



Austin Boxer Rescue

Foster Manual

This guide contains basic information about fostering a rescued Boxer for Austin Boxer Rescue. It covers many topics and contains a wide variety of information. Of course, it is not exhaustive; please refer to your Foster Mentor or a Foster Coordinator for anything you cannot find in the guide. The Foster Facebook page is another good source of information.

Guide to Fostering a Rescued Boxer



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Fostering and Volunteering

Austin Boxer Rescue (ABR) is an organization run entirely by volunteers. Since our organization is run solely on donations, we always need more people to donate their time. In addition to fostering, there are many ways you can volunteer for ABR. Most of our volunteers are people that have adopted a dog in the past. Since our entire organization is based solely on donations (both monetary and volunteer time) we are always seeking new people to donate their time. We have many different avenues to choose for volunteering.

We have active ABR chapters in both Austin and in San Antonio, and have fosters in many outlying areas as well. Our mission is to place homeless, abused, and neglected Boxers into forever homes where they will be loved and well-cared for.

If you are in Austin, email volunteerapps@austinboxerrescue.com to learn about volunteer opportunities that are available. You can also check the www.austinboxerrescue.com website and the Austin Boxer Rescue Facebook Fan page for more information.

If you're in San Antonio, you can email infosaa@austinboxerrescue.com to get started. San Antonio uses a Yahoo group to keep in touch and update volunteers on opportunities.

Austin Boxer Rescue does not have a shelter facility. ABR relies solely on a foster care network. At any given time we have close to 100 foster homes that temporarily care for Boxers until a perfect forever home can be found. Sometimes foster boxers are adopted within days, and sometimes it takes several weeks or months. By having the animals in foster care, it allows us to quickly learn about their temperament, disposition, and tolerance for other animals. We can immediately begin working on things such as house and crate training and work with the dogs to resolve any issues prior to adoption. By utilizing a foster network we are able to provide potential adopters with a wealth of information on the personality and well being of the animals they wish to adopt.

We pull dogs directly from shelters so it's not always easy to know the personality of the dog before he or she is placed in a foster home. We work closely with our foster families and try to work out small problems before they become big problems.

Contact the foster coordinator fosterapps@austinboxerrescue.com ASAP if you feel there is a problem with your foster dog so we can help alleviate the stress and help ease the transition. We have dealt with almost every scenario and have found that success is most often achieved when we are contacted when a problem initially arises.

Expectations of Foster Families

Adoption Days and Opportunities

- Please bring your foster dog to as many Adoption Days as possible. The number of adoption days he or she attends directly correlates to how quickly he or she will get adopted. It is the best and easiest way to get your foster dog the exposure he or she deserves!
 1. Austin Adoption Days – every other Saturday at TA Brown Elementary School – please see www.austinboxerrescue.com for dates and times.
 2. San Antonio Adoption Days – held at least once per month, please see Yahoo Groups database for dates and times.
- Please do not bring your foster to an event until he or she is ready for a permanent home – that means spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro-chipped, heartworm and fecal tested. Dogs may be micro-chipped at Adoption Days (there are several qualified volunteers who can scan and chip your dog).

Adopting Your Foster (or Foster Failures)

- Oftentimes, a foster family realizes that they cannot live without their foster dog and chooses to adopt. If you choose to adopt, you must go through the same adoption approval process as a non-foster adopter. **A home visit will be performed, and you will be expected to pay the full adoption fee at the time of adoption.**
- If you plan to foster-to-adopt, the expectation is that you will pay for the dog in full once you decide to adopt. You may foster but as soon as an adopter comes to meet your dog you must make a decision at this time if you will adopt. It is in the best interest of the dog to get it into a forever home as soon as possible. If you anticipate to have a problem paying the adoption fee, but think you might want to adopt you need to discuss this issue as soon as possible.
- While you do not have to have all your pets spayed and neutered to foster for ABR, you will not be allowed to adopt if there is an intact animal living in your home. If your pet is given away intact or for any reason not spayed/neutered then you will automatically be disqualified from adopting and may be asked to return your ABR foster.

Bios and Pictures

- The second best way to get exposure for your foster dog is to make sure his or her bio and pictures are up-to-date.
- We do not expect you to be a professional photographer, but pictures of your dog make him or her more adoptable. Try to get pictures that show your dog in the best light possible – snuggled up with your child, playing with a toy, interacting with other animals, making a cute face, doing a trick, or other. Pictures may be emailed directly to adoptionpage@austinboxerrescue.com.
- Please submit a bio info form as soon as you know your dog a bit (about a week). You can do so by using the following link: http://www.austinboxerrescue.com/Foster_Dog_Info_for_Bios.asp. This link is also available on the www.austinboxerrescue.com website; just look for the “Are you a Foster?” heading on the yellow ribbon on the right-hand side of the page.
- The more information you can put in the bio, the better the bio will be written for your dog. Please include any distinguishing information. Examples: carries a yellow stuffed duck everywhere, loves apple slices, is very “boxy, is vocal when he or she plays.” Just provide us with as much information as possible; the bio writers will worry about making it politically correct.

Contact Information

Your Foster Mentor or Foster Coordinator should be able to contact you at all times. If your phone number or address changes, please let ABR know. We will be attempting to contact you to check on your foster dog, discuss vetting appointments, and potential meetings with adopters.

Vetting and Medication

- ABR will provide you with monthly heartworm preventative, regardless of the dog's heartworm status (positive or negative). This should be administered on the 1st of each month.
- ABR will set up all vetting appointments and will work with you on coordinating the times so that it is convenient for you.
- ABR will cover the cost of all vetting for your foster, provided it takes place at a pre-approved appointment and a pre-selected veterinarian.
- If you have an emergency, please contact a Foster Coordinator before seeking medical attention; most ailments and accidents are not true emergencies.

ABR Property

- ABR will lend you a crate for your ABR foster dog; however, the crate must be returned to an ABR representative within 7 days of adoption of your dog, whether you or an outside applicant adopt the dog. If you take another foster dog, you may keep the crate to use for him or her. If you do not take another dog and do not return the crate, ABR will charge a \$100 replacement fee.
- All Heartworm preventative, collars, leashes, and other items must be returned to ABR within 7 days of the date of adoption.

Dog Parks

- ABR does not endorse dog parks. There are too many variables and too many irresponsible dog owners.
- If you choose to take your foster dog to a dog park you will be doing this at your own risk. ABR will not be responsible or liable for any injuries or damages that occur at an off-leash site.

