

MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue Foster Information

Last Revised Date: 5/02/2016

<http://www.adoptaboston.com/help/foster/foster-documents/>

Who is MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue (a.k.a. MABTR)?

MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation serving 13 states: Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, North/South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Arkansas. As a 501 non-profit organization ALL donations are tax deductible.

OUR MISSION

To provide foster care for rescued Boston Terriers and Boston mixes ensuring a loving home environment while looking for a happy, safe, “forever” home for each rescued Boston Terrier.

MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue is a volunteer organization that operates strictly on donations. Fundraisers are held monthly and donations/ grants are applied for in order to generate the funds needed to provide the medical treatment required for the dogs in our care. Special events are attended/held in order to promote the dogs in our care.

MABTR was started in November 2005 by Jennifer Misfeldt. Jennifer has been rescuing Bostons since August 2002 when she partnered up and began Nebraska Boston Terrier Rescue (NBTR). In September 2005 she stepped down from NBTR due to work style differences. Now two organizations, MABTR and NBTR, exist in Omaha, NE, both with the same purpose, which is to rescue Boston Terriers. This results in more Bostons being rescued each year.

Note: Many people get the two groups mixed up. Both groups are based in Omaha, NE, listed on petfinder.com and run by an individual with the first name of Jennifer.

What is a Foster Home?

A Foster Home is a home where a rescued, unwanted or otherwise needy Boston Terrier can live safely, sometimes learn skills needed to simply become a pet, and be loved until a permanent home is available that meets its special needs.

Fostering is not for people who are only interested in adopting a Boston Terrier. They are for people who are willing to open their hearts to help the Boston Terrier along its way, understanding that he/she will eventually go to a “forever home”.

I always say that with a foster dog is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you are going to get. Sometime, for better or worse, we know a dog’s history and sometimes we know very little of their life’s history. It is up to us as foster parents to discover as much as we can about each dog prior to the adoption in order to find a right fit match and give it the best shot at a successful adoption.

Foster URL

Links to Foster Documents and Resources

<http://www.adoptaboston.com/help/foster/foster-documents/>

Responsibilities of a Foster Home

Fostering a rescue dog is a huge responsibility. It must be accepted by your entire family. A foster family:

1. Will provide the fostered Boston Terrier with the basic needs of food, shelter, treats, toys and love. This care occurs in a home situation, not a kennel.
2. Will provide a fenced-in yard for the foster Boston Terrier to play and exercise in safety. Occasionally an exception will be made for a foster family in an apartment. It is critical to supervise your new foster dog in the fenced yard for the first few days as we have had some climb right over chain link fences or dig under a six-foot fence sometimes never to be found.
3. Will make veterinary appointments for shots, altering and other medical needs that have been identified and will provide the transportation to these appointment(s). Note – MABTR (the rescue group) pays for all veterinary and medication costs, but not for gas or time. However, your mileage is tax deductible when transporting your foster to vet appointments or events on behalf of MABTR.

-All appointments and medical costs must be approved by MABTR prior to treatment. Call Jennifer in cases of emergencies at 402-510-1346.
4. Will give medication when needed/required for good health and will administer monthly heartworm as well as flea preventative provided by MABTR.
5. Will keep the fostered Boston Terrier groomed. Grooming requirements include bathing, occasional brushing the coat, cleaning the ears, trimming the nails, cleaning nose flaps and face wrinkles. The foster parents, if knowledgeable, can do this grooming, otherwise a Rescue Agent will schedule time to visit.
6. Will report progress, special personality traits, behavior or other “issues” that need to be addressed and passed on to the new family and provide personal recommendations for placement to the Rescue Agent.
7. Will take digital pictures of the fostered Boston Terrier and email the pictures to the Rescue Agent to be posted on the website.
8. Will keep accurate financial records concerning expenditures made for the fostered Boston Terrier (email total of vet bill to Jennifer, track any other expenditures).
9. Will keep track of items provided to the foster home for each dog such as the harness, microchip if needed, and medication. Other items that may be provided are: a leash, dog shampoo, and crate. Note – items NOT provided by Rescue but are required to be provided by the foster home are: food, food/water bowls, treats, toys, and bedding material.
10. Will discuss unusual situations with the Rescue Agent. Please remember there are as many exceptions as there are rules.
11. May want to adopt the foster dog. Adoption fees for foster homes are ½ the posted fee. All adoption fees are based on age.
- 12. Will crate the foster dog when no one is present to monitor him/her. This is critical for the foster dog's as well as your other animals' safety. No exceptions.**

Arrival of the New Foster Dog

MABTR's notice of new arrivals varies from a few hours, to a few days, to a few weeks. The location for many new arrivals is often a fast food parking lot or gas station just off the interstate. We depend on many volunteers to do the actual transporting. In some cases the schedule changes at the last minute or the number of dogs being transported changes. Often we have no control over this and do the best we can to keep the foster families informed.

Even though you may be contacted to foster -- please note -- if you are not comfortable taking the foster dog of choice or if it is not the right time you are NOT committed to saying Yes. This is one of the reasons multiple foster homes are needed.

