area for the dogs to prevent other pets from exposure. Quarantine areas should be areas that do not contain valuables, as foster animals are sometimes destructive initially in their new environment.
  - Quarantine areas should not be used as a long-term solution. Once it is determined that the animal is healthy, it is important to incorporate the animal into your household to begin training and socialization. If an animal should present with any health condition it is important to inform us about the issue so that we can ensure proper veterinary care.
- 🐾 Shelter dogs may be destructive or attempt to flee your property. It is important not to leave a shelter dog alone outside, even in a fenced in area, until you are more familiar with their behaviors
- 🐾 Introducing a shelter dog to your household pets can be tricky. If you are concerned about aggression, it is a good idea to make the introductions at a location other than inside your home. A local park usually works well and will allow your pet to meet the dog without territorial concerns.

## MOST IMPORTANT:

- 🐾 Shelter dogs are extremely grateful for you! They will show you their appreciation with a lot of love and kisses!
- 🐾 Shelter dogs want to make you happy! Sometimes it takes a little while for them to understand what you want. Be patient and consistent!
- 🐾 Shelter dogs respond best to positive reinforcement! Treats, pets, and praise go a long way!
- 🐾 Shelter dogs will love you unconditionally and after just a short time will show you their personalities.
- 🐾 It is important to read through all adoption applications and to set up meet and greets with potential adopters to determine if they are a good fit for your foster dog!

## ***Shelter dogs often need to be house trained***



# Is Fostering Right for You?

- 🐾 Successful foster homes first consider the needs of the household. We ask that you think about how you will accommodate a rescue dog into your everyday life prior to committing to opening your home.
- 🐾 Most rescue dogs will need some training when they enter your home. The degree of training varies. Some dogs have never been allowed inside of a house, and they need to get used to everyday amenities like television and vacuum cleaning. They also need to be potty trained and learn manners. Others are better socialized, but all come with quirks. The more relaxed and flexible you are, the better the dog will adjust. Pregnant foster dogs require a lengthy time commitment, 8-10 weeks to be exact.
- 🐾 Whelping (birth) is messy and for a few weeks following you will be doing a lot of laundry. For the first four to five weeks of a puppy's life, the mama dog cleans up the puppy poop and pee, feeds them, and watches out for them. On the rare occasion, a puppy may need to be warmed or tube fed, but usually the mom is the primary care giver. During this time, you will be required to ensure that the momma has plenty of food and water, while also loosely monitoring the puppies. You will occasionally need to weigh them to make sure they are getting enough to eat, and you will need to change and wash the linens/reusable puppy pads. During weeks 5-8 the mother begins weaning the puppies and unfortunately, stops cleaning up after them. At this point it is a good idea to switch to disposable puppy pads. Puppy pads will need to be changed at least three times per day to prevent illness. We supply reusable and disposable pads.
- 🐾 We will start the adoption process during week 6, by week 8 most of the puppies will be adopted. The mother dog can often be adopted before the puppies, but usually finds a home within weeks of the puppies. It is rare for a dam to have a hard time finding an adopter. Many people desire older dogs with better manners.

# Foster Parent Responsibilities

## Care

- 🐾 Foster homes are responsible for:
  - Keeping the foster dogs' safe, and keeping others safe from the foster dog
    - While we try not to take dogs with a past bite history, new reactions cannot always be predicted. In the event of a bite, you must report to both MAMCO and the local authorities
  - Take care to ensure that the dog is not placed in stressful situations
  - Some dogs need to be very close to their foster parents while others want to hide. Let them do what they need to do to relax.
  - Try not to vacuum, listen to loud music, or have unnecessary visitors for the first few days your foster dam is in the home.

## Feeding

- 🐾 The foster dogs will be fed puppy chow. Food will be provided by MAMCO, and bi-weekly supply drop offs will be scheduled for each area where we have fosters. Please inform your Foster Liaison that you will be needing food before you run out.
- 🐾 Sometimes food aggression is an issue. We find that allowing dogs to free feed is the best way to build trust. If the bowl is always full, there is no need to fight for scraps. On occasion, we will have a dog that overeats, in this instance feeding twice per day is best.