Dog Names

- There is a method to the madness of naming dogs strange and unusual names. Please do not change your dog's ABR name, though you may call him or her by a nickname or shortened version of his or her name.
- ABR dogs stay micro-chipped in ABR's name and are identified by their individual and unique ABR names throughout their lives. It is important that an adoptive family be aware of the dog's ABR name, even if they choose to call the dog a different name.

Temp Fostering

- ABR will provide temp fostering for your foster dog whenever you need it. This may consist of boarding or temporarily being placed in another ABR volunteer's home.
- When possible (for vacation and holidays), please let ABR Foster Coordinators know at least 2 weeks in advance so they can find a place for your dog.
- In an emergency situation, please notify your Foster Coordinator and your Foster Mentor that you need immediate and emergency temp fostering for your ABR dog.

ABR Expectations

1. ABR will work to match you with a dog that will work for you and your family/situation. If it doesn't work out we will always take the dog back or swap you out for another dog. Our goal is to make this as easy for you as possible.
2. ABR pays for all vetting on our dogs, but only at our vets and we must approve all vet appointments. If you feel your dog is having a problem just let us know and we will tell you how to proceed. A volunteer will be emailing you about additional vetting you dog needs, if any. Your foster cannot go to an adoptive home until he or she is spayed or neutered.
3. ABR will help provide transportation to vet appointments and adoption days if you need it, but you do have to ask!
4. You can always contact a Foster Coordinator or your Foster Mentor if you have questions, problems or need some support.
5. Please friend Andrea Flinn or Jaycee Carey on Facebook. These Foster Coordinators will add you to the Facebook group especially for fosters.
6. If you have a question, please refer to this manual or your Foster Mentor. Foster Mentors are experienced Foster Families who have seen most scenarios and who can help you with basic information and provide you with support and encouragement.
7. ABR will be setting up monthly classes to help you work through common issues with your foster dogs. At this time, the classes will only be offered in Austin, but if enough interest is generated in San Antonio, they may be offered less frequently in San Antonio.

What Your Foster Dog Needs

ABR Provides	Foster Family Provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crate – (36" X 27" X 24") to (42" X 28" X 31") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food/Water Bowls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heartworm prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treats (no rawhides)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys (Kongs, rope toys, Nylabones)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food (see food chart in next section)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting for your Foster Dog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedding – crate blanket, towels, crate beds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Foster Dog! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience and Stability!

Food for your Foster

ABR often receives food donations; if you need food for your foster, please let your Foster Coordinators know and they will get you some! However, due to a limited supply of donations, you are encouraged to provide food for your foster.

Recommended Dog Foods

Super Premium	Premium	Mid-Grade
Wellness	Blue Buffalo	Science Diet
Solid Gold	Pro-Plan	Iams
AvoDerm	Eukanuba	Purina One
Natural Balance	Nature's Recipe	
Chicken Soup	Nutro Max	
Innova	Nutro Ultra	
Bright Life	Bil Jac	
Life's Abundance	Royal Canin	

**If you can purchase it in a grocery store or it is not on this list, please, research the brand carefully before feeding it to your dog.

***If you are interested in feeding a raw diet, please contact one of your Foster Coordinators for more information.

How to Feed Your Foster

It is very important to establish specific feeding times and routines for dogs. You can feed your dog once or twice a day but it's important to feed them at the same time.

Advantages:

- 1) Feeding your dog is an important gesture and demonstration of who is in charge. In the wild, who gets to eat when is a major deal and it is completely decided by the alpha male and female of the pack. Just leaving food lying around all the time sends the message that eating is no big deal, since there is always food available, and that it has little or anything to do with you, i.e. does not demonstrate your place in the hierarchy. It is a valuable tool that is lost when food is left out.
- 2) If other dogs are ever in the mix this is a way to eliminate one of the most common causes of dog fights. Some dogs are highly protective of their food and therefore can be

food aggressive even with dogs that they may be “close friends” with (that is different for dogs than humans). Leaving food lying around all the time is just asking for a confrontation. Feeding them at the same time, but separate by distance, and immediately removing the bowls eliminates the chance of a food fight.

- 3) It allows you to monitor the amount of food the dog is getting. If your dog needs to lose a little weight, it is very difficult to know how much he is getting if the bowl just gets filled up. Feeding a specific amount at specific times lets you know how much he is getting and lets you increase or decrease with some accuracy.
- 4) Leaving bowls around with food in them invites flies and other insects for a field day in the dog's food. It's a good way to pass along disease. Cleaning the bowls also removes bacteria, etc. which can begin to live on the dog bowl and which possibly can cause skin problems around the mouth.

Bringing Foster Dog Home

- Crate your foster dog; NEVER leave him/her outside or inside unattended. Crating helps keep your foster dog safe, contained, and helps to establish routine for him or her. If your foster dog isn't housebroken, crating him or her will help reinforce potty-training. It also protects your home from destructive chewing, accidents, and dog hair!
- The key to incorporating a foster into a home with other animals is patience and slow introductions. Read the section on *Introductions*.
- Do not give your foster dog any rawhides, as these are difficult to digest and can be a choking hazard.
- Do not give your foster dog any cooked bones – these can splinter off and cause major damage to the dog's internal organs and can cause death.
- If you have other dogs, remove all toys off the floor and incorporate them into the mix after the dogs have had a week or more to get familiar with one another.
- Feed separately from everyone else, and begin teaching food control as soon as your foster dog is in your home.
- Show your foster where to eliminate, where to sleep (be sure to give them a bed), where to drink, and introduce them to their new crate. Praise them when they adhere to the areas.
- Create a schedule to promote routine.
- Most dogs over 1 are housebroken, but they may have accidents for the first because they do not know the new schedule. Influence praise training for potty training and NEVER incorporate the use of treats with housebreaking.
- If your foster is having a hard time adjusting and keeps eliminating in his/her crate, try removing all bedding and blankets. Dogs in general try to cover their waste because dogs in general don't like to sleep where they use the restroom. If there is no place to "bury it" (in a blanket for example) they will learn faster to hold it until you get home.
- If your foster begins to cough (even a few days later) they may have kennel cough which is very common. This is like a human cold, so do not panic. Contact an Austin Boxer Rescue Foster Coordinator or your Foster Mentor.
- Boxers have very sensitive stomachs, and the moving from a shelter to a foster home can stress it out. They will most likely have diarrhea until they settle in. There will also be food adjustments that their stomachs can react to until they are used to their new food. They may not eat a lot at first from all the activity, and will probably sleep quite a bit once taken home. **Adding a few tablespoons of YOGURT WITH LIVE CULTURES & CANNED PUMPKIN to food can help with diarrhea.**
- Dogs often do not like to go out in the rain. They will hold it instead of eliminating in the rain, try to going out with them in the rain.