MABTR receives dogs for many reasons. Such as:

- Unwanted by their family (a.k.a. owner surrender). We require a completed surrender form and request a donation (especially for those dogs not altered or up to date on shots). Dogs come in for many reason in this category. For example: cannot potty train, health issues, had a new baby, aggressive, bad behavior, moving, allergies, cannot afford. Name it we have heard it. Of course we take all comments at face value and evaluate the dogs ourselves. In some cases the dog is described as not good to make the owners feel better about their choice. On the other hand some owners make the dog out to be an angel and we find out otherwise.
- Homeless/strayed. We ensure that an effort has been made to find the original owner before listing the dog as available for adoption.
- Released from a shelter due to space/age/health or may have been slated for euthanasia. MABTR has a relationship with many small town shelters that just do not have the space to care for all of the dogs that come in. If the shelter knows a reputable rescue organization they would rather surrender the dog to rescue so that a space can be opened for a dog that does not have a rescue group to go to.

Note - MABTR has shelter coordinators. These individuals make the necessary arrangements with the shelter to have the dog pulled and placed into rescue. The only time a foster parent would be involved with a shelter is if the dog needs to be picked up from the shelter. The shelter coordinator also tries to get a reduced price on the release fee (if one exists). We also try to get the shelter to vet the dog prior to release.

MABTR has built a strong relationship with many shelters in the states we operate in.

- No longer needed/wanted by the breeder and/or puppy mill. We work with small and large commercial breeders. MABTR rarely deals with breeders directly. We normally deal with a middleman who has a relationship with both the breeder and rescue. Normally, these dogs arrive into rescue at no cost to us. However, the medical treatment needed can often be more then the average dog.
- Sold or given away at a puppy mill auction. Occasionally if another rescue organization is going to an auction we may pay a minimal amount if a Boston is for sale. The reason for pulling dogs from an auction is to get them out of the vicious cycle of breeding.

Check List for New Arrivals

When your new foster arrives it is important for you to make sure that all of the items on the check list get completed during his or her stay.

Bath	This should be done as soon as the dog arrives in your home. Even owner surrenders. You never know where the dog has been or when they were last groomed (no matter how good they look).
Ear cleaning	Check the ears during the first bath. Especially those that come from mills. Living outside they collect lots of debris. Instructions on how to clean ears is in the FAQ section.
Nail Trim	Trimmed nails are nice to see. Remember the dewclaws. Make sure the nails are trimmed prior to adoption.
Dewormed	We deworm the dogs using Drontol tablets. Half a pill for five pounds, round up. This applies to all rescue dogs except owner surrenders. However, if an owner surrender dog has lived outside or spent time in a shelter they will also need to be dewormed. This should be done within the first 48 hours of getting the dogs. Normally, this is only done once. Note - some dogs have vomited or had diarrhea within the first 24 hours of being dewormed due to a reaction from the Drontol.
Flea preventative	MABTR has donated flea preventative available for foster parents who need it.
Name	Not all dogs arrive with a name. MABTR has a list of names and is always looking to add new names to it. We try to not repeat names as it makes it confusing when you have several dogs with the same name. If you want to recommend a name please share it with us. Not all dogs will know their name. New owners have the right to change the name. However, they must inform us of the new name before we register the microchip (which is after the two-week trial period). Once a foster dog has been named and vetted please keep their name so vet records do not get confused.
Posting online	MABTR's goal is to get new arrivals posted on petfinder.com within 72 hours of their arrival into foster care. In order to post online MABTR needs pictures, approximate weight, age, personality traits, and any known behavior issues, as well as the status of potty training. In some cases, we know that you have not had enough time to assess personality and behavior however please be aware that the online profiles can be updated daily. So any additional information should be shared as soon as you are aware of it (examples: good with kids, bad with kids, good with cats, bad with cats, good with other animals, needs to be only dog, walks well on a leash, doesn't walk on a leash, very timed personality, strong personality, etc.)
Pictures	Remember pictures are the first thing our readers see. Good pictures can result in an immediate response. We suggest you take pictures of your foster dog outdoors (best place for dogs with a blue eye) or in the car where most dogs are settled and sitting for the pose. In some cases you may need to hold the dog. Note -

	<p>all pictures are cropped. We can post three pictures online. We can also change out the pictures weekly.</p> <p>MABTR has relationships with professional photographers who offer their services free to us. If you would like to take advantage of the professional photographer reach out to Jennifer for details.</p>
Spay/neuter	<p>All dogs are to be altered prior to adoption except for puppies under 16 weeks of age. We prefer to alter all dogs within the first week in foster care. For puppies, the contract needs to include written verbiage indicating the “new owners will alter the dog at the age of six months at their own expense”. They will need to provide proof they have done this.</p>
Distemper shot (aka DHPP)	<p>This is a required shot and is only good for one year. If the dog arrived with the shot already given and the expiration date is within three months we repeat the shot while the dog is in foster care. Proof of this shot needs to be provided to the new owners.</p>
Rabies shot	<p>We give one-year rabies shots to all dogs. We encourage the one-year shot as it provides a reason for the family to take the dog to their vet for a checkup. Puppies under 6 months of age do not get a rabies shot.</p> <p>If the dog arrived with the rabies shot already given and if the expiration date is within three months we repeat the shot while the dog is in foster care.</p> <p>The rabies tag should be attached to the harness if one exist. If a rabies tag is not provided one will NOT be reordered. The most important rabies validation is the rabies certificate.</p>
Heartworm test (aka HW)	<p>MABTR receives donated Heartworm preventative. One pill covers a dog for 30 days. We ask the new family to give the pill once their trial period is over.</p>
Dental	<p>If the dogs teeth need dental cleaning we will have it done (preferably when the dog gets altered). A couple of ways you can determine whether or not dental cleaning is needed is to look at the dog’s teeth, especially the back and canine teeth or smell their breath. Tarter shows up on the teeth as a brown buildup around the gum area and on the teeth and is common especially among breeder/puppy mill dogs. Bad breath is also another indication the dog needs a dental cleaning.</p> <p>All puppy mill dogs over the age of 2 yrs old should automatically be scheduled for dental cleaning. If you are unable to determine if your foster dog needs their teeth cleaned ask the vet for their opinion. If they will benefit from the cleaning we approve the procedure.</p>
Age	<p>We assign a birth date for each of our dogs even if all they come with is an estimated age. We defer to the vet for an estimated age if there isn’t one.</p>