## Housing

- 🐾 MAMCO believes that providing dogs with a safe area is of the utmost importance. For some dogs, crate training is great, for others, not so much. We suggest trying crate training, but do not encourage you to force a dog into a crate, especially a pregnant dam. If you do not have a crate, we will provide one for you.

- 🐾 Pregnant dams should NOT be left to roam the house. Nesting instinct in dogs can cause them to be quite destructive. Unless you want your foster dog to burrow into your couch and deliver puppies, we suggest that you find a spare room to house the dam and her puppies. We will provide you with a swimming pool whelping area and plenty of towels and blankets.

- 🐾 After a dam gives birth it is very important that she be allowed to leave her puppies if she needs to. **NEVER LOCK A DAM IN A CRATE WITH HER PUPPIES.** This is dangerous for all involved. Once the puppies are old enough to escape the pool, we recommend using a puppy playpen that is short enough for the dam to come and go, but tall enough to keep the puppies inside. MAMCO will provide playpens as needed.

- 🐾 At NO time, shall the foster dog be tethered or unattended outside, or ride in the back of an open bed truck.

- 🐾 Puppies should never be taken outdoors unless you have been given the express permission of a MAMCO staff member.

***Puppies should never be taken to homes outside of the foster home and should never be taken to a public place***



## The Adoption Process

- 🐾 Some fosters want to be actively involved in the adoption process, others do not. We respect your help and do not want to overstep; however, there are a few key things we need from you to facilitate the adoption. We need:

- 🐾 Information on the dam (is she good with dogs, cats, kids? Is she timid, playful, anxious? how is she on a leash? Potty training progress? etc.) Successful matches are easier to make when we understand the needs and personality of the animal.

- 🐾 Photographs of the dam and her puppies. The cuter the pictures the better. Videos are great too. If you aren't a photographer, we can have someone come over for a photo shoot.

***Fosters are not required to attend adoption events, but they are helpful in finding suitable homes for puppies. They can also be fun!***

## Deworming & Vaccinations

- 🐾 Foster parents are responsible for deworming dams and puppies as needed. Please follow the dosage charts available in the foster resources page on the website.

- 🐾 Foster parents are responsible for taking animals to their veterinary appointments, including appointments for spays and neuters with older dogs.

- 🐾 Foster parents are responsible for caring for an animal post-surgery and for regularly administering any prescription medications.

- 🐾 All dogs and puppies will be vaccinated by MAMCO staff. Fosters will not be responsible for vaccinations unless otherwise discussed.
- 🐾 Foster dogs will be microchipped at the time of adoption by a MAMCO staff member.

**Deworming and medication records are mandatory! Write down the dates and dosages of de-wormer treatments and prescription medications for the medical records in the litter folder.**

**MAMCO will list the dogs on a variety of websites and will screen the applications.**

### Meet and Greets:

- 🐾 Meet and greets can take place either at the applicant's home, the foster home, or a neutral location if all applicants are present. If all applicants are unable to be present, another meeting will need to be set up to meet the remaining family members.
- 🐾 If a foster is uncomfortable participating in meet and greets prior arrangements need to be set up with MAMCO staff for meet and greets.

### Laws:

- 🐾 As a foster, you agree to abide by all the relevant zoning and animal control codes and ordinances for your county and state. Dams and their litters, regardless of the size, only count as one dog.

### Veterinary Appointments

**MAMCO Rescue will pay for all veterinary appointments and medications if the following criteria are met:**

- 🐾 The foster contacts MAMCO Rescue prior to scheduling the appointment and receives consent to take the animal to the veterinarian.

