



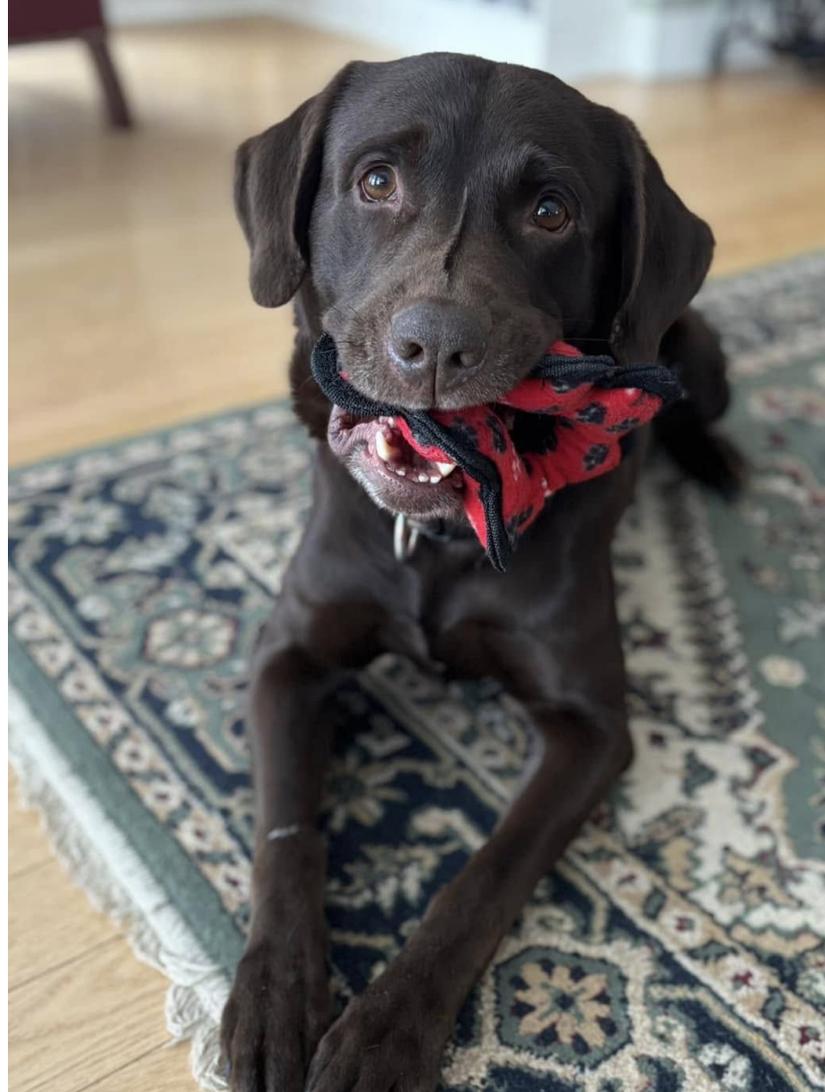
Thinking About Fostering A Dog?

This Guide Is For You



What Does It Mean To Foster A Dog?

Fosters save lives! By giving dogs a loving place to stay temporarily until they find their forever home, you are providing a dog with a 'bridge' to their forever home.



Why Foster With EHS?

Etobicoke Humane Society is a 100% volunteer run organization, and all costs are covered by our donors.

That means we cover all expenses for:

- Vet visits and checkups
- Medicine (if needed)
- Dog food
- Beds, toys, leashes, and other accessories.