<p>Profile</p>	<p>A profile template needs to be completed for each foster dog. MABTR does NOT save the medical records or emails on each dog. The profile is considered the master reference file for each dog. It is important to be as detailed as possible on the profile.</p> <p>The master copy goes to Jennifer Misfeldt as well as a copy to the new owners. If you cannot complete the profile prior to adoption we will mail the final version to the new owners.</p> <p>A few tips: spell out the dates (i.e. June 2, 2008; NOT 6/2/08). If possible, note what city and state the dog came from as well as the history and if the dog came from a shelter the name/date when he arrived in the shelter.</p> <p>The adoption fee is noted on the online profile and is based on age.</p>
<p>Microchip</p>	<p>Each dog needs to be microchipped before it is adopted. The microchip tag should be attached to the harness as soon as you get the dog even if the chip has yet to be inserted.</p> <p>Microchipping has to be done by a vet and should be done at the same time the dog is at the vet for altering, dental work, or shots. MABTR uses HomeAgain and PetLink, however some dogs may arrive already chipped and by other companies. We do not want to re-chip a dog as they only need one microchip no matter the company.</p> <p>Have the vet check for a microchip and if they find one have them record the chip's number. Some dogs will be chipped with an AVID, 24HourWatch, AKC chip. Note - Not all vets have an AVID scanner, so they may be unable to tell you the chip number.</p> <p>The microchip number should be written or pasted on the outside of the dog's folder as well as on the profile. Each chip packet we provide comes with four bar code strips that can be pulled off and placed in multiple places in the packet.</p> <p>The registration for the microchip is completed once the dog comes into rescue, prior to adoption. All microchips are registered in MABTR/Jennifer's name. Should the adoptors once the chip in their name (Jennifer will be listed as secondary) they will need to email Jennifer directly with the request.</p> <p>It is recommended that the foster parent put the microchip tag on the harness while in foster care. If the dog gets out it allows who ever finds the dog the opportunity to call the microchip company and report the dog as found. Note: most Boston's are unable to find their way home once they are lost. It is strongly</p>

	recommended to keep the foster dog in its harness at all times and especially during transport (versus a collar) to ensure their safety.
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Medication

MABTR purchases their medication from a licensed vet who allows us to maintain the storage of the medicine we have purchased.

- *Additional medications may be available through MABTR based on the need.**
- *Do not accept medication from a vet unless you check with Jennifer on our current inventory. Medication purchased from the vet is very expensive compared to our cost.**

Each foster dog should receive an initial supply of medication based on their known needs at the time the dog comes into foster care.

Listed below are some common symptoms and the associated medication needed. If your foster dog has some of these symptoms and you do not have the necessary medication contact Jennifer Misfeldt.

Also do not hesitate to contact Jennifer for the proper dosage or supplement.

Symptoms	Diagnoses	Medication	Dosage
Loose stool/diarrhea	Could be stress, Giardia, worms or Colitis	Metronidazole	One pill, 250mg, twice a day for 3-5 days. If Colitis feed Science Diet Light and no other treats or food. Continue the medication for five days
Eating poop, throwing up fecal matter		Deter	One pill for every 10 pounds once a day for 14 days. Note – all the dogs in the house may need to be on this medication. Or you can try putting a tablespoon of crushed pineapple or pineapple juice in their food at each feeding.
Eating Grass	Diet	Add green beans to daily diet	
Peeing small amounts frequently	Bladder infection or crystals in the urine	Infection: Clavamox Crystals: diet to Royal Canine Waltham SO	125mg twice a day for 10 days – Note this medicine should not be opened until used as it loses its strength when exposed to light/air.

Runny nose, red eyes, licking, sneezing	Allergies	Benedryl (generic works)	One pill, 25mg, twice a day. Wipe down with cool wash cloth every night
Sneezing, coughing	Kennel cough or Upper Respiratory Infection	Clavamox and Baytril	125mg twice a day and 1 Baytril for 7 days NOTE – Baytril cannot be given to puppies
Scratching ears, red and smelly ears	Ear infection	Otomax (store in fridge)	Small amount in ear twice a day
Scabs, bumps, red skin	Skin infection	Cephalexin	One pill twice a day for 10 days
Dandruff, dry skin, extreme shedding	Malnutrition, environment, stress	Flax Seed Oil (to be stored in fridge)	One tablespoon once a day
Antibiotic after neuter		Cephalexin	One pill twice a day for three days after surgery
Antibiotic after spay		Clavamox	125mg twice a day for 4 days
Pain relief after surgery		Rimadyl	One pill, 25mg, twice a day for 3 days
Limping	Possible sprain	Rimadyl	One pill, 25mg, twice a day for 10 days
Walking on three legs	Luxating patella	Requires surgery	
Irritated/infected eye	Red, holds eye open	Neopoly Dex ointment	Small amount in affected eye twice a day for 10 days
Holding eye closed	Scratch	Tobramycin plus Atropin	One drop of each twice a day. Tobramycin up to three times a day for 10 days.
No training, bully behavior, chewing on objects that shouldn't be chewed on Bad behavior	Bad behavior	Bitter apple or spray bottle with water	Bitter Apple - Spray in mouth after bad behavior (note – tastes very bad may result in dog foaming at the mouth or coughing) Water – spray in face with mist form (not directly in eyes)
Worms – grain of rice	Tape Worms from Flea infestation	Drontol	Tape worms are not contagious and are common for dogs that have fleas.
Worms in stool	Worms	Drontol	Two pills if 18 lbs or less; 2.5 pills if 18 lbs or more (all at once)