- 🐾 The foster home will be liable for all incurred charges if they fail to contact MAMCO Rescue for authorization prior to the visit
- 🐾 The foster must use MAMCO Rescue's Approved Veterinary Clinics always unless an emergency arises.
- 🐾 In the case of an emergency, Foster homes will need to contact MAMCO Rescue immediately
- 🐾 If an emergency veterinary visit is necessary, the foster must keep a copy of the bill and mail another to MAMCO Rescue, either for payment to the veterinarian, or reimbursed to the foster home. This should be worked out prior to the appointment.

## Managing Data and Information for your Foster Animals

- 🐾 MAMCO Rescue needs to make a record of every dog in our care. Within two days of intake, the foster needs to provide photographs of the dam and a brief description of her personality and behaviors. When the puppies are four weeks old, the foster will need to begin taking pictures of the puppies. When you send the photos, give brief descriptions of the dog's personalities. The more detailed the descriptions and the better the pictures, the faster the dogs are adopted once the puppies have been weaned.
- 🐾 Some things that are good to know about the dams:
  - How does she interact with children, adults, and household pets?
  - How does she walk on a leash?
  - Is she potty trained, or potty-training progress?
  - Any behavioral issues that may impact adoption (anxiety, chewing, etc.)
  - You may also be asked to evaluate several adoption applications for approval. Please see the next section for more details.

# City, State, and The Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act (PACFA) – Colorado

- 🐾 The number of allowable household pets varies from county to county. Foster homes that have a signed foster agreement with MAMCO Rescue will follow different rules, which were established by PACFA in July 2016. These rules are listed here: PACFA REVISIONS
- 🐾 PACFA - 8 CCR 1202-15
  - Animal rescue facilities shall use a system of fostering in private homes or keeping pet animals in licensed pet animal facilities. No more than eight dogs or cats may be housed in any foster home at any time. A female dog with puppies under 8 weeks of age or a queen with kittens under 8 weeks of age will be considered one adult.
  - To learn more about PACFA compliance, you may visit their webpage at: PACFA

## Allowable Pets Per County

- 🐾 Denver County: 3 dogs, 5 cats, 2 rabbits, or 25 pigeons, or 5 total dogs and cats, not exceeding 3 dogs) no exotic pets or farm animals.
- 🐾 Jefferson County: 3 dogs, 5 cats, 2 rabbits, or 25 pigeons, or 5 total dogs and cats, not exceeding 3 dogs) no exotic pets or farm animals. Litters of puppies or kittens may be kept until weaned.
- 🐾 Arapahoe County: There shall be a maximum combination of three dogs, cats, small animals, and reptiles over the age of six (6) months per household. except as otherwise set forth within the Land Development Code.
- 🐾 Adams County: Since Adams County is mostly rural the rules for household animals' changes with the size of the land. An ordinary house on a city lot can have 3 dogs 3 cats, 2 chinchillas, 2

ferrets, 2 guinea pigs, for a maximum of 10.

- 🐾 Broomfield: Citizens living in Broomfield are allowed four adult animals in each
- 🐾 residence. Animals over six months of age are considered adults. This does not apply to fish or birds. Livestock, fowl, exotic animals, wildlife, or endangered species are not allowed as pets within the City and County of Broomfield. Non-poisonous snakes and ferrets are allowed.
- 🐾 Elbert County: Domestic animals, such as dogs and cats (not more than four (4) animals of more than four (4) months of age), are permitted in all districts, provided they are not bred, boarded, sold, trained or groomed for commercial purposes.

## Approved Veterinary Clinics

If it is an emergency, go to one of the authorized emergency vets OR Red Rocks Animal Center.

### Walk-Ins, Appointments, Non-Emergent

Red Rocks Animal Center  
303-987-2026  
620 Miller Ct. Lakewood, CO 80215  
<http://redrocksanimal.com/>

### Emergency and After-Hours Veterinary Care

Animal Urgent Care  
303-420-7387  
7851 Indiana Street, Arvada CO 80007  
<http://aucvet.com/index.html>  
Hours: Tues Thurs– overnight 5pm to 8 am Friday, Sat, Sun,  
Mon – open 24 hours.

