

MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue Foster Parent Process and Guide

Last Revised Date: 2/25/2020

<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. We DO NOT adopt outside of our serving area even if the applicant is willing to drive.

As a 501 non-profit organization ALL donations are tax deductible (monetary and physical). This does NOT include the adoption fee as the individual is getting something in return for the fee.

We are a volunteer based 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.

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 resulted 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 same first name, Jennifer.

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.**

What is a Foster Home?

A Foster Home is a family home where a rescued, unwanted or otherwise needy Boston Terrier or Boston MIX can live safely, start learning skills needed to become a companion pet, and be loved until a permanent/forever home is available that meets its special needs.

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

I always say that with a foster dog it is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you are going to get. Sometimes, 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 the right match to a successful adoption.

Fostering a rescue dog is a huge responsibility. It must be accepted by your entire family and any outside caretakers.

Arrival of the New Foster Dog

MABTR's advance notice of new arrivals varies from a few hours to a few weeks. The location for collecting a foster dog for many is often meeting at a fast food parking lot or gas station just off the interstate. Public places are preferred unless you are comfortable having the dog brought to your home.

We depend on many volunteers to do the actual transporting, not the foster parents unless needed or the distance is close. 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.

Foster homes are not all the same. After moving the foster dog into your home should it not be a match for your family or there are safety concerns please contact MABTR immediately so we can move the dog. This does not make you a failed foster parent. We want all humans to be happy otherwise the foster dog is not happy.

We only allow one foster dog in a foster home at a time. We also do not foster pairs or adopt out pairs. They will be split up in foster care.

We also only adopt one dog at a time to a new family. We love repeat adopters but ask for them to take at least a month with their new dog before adopting again from us or any other organization.

MABTR receives dogs for many reasons.

- **Owner surrender.** We require a completed surrender form and request a \$50 donation (especially for those dogs not altered or up to date on shots). A donation is not required in order for us to help the dog. Dogs come in for many reasons in this category. For example: cannot potty train, health issues, had a new baby, aggressive, bad behavior, moving, allergies, cannot afford and the list goes on. 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/stray.** We ensure that an effort has been made to find the original owner AND MABTR has followed through the hold period set by the city before listing the dog as available for adoption. We too are required to follow through with the hold period set by the city prior to claiming ownership of the dog in order to rehome.
- **Shelter releases.** Shelter release to rescues for a few reasons: space, age, health, certain behaviors. Some of these dogs have two options: transfer to a rescue or euthanasia. MABTR has a relationship with many shelters. In a few cases the shelter knows a reputable rescue organization they would rather surrender the dog to thus making space for future intakes that do 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 works on trying to get medical care done at the shelter which is normally much cheaper than our own vets.

We continue to build a strong relationship with many shelters in the states we operate in.

- **Breeder and puppy mill dogs.** We work with small and large commercial breeders mainly through a middleman. MABTR rarely deals with breeders directly. Normally, these dogs arrive into rescue for free or a small fee. We also attend auctions were MABTR places a bid of \$400 max per head.
- **Owner selling online** (craigslist, Facebook). These days we are seeing an increase in families selling their companion pet online for exchange for cash but unfortunately this a transaction with no investigation on the part of the seller prior to the exchange. MABTR will reach out to the seller making them aware of our services. If turned down or not responded to we send in an undercover volunteer with the attempt to purchase the dog that is then turned over to rescue. This does require money exchange with a bill of sale.

IMPORTANT: MABTR does not take possession of any dog without transfer of ownership documentation. This can be a surrender form, bill of sale, hand written note, shelter transfer form, or AKC paper with seller’s signature. This is our only legal documentation allowing MABTR to provide medical care and rehoming. This document DOES NOT get shared with anyone outside of MABTR. The only copy is to be given to Jennifer for record keeping.