To Do's while in foster care

Objective is to treat your foster dog as one of your own.

1. Feed your foster dog. MABTR recommends feeding foster dogs Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach or any other variety of Purina Pro Plan. This can be found at PetCo or PetSmart. We have discount coupons we can share with the foster families. Twice a year Purina donates 50 twenty pounds bags of Purina to us. This food is shared with the foster families.
 - a. This food eliminates gas and is easy for our adopting families to purchase.
 - i. If you foster continues to have gas please call Jennifer to discuss diet change.
 - b. If your foster dogs require a different diet contact Jennifer. MABTR may have the specific food available or will help with the purchase of the food.

Note: Throughout the year MABTR is donated food and treats, which is only shared among the foster families.

2. Make veterinary appointments for shots, altering and other medical needs identified. Provide transportation to these appointment(s).
 - If you are unable to get your foster dog to the required appointment you may also contact another foster family to see if they can drop off or pick up the dog or contact Jennifer. Do not just NOT show up. If you can't make your appointment and no one else can get the dog there contact the vet to reschedule.
 - MABTR pays for all veterinary and medication costs, but not for gas or time. Most, if not all, of our vet clinics have an account set up for us with a credit card on file. A listing of the vet clinics we use can be found on the foster webpage.
3. Give oral medication using pill pockets, cheese, bread, peanut butter or canned food. These are all acceptable methods of giving medication. Sometimes the foster parent may be required to give injections. However, you will be asked if you are comfortable doing this prior to fostering the dog.
4. Keep the fostered Boston Terrier groomed. Grooming requirements include bathing, occasional brushing the coat, cleaning the ears, trimming the nails, cleaning nose flaps and face wrinkles. In some cases it may be necessary to administer flea preventative.
 - If your foster has a dry nose or cauliflower nose MABTR has soft snout for you to apply twice a day.
5. Report progress, special personality traits, behavior and any "issues" that need to be addressed and passed on to the new family. Provide personal recommendations for placement to the Rescue Agent. A few things to consider:
 - a. Can the dog be an only dog?
 - b. Will they do best in a home with other dogs?
 - c. Does the dog get along with cats?
 - d. Can the dog live in a home with children?
 - e. Would the dog do well in an active home?
 - f. Would the dog do well in an apartment complex with no fence?
 - g. Does the dog bark a lot?
 - h. Does the dog whine/bark when crated?

- i. Is the dog aggressive towards other dogs or people?
 - j. Is the dog potty trained?
6. Take digital pictures of the fostered Boston Terrier to be posted on the website.
7. Fill out the online profile to be posted on Petfinder. Fill in the blank template found on the foster web page.
8. Keep accurate financial records concerning expenditures made for the fostered Boston Terrier. MABTR tracks expenses by dog approved by Jennifer. Please email Jennifer the grand total from the vet based on the medical records. Put the vet bill and any shot certificates in the dog's packet.
9. Use provided items such as: harness, dog shampoo (if needed), microchip, medication, etc. If you need a leash or a wire crate let Jennifer know. Note - items *NOT* provided by Rescue but are required by the foster home are: food, food/water bowls, treats, toys, and bedding material.
10. Remember there are exceptions. Unusual situations should be discussed with your mentor or Jennifer.
11. Report progress and update profile as it relates to:
 - a. Potty training: MABTR has available diapers for female dogs and bellybands for the males. Contact Jennifer if you need one of these items. Diapers and bellybands can be passed on to the adopting family if needed.
 - b. Socialization with people and other dogs. Dog parks, family outings are great ways for socialization. NOTE: Start slow and be sure your foster dog is dog friendly before taking it to a dog park. Transition can create a lot of stress for the dog as it adapts to its new home so it's best to minimize introductions to dogs other than those in your home for the first 24 hours.
 - c. Following commands: try to teach the dog come, potty, and sit. Knowing the basics would be nice.
 - d. Bad habits such as jumping on people, nipping during play, marking territory, and/or dominance. Note each case is different, however, for corrective action we do NOT use physical discipline in foster care. We recommend a firm 'NO', a time out in the crate, a spray of bitter apple, a spray with a water bottle, and/or a tap on the nose.
 - e. Walking on a leash. You may have to teach it to walk on a leash by taking it on walks with other dogs or walk around the yard. Note - Some dogs especially those from puppy mills or breeders do not know how to walk on a leash. You may have to assist them by taking more control of the leash. Use a short leash, keep your arm directly above the dog and pull gently to get them to walk. Start small and increase the duration of each walk.
 - f. Ability to go up and down stairs. Some dogs from puppy mills or breeders are not familiar with stairs. You may need to teach them by putting their front feet on the step and then move their back feet to the same step and gently pull on the leash. They will usually learn to go up the steps easier than going down.
12. Foster families may be asked to bring their foster dogs to a specific event in order to display the dogs available for adoption. This includes events held at PetCo, Pet Smart, Pet Expo's, and events with other rescue groups. This activity is very important and allows the public to see some of the dogs that are available at that particular point in time.

