



## HELP! MY FOSTER DOG WON'T EAT

**IS HE SICK?**



**Your Foster Dog May Be Sick if he's not eating** – Monitor your foster dog for 24-48 hours to look for further symptoms. **Is the dog drinking water? Is there any vomiting, diarrhea and/or lethargy?** If so, contact your FC immediately.



### REASONS DOGS STOP EATING

#### 1 Anxiety

Some dogs **may not eat because they're stressed**. Bringing a fearful, nervous foster dog into your home may take some work. **Be patient, offer food in areas that they can access in private, they may be more inclined to eat when you aren't watching.** Some backyard breeder dogs only ate kibble from the ground, try using a paper plate instead of a bowl. You can also try sitting on the floor and feeding your foster dog by hand. **Get creative, this isn't a one size fits all problem** – every dog is different and what works for some, may not work for others. Be patient, be kind and **give the dog time to adjust** to see what works.

#### 2 Hot Weather

Your Foster Dog Might Be **Too Hot To Eat** – The Florida summer heat can make dogs lethargic and **diminish their appetite.** **Cooling your dog's surroundings** may be all it takes to reinvigorate his appetite.

#### 3 Picky Eater

You May Just Have A Picky Pooch On Your Hands - **Dogs can get bored with their food just like people do.** Before you cart out the free-range sausages and filet mignon, **try some food modifications, such as those below.**

### WHAT CAN I DO TO GET MY FOSTER DOG TO EAT?

**MIX THINGS UP:** Mix a food your dog likes, such as cooked chicken (Publix rotisserie chicken is a great choice), hamburger, scrambled eggs, tuna fish, chicken stock, bone broth, yogurt, blueberries or cottage cheese into his food. There are many foods that are toxic to dogs so be sure to check with your FC (or "google" it) before getting too creative. You can also try a dog food topper, such doggy gravy, as a flavor boost.



**CHANGE THE TYPE OF FOOD:** If you generally feed wet dog food, switch to dry or vice versa or do a mixture of both. This can sometimes prompt a dog to eat again. Our vets are stocked with food for our fosters, please check with your FC if you're in need.

**MAKE SURE FOOD HASN'T GONE BAD:** You may have a hard time telling your dog's dry food is going bad, but he doesn't. Once opened, dry dog food starts to turn rancid in about a month unless kept airtight, and it can also acquire storage mites. Canned food goes bad within several days after opening, even in the fridge. Make sure what you offer your foster dog is fresh and appetizing!



**CHECK FOOD TEMPERATURE:** Be sure to take note of food temperature. Lots of dogs love food straight from the can but won't touch it served cold. Try letting the food get to room temperature, or carefully heat it in hot water or the microwave first – this releases flavor and can help entice an appetite. Make sure it isn't too hot before serving from a microwave.



**TRY CAT FOOD (YES, SERIOUSLY!):** Believe it or not, adding cat food to dog food sometimes does the trick. Just add a little stinky cat food to their diet – your foster dog should not be on a cat food diet, but this can help to entice an appetite.



**BE MINDFUL OF A SENIOR DOG'S NEEDS:** Dogs over age 7 may have a diminished sense of smell, which affects their appetite. Try senior dog food formulas that are designed to appeal to older doggy noses.

**GIVE PLENTY OF LOVIN':** Don't forget to pour on the love, as well as the food! Praising your pooch for eating helps too. After all, pleasing you is important to your foster dog!



**If nothing seems to work, contact your FC – most important, is your foster dog drinking water? Dogs can quickly dehydrate so be sure to communicate with your FC with any concerns.**