Bear

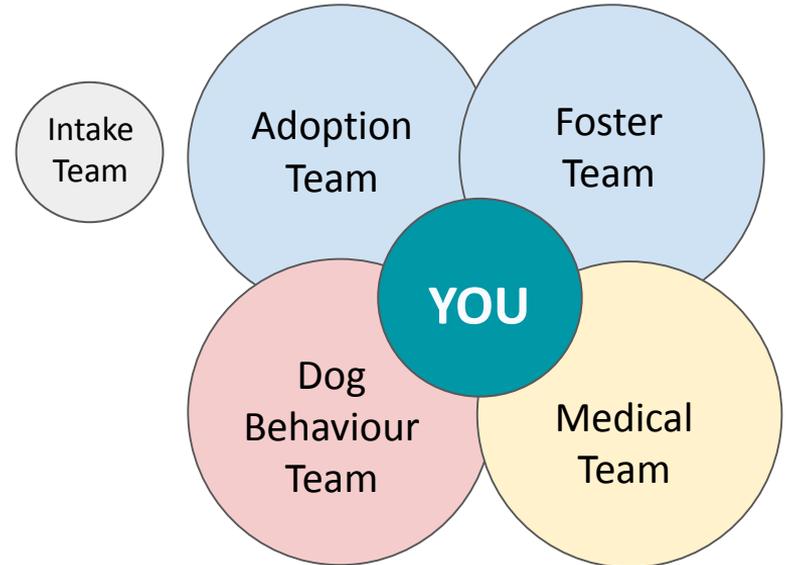
Bear came to us from the Northern fires and was placed into foster care on August 2025. He was later adopted in September 2025.