MABTR is NOT a NO KILL organization. We have euthanized dogs for two reasons:

1. **Health:** if we have a dog that we cannot keep pain free or comfortable we allow them to go in peace. This includes our dogs in hospice care.
2. **Liability:** unfortunately, not all Bostons are the same. They are dogs and can bite. If the dog is a liability to MABTR or the potential adopting family we have to make the right choice for everyone’s future.

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. You can request the vet to trim the nails if not comfortable doing so
Dewormed	We deworm the dogs using Drontol tablets. Half a pill for five pounds, round up. This applies to all rescues. This should be done within the first 48 hours of getting the dog. 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. If the dog is positive for worms he may need a second round three weeks later.
Flea preventative	MABTR has flea preventative for during the season
Name	Not all dogs arrive with a name. We try to not repeat names as it makes it confusing when you have several dogs with the same name listed at the same time. Not all dogs will know their name. You can rename your foster dog but for the purpose of the paperwork trail it

	<p>will stay the original name. Adopters have the right to change the name.</p>
Posting online - Online Profile	<p>MABTR's goal is to get new arrivals posted on petfinder.com (free online portal for ALL non-profits to list adoptable pets) as soon as the foster parent is comfortable speaking to potential applicants about what you know of your foster dog.</p> <p>We have a profile template we ask all foster parents to use. The profile should reflect what criteria you are asking an adopter to meet in order to be considered for your foster dog.</p> <p>In some cases, we may find details about your foster dog has changed since posting online. Changes to the online profile is easy to make and should be current with facts at all times.</p>
Pictures	<p>Remember pictures are the first thing our viewers 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 - all pictures are cropped. We can post up to six pictures or five photos plus a video. We can also change them out easily per your request.</p>
Spay/neuter	<p>All dogs are to be altered prior to adoption except for puppies under 5 months 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 be contacted by MABTR at the age of 6 months requesting proof that it was done.</p> <p>Make sure that your foster dog is clean prior to surgery.</p>
Distemper shot (aka DHPP/DHLPP)	<p>This is a required shot for MABTR 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> <p>Puppies get a puppy shot (DHLPP) at the age of 8 weeks then repeated two more times three weeks apart.</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 get their first rabies shot at the age of one year.</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 exists. If a rabies tag is not provided MABTR will NOT reorder unless adopter request a tag. The most important rabies validation is the rabies certificate which should be present and in the adoption folder.</p>
Heartworm test (aka HW)	<p>MABTR heartworm tests ALL dogs one year and older. Preventative is given to all foster dogs during mosquito seasons. One pill covers a dog for 30 days. We do not send HW preventative to adoption families unless the dog was recently treated for heartworm by MABTR.</p> <p>Heartworm preventative can be started as early as five months of age.</p>
Other Medical needs	<p>MABTR will provide any and all medical care identified as needed prior to adoption. This is not limited to elongated pallet repair, cataract surgery, amputation, knee surgery, HW treatment, eye removal, etc.</p> <p>Foster parents need to make MABTR aware of any concerns or struggles the</p>

	<p>dog is having in order to properly address.</p> <p>Money should never be a foster parent's concern.</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>
Diary	<p>A diary needs to be completed for each foster dog. The diary will make the transition from foster care to the forever home a smooth one. A hard copy to be placed in the adoption folder. *If you do not have the diary done in time of the adoption you can email it.</p> <p>Also email a soft copy of the diary to Jennifer Misfeldt.</p> <p>Spell out the dates (i.e. June 2, 2008; NOT 6/2/08)</p>
Microchip	<p>Each dog needs to be microchipped before it is adopted out.</p> <p>The microchip tag, if available, should be attached to the harness as soon as you get the dog.</p> <p>All microchips are registered in Jennifer Misfeldt's name. We will transfer registration to the adopting family upon request and after the trial period.</p> <p>Microchipping is to be done by a vet or vet tech.</p> <p>MABTR uses PetLink, however some dogs may arrive already chipped and by other companies.</p> <p>We do not want to re-chip a dog as they only need one microchip in their body, no matter the company.</p> <p>Have the vet scan for a microchip and if they find one have them record the chip's number. MABTR will register the already existing chip in MABTR's name.</p> <p>The microchip number should be written on the outside of the dog's adoption folder, profile and adoption contract. Chip inserted under MABTR come 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.</p> <p>Most Boston's are unable to find their way home once they are lost. It is strongly recommended to keep the foster dog in its harness with all tags on at all times and especially during transport (versus a collar) to ensure their safety.</p>