### Spay and Neuter Services

Please note that the spay and neuter services available with the adoption fees are through Spay Today and Red Rocks ONLY.

Spay Today  
303-984-7729  
1864 S Wadsworth Blvd #2, (Jewell and Wadsworth)  
Lakewood, CO 80232  
<http://spay2day.org/contact-us/>

# Important Information for Foster Parents

***These items are addressed in detail on the MAMCORescue.org website on the Foster Resources Page.***

- 🐾 Supplies List – All fosters caring for moms and puppies should have these things!
- 🐾 Supply Request Form
- 🐾 Approved Veterinary Clinics
- 🐾 Deworming Protocol
- 🐾 Deworming Dosage Charts
- 🐾 Vaccination Protocol
- 🐾 Information on how to treat Fleas, Ticks, and Other Creepy Crawlies
- 🐾 Whelping Instructions
- 🐾 Puppy Care

## Litter Folders

- 🐾 Each litter, dog, or individual puppy will arrive with a Litter folder.
- 🐾 Litter folders contain important information about the medical history of your foster dogs, any illnesses or conditions they may have, medications they may need to have administered by you while they are in your care, and the due dates for upcoming vaccinations
- 🐾 They also contain a Medication Administration Sheet where you should write down the dosage, date, and time of any medications, supplements, or vitamins given to your foster dog.
- 🐾 ***These records MUST be complete! This is a legal requirement!!***
- 🐾 Litter folders will also detail where the foster dogs are located, and past foster homes they have been.

- 🐾 Litter folders contain a deworming chart, vaccination calendar, and information about when your foster(s) will attend an event.
- 🐾 Litter folders MUST be brought to any veterinary appointments, vaccination appointments, and adoption events.

## Mandatory Training & Illness

***Please complete the mandatory training located on mamcorescue.org if you have not done so already so! This must be completed before dogs come into your home!***

### Illnesses

- 🐾 Dogs with the following symptoms need to see a veterinarian:
  - Coughing
  - Sneezing
  - Runny nose or eyes
  - Diarrhea
  - Diarrhea that is beyond normal food change diarrhea (see the training)
  - Vomiting

### Parvo

- 🐾 If your foster dog has diarrhea and you are concerned about Parvovirus, call MAMCO immediately. We can test your foster dog to determine if it is parvo, or if it is something else.
  - Always send photographs of unusual or concerning poop to your foster care contact!!
- 🐾 If there is blood in the stool, call MAMCO staff immediately!
- 🐾 If your foster dog vomits food, watch the dog to see if it happens again. Sometimes dogs' vomit and it is not a cause for alarm.
  - Always send photographs of vomit you think may be concerning.
- 🐾 If your foster dog vomits bile or foam, vomits more than once, or is not eating and/or drinking, call MAMCO staff immediately!

**Dogs with ANY of the following symptoms should NEVER be brought to an event:**

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Runny Nose (snot has color to it)
- Diarrhea that is beyond normal food change diarrhea (see the training)
- Vomiting

**THESE SYMPTOMS OFTEN INDICATE THAT THE DOG NEEDS TO SEE A VETERINARIAN! CALL YOUR MAMCO FOSTER CARE TEAM MEMBER!**

## Parvo After Care

If one or more of your foster dogs 'contracts Parvovirus, they will be hospitalized until they have recovered. Most dogs survive Parvovirus. When they are released, it is always preferred if they can come back to their original foster home for care. They will most likely have medications that need to be administered at home. You will need to record the administration dose, date, and time in the Litter Folder.

They will not be able to attend standard events and will need to be held for ten days to ensure that they do not regress. However, following the short recovery period they will be eligible for adoption.

We can do private meet and greets for Parvo dogs only, or individual litter meet and greets for your litter. They will get adopted!!



## Distemper

Dogs who are diagnosed with distemper, whether it be through an upper respiratory panel at the vet, or through one of our snap tests, will be euthanized.

Distemper is a cruel and fatal disease. Even with treatment, only a very small percentage of the puppies survive, and those who do, usually have long term side effects. It is painful and cruel to those who suffer through it!