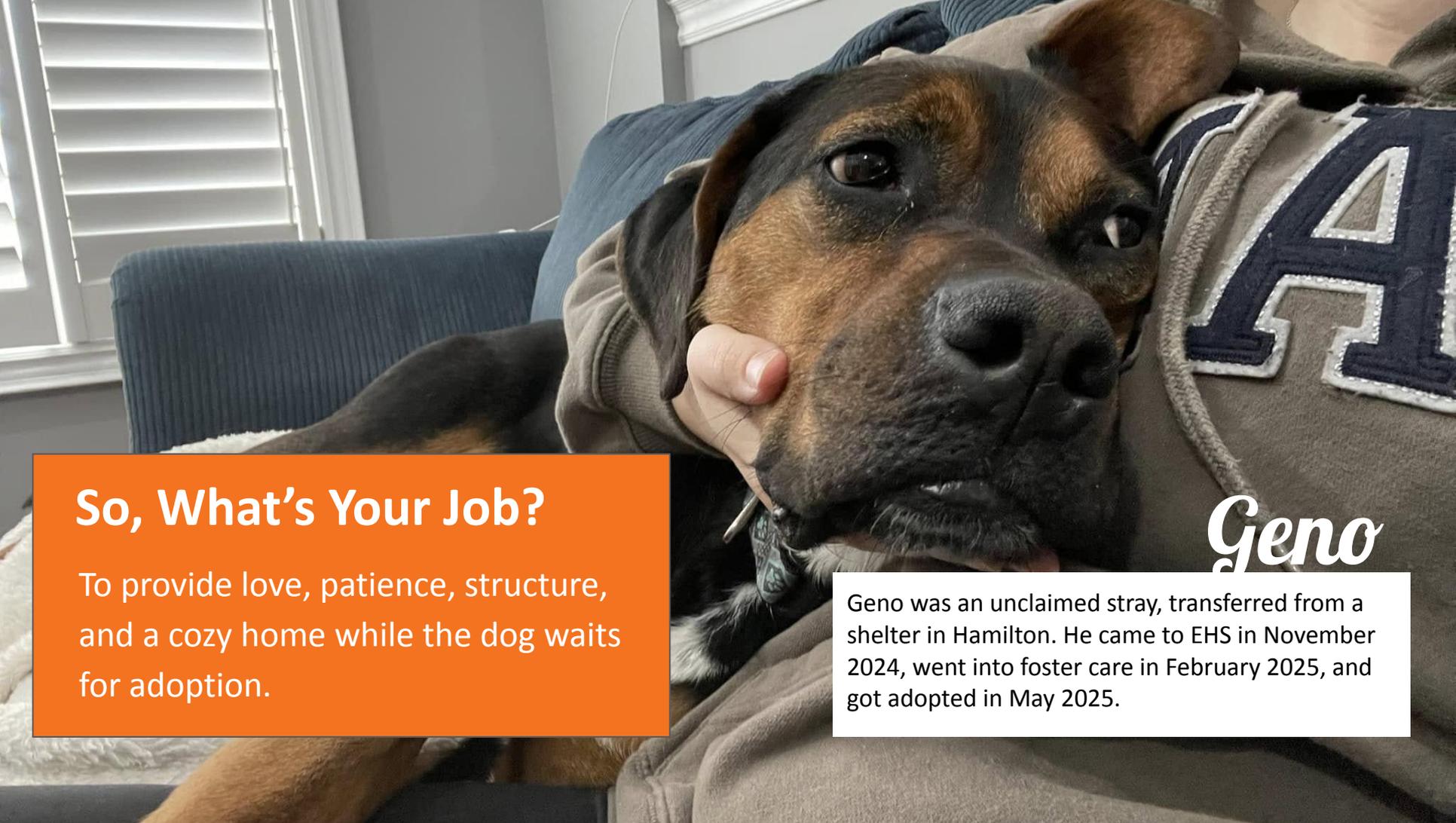
Our Commitment To You

We're here to support you every step of the way. You'll be given an online training session, important information on your dog, and access to a responsive support team you can contact for questions, concerns, and tips. You can even arrange for in-person support.

Fostering is a journey of learning and growth, both for the dog and foster parent, and you'll never have to do it alone.

Your Support Team





So, What's Your Job?

To provide love, patience, structure, and a cozy home while the dog waits for adoption.

Geno

Geno was an unclaimed stray, transferred from a shelter in Hamilton. He came to EHS in November 2024, went into foster care in February 2025, and got adopted in May 2025.

Why Fostering Is So Important?

Shelters, animal services, and rescues are overcrowded.

- Every foster home opens up space for another dog to be saved.
- Foster homes help dogs learn how to be part of a family — like getting used to routines, house manners, and new experiences.



Dreamer was rescued from the streets of Antigua in January 2025.

Why Fostering Is So Important?

You get to help a dog reset and decompress.

Many rescue dogs have been through a lot. They might be nervous or shy at first. That's normal!

With time, patience, and consistency, they start to show their real personalities.



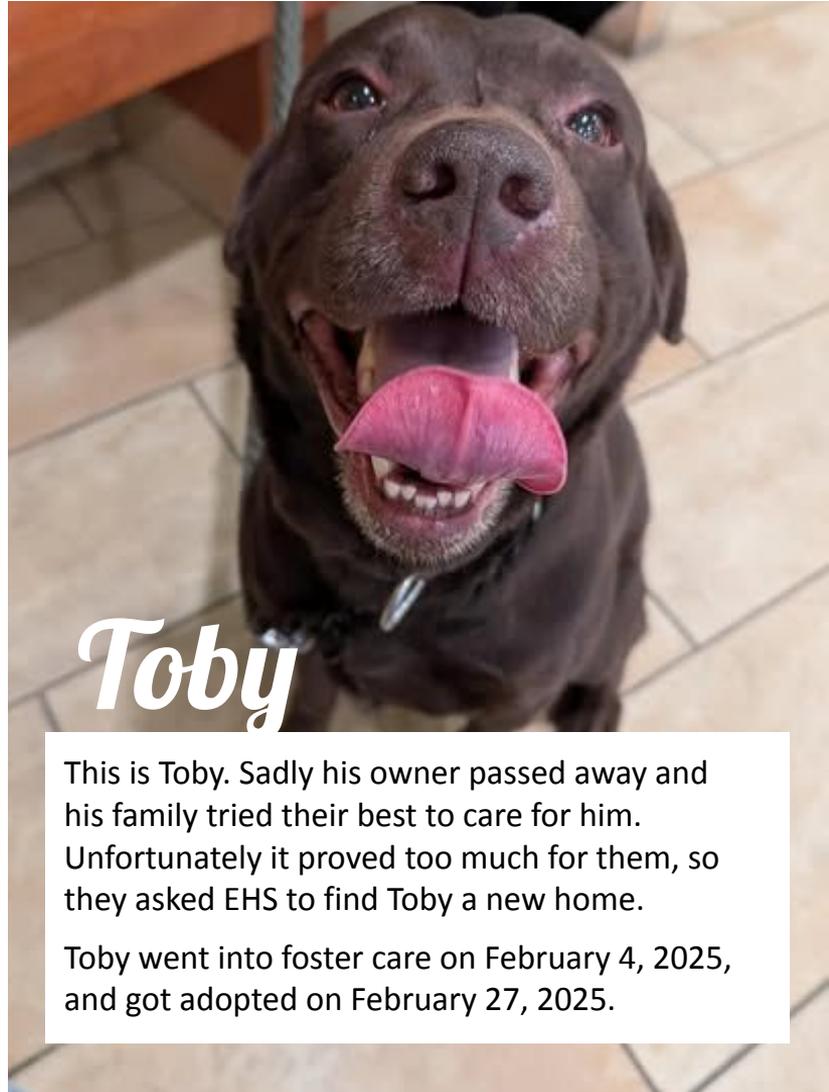
Dreamer went into foster care in April 2025, and got adopted in June 2025.