Vetting for Your Foster Dog

In San Antonio, please contact Jeanne Strauss for information about routine vetting for your foster.

In Austin, you will be contacted by Laurie Hoff – please check your email for information from her.

In case of an emergency or for non-routine vetting, please contact a Foster Coordinator.

These volunteers will tell you when your appointments are and where to take the dog.

ABR will only pay for vetting at approved clinics and anything outside the “required vetting” needs prior approval. If you take your foster to your vet or to an ABR vet without approval you will be responsible for those charges.

Routine Vetting

- Distemper/Parvo combo vaccination
- Rabies vaccination
- Spay/neuter
- Fecal and de-wormed if necessary
- Heartworm test (monthly prevention if dog tests positive or negative)
- Heartworm treatment if positive
- Microchip

***Any lumps, hair loss, upper respiratory infections or other problems need to be discussed with the Foster Coordinator.

General Foster Information

Heartworms

- Texas heat increases the risk of fleas and mosquitoes.
- They are only contagious through mosquitoes and can only be prevented by administering a monthly pill from your vet. ABR uses a generic form of the active ingredient in the pills you get from your vet. We will supply this to you.

Boxer Traits

- Boxers are high energy and require daily exercise and training to be happy.
- They are also heat/cold intolerant. With the Texas heat they can quickly overheat especially if walked during extreme temperatures. Make sure to always exercise your boxer in the early morning or evening, allow breaks and adequate hydration.
- Never leave your Boxer unattended outside; in the summer they can overheat and in the winter, they can easily develop cold-weather-related issues.
- If your boxer does not get the required training and exercise they will become frustrated which leads to behavioral problems including destructive behavior.
- Health problems: skin tumors that are cancerous, heart problems, orthopedic problems.

Front Door Bolting

Most fosters have lived in an average of 2-4 different homes and are very unsure in their new foster home. You can help prevent them from “front door bolting” by using a few of the techniques listed below.

- Put up a baby gate.
- Teaching your foster to “sit” and “wait.”
- Put the dog on a leash or in a crate with a guest arrives at the door.
- Always keep a collar on your dog so you can grab quickly.

Fence Jumping

Some Boxers are expert jumpers and can easily scale even a 6-foot privacy fence. Do not let your tall fence give you a false sense of security. A determined Boxer can get out.

- Be aware your dog will jump the fence most likely when you are not there or when he is left unattended.
- The best way to prevent your dog from jumping the fence is to never leave them outside unattended. Crating your dog when you're not home is the best way to ensure your dog's safety.

Locks on Gates

- Prevents guest from leaving the gate open.
- Protects the animal from being stolen.
- Prevents the wind and other elements for blowing the door open.
- Prevents boxers from opening a gate, VERY COMMON, even if YOU think it is hard to open!

****Keep dog inside when not at home to prevent dog from escaping or being stolen. This is the number one way that dogs are lost from homes.

Introductions

Other Dogs

When there is already a dog in a home it can be a little tricky at times to introduce a second dog into the family. It's important not to throw two dogs together and expect they will be best friends. In the wild, dogs live in "packs," and they decide who will be the Alpha and determine the pecking order for the pack. If you do not establish the hierarchy in your home, the dog will do it for you. This is a bad thing and will usually lead to aggressive behaviors in your dog.

Feed your new dog separately from your current dog. If you choose to free feed both dogs you will likely be setting the stage for failure with the new dog. It's best to feed your new dog in a separate room from your current dog. Begin working on food control as soon as you can. Many of the dogs in rescue have been in the street and have had to fight for food in the past. Most of them will get past this with time and after they befriend your other dog(s). To put it in perspective, ask yourself if you would allow a stranger to hold your wallet while you use the restroom at a local mall. If the scenario was different and you asked a friend it's reasonable to assume your answer would change.

The separation of food extends to bones, rawhides and sometimes even toys. Let the dogs get to know one another before expecting them to be able to share these types of things. More often than not they WILL fight over possession of these objects. They can be integrated into the mix within a few weeks. Do not ever leave high-value rewards (food, treats, or bones) unattended, as they can be a source of tension in the best of dog friends.

Don't take any chances. Usually once dogs have that first real, throw-down fight, things are never the same and there is always some level of distrust if not continued aggression.

Start by putting your dog put up, maybe in a bedroom and not a crate, and let the new dog move around the home and back yard freely. The new dog will know there is another dog that lives there just from smelling around. This will begin the process of introductions. Give the new dog about 45 minutes to an hour to figure things out and calm down a bit from the drive and coming into a new home.

After the exploration time is over then put the new dog in his crate in a spot where although he may not be in the middle of the room, he's in a position to see what is going on. Then let your other dog out of the bedroom. Have her in a training collar and leash. The new dog will begin to figure out the social dynamics of your family and will pick up on a lot just by watching through crate. Do not allow the 2 dogs to do anything aggressive through the crate. If any inappropriate behaviors are exhibited give an immediate correction to that specific dog. The dogs should be able to meet through the crate. If both dogs are relaxed and not exhibiting any dominate behavior then remember to praise both dogs.

Leave the new dog in the crate for the rest of that day and the next before ever introducing them outside the crate. It is likely that once you introduce them, much of the tension will be gone as they really won't be that new to one another. When you do introduce them outside the crate, have them both on chain collars and leashes (loose again) until you are sure they will be okay.

Cats

Read "other dogs" before reading this. Introductions with an adult dog and cats are based on the same principles and the use of a crate. The boxers in the program that are adopted out with cats are usually tested with cats before they are adopted out to a home with them. Just because your new dog has proven to well with one cat it does not mean that he will like all cats. Cats have

different personalities and while some cats ignore new dogs, other with hiss and scratch a new dog in the face. This could lead to a different response from the dog than expected.

The new dog and cat should be introduced using the crate. Have the dog crated and bring the cat out to be in the same room with the dog. Usually the adjustment period will be longer for your cat than the new dog. After two days of crating your new dog with the cat in the same room you can take the dog out with a chain collar and leash only! Make sure you have two people in the home when you do this for the first time. Ensure your control over the dog and allow him to come within a foot of the cat. The ideal response is for the dog to ignore the cat or look at the cat briefly then look away. If this is the response you get then keep the dog out on a leash for the rest of the day (with leash in hand). Allow the two to interact and investigate one another. The cat will not likely come close to the dog and usually once the cat realizes the dog is not interested in him the tensions will loosen in the home. Eventually the two will set their boundaries and learn how to live with one another.