Medication

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

***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.**

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.

We will use medication up to one year past expiration. We also will accept and use donated medication from the public.

Contact Jennifer to discuss symptoms and treatment prior to medicating.

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	Diet		We need to evaluate the dog's eating schedule and amount. We may need to increase the frequency of meals and add in fruits and vegetables.
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 fine)	First give a bath. One pill, 25mg, twice a day. Wipe down coat with cool wash cloth every night
Sneezing, cough	Kennel cough or Upper Respiratory Infection	Clavamox 125mg and Baytril 68.2mg	One Clavamox twice a day and ½ Baytril for 7 days NOTE – Baytril cannot be given to puppies. Clavamox is in a liquid form
Scratching ears, red and smelly ears	Ear infection	Otomax (store in fridge)	Small amount in ear twice a day. Massage in
Scabs, bumps, red skin	Skin infection	Cephalexin 250mg	First give a bath. One pill twice a day for 10 days
Dandruff, dry skin, extreme shedding	Malnutrition, environment, stress	Coconut or Flax Seed Oil	One tablespoon once a day
Meds after spay or neuter		Clavamox 125mg Rimadyl 25mg	Females = Clavamox twice a day for 7 days + rimadyl twice a day for three days. Males = Rimadyl twice a day for three days. No antibiotic
Pain relief after surgery		Rimadyl 25mg	One pill twice a day for 3 days
Limping	Possible sprain	Rimadyl 25mg	One pill 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 or squinting	Scratch	Tobramycin	Small amount three times a day for 10 days.
Worms – grain of rice	Tape Worms from Fleas	Drontol	½ pill for every 5lbs. One-time treatment. Tape worms are not contagious and are common for dogs that have fleas.
Worms in stool	Worms	Drontol	½ pill for every 5 lbs. One-time treatment. However if severe to be repeated in three weeks.

To Do's while in foster care

Objective is to treat your foster dog as one of your own. Accept your foster dog as part of your family. You create the rules you are comfortable allowing. You do not need to incorporate previous owner's treatment. For example, if he was crated at bedtime in his previous home but you are fine with the dog in bed with you then allow the dog in bed with you.

1. Feed your foster dog. MABTR recommends feeding foster dogs Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Stomach or any other variety of Purina Pro Plan. However you can feed the diet you already have in your home. Should the foster dog pass gas two weeks in then we need to change the diet.
 - a. If your foster dogs require a different diet contact MABTR. MABTR may have the specific food available or will purchase of the food needed.
 - b. Note: Throughout the year MABTR is donated food and treats, which is only shared among the foster families.
2. Vet appts. Inform MABTR of what medical is needed for your foster dog so a file can be opened at the proper vet clinic.
 - a. If you are unable to get your foster dog to the required appointment we have volunteers willing to do vet runs for us. Please contact Jennifer for help. 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.
 - b. MABTR pays for all veterinary and medication costs. 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 our website: <https://www.adoptaboston.com/resources/vet-clinics/>.
 - c. Gas nor time is paid for however, your mileage is tax deductible when transporting your foster to vet appointments or events on behalf of MABTR.
3. Give oral medication using pill pockets, cheese, bread, peanut butter or canned food. You can also smash pills in powder form or remove from capsule and mix with applesauce, tomato sauce, or yogurt. These are all acceptable methods of giving medication.
4. Keep the fostered dog groomed. Grooming requirements includes 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.
 - a. If your foster has a dry or cauliflower nose MABTR has soft snout for you to apply twice a day.
 - b. If you are not comfortable trimming nails or cleaning the ears we will approve to have done at the vet clinic.