Foster homes are not all the same

MABTR realizes that each foster home brings something different to the table as far as dynamics of the household and foster experience. **If you find your foster dog does not get along with your existing dogs or cats or children or if you find yourself unable to make progress when working with your foster dog it does not hurt to move the foster dog to a new foster home.** We have some foster parents that have better success with deaf dogs or dogs with major medical issues. Other foster parents have more success with potty training or getting the dog to come out of their shell.

A great link to methods of training a retired breeder.
<http://www.nowisconsinpupmills.com/mill-survivors.html>

Note – some foster dogs may have a hard time adjusting to multiple dogs in the existing foster home. If this happens the foster dog may have to be moved to a less active foster home.

If there are ever any concerns or lack of trust with the new foster dog do not hesitate to contact Jennifer with any concerns in this area. You are not looked down upon if you ask for your new foster to be relocated. It happens. We want everyone to be happy.

Finding the Right Family

MABTR's goal is to find the best family for each dog and the best dog for each family. The foster parent will make the final decision on who adopts their foster dog.

To do this the foster parent will contact the applicant(s) and discuss the dog they have expressed an interest in. During this time the foster parent will want to discuss the dog as we know him/her in our household and mention any peculiarities the dog may have. The goal is to make the best match that we can make based on what we know at the time about the dog and the family. Ask as many questions and as personal as you want of the applicant and answer all their questions with honesty. We do not want to hide or understate anything as eventually it will resurface in their new home.

Note – not all matches work, however, we do the best we can with the knowledge we have available at the time.

Three times a week online adoption applications are downloaded. They are then reviewed for completeness by our Application Monitor. She scans through them to ensure that the applicant meets our requirements, for red flags and will contact the applicants for incomplete responses or clarification of answers.

After the on-line application is received the applicant receives an email confirmation of approval of adoption from MABTR.

Application will be emailed in a WORD format to the appropriate foster parent. Note – in some cases you may receive an application that is requesting information about a dog that you are not fostering. You are being sent this application per the request of the applicant (we file applications for three months) or because Jennifer feels that your foster dog may be a potential match.

If the applicant requested information on your foster the subject line on the email with the attached application will read ‘app for (dog’s name) by request’.

If you find an adopter through family and friends you can proceed with the interview and meet and greet. I just ask that the application be filled out within 48 hours prior to them having the dog.

The Phone Interview

Do not sit on applications. When you review an application please review and follow up as listed below. Remember they are coming to us and timely response is key not only to a successful adoption but also to our reputation especially in the world of social media.

The application:

1. Review the application(s) emailed to you.
 - a. If you feel the applicant is a possibility the next step is completing a phone interview which you, as the foster parent, will conduct.
 - b. If you feel that the applicant is not right based on application review you do not need to complete the phone interview. If you decide after the interview they are not the right family please email them letting them know that the dog has been committed to another family. See email verbiage example for either case.
 - c. Go with your gut. Your objective is to find the perfect home for your foster. We are not going to make everyone happy as we get more applications then we have dogs.

Example of email verbiage: I would like to inform you that at this time (dog name) is no longer available for adoption. (She/He) has been committed to another family. It was a hard decision among all the great applications that came in for (her/him) and there were many. We appreciate your understanding and patience and hope to have a dog for you soon. In the meantime we ask that you continue to check our site as we add new faces weekly. We will also consider you as a possible match for other dogs as they come in. No need to fill out another application. Just send us an email with your name and the name of the new dog you are interested in learning more about. Thank you again for considering adoption.

Phone Interview:

Time of the call: Phone interviews can take place during the week as late as 9:00pm local time of the application. Remember the applicant solicited us. Many applicants provide their work number so if you cannot reach them at home call them at work. Always ask if you are calling at an okay time. You also have the option of emailing them or texting them to set up a time to talk.

Number of attempts: If you do not get an answer leave a voice message. You are only required to make two attempts and leave two messages before putting that app aside and moving on. You can call as many apps you want for a particular foster dog and choose the one you like best.

Example of answering machine message: “Hello. This is (your name) with MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue. You submitted an adoption application for a Boston terrier and I would like to speak to you further about the Bostons we have for adoption that fit the criteria of what your family is looking for. In the meantime check out (your foster dog’s name) on our website at www.adoptaboston.com. Please call me back for a phone interview at 999-999-9999. If you are no longer interested in adopting a Boston from our organization please contact us by phone or email so we can remove your application from our files. Thank you and I look forward to speaking to you soon.”

NOTE: Please keep Jennifer updated on the progress of your phone interviews. She will continue to send you application til you inform her otherwise.

1. Introduce yourself as being with MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue and the foster parent of (your foster’s name).

If the applicant questions why you are calling them about a dog other than the one they inquired about, let them know we get multiple applications in for our dogs so as a courtesy we like to let them know of additional dogs that may fit their criteria.. At the end of the call if they still want to learn more about the dog they initially applied for email Jennifer with that information.

2. Ask to have both deciding adults on the phone for the call if possible. Remember that this is a partnership and everyone in the home has to be on the same page and in agreement of the decision and possible challenges they will be faced with regarding the dog.

3. Briefly explain what our adoption program consists of: phone interview, home visit, two week trial, adoption contract and fee, the medical we provide to all our dogs (altering, shots, heartworm test, microchipping, and other medical needs such as dental cleaning), and what the dog will come with (harness, heartworm pill, a treat and toy).

4. Interview the family by having them expand on some of their answers that you need clarification on (i.e. what their dogs are like, what the family activities are, clarify that they do have a fence, do they have plans for their dog(s) should anything happen to them, etc.). Any thing you want to know, ask. They contacted us by filling out the application. Our number one priority is finding the perfect home for your foster.

5. Tell them about your foster. Use the profile you completed for your dog as a guide but briefly touch on the highlighted areas: where the dog came from and why, potty training, behavior towards other dogs and people, dislikes and likes, and any special needs.

6. The applicant should be asking questions. To get the conversation going ask probing questions (see below) to ensure a two way conversation.

- What are the personalities of the pets currently in the house?
- If they do not have any pets ask them what their plans are to continue socialization with other dogs.
- If they have no pets but have children ask what the child's exposure has been to dogs and how does their child respond?
- What is a typical day like in their home?
- What drew their interest in this specific dog?

7. Sometimes you are on the fence about an applicant so do not hesitate to call for a second interview.

-If you come across an applicant that you want Jennifer to also interview please just send me an email with the request. I have done this especially in the cases where the dog has a behavior or health issue and it is important that the family clearly understands what they are taking on.

8. If you find an applicant gets upset with you or is begging for your dog but you have no intent of picking them get Jennifer involved. She will be the messenger of bad news.

9. As for families that only want a potty trained dog we will never adopt a dog out saying they will never have accidents. Accidents are expected with every transition, even if that was not your experience with the foster in discussion.

Probing questions:

If you are interviewing for a puppy mill/breeder survivor please consider the following during your interview:

Mill dogs arrive at different levels of personality, behavior (especially potty training) and confidence.

Many applicants fall in love with the picture of the dog and do not always take to heart the challenges of a puppy mill/breeder.

It is important to lay all the good and bad out on the table to our applications during a phone interview. You can never say too much.

Break down

- a. What was it like the first few days having this dog in your home?
- b. How far has the dog come with potty training, confidence and socialization?
- c. How long did it take the dog to get to that point?
- d. Medical issues and current medication if any?

Encourage adopters to download the Mill Dog Manifesto at <http://happytailsbooks.com/milldog.htm>. It will be helpful for mill dog newbies.

Also the link to a guide to helping adopters prepare for their Puppy Mill Survivor and advice on building relationships at <http://www.adoptaboston.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/InfoOnExBreedingDogs.pdf>

If there is any hesitation that the family needs what you told them repeated, let Jennifer know and she will do a follow up interview to ensure he/she is going to the right home based on her/his needs and the family has a clear understanding of the challenges that are ahead.

NOTE: Jennifer can conduct follow up interview per your request for any situation not just for mill dogs.

The decision:

If at any point in the call you have determined that this is **NOT the family** for your foster complete the call and then inform the family that someone will get back to them after all interviews are completed. The applicant does not need to know that you have not interviewed other families. Jennifer will handle all rejections. You do not need to tell the family they are not

getting the dog. You are as much a part of this decision as Jennifer is. Email Jennifer why they are not the right match for your foster or in some cases any of our dogs.

If you feel that after speaking to the person that **they are the family** for your dog ask them what their thoughts are after hearing about the dog. If they hesitate or need time to think tell them to get back to us within **24 hours** by phone or email so we know how to proceed. They can contact you or Jennifer with their response.

****WE DO NOT HOLD DOGS.** If the family is going to be traveling or moving, etc they will need to wait until they return and be considered for the dogs available at that time.

If they are sure about their decision to trial the dog you then can proceed by scheduling a time for them to meet the dog. If they have a dog already ask that our dog go to their home for the visit. If they have no dogs the family can come to your house. If they live too far away for you to visit with personally then let Jennifer know and she will schedule a home visit with a local volunteer. After the home visit you can either: meet half way, they can come to you, or Jennifer can schedule a transport.

Remember that you want to be honest with all families. Holding anything back that they will find out later can result in the dog being returned and a negative experience for all involved.

The Adoption Package

Items your foster will go to its new home with:

Bag: make sure that you have the adoption bag that includes a small zip lock sandwich size bag with 1.5 cups of the dog food your foster is eating. Write the name of the dog on the front of the bag.

Folder: the folder is the most important piece of the adoption. It includes important and necessary papers:

1. Welcome letter
2. Adoption contract (adoption contract.doc): Make sure that the contract is complete.
 - It needs to include the adoption fee, which is noted in their profile online,
 - any special notes in comments section (i.e. working on potty training, blind, medication requirements, released from a breeder, does not like other dogs, etc.).
 - Why the dog needed rescuing.
 - The bottom line with the name, age, color, gender, and double check the microchip number.

NOTE: If you do not have a carbon copy of the adoption contract you can print off two copies of the word document.

3. Boston Notes about the breed.
4. Medical records: Confirm that the medical records are also in the folder especially the rabies certificate and proof of the HW test and distemper shot. Any test results such as blood and thyroid should also be given to the adopting family. MABTR does not store medical records for

each dog. If medical records are needed in the future MABTR will contact the vet noted in the profile as providing the service.

5. Profile (diary): This template is just that. Please edit and add is needed. I ask that you spell out the dates (i.e. January 1, 2008; NOT 1/1/08).

The completed profile with all areas filled out will make the transition from foster care to the forever home a smooth one. Print a copy for the folder. The final cut should be emailed to Jennifer Misfeldt for record keeping.

*If you do not have the profile done in time of the adoption we will email a copy to the new owner.

6. Write the name of the dog on the front of the folder. Include the microchip number under the name.

Dress:

Your dog should have his/her harness on with all tags (rabies and microchip) if you have them.

Your dog will go without a crate or leash. The new owners are to supply a leash when they meet their new dog. MABTR sometimes has used crates for sale, for \$20 each. Confirm with MABTR as to the current inventory before offering a crate for sale.

If you want to send something with your dog you may, however, many new parents want to go out and buy their own things.

The Adoption

We want all our adopting families to have a good experience with us. We have many repeat adoptions because of our process and rapport with our adopting families.

What should be included during an adoption?

1. Have the adoption folder, bag and a pen and sit down with the new owners.
2. Note the adoption bag. Make the family aware that we are providing them with one toy and a treat.
3. Review the adoption folder.
 - a. Show them where our business card is located.
 - b. Point out where the HW pill is and that they should give it to their new dog once the trial period is over. This way the pill is given on their schedule.
 - c. Point out where the microchip number is written on the folder for reference.
 - d. Show them the welcome letter. We will touch each point of the letter during the adoption process.
 - e. Ask them to contact the foster parent or Jennifer within 48 hours via email or phone to ensure all is going well. If there is a problem we are available anytime should they want/need to call with concerns or questions.
 - f. Inform them of the Boston notes. State that this is something they can read at home.
 - g. Point out the typed profile. This is what they should refer to for questions and answers. However, let them know they can also contact us.
 - h. Point out the vet file card for the microchip. This they can keep or give to their vet for their files.

- i. Review and have them sign the adoption contract. The white copy is ours and the yellow is the owner's. A few important points:
 - i. They are responsible for all medical care moving forward.
 - ii. If things are not working out the dog comes back to us even if it is two months or two years.
 - iii. They cannot sell, abandon or give the dog away.
 - iv. If the dog becomes ill and passes away we ask to be notified as we like to track the life span of our fosters.
 - v. They are required to keep the dog on a leash or fenced in area.
 - vi. Keep means of identification on the dog.
 - vii. Do not leave the dog outside should you need to leave the house for any length of time.
 - viii. Review any special notes in the comments section.
 - ix. Have them sign the contract.
4. Collect the adoption fee. It can be cash or check payable to MABTR. Tell them we do not cash the check until they notify us that the adoption is final. They can do this anytime within the two week process.
 - a. Payment plan. This is NOT recommended and should be approved by Jennifer first. The adopter would split the adoption fee into three checks which are collected at the time of adoption and post dated.
5. Inform them that the dog comes with a harness however they do not need to keep the harness on at all times. We supply the harness to encourage them to use it while walking the dog.
6. Suggest they keep a collar on their dog with the microchip tag going forward. If the dog gets out the adopter needs to contact MABTR immediately so we can contact the microchip company and out the dog on a missing report.
7. Tell them to take the yellow copy of the contract to the cashier at PetCo and PetSmart. Some stores will provide a free coupon book including discounts off food.

*Once the adoption is complete you will need to **mail** (14826 Spaulding St, Omaha, NE 68116) or email the following paperwork to Jennifer Misfeldt.

1. Mail White copy of the signed adoption contract
2. Mail Adoption fee. If cash was given to you please deposit the cash in your account and write a check to MABTR.
3. Mail a surrender form if one exists
4. Email the Microchip number
5. Email the Total amount of the dog's medical bill
6. EMAIL only: the completed profile

Follow up

As a foster parent you are asked to conduct the 48-72 hour touch point call. **We have a volunteer who emails the adopter at the one and two week point.** You can stay in touch with the new family as much as you would like during the two-week trial. After the two week trial it is on an as-needed basis. For some adoptions you will not hear back from the adoptive family. For other adoptions they may call you several times.

Any updates of concern or hesitation from the new owners please share with Jennifer.

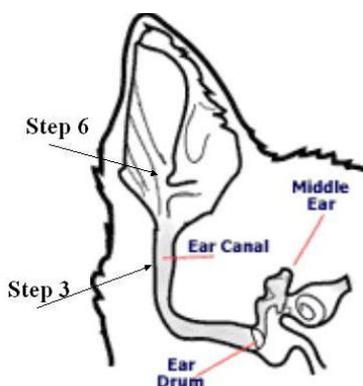
FAQ

- 1. What is the best way to communicate with MABTR?** If you are trying to get a hold of Jennifer Misfeldt it is best to send an email. Email is up all day long and checked frequently. If an emergency please CALL even if it is 2 in the morning.
 - a. If you have an emergency: If you call me and I do not pick up on the first try call me back. Two calls in a row equals emergency.
- 2. What is Jennifer Misfeldt's contact info?** Note that the contact information for all rescue agents is located on the website under Contact Us. Jennifer's cell is 402-510-1346. Address is 14826 Spaulding St, Omaha, NE 68116.
- 3. What is the best way to transition a new dog into foster care?** This is a great question and one that varies depending on the situation. We all know our personal dogs and what is the best way for them to meet a new dog. Try not to change the routine. Some may take the house dogs and the new dog for a walk as an introduction, some start off in the back yard, and some just bring the new dog right into the house as if he always lived there.
 - a. The only method I do not recommend is having your house pet on a leash indoors when meeting the new dog. This, for most dogs, gives off the signal that they need to be on alert.
- 4. What if I need to take a break or go out of town and cannot foster?** We all need a break. Never feel like you cannot ask for one. I just ask that you let me know as soon as you know the details. If you currently have a foster and need to go out of town we will move the foster to a new foster home or a temporary foster babysitter.
- 5. What if the foster parents want to adopt their foster dog?** As a foster parent you are always given the first opportunity to adopt your foster dog. That is one less transition for the dog. Even if a new home is already confirmed and it is the day before the dog is to leave if you want to adopt him you get to. The adoption fee for foster parents is ½ price. You will still need to sign an adoption contract.
- 6. How do we find a new foster home if the dog is not working out?** You will never be forced to keep your foster dog if things are not working out. You need to CALL Jennifer Misfeldt at which time calls to open foster homes will be made to have the dog moved within 24 hours. It is very important that our foster homes are happy.
- 7. What do I do if the FOSTER DOG GOES MISSING?** CALL Jennifer Misfeldt ASAP 402-510-1346. Even if it is 2:00 in the morning. Do not wait to notify MABTR. Jennifer will contact the microchip company and notify them that the dog is missing. We ask the foster parents to get out and start looking. Make everyone you see aware of your situation and provide him or her with your contact number. Either the foster parents or the Rescue Agent will notify the local shelters and vet clinics. Make note of any identifying color of harness or collar and the location or cross streets where the foster was last seen.
- 8. What do I do if the foster dog requires emergency treatment?** CALL Jennifer Misfeldt, 402-510-1346, to discuss the situation. You know your foster the best so go

with your gut. MABTR wants all dogs to receive the necessary medical care at anytime of the day. You can call Jennifer any time even if it is 2 AM.

9. **Tips for correcting Behavior Issues?** This could be a whole book. I ask that you call Jennifer Misfeldt and discuss with her the issue you are having. The answer varies based on minor details. I prefer you call and talk about it before things get out of hand or you as a foster parent get frustrated. There are many methods to correct behaviors and if option one does not work we have options 2 and 3 to try.
10. **What vets can I use?** MABTR has all the vets that work with us listed online at http://www.adoptaboston.com/vet_sponsors.htm. You are more than welcome to find a vet close to you however Jennifer would need to call to confirm prices. Vets that work with MABTR provide discounted rates.

11. What is the best way to clean ears?



1. Place a teaspoon of ear cleaner or rubbing alcohol in your dog's ear canal. Ear cleaners should be slightly acidic but should NOT sting.
 2. Massage the base of the ear for 15 seconds to soften and release the debris.
 3. Stuff a cotton ball into the ear canal not losing sight of it.
 4. Massage the ear with the cotton ball inserted. Remove the cotton ball.
 5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until you see no more debris on the cotton ball and/or until no more moisture exist in the ear.
 6. Cotton swabs/Q-tips can be used to clean the inside of the earflap and the part of the ear canal you can see. They should NOT be used farther down in the ear canal since that tends to pack debris in the ear canal, rather than removing it.
12. **Does MABTR euthanize dogs?** MABTR is not considered a no-kill rescue. We put dogs down for two reasons: incurable health issue(s) such as cancer, or if the dog bites people. We do not find it fair to have a dog suffer or put a family through the sadness of losing a pet in a few months. We also cannot afford a liability risk with a dog that bites people. That said, we also have a hospice foster program available for certain cases.

As a foster parent you are not required to make the decision nor be present. We have one individual in the three states with fosters that take on this role. Our method is simple and pain free. We then have the dogs cremated at the local shelter.

Definitions

Altered: the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Home visit: MABTR requires that each potential adopter have their home evaluated. Our main objective is to make sure that the home is safe and the yard fenced (apartments excluded). If a volunteer is not available then the family needs to send pictures of the living space that the dog will have access to including the back yard plus the other pets in the house to you, the foster parent, or Jennifer Misfeldt. NOTE: MABTR does adopt to apartment dwellers, condo's, etc that do not allow a fence however enforce a leash law.

HW: stands for heartworm

UA: urine analysis. Needed to identify possible bladder infections or crystals. If your foster is drinking a lot of water and peeing small amounts there may be a medical reason why. Infections burn when the dog pees.

Vetted: the dog has been altered, updated on shots, heart worm tested, dewormed and any other medical needs completed.

Thank you

Our paths will cross for only a short time, but while you are in my care I will be devoted to you. If memories of your former life are painful, I will help erase them. No longer will you hunger and I will help to heal your wounds. If your former life was good, I will promise you an even better future.

One day our time together will come to an end and you will go off to your new home, healthy, happy and healed. As a parting gift, I will give you a piece of my heart to remember me by. I may shed a tear . . .not for my loss, but for your gain.

Perhaps our paths may cross again for a fleeting instant and I will be comforted by the aura of love that surrounds you. There will always be a bond between us, though we walk separate paths through this life.

After we reach our heavenly reward our paths may cross again. You may try to return the piece of my heart with thanks for all that I did for you. I will tell you to keep it and thank you for showing me that I could be better than I thought I could be, and that I learned in giving came the greatest gifts.

The pieces of our hearts are like grains of sand. They are pulled along a current beyond our control until they come together and form a safe haven.

I, like you, came to understand what it meant to be saved.

- by Jim Willis, Author