If the dog is stalking the cat, won't take his eyes off the cat and becomes very tense this is a bad sign. Place the dog back in the crate and place the cat in another room. Contact ABR ASAP for guidance on how to continue.

It's important to never introduce a cat and dog outside. If a cat is outside they are more often seen as "prey" to any dog. This should always be done inside. NEVER leave a dog out to roam freely in a home with a cat. ALWAYS crate the dog when not home.

Children

Toddlers

Boxers are known for being good with children, but this does require some work and effort on your part as the parent. Toddlers can be very difficult to match a dog with. These youngsters can be unpredictable and often do not have established boundaries as they are exploring the world. As a parent it's important for you to monitor the interactions between the child and the dog. If the child is pulling on the dog or the crawling on the dog the child needs to be taken away from the dog. Many times a dog will allow this behavior to occur for short periods of time. They will look to you to fix the problem and ensure their comfort. If a child is allowed to continually invade a dog's space and boundaries this is when children usually get bit.

Make sure you always have a crate available when you have toddlers in the home, because like you, your dog will need breaks from small children. The crate should be left open all day and accessible to the dog at all times. If the dog goes into the crate then that's his way of telling you he needs a break. Close the crate door or otherwise keep everyone away from the dog until he comes back out to be with the family.

Elementary School Children

Usually boxers do great with children at this age. By this age, children have learned respect and boundaries for dogs and the interactions tend to be less stressful for a dog than for younger children. The crate should remain as a dog's safe zone (see "Toddlers" for more information on this). Some common problems that occur with children at this age include front door bolting and increased protection over the children. Children at this age may be prone to opening the front door wide open for when people come over or just to go outside to play. Make sure to talk to you children about this and keep front door locked to prevent it from happening.

Another common problem with children this age is dogs; boxers in particular, tend to bond with them and become protective over them. If other children come over and the kids start "playing rough" the dog may perceived that the child is being hurt. Keep the dog crated when other children come over or if playtime turns rough. Second, it's important for children of this age to

have control over the dog. Ideally, taking the whole family to an obedience class and having the dog respond to everyone in the house will lend the best results.

Nothing in Life is Free Training Method

Does your dog: Get on the furniture and refuse to get off? Nudge your hand, insisting on being petted or played with? Refuse to come when called? Defend its food bowl or toys from you? "Nothing in life is free" (NILIF) can help. NILIF is not a magic pill that will solve a specific behavior problem; rather it's a way of living with your dog that will help it behave better because it trusts and accepts you as its leader and is confident knowing its place in your family.

What is NILIF?

- Using positive reinforcement methods, teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks. "Sit," "Down" and "Stay" are useful commands and "Shake," "Speak" and "Rollover" are fun tricks to teach your dog.
- Once your dog knows a few commands, you can begin to practice "nothing in life is free." Before you give your dog anything (food, a treat, a walk, a pat on the head) it must first perform one of the commands it has learned. For example:

YOU	YOUR DOG
Put your dog's leash on to go for a walk	Must sit until you've put the leash on
Feed your dog	Must lie down and stay until you've put the bowl down
Play a game of fetch after work	Must sit and shake hands each time you throw the toy
Rub your dog's belly while watching TV	Must lie down and rollover before being petted

- Once you've given the command, don't give your dog what it wants until it does what you want. If it refuses to perform the command, walk away, come back a few minutes later and start again. If your dog refuses to obey the command, be patient. Remember that eventually it will have to obey your command in order to get what it wants.
- Make sure your dog knows the command well and understands what you want before you begin practicing "nothing in life is free."
- The benefits of this technique:
- Most dogs assume a neutral or submissive role toward people, but some dogs will challenge their owners for dominance. Requiring a dominant dog to work for everything it wants is a safe and non-confrontational way to establish control.
- Dogs who may never display aggressive behavior such as growling, snarling, or snapping, may still manage to manipulate you. These dogs may display affectionate, though "pushy" behavior, such as nudging your hand to be petted or "worming" its way on to the furniture in order to be close to you. This technique gently reminds the "pushy" dog that it must abide by your rules.
- Obeying commands helps build a fearful dog's confidence; having a strong leader and knowing its place in the hierarchy helps to make the submissive dog feel more secure.

Why this Technique Works

Animals that live in groups, like dogs, establish a social structure within the group called a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy serves to maintain order, reduce conflict and promote cooperation among pack members. In order for your home to be a safe and happy place for pets and people, it's best that the humans in the household assume the highest positions in the dominance hierarchy. Practicing NILIF effectively and gently communicates to your dog that

its position in the hierarchy is subordinate to yours. From your dog's point of view, children also have a place in this hierarchy. Because children are small and can get down on the dog's level to play, dogs often consider them to be playmates, rather than superiors. With the supervision of an adult, it's a good idea to encourage children in the household (aged eight and over) to also practice NILIF with your dog.

Positive Reinforcement: Training Your Dog with Treats and Praise

Positive reinforcement is the presentation of something pleasant or rewarding immediately following a behavior. It makes that behavior more likely to occur in the future, and is one of the most powerful tools for shaping or changing your pet's behavior.

Correct timing is essential when using positive reinforcement. The reward must occur immediately, or your pet may not associate it with the proper action. For example, if you have your dog "sit," but reward him after he's already stood up again, he'll think he's being rewarded for standing up.

Consistency is also essential. Everyone in the family should use the same commands. It might be helpful to post these where everyone can become familiar with them. The most commonly used commands for dogs are "watch me," "sit," "stay," "down" (means lie down), "off" (means off of me or off the furniture), "stand," "come," "heel," (or "let's go" or "with me") "leave it" and "settle." Consistency means always rewarding the desired behavior and never rewarding undesired behavior.

For your pet, positive reinforcement may include food treats, praise, petting or a favorite toy or game. Although Food treats work very well for training, the way to get the best results is to say "good dog" and follow it with excited pet. This is your way of telling your dog he did something right. Boxers are very intelligent, learn quickly and are eager to please. Usually, your dog will start making eye contact with you sooner than if you use treats. When your dog makes eye contact with you it's a sign of respect and they want you to tell them what to do next.