5. Report progress and write up a profile which will be used to post the dog online. This includes special personality traits, behavior and any “issues” that need to be addressed and passed on to the new family. Identify what you are looking for in a forever home.
6. A few things to share:
 - a. I love ...
 - b. I have ...
 - c. I get along with ...
 - d. I would rather not ...
 - e. I need ...
 - f. Here's a little more about me:
 - g. Housetrained?
 - h. Leash-trained?
 - i. Rides well in car?
 - j. Good with other dogs?
 - k. Good with cats?
 - l. Good with young children?
 - m. Good with strangers?
 - n. Shy or confident?
 - o. Barks?
 - p. Apartment qualified?
 - q. Any Special needs or Health Issues?
7. Will take digital pictures of the foster dog to be posted on the website. Quality is key
8. Will review applications that indicate interest in your foster AND interview potential applicants. At the end of the process you will determine which applicant adopts your dog.
9. Will send a copy of all medical records to the Rescue Agent as well as a copy of all medical records in the foster dog's adoption folder for full medical disclosure.
 - a. Make sure that previous owner info is crossed out on paperwork and medicine bottles. Do NOT cross out vet info.
10. Use and request items such as: adoption packet, harness, microchip, medication, etc.
 - a. MABTR will provide a crate, leash, toys and bedding if you do not have a spare for your foster dog.
11. Will be honest and upfront with the Rescue Agent regarding concerns of a foster dog's behavior or health that could potentially make the dog unadoptable or to be placed into Palliative Care. Please remember there are as many exceptions as there are rules.
12. May want to adopt the foster dog. Adoption fees for foster homes are ½ the posted fee (this does not apply if it is your first foster dog). All adoption fees are based on age.
 - a. If you have any intention of adopting your foster dog we will NOT post the dog online and you do have a two-week trial period.
13. **Will crate the foster dog alone when no one is present to monitor him/her.** This is critical for the foster dog's as well as your personal pet's safety. Remember the foster dog is a complete stranger at this time. No exceptions unless the foster dog is hurting himself. In this case call the Rescue Agent to discuss options.
 - a. Foster dogs are NOT to be crated with personal dogs

- b. Foster dogs are NOT allowed to free roam where they have access to personal pets
14. Will have the foster dog on a leash if outside of a secured area.
- a. It is critical to supervise your new foster dog in the fenced yard for the first few days as we have had some that will scale a fence or dig under.
 - b. If your foster dog goes missing call Jennifer ASAP
15. 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.
16. If you are to travel let us know of your schedule so we can arrange for your foster dog to go to a babysitter's home til you return if he is not adopted out before your departure.
- a. You are allowed to take your foster dog out of state but just make Jennifer aware

Foster training tips

- a. Potty training: There is no expectation that we will have a foster dog 100% potty trained prior to adoption. For breeder dogs disclose that it will take up to three months for most breeder dogs to get potty trained.
 - a. MABTR has available diapers for female dogs and belly bands 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. Suggest using men depend pads
 - b. We have puppy pads if needed
 - c. In cold weather consider using your garage for potty breaks, still outside of the living space.
- b. Socialization with people and other dogs. Family outings or visits with neighbor dogs are great ways for socialization. NOTE: Start slow and be sure your foster dog is dog friendly before introducing to a dog outside of your home. 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 but may not be achieved prior to adoption.
- 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 the dog 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 and may not learn prior to adoption (this disqualifies them to be adopted out to a home with no fenced in area). 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.
 - a. We do not recommend flexy leashes.
 - b. It is ok to leave a light weight nylon leash attached to the dog while roaming indoors to get use to the feel of the leash.

- 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.

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.**

You are not a failure if we need to move the dog. If you are not happy the dog is not going to be happy. We want this to be a positive experience for you so you continue fostering.

A great link to methods of training a retired breeder.

<http://www.nowisconsinpupmills.com/mill-survivors.html>

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

- Review applications that are emailed to you that indicated interest in your foster dog
- Call the applicant/s you find meet the criteria you are looking for in a home.
- Interview the applicant and discuss the dog they have expressed an interest in.
- Follow up with the applicant 24 hours post the interview to confirm next steps
 - Foster parents need to go with their gut. If you find the applicant not to be a match based on the interview do not commit the dog to the home.
 - Your applicant should meet all the criteria you are looking for in a new home
- Perform a second interview if needed or have Jennifer make a follow up call. We want to be 90% confident this is the right family before proceeding with the adoption process.
- Conduct the home visit and meet and greet if the applicant is local to the foster home.
 - If the applicant is out of area inform Jennifer who will take over to conduct the home visit and arrange transportation.

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

Application process:

Three times a week online adoption applications are approved or denied. They are reviewed for completeness and red flags by our Application Admin.

After the online application is reviewed the applicant receives an email confirmation of approval of adoption from MABTR. This approval does not guarantee them a dog or the dog they indicated interest in.

Application will be emailed in a WORD format to the foster parents. 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 ALL application per the request of the applicant (we file applications for three months) who emailed or called us with interest.

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 the email subject line reads **‘resending app for (dog’s name) by request’** this means that the applicant emailed or called us again stressing interest in your foster dog. By receiving this application twice does not mean MABTR is encouraging you to call the applicant. Just making you aware of the applicant’s interest.

If you find an adopter through family and friends you can proceed with the interview and meet and greet prior to an online application being completed. I just ask that the application be filled out within 48 hours prior to them receiving the dog as we require the paperwork.

Foster parents reviewing of the application/s:

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 the foster parent will conduct.
- b) If you feel that the applicant is not right based on what is written on the application you do not need to complete the phone interview. You do nothing. MABTR will handle the communication from here.
- c) If you decide after the interview they are not the right family please let them know otherwise inform Jennifer so we can properly inform them.
 - a. 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.
- d) If you learn any disturbing details about the family during the phone interview that was not disclosed on the application please share this information immediately with Jennifer so it can be decided if they are a candidate for adoption through our organization or if they need to be removed from our database.
 - a. If you find on the application something disturbing that should have been caught during the approval process also share the details with Jennifer. Items such as leaves their dogs outside when not at home, has an intact dog in the home, allows free roaming off leash outside of a fenced in area, etc.
 - b. We will follow up with these applicants for clarification before removing them from our database.

Verbiage of what MABTR emails to applicants you never called or pass on for the dog they asked about

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.

The Phone Interview

Do not sit on applications. When you receive 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.

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. 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. If you do not get a response call them.

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. Remember though that those you interview and pass on we need to inform them of the final decision.

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 (foster dog’s name). 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 email or call us so we can remove your application from our files.
Thank you and I look forward to speaking to you soon.”

Interview guide

Key is full disclosure and honesty during an interview. The goal is to make the best match based what we know thus far about the foster dog and what we learn through the interview call.

Ask as many questions and as personal as you want of the applicant. They came to us. Answer all questions with honesty. We do not want to hide or understate anything as eventually it will resurface in their new home and can result in the dog to be returned.

Many applicants fall in love with the picture of the dog and do not always take to heart the challenges or read the full online profile

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.

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.

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

2. Ask to have both deciding adults on the phone 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. This is not a deal breaker to proceeding with the call.
3. Inform them that this is just an interview call. That you have other calls to make and hope to have a final decision made within 48 hours.
 - a. They do not need to know you may not have other calls to make.
4. Briefly explain what our adoption program consists of: phone interview, home visit, references checked, two-week trial, adoption contract and adoption fee.
5. Review a few key items on the application by having them expand on some of their answers especially those you want further clarification on
 - a. Clarify all the humans that reside in the home (full time and part time)
 - i. If they have family or a caretaker that is expected to help we will want a follow up call with them to ensure they are on board
 - b. If children are in the home what is their experiences with dogs (small dogs)
 - c. Confirm they do have a fenced in area.
 - i. If in an apartment or community prohibiting a fence what secured fenced in area do they have access to so they have opportunities to allow the dog to run free outside
 - d. What is a typical day like with work, evening activities, and weekends.
 - e. Expand on the personality of the dog/s that currently reside in the home
 - i. If they have a cat what do they expect the cat to do when a new dog comes in.
 - ii. If they do not have any pets currently ask them what their plans are to continue socialization with other dogs.
 - iii. If only one dog resides in the home ask them how their personal dog responds to other dogs visiting the home
 1. If no other dogs have ever visited the home suggest they reach out to friends and family and offer to take their dog in for the weekend to test the waters before we transport a dog into the home.
 - f. Confirm the fence set up, if there is one. If plans for one ask for a time frame.
 - g. If your foster dog cannot hold it for 8 hours and they work full time what are their plans for potty breaks.
6. Ask them what about your foster dog interested them in asking about him/her
7. Tell them about your foster. Use the online profile and diary to guide you. Touch on the following
 - a. How the dog landed in foster care
 - b. Potty training
 - i. Breeder dogs will never be potty trained prior to adoption
 - ii. Disclose any marking
 - iii. Disclose the length of time the dog can hold it without an accident
 - c. Activity level
 - d. Confidence or shyness with humans
 - e. Behavior issues
 - f. Health issues (short term and long term)
 - g. Requirements: no stairs, allowed to sleep in bed, certain fencing, challenges
 - h. The foster dog's likes and dislikes
8. The applicant should be asking questions. This should not be a one-sided conversation.
9. Sometimes you are on the fence about an applicant so do not hesitate to call for a second interview or request Jennifer to do a follow up call.
 - a. Jennifer will conduct a second interview call 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.

- b. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. End the call by asking them what their thoughts are. Then tell them that you ask them to speak to the whole family tonight and let's follow up tomorrow with our final answer – move forward with the adoption or keep looking.
 - a. Many applicants are just excited to have received a call that sometimes they need time to digest the conversation.

The decision:

NOT the Family - If at any point in the call you have determined that this is **NOT the family** for your foster finish the call and then inform the family that someone will get back to them after all interviews are completed. Jennifer can handle all rejections if you would like. You do not need to tell the family they are not getting the dog unless you are comfortable stating so. Sometimes it is obvious it is not a match and all parties agree to keep looking.

You FOUND the right family - If you feel that after speaking to the family that **they are the family** for your dog call them back within 24 hours with the good news.

You then need to email Jennifer with the first and last name on the app so we can mark the dog pending, stop further applications, send out an email notifying the chosen family of next steps (home visit, reference checks and transport).

- If the adopting family is local still notify Jennifer however you can proceed with setting up a date and time for a meet and greet plus home visit at their residence conducted by you. Bring the adoption folder but leave in your car. If the visit goes well you can offer to leave the dog and start the two week trial.
- If the adopting family is out of area Jennifer will set up the home visit with a volunteer and work with the adopting family on transportation.

***WE DO NOT HOLD DOGS.** If the family is not able to commit to taking in a dog per our schedule of transporting the dog then they should hold off adopting til they are ready. The only hold accepted is if MABTR is pushing the date out due to medical or transport. We will continue to review new applications and should the dog still be available once the applicant is ready again you can consider them at that time.

****Reference checks.** Note that MABTR does not automatically call references on all approved adopting families. We do however have a reference admin who will conduct reference check per the request of the foster parents and Jennifer. If you want references checked just email Jennifer with the request and include anything specific you want addressed. Jennifer will also request reference checks on approved families based on certain criteria on the application. As a foster parent you are welcome to call references however note we have a volunteer to do that leg work for you as well upon request.

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: Make sure that the contract is complete. This is the one document providing legal ownership of the dog to his/her new family
 - a. It needs to include the adoption fee, which is noted in their profile online
 - b. any special notes in comments section (i.e. working on potty training, blind, medication requirements, behavior history, etc.).
 - c. Why the dog needed rescuing.
 - d. The bottom line with the name, age (DOB if you have it), color, gender, and microchip number.
 - e. *NOTE:* If you do not have a carbon copy of the adoption contract you can print off two copies of the word document; one copy for MABTR and one for the adopter
3. Boston Notes about the breed.
 - a. Medical records: Confirm that ALL the medical records are 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.
 - b. Make sure that previous owner info is crossed out on paperwork and medicine bottles. Do NOT cross out vet info.
 - c. Diary: A diary needs to be completed for each foster dog. Best to start drafting it out as you learn more about your foster dog. The diary will make the transition from foster care to the forever home a smooth one. A hard copy to be placed in the adoption folder.
 - d. If you do not have the diary done in time of the adoption you can email it.
 - e. Email a soft copy of the diary to Jennifer Misfeldt.
 - f. Spell out the dates (i.e. June 2, 2008; NOT 6/2/08)
4. 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) attached if you have them. Make sure that the harness is not too big or too tight. If wrong fit contact MABTR immediately.

Your dog will go without a crate or leash. However if your dog is a flight risk you can send with a leash attached.

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. Make sure items are clean, not stained, or damaged. Though the item was handed down from the previous owner the adopters see it as being sent by MABTR not the previous family.

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. Also many referred adoptions.

What should be included during an adoption?

1. Have the adoption folder, bag and a pen and sit down with the new owners.
2. Review the adoption folder.
 - a. Show them where our business card is located.
 - b. Point out the rabies certificate, proof of a heartworm test and distemper shot.
 - c. Point out where the microchip number is written on the folder for reference.
 - d. Show them the welcome letter.
 - e. Inform them that you will be contacting them within 72 hours with a touch point call however if any concerns or questions before then to please call us.
 - f. Inform them of the Boston notes.
 - 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. 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 however any medical needs during the two-week trial they are to call us first for approval.
 - ii. If things are not working out the dog comes back to us even if it is two months or two years later. They cannot sell, abandon or give the dog away.
 - iii. If the dog becomes ill and passes away we ask to be notified as we like to do a memorial for them.
 - iv. They are required to keep the dog on a leash or fenced in area.
 - v. Keep means of identification on the dog.
 - vi. Do not leave the dog outside should you need to leave the house for any length of time.
 - vii. Review any special notes in the comments section.
 - viii. Have them sign the contract.
3. Collect the adoption fee. It can be cash or check payable to MABTR OR credit card via Paypal to luckypawpals@aol.com or call Jennifer with a cc number.
 - a. Cash and checks are not cashed til day 15.
 - b. Payment plan. This is NOT recommended and should be approved by Jennifer first. If a payment plan is set up we offer three months to pay the adoption fee, we collect the check up front, post dated.
4. 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.
5. 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 put the dog on a missing report.

Items owed to Jennifer

Via mail (14826 Spaulding St, Omaha, NE 68116) or email the following

1. Copy of the signed adoption contract
2. Adoption fee. If cash was given to you please deposit the cash in your account and write a check to MABTR.

3. Surrender form (no copy to the adopter)
4. Microchip number
5. Diary

Follow up after adoption

As a foster parent you are asked to conduct the 48-72 hour touch point call with the adopter. Items that should be discussed is how the foster dog is doing with potty breaks, sleeping at night, eating and drinking habits, and behavior with the other pets and humans in the home.

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 after the two weeks and for others you may become good friends.

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

FAQ

Great resource for FAQ written by MABTR; <https://www.adoptaboston.com/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 2am 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?** Jennifer's cell is 402-510-1346. Address is 14826 Spaulding St, Omaha, NE 68116. Email is luckypawpals@aol.com
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 while you have a foster?** We all need a break. Never feel like you cannot ask for one. If you currently have a foster and need to go out of town we will move the foster to a babysitters that Jennifer will arrange. Please share travel details as soon as you are aware of them.
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 the adoption fee on file (this does not apply if it is the first foster you are adopting). You will still need to sign an adoption contract and also get a two week trail.

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 <https://www.adoptaboston.com/resources/vet-clinics/>. 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. **Does MABTR euthanize dogs?** We have euthanized dogs for two reasons:
 - Health: if we have a dog that we cannot keep pain free or comfortable we allow them to go in peace. This includes our dogs in hospice care.
 - As a foster parent you have the choice to be present and to keep the ashes. Otherwise we will do a communal cremation. We also have individuals who offer to be with our dogs during this time if needed.
 - Liability: unfortunately, not all Bostons are the same. They are dogs and can bite. If the dog is a liability to MABTR or the potential adopting family we have to make the right choice for everyone's future.
12. **What if our foster is too ill to adopt out?** Our Palliative Care program was created in 2011 with the goal to provide a loving home to those dogs through a pain-free quality of life with the desire to live. They should be given the opportunity to do so in a loving environment for however long they have left. MABTR has made it our mission to take in and care for as many Bostons as possible, especially those who are terminally ill and or have a medical condition that is not curable resulting them to be unadoptable.
 - If your foster dog enters Palliative Care you have the choice of keeping the dog in your home or we will move him to a family that is in our Palliative Care program.
13. **Why do we not adopt to home owners with no fence but we will adopt to apartment complexes?** Apartments and communities that do not allow fences have a leash law, covenant, or lease that require and

hold responsible the homeowner to have their dog on a leash at all times. If they do not abide by this rule they are faced with consequences (fines, breach of lease, eviction, etc).

Unfortunately, homeowners that decide not to install a fence have no authorities stating that they cannot just open their door and let the dog out for a potty break. Most of our dogs cannot be trusted off leash.

We hear so many stories of how "the dog never runs", "I just turned my head for a minute", or "my other dogs had no problem free roaming" and yet the outcome is not a positive one in most of these cases.

14. **What is MABTR's response to applicants with no fenced in area?** As a practice, we don't adopt to households who do not have a 'fenced in area' for their dog as it is very easy to allow the dog outside without a leash. Note that we are not asking for the whole property to be fenced in. Just an area that the dog can stretch and potty with boundaries.

The idea that your dog can be let off lead without a fence and without supervision is exactly what we are rightly concerned about. We do a lot of work saving the dogs, and are trying to find safe forever home for them where they will never again be lost or injured.

Many of our dogs are strays with the history of running or retired breeders who are easily spooked by loud noises and will not come back when called. We do not test our dogs off leash to see how they would respond.

With that said I do not know how successful we would be in finding you the right dog that will meet your current situation.

If you are willing to reconsider installing a 'fenced in area' please let us know and we will process your application. We do not require the fence to be installed at the time of adoption but in the planning and installed in an agreed period of time.

If a fence is not an option we encourage you to continue your search as there are many Bostons needing homes. I do know there are other groups that place their focus on owner surrenders where these dog's history is known.

Definitions

Altered: the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Home visit: MABTR requires that each potential adopter have their home inspected by a person, foster parent or volunteer. Our main objective is to make sure that the home is safe and happy place. That what the family shares and states on the app is true. If a volunteer is not available then the family will be asked to send pictures of the living space that the dog will have access to including the back yard, living room, master bedroom, and kitchen plus pictures of all pets in the house to Jennifer within 24 hours. Those submitting photos will also have their references checked.

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