Why Fostering is So Important?

When dogs are surrendered by their owners, EHS prioritizes placing them into foster homes whenever possible.

Some dogs find the shelter environment overwhelming and don't cope well with the noise, confinements, and constant noise.

Foster care provides a calmer, home-based setting where dogs can adjust, receive one-on-one attention, and be better supported emotionally and behaviorally, leading to better long-term outcomes.



Toby

This is Toby. Sadly his owner passed away and his family tried their best to care for him. Unfortunately it proved too much for them, so they asked EHS to find Toby a new home.

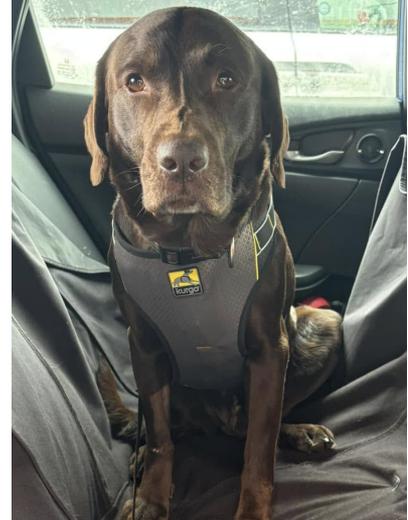
Toby went into foster care on February 4, 2025, and got adopted on February 27, 2025.

Training And Bonding

As a foster, you're not just giving a dog a bed — you're teaching them life skills!

This often includes:

- Building a routine (walks, meals, playtime)
- Helping with training and manners
- Introducing them to new things like car rides or meeting new people.



Training And Bonding

The best way to train is through positive reinforcement — rewarding good behaviour with treats, praise, or play.

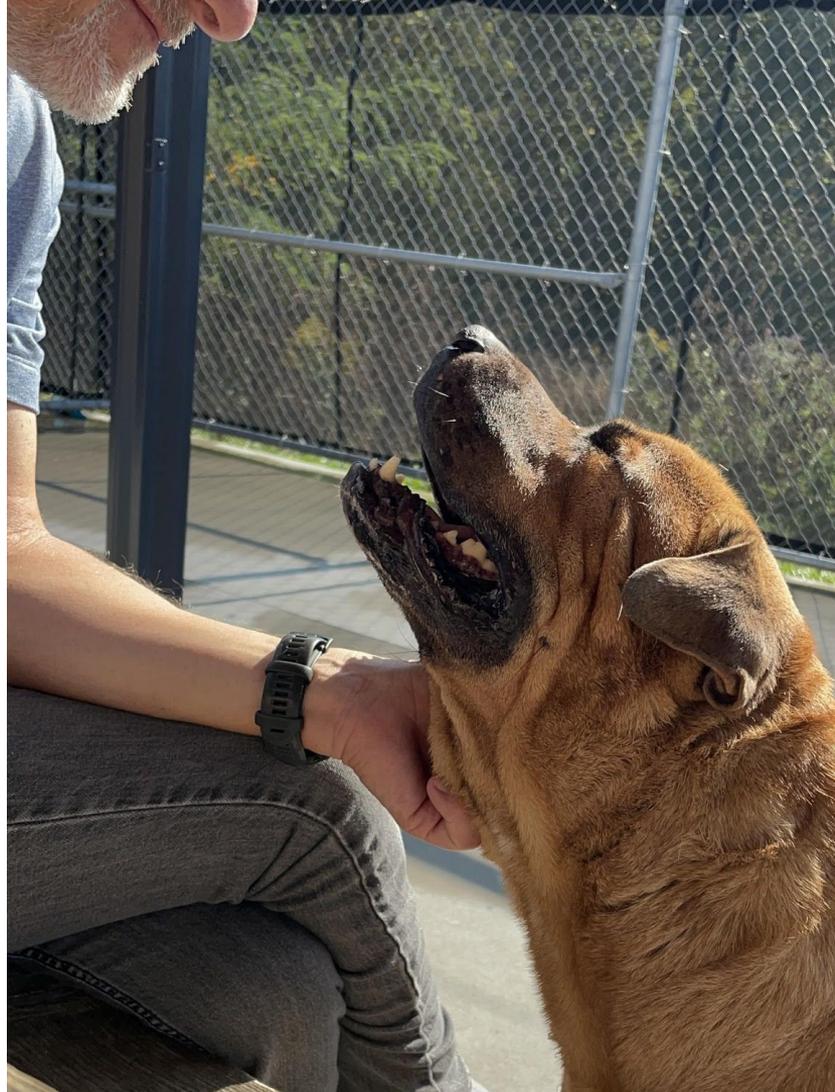
Science shows this is the most effective way to train dogs. It also builds a stronger bond between you and your foster pup, because they learn to trust and look forward to working with you.



The Human Side Of Fostering

Here's the part no one tells you: fostering changes you too.

You'll learn patience, empathy, and doggy body language.



The Human Side Of Fostering

No two dogs are alike — you'll be amazed at how much personality each one has! Saying goodbye can feel bittersweet, but it's also deeply fulfilling.

You'll know you played a key role in that dog's journey to their forever home.

And here's something great: fosters share valuable insights that help match each dog with the right adopter.



The Human Side Of Fostering

By living with the dog day-to-day, you can share what they like, what scares them, what routines work best, and what kind of family they'd thrive in.

That insight can make all the difference in matching them with the right forever home.

Dog foster parents are an important part of the EHS foster team.



Tic Tac was an unclaimed stray, transferred to EHS from a shelter in Hamilton. He went into foster care in June 2023, and was adopted in October 2023.

Why It's Worth It

Being a dog foster means:

- Keeping a dog safe and healthy
- Helping them heal and grow
- Teaching them how to be loved
- Learning alongside them



Why It's Worth It

And then letting them go to the family they've been waiting for It's not 'goodbye', it's 'see you later, you're ready now.'

"Gigi lives across the street from me now, and her family is so grateful to the fosters and volunteers who cared so deeply for her."

- EHS Shelter Volunteer



Gigi

Adopted in March 2024

Why It's Worth It

And that moment — watching your foster dog trot off into their forever family's arms — is one of the most rewarding feelings you'll ever experience.

**WAGGY
TALES**

ADOPTED!



LILLY

Adopted in December 2025

Escaping the fires in Northern Ontario months ago, she has finally found her own home - with a mom, a dad and sibling (Paco) - it's truly a wonderful thing!

YAY!



*"One of the best things we've done is getting involved with EHS. Our foster pup, Lilly is such an amazing success story and is living her best life with her family. We can't wait to offer a new dog a safe place while waiting for their forever home."
- Lilly's foster parent*

You Can Help Dogs Like Biscuit

After struggling in the shelter, Biscuit went into foster care in September 2024.

Although briefly adopted in August 2024, Biscuit was returned when his adopters weren't prepared for his high energy, and his behavior declined back in the shelter.

A long-term foster home gave him the chance to decompress and show his true personality.

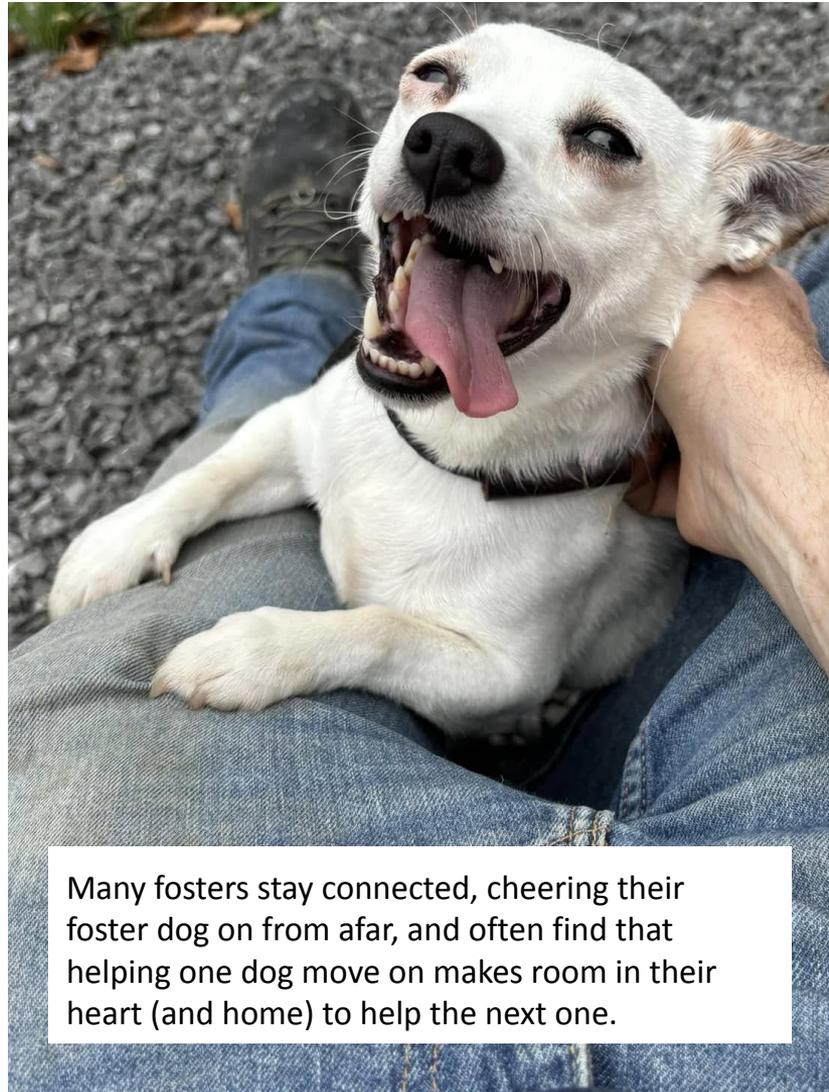


Biscuit came to EHS from Hamilton Animal Services in July 2024. Time in a foster home made all the difference — Biscuit was adopted in February 2025.

What If I Can't Say Goodbye?

It's completely natural to worry about how hard goodbye might be — but fosters play a uniquely beautiful role.

By opening your home, you're giving a dog the chance to relax, heal, and show who they truly are, which is often exactly what helps them find their forever family. Saying goodbye isn't a loss; it's a moment of pride, knowing your love changed the course of that dog's life.



Many fosters stay connected, cheering their foster dog on from afar, and often find that helping one dog move on makes room in their heart (and home) to help the next one.

We Need Your Help!

We're always looking for both, short-term fosters (up to one month) and long-term fosters, (up to three months) to open their homes to dogs in need. We'll match you with a dog that fits your lifestyle and experience, and if you already have a calm, friendly dog at home, you're welcome to apply.

A temporary home makes a permanent difference.





Ready To Take the Next Step?

If you are within 35-40 km of the Etobicoke Humane Society and would like to foster with us, please click the link below to apply, and for more information:

etobicokehumanesociety.com/foster-dogs-cats/dog-foster-form/