If you choose to use treats, they should be enticing and irresistible to your pet. It should be a very small, soft, piece of food, so that he will immediately gulp it down and look to you for more. If you give him something he has to chew or that breaks into bits and falls on the floor, he'll be looking around the floor, not at you. Small pieces of soft commercial treats, hot dogs, cheese, cooked chicken or beef, or miniature marshmallows have all proven successful. Experiment a bit to see what works best for your pet. You may carry the treats in a pocket or a fanny pack on the front of your belt. There are even special treat packs available in many pet stores. Each time you use a food reward, you should couple it with a verbal reward (praise). Say something like, "Good boy" in a positive, happy tone of voice.

Note: Some pets may not be interested in food treats. For those pets, the reward could be in the form of a toy or brief play.

When your pet is learning a new behavior, he should be rewarded every time he does the behavior (continuous reinforcement). It may be necessary to use "shaping," with your pet (reinforcing something close to the desired response and gradually requiring more from your dog before he gets the treat). For example, if you're teaching your dog to "shake hands," you may initially reward him for lifting his paw off the ground, then for lifting it higher, then for touching your hand, then for letting you hold his paw and finally, for actually shaking hands with you.

Intermittent reinforcement can be used once your pet has reliably learned the behavior. At first, you may reward him with the treat three times out of four, then about half the time, then about a third of the time and so forth, until you're only rewarding him occasionally with the treat. Continue to praise him every time, although once he's learned the behavior, the praise can be less effusive - a quiet, but positive, "Good boy." Use a variable schedule of reinforcement, so he doesn't catch

on that he only has to respond every other time. Your pet will learn that if he keeps responding, eventually he'll get what he wants. If you have a dog who barks until you reward him by paying attention to him, you've seen the power of intermittent reinforcement.

By understanding reinforcement, you can see that you're not forever bound to carry a pocketful of goodies. Your pet will soon be working for your verbal praise, because he really does want to please you and he knows that occasionally, he'll get a treat, too! There are many small opportunities to reinforce his behavior. You may have him "sit" before letting him out the door (helps prevent door-darting), before petting him (helps prevent jumping up on people) or before giving him his food. Give him a pat or a "Good dog" for lying quietly by your feet or slip a treat into his Kong toy when he's chewing it, instead of your shoe.

Corrections, including verbal, postural and physical, is the presentation of something unpleasant immediately following a behavior which makes it less likely that the behavior will occur again. To be effective, punishment must be delivered while your pet is engaged in the undesirable behavior, in other words, "caught in the act." If the punishment is delivered too late, your pet will feel "ambushed." From his point of view, the punishment is totally unpredictable, and he's likely to become fearful, distrusting and/or aggressive. This will only lead to more behavior problems. What we humans interpret as "guilty" looks, are actually submissive postures by our pets. Animals don't have a moral sense of right and wrong, but they are adept at associating your presence and the presence of a mess, with punishment.

If you've tried punishment and it hasn't worked, you should definitely stop using punishment and use positive reinforcement instead. Physical punishment usually involves some level of discomfort or even pain, which is likely to cause your pet to bite, as that is the only way he knows to defend himself. Scruff shakes and "alpha rolls" are likely to result in bites, especially if the dog doesn't perceive you to be his superior. Also, punishment might be associated with other stimuli, including people, that are present at the time the punishment occurs. For example, a pet that's punished for getting too close to a small child may become fearful of or aggressive to that child.

Crate Training and Housebreaking

Crate Training

Choose a crate that will be large enough for your dog to lie down, stand up, and turn around without difficulty. Is the crate is too large, your dog will sleep in one side and eliminate in the other. Place the crate close to family areas to help lessen the dog's anxieties. Toss a treat or favorite toy into the crate to allow the dog to go in on its own. Try not to force it into the crate. Coax with food and reward with praise. Do this a number of times before closing the door. Let him get comfortable going in and out of the crate on his own. Once the dog is comfortable moving in and out of the crate, close the door and have the dog stay in the crate for a few minutes with you present. Praise him for sitting quietly in the crate.

If he whines or barks simply ignore him or tell him "NO!" Do not allow him out of the crate until he is quiet. This is very important. If you let the dog out of the kennel after barking or whining you are in essence telling your dog that anytime he exhibits this behavior you will let him out. The barking and/or whining will on increase in duration and intensity. Gradually increase the time he is left in the crate with you present. Once he is staying in the crate quietly with you present, you can leave the room but remain close by. Once again, if he starts to whine or bark, ignore him and/or tell him "NO." Once he has been in the crate alone and quiet for a while, praise him and allow him out for some playtime. Repeat this numerous times and slowly extend the time he is alone in the crate.

Any time the dog is unsupervised, it needs to be in the crate. This includes while you are busy in the house (cooking, eating, watching a movie, etc.), while you are sleeping, or when you are far away from the house. When you can supervise him, have him out to play with and train as much as you like.

Your dog will need to have some toys in the crate with him for playing and chewing, otherwise he will get bored. Select toys that are sturdy and large enough that the dog cannot swallow them. Use bedding cautiously. If your dog does not chew or shred the bedding, then it is okay. If you dog does chew on it, you will need to remove it. Dogs can ingest the bedding, and cause intestinal obstructions.

After a while, you dog may not have to stay in the crate at all times. He should be able to control his eliminations until you come home and understands the proper sites to eliminate in. You can slowly start introducing the dog to small areas of the house while you are gone. You still want to have the crate in the room with the door open because it is his safe haven. You want to wait until your dog has matured to start this otherwise he may chew on inappropriate objects in your absence. Eventually, your dog could have full run of the house without eliminating or chewing.

Additional Tips for Crate Training

- Do not place the crate near anything that your foster may be able to reach out and touch with a paw; Boxers are notorious for using their paws as hands.
- Do not leave any toys in the crate that could possibly be a choke hazard or that could get wrapped around a leg or neck.
- Try a Kong filled with peanut butter or yogurt to give your foster something to do during the day when you are gone.
- Do not ever use the crate as punishment.
- Do not ever use an angry tone of voice when placing the dog in the crate.
- If your foster gets out of the crate, try using zip ties to secure the crate and allow a safe environment for everyone. This is a common problem that is easily fixed so be sure to ask the foster coordinator if you have additional questions or concerns.

Housebreaking

Adult dogs can usually be housetrained easily, but it requires patience on the part of the owner.

First, it is important to use a key phrase every time your dog eliminates outdoors; your dog will learn that this phrase means it's the right time and place to eliminate.

Secondly, reward your dog by praising it after it has eliminated in the proper place. Remember to reward it right away, but never use treats as a reward, or they will eliminate every time they want a treat.