The financial and emotional cost of treating one distemper puppy is extremely high, and the outcome is not favorable 99% of the time. For this reason, we have chosen to observe the above protocol.

### EXCEPTION:

If an adult dog, or a dog who is older than four months of age is diagnosed in the initial stage of the disease (upper respiratory infection), we will order an experimental drug called New Castle Serum and administer it to the dog before choosing to euthanize.

We have had great success with New Castle Serum on adult dogs and dogs that are older than 16 weeks of age. However, New Castle Serum will not work if the dog has progressed to the gastrointestinal or neurological stages of the disease. At that point, the dog will need to be euthanized.

## Worms and Other Creepy Crawlies

Inside of your litter folder you will have a pamphlet on the various parasites that shelter dogs can have. Unless a foster dog was dewormed within four days of transport, they will come to your home with deformer. Please see this chart to identify the symptoms of a parasite infection.

# Cleaning Protocol

Puppy disease are an unfortunate hazard of dog rescue. However, we can take steps to avoid disease, and to ensure that diseases are contained when they do happen. Wash your hands frequently with a disinfectant soap.

## Provided Supplies

You will be provided with a metal playpen and a metal crate. We do not use plastic primarily because it is hard to wipe disease from the small crevices and porous areas on plastic. The only exception to this rule is whelping pools, which are plastic.

Playpens, crates, and whelping pools should be wiped down using a mixture of Virkon solution. You will be provided with a premixed bottle of the solution when you receive the dogs. Virkon is safe on all surfaces, including fabrics and carpets.

**See the cleaning protocol for further instructions.**

## Linens

Linens should be washed frequently in a bleach and detergent solution.

## Toys

The toys you will be provided with are either dishwasher safe or can be washed with the linens in the washing machine. Toys should be washed in this way, weekly, at the very minimum.

Toys should be wiped down using the provided Virkon Solution DAILY. See the cleaning protocol for further instructions

## Waste

Feces and urine should be cleaned up immediately to avoid the spread of disease. Soiled puppy pads should be disposed of immediately, unless there is cause for concern and a fecal sample needs to be run at the vet.

# How to Clean Using Virkon:

- 🐾 Remove all feces from the surface.
  - Although Virkon claims it can penetrate organic surfaces, it is best not to take chances!
- 🐾 Soak the entire surface with the Virkon Solution and allow it to sit for ten minutes.
- 🐾 After ten minutes has passed, rinse the surface with warm water
- 🐾 Soak the surface with Virkon once more and rinse it immediately.
- 🐾 The surface is now clean and ready to be used.

# Why Keeping Things Clean is Important

Vaccinations are not always enough to protect a vulnerable puppy! Many of these dogs come from situations where they have never had proper nutrition or care, so they are more susceptible to disease.

Germs spread disease and we want to keep the rescue dogs as healthy as possible.

Avoiding disease and illness through clean practices is the best way to keep everyone well.

Please remember to clean all crates and/or playpens prior to bringing them to adoption events or when you return them to the shop.

# MAMCO Adoption Procedures

Thank you for being an integral part of saving dogs lives. The first step in our rescue process is getting the dogs out of bad situations and putting them into loving foster homes. We could not do this without the time and love you invest in the mamas and puppies. Because of the bond you create with your puppies we understand that you may want to have a role in their adoption. There are a few ways you can do this but you need to understand our process so you can help in the most beneficial way for your foster dogs.

MAMCO is very careful to screen all who apply to adopt a dog through us. We have set adoption protocol that we maintain to keep the process fair and to ensure that the dog is going to the best home. This is how it works:

- Potential adopter must submit an adoption application.
- The application will be reviewed by our team making sure that it is an appropriate home for the dog and ensuring that the dog is permitted to be on the premises.
- Once the application has been approved an email is sent informing the applicant of the approval.
  - At this time the potential adopter is given instructions on how to call and place a deposit to hold the puppy.
  - This is done on a first come, first serve basis to be fair to all who have applied.
  - The first come basis also applies to any foster who wishes to adopt a puppy in their care.
- Once MAMCO has taken a deposit for a dog, that adopter will have the chance to meet the dog at the event and decide if the dog is right for their family.
  - If the dog is not a good match MAMCO will allow the adopter to chance the deposit to any other available dog for up to 6 months.
- We typically begin list the dogs for the public the Sunday before their first adoption event.
  - Fosters who may want to adopt, MUST put a deposit on the puppy before it is listed. Once a deposit is taken, we will respect the adopter's hold and will not allow the foster to adopt that dog.

## Foster Involvement in the Adoption Process

There are a few ways you can help find homes for your fosters:

- Attend adoption events with your fosters
  - Who knows your pups better than you do. You can speak with potential adopters and tell them about their unique personality.
    - It is also very helpful to have additional hands to help care for all the puppies.
    - MAMCO does retain the final say on who can adopt; however, if you have reservations about a potential adopter, please express them to one of our staff members. We trust your judgement.
- You can also tell your friends and family about the dogs
  - Please remember that your fosters may not go to another home without the explicit permission of a MAMCO staff member
    - This is for the health and safety of our animals as well as others.
    - If you do want to have friends and family over to see the puppies, please wait until their first vaccine has been given.
      - It is easy to carry in germs that you don't know about and we want to keep our puppies healthy.
      - If people come into your home, please have them wash their hands or sanitize before touching puppies.
  - If a friend or family member would like to adopt, they need to go through the steps outlined above

- If you have found a good match, you can notify a staff member and we can try to run their application quickly and give them the best chance of placing a deposit first, but it is not a guarantee
- It is possible for your friends or family to apply to adopt one of your foster before they are posted publicly
- They will not be able to select your specific dog on the application, but an approved application applies to any available dog in the rescue.
- Share your foster dogs on Social media.
  - This is especially helpful for mamas and older puppies.
    - On your post, please direct them to fill out the adoption application at [mamcorescue.org](http://mamcorescue.org). We will then review the application
    - If you would like to have a private meet and greet please make sure that they have an approved application with MAMCO first.
      - This will prevent you from wasting your time and help you to avoid any awkward situations.
    - Please wait until the Sunday before the puppies first adoption event to post them on social media.

Usually many (if not all) of the foster puppies will be adopted out at their first or second Saturday adoption event. Mama dogs are a little different, because adoption events can be stressful for some older dogs.

- We often will ask if you are comfortable doing a private meet and greet in your home for these dogs or we will bring them to the office and host the meet and greet there.
  - Please do not have potential adopters bring their dogs into your home for private meet and greets if there are still puppies in the home
    - Until a puppy is fully vaccinated, they are not yet immune to diseases such as parvo and distemper, and we cannot be sure what outside dogs may be carrying
  - Many of our older dogs are put into foster to adopt situations
  - This is a trial period in the potential adopter's home where they are given one week to finalize the adoption or bring back the dog
  - This is not an option for young puppies! Older dogs may come with special needs and it is often necessary to see if they will be a good fit in the home before finalizing the adoption
  - 
  - All adoption fees vary by litter and are non-refundable. The deposit to hold a puppy until the next adoption event is a \$250 non-refundable deposit which is applied to the adoption fee. If you have any questions about the adoption process, please feel free to contact a MAMCO staff member.

# POOP



**Food Change Poop**



**Wormy Poop**



**Usually Wormy Poop**



**CALL US 911**



# WORMS, BUGS, & YOUR DOG!!

While all MAMCO dogs are given at least one deworming treatment when they arrive in our care, parasites hosted by dogs are not always eliminated on the first treatment. Because most of our dogs originate in places where parasites are prevalent, we always assume that they need to be treated with or without symptoms. This is the reason we “deworm” the dogs.