Thirdly, never leave your new dog in your house unsupervised until fully housetrained. Use a crate to assist in housetraining when you are away. This provides a safe area for the dog. If used properly, the crate can help with housetraining as well as chewing and separation anxiety.

Another important thing to remember is that a dog should only be punished if it is caught in the act of eliminating in the house. If you see the dog getting ready to eliminate or is eliminating, don't swat it. Instead, stomp your foot, shake a bag filled with pennies, or startle your boxer by sternly saying "NO!" Your dog will likely stop what it is doing and you can take it outside to eliminate in the proper area. For best results, focus on praising the dog when it eliminates properly.

Fourth, it is also important to set meal times, and stick to them, to give your dog a routine. It's best to not leave food out all day for your dog. You will need to set times every day for eating. Remove the bowl after 20 minutes. This will create regular intervals at which the dog will need to eliminate.

Finally, it is important to clean all soiled areas with a product that removes both odors and stains. Otherwise, your dog will return to the soiled area and eliminate again. Your veterinarian should sell an enzymatic cleaner designed to eliminate pet odors.

Tips for Housebreaking a Puppy

Key things to look for:

- Puppy starts smelling the floor, furniture, etc.
- Puppy walks towards windows or doors
- Puppy walks towards corners in the house or leaves the room

(If you see the above signs immediately take puppy outside to go potty. Wait until puppy goes potty then give plenty of praise)

Suggestions to make housebreaking a success:

- Stay outside with the puppy wait until puppy goes potty then give plenty of praise
- When puppy is in crate, put a pillow or blanket in the back of the crate, and food in the front of the crate. Puppies do not like to potty near their food or where they sleep. This, plus making the crate area smaller will reinforce not going in the crate and will help make housebreaking a success.
- If puppy does potty inside, immediately show puppy the mess and tell puppy "NO!" Then take puppy outside to finish going potty and give plenty of praise when puppy goes outside.

Destructive Chewing

The key here is to crate the dog when you are not home, exercise frequently and train your dog. Working daily on manners will give your boxer a "job" and thus decrease or eliminate destructive chewing. If that does not work, this section will go into more detail about destructive chewing.

Exploring the world with their mouths is normal behavior for dogs. Chewing can, however, be directed onto appropriate items so your dog isn't destroying items you value. Until he's learned what he can and can't chew, it's your responsibility to manage the situation as much as possible, so he doesn't have the opportunity to chew on unacceptable objects.

Manage the Situation

- Take responsibility for your own belongings. If you don't want it in your dog's mouth, don't make it available. Keep clothing, shoes, books, trash, eyeglasses and television remote controls out of your dog's reach.
- Don't confuse your dog by offering him shoes and socks as toys and then expect him to distinguish between his shoe and yours. Your dog's toys should be obviously different from household goods.
- Until he learns the house rules, confine him when you're unable to keep an eye on him. Choose a "safe place" (like a crate) that is dog-proof with fresh water and "safe" toys.
- Give your dog plenty of people-time. Your dog won't know how to behave if you don't teach him alternatives to inappropriate behavior and he can't learn these when he's in the yard by himself.
- If, and only if, you catch your dog chewing on something he shouldn't, interrupt the behavior with a loud noise, offer him an acceptable chew toy instead, and praise him lavishly when he takes the toy in his mouth.
- Have realistic expectations. It's virtually inevitable that your dog will, at some point, chew up something you value. This is often part of the transition to a new home. Your dog needs time to learn the house rules and you need to remember to take precautions and keep things out of his reach.
- Chewing is normal teething and investigative puppy behavior however, dogs will engage in destructive behavior for a variety of reasons. In order to deal with the behavior, you must first determine why your dog is being destructive.

Play, Boredom and/or Social Isolation

Normal play behavior can result in destruction, as it may involve digging, chewing, shredding and/or shaking toy-like objects. Since dogs investigate objects by pawing at them and exploring them with their mouths, they may also inadvertently damage items in their environment when they're exploring or investigating. Your dog may be chewing for entertainment if:

- He's left alone for long periods without opportunities for interaction with you.
- His environment is relatively barren, without playmates or toys.
- He's a puppy or adolescent (under three years old) and he doesn't have other outlets for his energy.
- He's a particularly active type of dog & needs an active lifestyle.

Solutions:

- Play with your dog daily in a safe, fenced-in area. If you don't have a yard, a tennis court can be a good place to play. Fetch is a great game that will use up your dog's excess energy without wearing you out!
- Go for a walk. Walks should be more than just "bathroom time." On-leash walks are important opportunities for you and your dog to be together. Don't forget to allow time for sniffing, exploring, instruction and praise.
- Increase your dog's opportunities for mental stimulation. Teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks and practice them daily. If you have time, take an obedience class.
- Provide your dog with lots of toys.
- Rotate your dog's toys to refresh his interest in them. "New" toys are always more interesting than old ones.
- Try different kinds of toys, but when you introduce a new toy, watch your dog to make sure he won't tear it up and ingest the pieces.
- Consider the various types of toys that can be stuffed with food. Putting tidbits of food inside chew toys focuses your dog's chewing activities on these toys instead of on unacceptable objects.
- Make your dog's favorite "off-limits" chew objects unattractive to him by covering them with heavy plastic, aluminum foil, hot pepper sauce or a commercial "anti-chew" product.
- You might want to consider a good "Doggie Day Care" program for two or three days a week to work off some of your dog's excess energy.

Fears and Phobias

Your dog's destructive behavior may be a response to something he fears. Some dogs are afraid of loud noises. Your dog's destructive behavior may be caused by fear if the destruction occurs when he's exposed to loud noises, such as thunderstorms, firecrackers or construction sounds, and if the primary damage is to doors, doorframes, window coverings, screens or walls.

Solutions:

- Provide a "safe place" for your dog. You can also observe where he likes to go when he feels anxious, then allow access to that space or create a similar one for him to use when the fear stimulus is present.
- Don't comfort your dog when he's behaving fearfully. Try to get him to play with you or respond to commands he knows and give him praise and treats when he responds to you instead of to the fear stimulus.
- Don't crate your dog unless he's thoroughly crate-trained and considers the crate his safe place. If you put him in a crate to prevent destruction and he's not crate-trained, he may injure himself and/or destroy the crate.

What Not To Do:

Punishment is rarely effective in resolving destructive behavior problems and can even make them worse. Never discipline your dog after the fact. If you discover an item your dog has chewed minutes, or even seconds later, it's too late to administer a correction. Your dog doesn't understand that, "I chewed those shoes an hour ago and that's why I'm being scolded now." People often believe their dog makes this connection because he runs and hides or "looks guilty." Dogs don't feel guilt, rather they display submissive postures like cowering, running away or hiding, when they feel threatened by an angry tone of voice, body posture or facial expression. Your dog doesn't know that he's done something wrong; he only knows that you're upset. Punishment after the fact will not only fail to eliminate the undesirable behavior, but may also provoke other undesirable behaviors, as well.

Attention-Seeking Behavior

Without realizing it, we often pay more attention to our dogs when they're misbehaving. Dogs who don't receive a lot of attention and reinforcement for appropriate behavior may engage in destructive behavior when their owners are present as a way to attract attention -- even if the attention is "negative," such as a verbal scolding.

Solutions:

- Make sure your dog gets a lot of positive attention every day.
- Ignore bad behavior and reward good behavior. Remember to reward your dog with praise and petting when he's playing quietly with appropriate toys.
- Make his favorite "off-limits" chew objects unattractive or unavailable to him.
- Teach your dog a "drop it" command so when he does pick up an "off-limits" object, you can use your command and praise him for complying. The best way to teach "drop it" is to practice having him exchange a toy in his possession for a tidbit of food.
- Practice "Nothing in Life is Free" with your dog. This gets your dog in the habit of complying with your commands and is a good way to make sure he gets lots of positive attention for doing the right things -- so he won't have to resort to being naughty just to get your attention.

Separation Anxiety

Dogs with separation anxiety tend to display behaviors that reflect a strong attachment to their owners. This includes following you from room to room, frantic greetings and reacting anxiously to your preparation to leave the house.

Factors that can precipitate a separation anxiety problem:

- A change in a schedule that results in a dog being left alone more.
- A move to a new house or time spent in a shelter or boarded.
- The death or loss of a family member or another family pet.

These behaviors are not motivated by spite or revenge, but by anxiety. Punishment will only make the problem worse. Separation anxiety can be resolved by using counter conditioning and desensitization techniques.

How to Solve Digging Problems

Digging and fence jumping are common behaviors that occur when a dog is left outside alone for long periods of time or when the owner is not at home. The best and easiest way to correct this problem is to crate the dog during the day when gone and never allow the dog to be outside for extended periods of time. If this does not fix the problem then the following information will be helpful for you.

Digging is a normal behavior for most dogs, but may occur for widely varying reasons. Your dog may be:

- seeking entertainment
- seeking comfort or protection
- seeking escape
- seeking prey
- seeking attention

Dogs don't dig, however, out of spite, revenge or a desire to destroy your yard. Finding ways to make the area where the dog digs unappealing may be effective, however, it's likely that he'll just begin digging in other locations or display other unacceptable behavior, such as chewing or barking. A more effective approach is to address the cause of the digging, rather than creating location aversions.

Seeking Entertainment

Dogs may dig as a form of self-play when they learn that roots and soil "play back." Your dog may be digging for entertainment if:

- He's left alone in the yard for long periods of time without opportunities for interaction with you
- His environment is relatively barren, without playmates or toys
- He's a puppy or adolescent (under three years old) and doesn't have other outlets for his energy
- He's the type of dog that is bred to dig as part of his "job"
- He's a particularly active type of dog who needs an active job to be happy
- He's recently seen you "playing" in the dirt (gardening or working in the yard)

Recommendation: Expanding your dog's world and increasing his "people time" the following ways:

- Walk your dog regularly. It's good exercise, mentally and physically, for both of you!
- Teach your dog to fetch a ball or Frisbee and practice with him as often as possible.
- Teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks. Practice these commands/tricks every day for five to ten minutes.
- Take an obedience class with your dog and practice daily what you've learned.
- Keep interesting toys in the yard to keep your dog busy even when you're not around (Kong-type toys filled with treats or busy-box toys). Rotating the toys makes them seem new and interesting.
- For dedicated diggers, provide an "acceptable digging area." Choose an area of the yard where it's okay for your dog to dig and cover the area with loose soil or sand. If you catch your dog digging in an unacceptable area, interrupt the behavior with a loud noise, say,

"no dig" and take the dog to his designated digging area. When he digs in the approved spot, reward him with praise. Make the unacceptable digging spots unattractive (at least temporarily) by setting sharp rocks or chicken wire into the dirt.

Seeking Prey

Dogs may try to pursue burrowing animals or insects that live in your yard. Your dog may be pursuing prey if:

- The digging is in a very specific area, usually not at the boundaries of the yard
- The digging is at the roots of trees or shrubs
- The digging is in a "path" layout

Recommendation: Search for possible signs of pests and then rid your yard of them. Avoid methods that could be toxic or dangerous to your pets.

Seeking Comfort or Protection

In hot weather, dogs may dig holes in order to lie in the cool dirt. They may also dig to provide themselves with shelter from cold, wind or rain, or to try to find water. Your dog may be digging for protection or comfort if:

- The holes are near foundations of buildings, large shade trees or a water source
- Your dog doesn't have a shelter or his shelter is exposed to the hot sun or cold winds
- You find evidence that your dog is lying in the holes he digs

Recommendation: Provide your dog with other sources for the comfort

- Provide an insulated doghouse. Make sure it affords protection from wind and sun.
- Your dog may still prefer a hole in the ground, in which case you can try the "approved digging area" recommendation described above. Make sure the allowed digging area is in a protected spot.
- Provide plenty of fresh water in a bowl that can't be tipped over.

Seeking Attention

Any behavior can become attention-getting behavior if dogs learn that they receive attention for engaging in it (even punishment is a form of attention). Your dog may be digging to get attention if:

- He digs in your presence
- His other opportunities for interaction with you are limited

Recommendation: Ignore the behavior

- Don't give your dog attention for digging (remember, even punishment is attention).
- Make sure your dog has sufficient time with you on a daily basis, so he doesn't have to resort to misbehaving to get your attention.

Seeking Escape

Dogs may escape to get to something, to get somewhere or to get away from something. Your dog may be digging to escape if:

- He digs along the fence line
- He digs under the fence

Recommendations:

- Bury chicken wire at the base of the fence (sharp edges rolled under)
- Place large rocks, partially buried, along the bottom of the fence line
- Bury the bottom of the fence one to two feet under the ground
- Lay chain link fencing on the ground (anchored to the bottom of the fence) to make it uncomfortable for your dog to walk near the fence

Regardless of the reason for digging, we don't recommend:

- Punishment after the fact. Not only does this not address the cause of the behavior, any digging that's motivated by fear or anxiety will be made worse. Punishment may also cause anxiety in dogs that aren't currently fearful.
- Staking a dog out near a hole he's dug or filling the hole with water. These techniques don't address the cause of the behavior, or the act of digging.