## The Problem!

Parasites that are common in Texas and New Mexico, are often not an issue in Colorado. This has made things challenging for local veterinarians. Parasites can cause a variety of symptoms that can be concerning to adopters and can stump local veterinarians. Most parasite infections cause diarrhea, but so can a lot of other illnesses. If in doubt, order a fecal sample on your pet.

## Symptoms & Solutions:

- **Coccidia:** Diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, foul smelling poop, blood in stool
  - **Solution:** While coccidia can take several weeks to clear up, it is fairly easy to treat. Antibiotic Sulfa medication prescribed by a veterinarian will begin the healing process.
- **Giardia:** Diarrhea, weight loss (this is a common parasite in Colorado lakes and rivers)
  - **Solution:** While Giardia can take several weeks to clear up, it is fairly easy to treat. Antibiotics prescribed by a veterinarian will begin the healing process.
- **Hookworms:** Diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, death (untreated hookworm infections are very dangerous)
  - **Solution:** Hookworms are eliminated through a regular deworming schedule using Panacur. This can be administered by a veterinarian or rescue representative. Typically, 7 days of Panacur every two weeks for 6 weeks will eliminate all eggs and larvae in the dog. Sometimes an antibiotic will also be administered to eliminate any potential for infection in the dog.
- **Roundworms:** Diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, dull hair, pot-bellied appearance
  - **Solution:** Roundworms are eliminated through a regular deworming schedule using Pyrantel. This can be administered by a veterinarian or rescue representative. Typically 1 days of Pyrantel every two weeks for 6 weeks will eliminate all eggs and larvae in the dog. In more serious infestations Panacur may be used as well.
- **Tapeworms:** Usually no symptoms, worms will appear in stool
  - **Solution:** Tape worms are gross, but easily killed using one dose of Praziquantel.

- **Whipworms:** Bloody diarrhea, infection, death (untreated whipworm infections are very dangerous)
  - **Solution:** Whipworms are eliminated through a regular deworming schedule using Panacur. This can be administered by a veterinarian or rescue representative. Typically, 7 days of Panacur every two weeks for 6 weeks will eliminate all eggs and larvae in the dog. Sometimes an antibiotic will also be administered to eliminate any potential for infection in the dog.
- **Heartworm:** Heartworm is very damaging, but also 100% preventable. Puppies are unlikely to contract the disease and should be put on a preventative as soon as they are old enough. Older dogs who test positive for heartworm must undergo three treatments for the disease. MAMCO will cover the first two treatments at their partner veterinarian.

## Tick Borne Illnesses

Ticks are a very common problem and many rescue dogs come covered in them! While you shouldn't ever find a tick on your newly adopted dog, there are some tick borne illnesses that may present themselves later. Most are taken care of through antibiotics. These diseases include:

- **Lyme disease**, which comes from the deer tick, can cause stiffness, lameness, swollen joints, loss of appetite, fever and fatigue. Your dog may not show signs of the disease until several months after infected.
- **Canine Ehrlichiosis**, found worldwide, is the most common and one of the most dangerous tick-borne disease organisms known to infect dogs. Caused by the brown dog tick, symptoms may not surface for months after transmission, and can include fever, loss of appetite, depression, weight loss, runny eyes and nose, nose bleeds and swollen limbs.
- **Canine Anaplasmosis**, also called dog fever or dog tick fever, is transmitted from the deer tick. Symptoms are similar to other tick diseases including fever, loss of appetite, stiff joints and lethargy, but also can include vomiting, diarrhea. In extreme cases, dogs may suffer seizures.
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever** comes from the American dog tick, the wood tick and the lone star tick. Symptoms include fever, stiffness, neurological problems and skin lesions. Typically, the illness lasts about two weeks, but serious cases could result in death.

## Welcome to MAMCO

Thank you for choosing to foster. Without wonderful fosters like yourself, we cannot rescue dogs! You are the most important part of dog rescue. Please remember to familiarize yourself with the litter folder, and to make a note of vaccination due dates, event dates, and important phone numbers.

**Do not hesitate to call us with questions or concerns. We are here to support you through this journey.**