Austin Boxer Rescue Foster Agreement

The following constitutes the entire agreement between Austin Boxer Rescue ("ABR") and _____ [foster's name] _____ related to fostering boxer dogs for ABR:

PLEASE INITIAL EACH PROVISION BELOW:

_____ All dogs over which Austin Boxer Rescue ("ABR") has taken actual or constructive possession and control are the exclusive property of ABR (an "ABR Dog").¹

_____ Until an ABR Dog is Adopted,² ABR retains and maintains all ownership rights to any ABR Dog and maintains the superior right to possession of an ABR Dog at all times.

_____ Until an ABR Dog is Adopted, ABR's relinquishment of physical possession of an ABR Dog to any person or organization for the purpose of fostering or caring for the dog for any period of time does not waive or affect ABR's ownership of an ABR Dog or ABR's superior right to possession of an ABR Dog.

_____ As a volunteer Foster for ABR, I agree to and will keep ABR apprised of my current physical address, telephone number(s), and e-mail (URL) address(es) at all times.

_____ As a volunteer Foster for ABR, I agree to and will abide by all of ABR's written guidelines, rules, and standards relating to the care, discipline, treatment, control, and welfare of ABR Dogs. I also agree to and will abide by any written or verbal/oral directions of ABR officers and coordinators regarding an ABR Dog.

_____ As a volunteer Foster for ABR, I agree to and will abide by all instructions and directions given to me by an ABR coordinator or prescribed by any veterinarian or veterinary clinic staff selected by ABR in connection with the medical care and treatment of an ABR Dog. I also understand that all medical care will be paid for by ABR, but must be approved by an ABR coordinator and the dog must be taken to an ABR veterinarian.

_____ ¹Dogs over which ABR has taken actual or constructive possession include, but are not limited to, dogs which have been abandoned by (or have escaped from) their owners and come into the care and/or possession of ABR, dogs that are in the possession of an animal shelter or animal control facility and which ABR agrees to take possession of and care for, dogs that have been named or have otherwise appeared on ABR's Internet website, or dogs for which ABR has incurred any charges for any type of care or treatment. An "ABR Dog" includes male and female dogs and puppies.

²An ABR Dog is considered to be "Adopted" when ABR's adoption process has been completed, the adoption has been approved by ABR (including a home visit), all agreements signed, and all applicable fees paid. ABR maintains complete discretion to approve or disapprove a prospective adoption.

_____ As a volunteer Foster for ABR, I agree and promise not to relinquish physical possession and control of an ABR Dog (or allow an ABR Dog out of my possession and control) to any person or organization not affiliated with ABR for any reason. I understand that this promise includes not allowing an ABR Dog to be cared for, watched, or adopted by any person or organization without the prior written approval of the ABR board of directors or an authorized agent of that board.

_____ As a volunteer Foster for ABR, I agree to make any ABR Dog in my care available to meet prospective adopter(s). I agree to transport any ABR Dog in my care to locations to be shown to a prospective adopter(s) and to veterinary appointments.

_____ I understand and agree that Fosters-in-Good-Standing with ABR have the first right to adopt (otherwise known as right of first refusal) an ABR Dog. I understand and agree that in order to be considered a Foster-in-Good-Standing I must have complied with the agreements, promises, understandings, and representations contained in this Foster Agreement. I understand and agree that, should more than one Foster-in-Good-Standing seek to adopt the same ABR Dog, ABR retains discretion to determine which Foster-in-Good-Standing will be allowed to adopt and that preference will be given to a Foster-in-Good-Standing who has actually fostered the particular ABR Dog and/or with whom, in ABR's judgment, the ABR Dog has already bonded.

_____ I understand and agree that any Foster-in-Good-Standing with ABR exercising his or her rights to first adopt an ABR Dog will be required, and I hereby agree, to pay the Adoption fee applicable to the particular ABR Dog being adopted at the time of adoption. This includes the standard fee of \$250.00 for dogs between the ages of 11 months-5 years; \$350 for puppies (less than 10 months old); and \$150 for dogs over the age of 6 years old and no fee for dogs deemed a Silver Heart. I understand that the age, pure bred status and adoption fee will be determined by ABR and is non-negotiable. To be eligible to adopt all dog/cats in a home or on an application must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption, no exceptions.

_____ I understand and agree that I will surrender any ABR Dog to an authorized representative of ABR within twelve hours of receiving a written demand from ABR to surrender that ABR Dog at the time and place prescribed by ABR. This written demand includes the receipt of an e-mail or electronic message and the twelve-hour period begins to run when the e-mail or electronic message is sent to the last e-mail (URL) address that ABR has on file for me.

_____ I understand and agree that, should I for any reason fail or refuse to relinquish possession of an ABR Dog after a written demand by an authorized ABR representative to do so, I thereby forfeit any right to possession of an ABR Dog and will be guilty of civil conversion of ABR's property and criminal theft of ABR's property.

_____ I also understand that any bodily injury or property damage arising from an ABR Dog and/or my control and maintenance of an ABR Dog that I am fostering is my responsibility, and that I will not hold Austin Boxer Rescue, or any of its members, responsible or liable for any resulting bodily injury or property

damage. Further, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Austin Boxer Rescue, and its agents, volunteers and employees from any and all claims, lawsuits, injuries, or damages made or asserted by anyone, even those resulting from the negligence of Austin Boxer Rescue, and its agents, volunteers and employees.

_____ I understand and agree that this agreement is to be performed in its entirety in Travis County, Texas, and that the courts of Travis County, Texas shall have exclusive jurisdiction and venue over any dispute related to or arising out of this agreement. I understand and agree that I will pay ABR's costs of recovery, court costs, and attorney fees should ABR be forced to pursue legal action against me in order to enforce this Foster Agreement.

PLEASE INITIAL NEXT TO ONLY ONE BELOW:

_____ I HAVE NOT borrowed a crate from Austin Boxer Rescue.

_____ I HAVE borrowed a crate from ABR and I agree to return the crate back to ABR within 7 days of returning the foster to ABR, adopting my foster dog, or once my foster gets adopted and I am unable to take in another foster dog. I understand that I will owe ABR \$100 if I chose not to return the crate.

Crate description:
