



# Unbreakabull Bullies DRR Handbook

## for Fosters and Volunteers

Please read, follow and keep for reference. **Sign and return last page.**

Questions? **515-339-5802 (Tina)** or **515-450-3837 (Cali)** or **515-269-0115 (Frankie)**

Hello! If you are reading this you have decided to join the pack and become an Unbreakabull Bullies foster home! Welcome! Keep this book, the phone numbers above you will need in case of an emergency or for any questions. Please take into consideration that this rescue is unlike any other in Iowa. We specialize in dogs that are scheduled to be euthanized in larger shelters all over the country and take owner surrenders locally. A high percentage of the dogs we take in we don't have a lot of information on. We depend on our fosters to help get to know these dogs and find out their likes and dislikes which can be tricky and needs to be done safely. The guidelines you read in this handbook must be followed to ensure the safety of your current pets and family. If at any point you do not think you can handle a UB dog or someone's safety is at risk call me immediately. Fostering can be a very rewarding experience for the whole family! Thank you for assisting us in saving the most misunderstood and killed dog in existence today, the Pit Bull!

### Basics-Pit Bull is not a breed!

Pit bull is the common name for a [type of dog](#). Formal breeds often considered in North America to be of the pit bull type include the [American Pit Bull Terrier](#), [American Staffordshire Terrier](#), [American Bully](#), and [Staffordshire Bull Terrier](#). The [American Bulldog](#) is also sometimes included. Many of these breeds were originally developed as [fighting dogs](#) from cross breeding bull-baiting dogs (used to hold the faces and heads of larger animals such as bulls) and [terriers](#). After the use of dogs in [blood sports](#) was banned, such dogs were used as [catch dogs](#) in the United States for semi-wild cattle and hogs, to hunt and drive livestock, and as family companions. Despite [dog fighting](#) now being illegal in the United States, it still exists as an underground activity, and pit bulls are a common breed of choice.

The term pit bull is often used loosely to describe dogs with similar physical characteristics, and the morphological (physical) variation amongst "bully breed" dogs makes it difficult for

anyone, even experts, to visually identify them as distinct from "non-pit bulls". While mixed breed dogs are often labeled as "pit bulls" if they have certain physical characteristics such as a square shaped head or bulky body type, visual identification of mixed breed dogs is not recommended by the scholarly community.

### **Terms I want you to know-**

**Backyard Breeder-**Backyard breeder is a term used to describe amateur animal breeders whose breeding is considered substandard, with little or misguided effort towards ethical, selective breeding. Backyard breeders are who is to blame for the overpopulation problem with all breeds today. There are some good breeders out there, but they are few and far between. We will never see their puppies so they are not our concern. If you would like more info on what makes a breeder a good breeder just ask.

**Rehabilitate-**To rehabilitate is to restore to a condition of good health. We rehabilitate all breeds of dogs. Dog rehabilitation does not always mean fighting dogs. Any dog that needs help physically and/or mentally is considered a rehabilitation dog. These dogs are usually fostered by UB members with a lot of experience. If you would like to be considered as a UB rehabilitation foster home let me know.

**Animal Shelter-**An animal shelter is a building that warehouses animals. People often go to their local shelter to look at adoptable dogs and cats. Animals Shelters may have a foster program but in the state of Iowa are only allowed to have 20 animals in foster homes. So the majority of their animals are kept in cages and runs until adopted. Animal Shelters will always be licensed and a 501c3.

**Rescue-**A group, usually a licensed 501c3 of volunteers that work out of foster homes to save homeless pets. There is no building for people to come and look at available pets so rescues do something commonly called meet and greets. There is no limit on the number of animals rescues can have in foster homes but in individual homes the state max is 4. City ordinance trumps any state laws regarding animal numbers.

**Meet and Greet-**When a potential adopter wants to meet an adoptable animal we will refer to it as a meet and greet. These are normally done at my home and will only be done with families that have been approved to adopt. We will need you to get your foster dog to and from all meet and greets.

**Adoption VS Selling-**Adoptions are done through licensed 501c3 rescues and animal shelters. The difference between the two are simple. The money made from an adoption goes back to the organization to be used for the next animal in need or however they see fit but always for the animals. Breeders sell dogs. The money goes into their pocket to be used for whatever they see fit. Again, not all breeders are the enemy, just backyard breeders.

**Animal Control-A** (usually) local government agency that responds to citizen calls regarding stray and/or dangerous animals and impounds them. Normally, not an animal welfare agency, as they exist to protect the public from animals. AC's sometimes adopt out animals but most of the bullies are rescue

**Euthanasia**-ending the life of a pet (aka put to sleep or put down). Usually done by a veterinarian but it is legal in Iowa to do it yourself. Most places use lethal injection although there are about 7 states that have not banned the use of gas chambers. Any animal being euthanized by UB will be taken to a licensed vet using lethal injection.

**No kill-A** shelter or rescue policy that any healthy or treatable animals will be given the opportunity and resources to live until adopted. Euthanizing less than 90% of your years population qualifies as a no kill. Behavioral issues are the #1 killer for no kill shelters.

**Kill-shelter-A** facility that euthanizes animals on a regular basis, usually animal control facilities. Anything that kills over 10% of their total population for the year is considered a kill shelter.

**Rescue Transport-A** coordinated rescue activity (usually interstate) in which volunteers from various rescue organizations drive several hundred miles to get adoptable pets pulled from kill-shelters and taken to a rescue for adoption or get adopted pets from a rescue to their new home.

**Heartworm Disease-A** potentially fatal disease in dogs in which heartworms are found in the heart and large adjacent vessels. Heartworm disease is transmitted through 30 species of mosquitoes and can be prevented through regular use of preventative as prescribed by your vet.

**Cruelty-Physical** harm or injury inflicted upon an animal by an individual or group of individuals.

**Neglect-Depriving** a pet (or pets) of the most basic necessities of food, water, shelter and veterinary care

**Court Case Dog-A** dog involved in an open court case that the city has determined is not going back to original owner.

**RO-Rabies** observation. A period of 10 days, usually following a bite where the animal is quarantined. Usually done in an Animal Control facility but can be done at home if the AC's allow.

**Spay-not to be confused with neuter. The surgical removal of a female pet's uterus and ovaries to prevent reproduction. Also referred to as "fixing," "sterilizing," and "altering." Sometimes used as a gender-free term. Un-neutered animals are referred to as unaltered.**

**Neuter-Not to be confused with spay. The surgical removal of a male pet's testicles to prevent reproduction. Also referred to as "fixing," "sterilizing," and "altering." Sometimes used as a gender-free term. Un-neutered animals are referred to as unaltered.**

**BBM-Bully breed mix**

**Kennel and Rotate-When you have more than one dog in your home that do not get along you can kennel and rotate. This is when you rotate dogs in and out of kennels or separate rooms all day allowing adequate time for each dog to be out during the day.**

**Reactive dog-**

**Readily responsive to a stimulus and occurring as a result of stress or emotional upset**

**BSL-Breed Specific Legislation is a law that bans OR restricts certain types of dogs based on their appearance, usually because they are perceived as "dangerous" breeds or types of dogs. \*\*It is a common misconception that BSL refers only to breed bans. Dog attacks can be a real and serious problem in communities across the country, but addressing dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs can be a confusing and touchy issue. Breed-specific legislation (BSL) is the blanket term for laws that either regulate or ban certain dog breeds in an effort to decrease dog attacks on humans and other animals. However, the problem of dangerous dogs will not be remedied by the "quick fix" of breed-specific laws—or, as they should truly be called, breed-discriminatory laws.+**

**Who Is Impacted by Breed-Specific Laws?**

**Regulated breeds typically comprise the "pit bull" class of dogs, including American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers and English Bull Terriers. In some areas, regulated breeds also include a variety of other dogs like American Bulldogs, Rottweilers, Mastiffs, Dalmatians, Chow Chows, German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers or any mix of these breeds—and dogs who simply resemble these breeds.**

Many states, including New York, Texas and Illinois, favor laws that identify, track and regulate dangerous dogs individually—regardless of breed—and prohibit BSL. However, more than 700 U.S. cities have enacted breed-specific laws.

#### Are Breed-Specific Laws Effective?

There is no evidence that breed-specific laws make communities safer for people or companion animals. Following a thorough study of human fatalities resulting from dog bites, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) decided to strongly oppose BSL. The CDC cited, among other problems, the inaccuracy of dog bite data and the difficulty in identifying dog breeds (especially true of mixed-breed dogs). Breed-specific laws are also costly and difficult to enforce.

#### What Are the Consequences of Breed-Specific Laws?

BSL carries a host of negative and wholly unintended consequences:

- Dogs Suffer. Rather than give up beloved pets, owners of highly regulated or banned breeds often attempt to avoid detection by restricting their dogs' outdoor exercise and socialization—foregoing licensing, microchipping and proper veterinary care, and avoiding spay/neuter surgery and essential vaccinations. Such actions can have a negative impact on both the mental and physical health of these dogs.
- In addition, breed-specific laws can create a climate where it is nearly impossible for residents to adopt and live with such a breed—virtually ensuring destruction of otherwise adoptable dogs by shelters and humane societies.
- Owners Suffer. Responsible owners of entirely friendly, properly supervised and well-socialized dogs who happen to fall within the regulated breed are required to comply with local breed bans and regulations. This can lead to housing issues, legal fees or even relinquishment of the animal.
- Public Safety Suffers. Breed-specific laws have a tendency to compromise rather than enhance public safety. When animal control resources are used to regulate or ban a certain breed, the focus is shifted away from effective enforcement of laws that have the best chances of making communities safer: dog license laws, leash laws, anti-animal fighting laws, anti-tethering laws, laws facilitating spaying and neutering and laws that require all owners to control their dogs, regardless of breed. Additionally, guardians of banned breeds may be deterred from seeking

routine veterinary care, which can lead to outbreaks of rabies and other diseases that endanger communities.

- 
- Breed-specific laws may also have the unintended consequence of encouraging irresponsible dog ownership. As certain breeds are regulated, individuals who exploit aggression in dogs are likely to turn to other, unregulated breeds. Conversely “outlaws” may be attracted to the “outlaw” status of certain breeds. The rise of pit bull ownership among gang members in the late 1980s coincided with the first round of breed-specific legislation. What Are the Alternatives to Breed-Specific Laws?

There is no convincing data to indicate that breed-specific legislation has succeeded anywhere to date.

The CDC has noted that many other factors beyond breed may affect a dog’s tendency toward aggression—things such as heredity, sex, early experience, reproductive status, socialization and training. Conversely, studies can be referenced that point to clear, positive effects of carefully crafted breed-neutral laws. A breed-neutral approach may include the following:

- Enhanced enforcement of dog license laws
- Increased availability to low-cost sterilization (spay/neuter) services
- Dangerous dog laws that are breed-neutral and focus on the behavior of the individual guardian and dog
- Graduated penalties and options for dogs deemed dangerous
- Laws that hold dog guardians financially accountable for failure to adhere to animal control laws
- Laws that hold dog guardians civilly and criminally liable for unjustified injuries or damage caused by their dogs
- Laws that prohibit chaining, tethering and unreasonable confinement, coupled with enhanced enforcement of animal cruelty and animal fighting laws
- Community-based approaches to resolving reckless guardian/dangerous dog questions that encompass all stakeholders, available dog bite data and recommended realistic and enforceable policies

# Des Moines Requirements for “Pit Bull” Dogs

Yes the city of Des Moines does have BSL in the form of restrictions and not a ban.

Defined in the city of Des Moines ordinance as “American Pit Bull Terriers”, “American Staffordshire Terriers”, “Staffordshire Terriers” or predominant mixes (if it is a predominant mix it will be the 1st breed listed on the kennel card/ website. If it is listed as the 2nd breed, these regulations do not apply). If you have acquired your dog outside of the ARL and are unsure if it falls under these requirements, call 284-6905 for a breed determination by the city Veterinarian.

**Licensing:** - Must display current city license tag and current rabies vaccination tag at all times - City license must be renewed each year by January 1

**Insurance:** - Current liability insurance of at least \$100,000 must be maintained

**Confinement:** -Must be securely confined in one of the following:

- Inside a house or residence (not on a porch or patio that would allow the dog to exit the building on its own).

- Inside a kennel/pen with an attached top or inside a kennel/pen without a top but with wall 6 feet tall. The kennel/pen must be locked with a padlock and the walls of the kennel must be attached to a floor/foundation or be embedded in the ground no less than two (2) feet. An open top kennel/pen must be 6 feet taller than any internal structure. If you have a fence, just keep them on a leash and you will be compliant.

Leashing:



Must be leashed in accordance with all of the following:

- The person holding the leash must be 18 years old or older.
- The leash cannot be longer than 6 feet long.
- The leash cannot be tied to an inanimate object; such as a tree, pole or tie-out.

If you think these restrictions are as ridiculous as we at UB do, contact your city council members and tell them to do away with Des Moines BSL.

To find out which city council member has your ward please go to

<https://www.dsm.city/government/index.php> or call 515.283.4944

Or you can send a letter to **400 Robert D Ray Drive Des Moines, IA 50309**

Or send an email to **[fcownie@dmgov.org](mailto:fcownie@dmgov.org)**

## Transporters-

Please take these supplies with you on ALL transports.

Slip Leads (heavy duty)

Collar and remember to double leash! Slip and collar for added security.

Kennels for all dogs, no exceptions.

Blankets (in case a reactive dog needs to be covered up)

Cell phone

Treats, in case you have to sweet talk a dog.

Rescue Remedy, provided by the rescue.

## **Pit Bull facts & statistics & other bits of info.....**

- \*4,000 Pit Bull type dogs are killed a day**
- \*Up to 70% of shelter populations are Pit Bulls in some places in the US.**
- \*In some shelters and AC's Pit Bulls do not make it to the adoption floor and are euthanized upon entry.**
- \*50% of Pit Bulls born to backyard breeders will end up in rescues and shelters.**
- \*One out of 600 Pit Bulls gets adopted and a second chance**
- \*The Pit Bull is the most abused, neglected and killed breed of dog in history.**
- \*Pit Bulls are known for their love of humans, not always other dogs, but they are known for being fantastic with children and adults.**
- \*Pit Bulls were not used as Nanny dogs in the early 1900's. That is a myth. They were a common and loved family pet in the 1900's.**
- \*Pit Bulls do not have locking jaws**
- \*Blue nose Pit Bulls. This is a term made up by backyard breeders to make more money off of their puppies. A blue (grey) Pit Bull with a blue (grey) nose would be a Blue Nose Pit Bull.**
- \*Red Nose Pit Bulls were originally bred in the 1800's and used in blood sports. They are not common today.**
- \*Pit Bulls do not make good guard dogs.**
- \*Backyard Breeders are producing unstable dogs by inbreeding and breeding for undesirable traits like human aggression.**
- \*Pit Bulls are prone to anxiety issues and skin allergies.**
- \*Both the American Pit Bull Terrier and the American Staffordshire Terrier score exceptionally well on the test run by the American Temperament Test Society, beating out Golden Retrievers and many other breeds.**
- \*Some people claim that Pit Bulls do not feel pain. This is patently false. However, *all* dogs are capable of blocking out pain – especially when they're focused intently on something.**
- \*Pit Bulls don't always growl or display aggressive body language before attacking. They are also more likely than other breeds to attack a dog that has rolled over in submission. In other words, a lot of canine behaviors that are intended to avoid deadly conflicts between members of the species have been bred out of them.**
- \*Contrary to everything you've read, Pit Bulls don't bite especially hard. In a test of the bite force of three breeds conducted by National Geographic in 2008, Pit Bulls came in *last* – behind German Shepherds and Rottweilers.**
- \*At any given time, there's *always* a media scare about a particular dog breed. Before Pit Bulls, German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, and even Bloodhounds had their turn.**

## **INTRODUCTIONS & DECOMPRESSION TIME-**

**If you come to me to return your foster dog and did not follow these guidelines you will be asked to take the dog back home and start from the beginning.**

**You will be borrowed a kennel for the stay of the UB dog. You will use that in the introduction process.**

**If your dog is coming out of a shelter or animal control facility it will need decompression time. A building holding many caged and barking animals is a stressful environment for a dog. Some of the dogs we take into UB have been in this environment for several months. They need to decompress before being introduced to any new people or other pets. In order to do this you will need to keep the animal in a separate room, usually in a kennel where it cannot see other pets in the home. For 1 week you will be the only person to handle this dog which means no introducing the dog to friends or anyone outside of the immediate family. For this week the children will not be allowed to interact with the dog. The dog can be taken out for potty breaks, to explore the home while the other animals in the home are kenneled in other rooms, and for walks and to spend time with you. The dog needs to learn that you are its provider and caretaker. Introducing too many people too fast is confusing for some dogs and can be overwhelming so only you can handle the dog for that week.**

**Week 2 the kennel will be moved to the main living space in the house where the other pets in the home can see and smell the new dog. At this time kids and other adults can be introduced to the dog and help with walks, feeding and etc. Please remember children are not allowed to walk UB dogs, you must be 18+ to walk a UB dog.**

**Week 3 the dogs may be introduced on leashes outside and allowed to play together for short periods of time, building up time slowly until the dog is integrated into your pack.**

**For dogs that show a great deal of stress during kenneling and owner surrenders introductions may be done by walking your current dog or dogs with the UB dog outside at a quick pace without allowing them to interact. Doing this a few times can speed up the introduction process so not as much kennel time is needed. Add this to the decompression time and cut everything in half.**

## **Photographing your UB foster dog-**

**Photos are what people see that draws them to your foster dog so it is crucial that they are good. Make sure you have adequate light and that the photos are not blurry. Make sure the photo is of just your foster dog, no people in UB photos, those cannot be used on the website. Feel free to soften up your dog by adding flowers, tutu's, bandannas and other photo props. Those photos get the most attention. Please make sure the background in your photos is clean. No dirty laundry, or garbage please. To get a good photo offer a treat and ask the dog to sit. Snap a quick photo. Videos are great too, but the same rules apply in those, no people, just the foster dog and a clean environment.**

**Remember to tag myself or Cali Smith or Franchessca Petraline everytime you share a photo of a UB dog.**

## Kids and dogs-

When a child is bitten by a four-legged family member, it can turn the household upside-down. Owners feel puzzled and confused. “They sleep together all the time,” they might say, or, “He’s always been really good. He even lets Timmy sit on him.” In a majority of cases, the bite seems out of the blue. The humans can’t fathom why their once-trusted companion would bite an innocent child. But anyone who reads “dog” or can see life from the pet’s point of view would most likely say, “I’m surprised it didn’t happen sooner.”

The fact is, a quick perusal of YouTube or a thorough investigation of a bite reveals that often the bite occurs because humans, especially children, are extremely rude. Parents may view their kid’s behaviors as cute and assume that because their dog is tolerating the behavior now, he will have an endless fuse and always put up with it, rather than eventually exploding. In other words, parents expect dogs to behave like saints, even when they are pestered to the point that would try the average human’s patience and cause her to blow up!

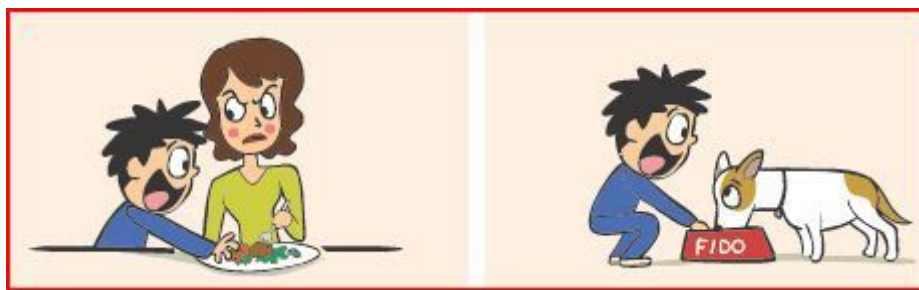
For instance, I recall one tragic case where an infant was left at home with the babysitter and the family pitbull. The infant was allowed to incessantly crawl after the dog, tailing the dog as if she was an armed criminal. He followed her from corner to corner as she kept trying to get away from the baby, but the dog had no escape. While the parents were able to take a “vacation” from their child by hiring a babysitter and leaving the house, the dog was left at home to fend for herself. Ordinarily, a person being pestered this way with no way to escape would eventually turn and yell and possibly even resort to violence. A dog might do the same—turn and bark, snarl, or growl. But when all of these early signs are ignored, escalation to a bite can be the next step. Unfortunately, a bite by any large dog at her wits end can cause serious damage to a child, and in this case it resulted in death.

More often than not, cases where the dog bites a young child are tragic—often more so for the dog. The dog may be relinquished to a shelter, where he has a low probability of safe adoption. Or he may be euthanized after a quarantine period. The worst part of the story is that these bites could often have easily been prevented just by understanding the types of actions that drive a dog to feel bullied or pestered so much that he feels he has to bite.

## Understanding What the Actions that Might Cause the Family Dog to Bite are Common Sense

In fact, understanding what can drive a dog to bite the family kids is pretty simple. They are the same things that drive humans to need a break from their kids.

**Reason 1:** For instance, most people dislike it when others stick their grimy hands in their meal. Similarly, dogs want to eat in peace.



**Reason 2:** We teach children that it’s clearly wrong to steal toys from each other. It’s also rude to steal toys from the dog. Kids should be taught to leave Fido’s toys alone. To build in a

tolerance in case the child makes a mistake when your attention has lapsed, dogs should be trained to give up their toy for a reward or even a sequence of rewards. That way, they will willingly give the child the toy instead of feeling possessive. (See *Perfect Pup in 7 Days*, chapters 1 and 6 .)



**Reason 3:** Kids frequently can't help but get in your face. They often have to be trained to maintain the appropriate social distance. Similarly, putting your face into a dog's face, even if it's all in the family, can be irritating to the dog, especially when the dog has no control over the child's behavior.



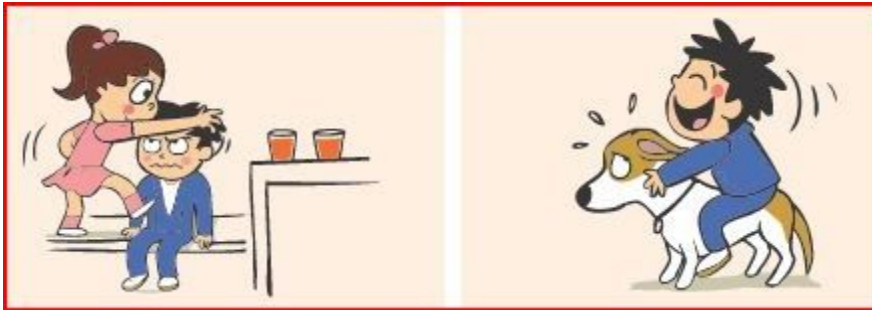
**Reason 4:** Most people dislike being disturbed when they are resting or sleeping. But fortunately for us humans, we can often close or lock our bedroom door. Similarly, dogs need a safe location where they can be away from kids and excitement. Kids should avoid bugging them in their "private" location or any time they are sleeping or resting. If they call the dog from far away and the dog chooses to get up and come over to the child, this type of interaction is okay. But if the dog chooses to be left alone, he should be.



**Reason 5:** Kids dislike being handled roughly, and so do dogs. Dogs can be trained to tolerate or sometimes even enjoy this handling, so that they are not reactive when an accident occurs (See *Perfect Puppy in 7 Days*, chapters 1 and 6), but in general children should be taught to be polite.



**Reason 6:** It's rude to climb on, step on, or otherwise invade someone's personal space. It's also rude to do the same things with dogs.



**Reason 7:** Loud screaming can frazzle humans, imagine its effect on the more sound-sensitive dog!



**Reason 8:** We often forget that even some friendly gestures, such as pinching a child's cheeks, may be irritating. In general, dogs dislike being hugged, even by family members. You can tell by the expression on their face. (See the Body Language of Fear and Anxiety in Dogs poster and chapter 7 in *Perfect Puppy in 7 Days*.) You can train dogs, especially as puppies, to enjoy cuddling and hugging (See *Perfect Puppy In 7 Days* chapters 1 and 6) and other close handling. But even so, it's important for children to know the types of interactions their pet likes and also to realize that other dogs may not have the same tolerance as their dog does.





## Types of Child-Dog Interactions That are Appropriate

With all of these DON'Ts, it must seem like kids can't interact with pets at all. In reality, they just need to be taught to be polite and kind to pets, instead of treating their companion like he's stuffed animal. Parents should also teach their children to read the signs that Fido is fearful or anxious, so that the child knows to back-off.



Once the children understand that they should be kind to their pet, they can be taught appropriate games to play. For instance, fetch where the dog willingly gives the toy and remains polite before it's tossed is fun for dogs who love to retrieve. Kids and pets love to learn tricks that result in rewards such as yummy treats or bits of the dog's meal/kibble (See [Dog Tricks](#)). All dogs need their exercise, and kids can be a part of this too if the dog is well-trained. Hide-n-seek is a great way for dogs to learn to have fun, and the dog is practicing his search and rescue skills.



Adults should ensure that the dog has lots of positive associations with the kids. The kids can regularly give food rewards for the dog's calm, polite behavior, such as automatic sits.



Even if the child is generally well-behaved and the dog very tolerant, it's essential for all interactions to be supervised. Accidents can happen in a split second.





## A Final Take-Home Message

The key is to teach both the dog and the children to be polite. Make sure your children interact with your dog the same way you want them to interact with you. Follow these simple do's and don'ts and everyone will be safer and happier.

## Dog proofing your home for the rescued dog-

Some of our dogs come with no history. If we don't know anything about the dogs past it is up to you to discover this dogs true personality and keep it safe in the process.

Flight risk dogs-These are the dogs that will dart out an door not closed all the way, they see open or any door that doesn't latch. Make sure all of the handles on your doors work properly and latch so the dog cannot escape. Make sure all of your windows have screens in them and there are some dogs that will go right through a screen, so please keep that in mind when opening windows.

4' fences-Please assume that any healthy large breed dog like the APBT can jump a 4' fence. You may need to get a 10X6 kennel run from the rescue while you have your foster dog as UB does not allow tethering or chaining.

Valuable items picked up-The rescue will not replace cell phones or other personal items. Please keep these things out of reach of your dog for the dogs well being as well. We may not know if your foster dog is a chewer and some dogs chew when they are stressed. Provide toys for your foster. If you need toys please let me know.

Cleaning supplies and medications-Anything toxic to dogs please keep up and away from your foster dog. Your foster dog may have never lived in a house before and there is always the possibility you could enter the room and find him or her on the dining room table or counter. Please keep anything dangerous to the dog up high and out of reach.

Food that are toxic to dogs.



# Housetraining

Many of the dogs we take in have no training and this includes housetraining. Here are some tips in case you end up with a dog that just doesn't get it yet.

Supervise the dog constantly. Don't let him out of sight. (Use doors, gates or leash)

Confine the dog whenever he can't be supervised (use a crate)

Reward correct behavior: Give praise and treats when he does it right

Feed on a set schedule. Don't just leave food in his bowl all day.

Remove water several hours before bedtime

Go outside on a schedule. Do not rely on the dog to tell you he needs to go.

Go out frequently to figure out his schedule. Gradually eliminate unnecessary trips.

Watch for signs like circling, sniffing, and whining.

Interrupt the dog if you see him start to go (clap hands, "no, outside!")

If it's too late, don't punish. The dog probably won't make the connection.

If it has been more than 30 seconds the dog won't know what the correction is for.

Never rub a dog's nose in it.

Never smack or spank your dog for an accident.

Positive reinforcement gets positive results!



**Fearful foster dogs-**A skittish rescue dog may show his fear by being overly timid, withdrawn and untrusting or displaying signs of depression. Some may feel threatened by new people, situations and surroundings. Some may even growl or show signs of aggression out of fear. If your dog is displaying signs of fear aggression contact Tina, Cali or Frankie right away. Here are some tips for other signs of fear. Remember, often UB dogs have been through some rough times, these are the dogs that we specialize in and want to help the most. Be patient and loving and remember to go slow. Your new foster dog may take a while to warm up to you and especially to your pets. You may be the first positive interaction this dog has ever had with a human. Speak quietly and move slowly but speak enough to allow your new foster dog to get used to your voice. Reading to the dog can help with this and can help calm a nervous dog.

### **Provide a Safe Spot**

Always provide a new dog with a safe spot they can retreat to when they feel overwhelmed or frightened. They need to know it is okay to retreat when they get scared or are unsure, and that this spot is a place they can go to at any time. It could be a special bed in a quiet area of your house, a crate with a comfortable interior, or a blanket they can burrow under for security. Whatever works for your new dog, allow them time in their safe spot and let them approach you when they start to feel comfortable. Don't force it before they are ready. Do not allow children or other pets in the foster dogs safe spot. Make sure the kennel door is always open so the dog can retreat if needed.

### **Patience and Trust**

Much like a human child who has been neglected or abused, a scared foster dog needs love, patience and understanding to learn to trust you. A simple daily routine such as feeding may seem like it should be non-threatening since you are giving your new companion something they want and need, but they should be given their food in a calm soothing manner. In the beginning, they may be more comfortable

with you simply putting the food out and then retreating from the area so they can eat in solitude and feel unthreatened.

### **Reward Good Behavior**

Many rescue animals have to learn how to behave around humans in a normal home. It may be a struggle both teaching them the right way to behave and unlearning any inappropriate behaviors they adopted in order to survive in less than happy surroundings. The new skills may be learned in smaller steps with verbal praise, physical rewards like gentle petting, and food rewards. A skittish pet may need lots of encouragement to accept their new way of life and accept you. All the positive reinforcement and rewards will help them learn that this new life is a good one in which they can be happy.

### **Basic Obedience Training**

An insecure dog should be worked with daily on basic obedience. It builds confidence and this is what the fearful dog is lacking. With treats teach the dog verbal commands using positive reinforcement only. If your fearful foster dog is refusing to take treats, break up a hot dog or use a slice of cheese. Before you can begin this the dog needs to trust you, so don't rush into training. If you are unsure if your foster dog is ready for training or not just ask Me or Frankie.

Good basic commands to teach: Sit, lay down or down, shake or high five.

CBD oil may help a fearful dog.

## Active or hyper foster dogs

These are the fun dogs, the ones that will keep you on your toes. Provide plenty of toys like boredom busters (kongs and etc) Let me know if you need help getting these. EXERCISE! Walk the dog, a tired dog is a good dog. If there are no medical concerns feel free to take the dog on a run. All the calming aids in the world will not help as much as exercise will.

It sounds obvious to provide outlets for pent-up energy through exercise but there are good ways and bad ways to accomplish this. Yes, your foster dog will fetch, jump, run and go bonkers with other dogs for hours and then when he comes home he'll likely crash to sleep, but day after day, he's likely being overstimulated and allowed to practice crazy, wild play over and over—same goes with overly arousing games. For instance, if your dog gets overly amped up when playing with a flirt pole, you may want to hold off this game, at least for now. A good walk or run is a safe place to start.

**Resource guarding** is a term used to describe appropriate or inappropriate behavior surrounding the possession of a prized **resource**. This typically involves the custody of food and objects (toys, bones, and other treasured items), but may include control over locations (preferred bedding or sunny spots) and even water **resources** and in some cases people. This may be your foster dogs first toy or first snuggle on the couch. Wanting to protect these things is a normal dog instinct. If it proves to be a constant issue remove the problem. For example if your foster dog snaps at a person or another animal while sitting with you remove the dog from your side. Try again at a later date with short periods of time and build up. If it is a toy, remove the toy. NEVER GIVE A UB FOSTER DOG A BONE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH OTHER ANIMALS UNLESS KENNELED. We see a lot of resource

guarding in rescue bullies. They have often never had these things before and will go to great lengths to protect them.

## **THE ANXIOUS FOSTER DOG**

A lot of rescue dogs behave very frantically when they first arrive. New place, new people and new sounds and smells can be overwhelming for any dog. Oftentimes the dogs we specialize in have been caged for long periods of time in shelters and haven't had much physical or mental stimulation for quite a while. Here are some tips on how to curb the anxiety.

**EXERCISE!** Make sure the dog is getting enough exercise! Pent up energy can result in destruction and occasionally even aggression. Make sure they are getting walked and exercised but still apply decompression guidelines. If your dog is a flight risk on walks consider a dog park after hours or when no one else is there.

**Tips for the kennel crusher.** This is always a fun one. Coming home and finding your foster dog not where you left them. Let me know what type of kennel you are using and we can swap it out for the other, plastic or metal. Kennels are provided by the rescue. We often add zip ties or carabiners for added security. If your foster dog's anxiety is so severe that it is hurting itself trying to get out of the kennel let me know right away.

**TOYS!** We try to send a KONG with every foster dog and as many other toys as we can come up with. The happier your foster dog is the less anxious it will be.

**Sound.** Leave on a radio or a TV. A lot of the shelter dogs we take in are not used to silence and that can add to their anxiety. I use an iCalm here. It is a little speaker that plays music that has been scientifically proven to calm dogs.

**Smell.** Sometimes adding a diffuser to the dogs area can be helpful. Keep in mind a dogs sense of smell is 600 times what ours is and there are certain scents they do not like. Google the do's and don'ts of aromatherapy and animals. I have an oil here I use called T-away. It was made for dogs who have been through traumatic experiences. I will share it with anyone who needs it!

**RESCUE REMEDY** is an all natural homeopathic oral supplement that has a calming effect on animals. I keep this on hand as well and will share it with anyone whose foster dog could benefit from it.

**Medication.** If everything suggested has been tried we will talk to the vet and have you take the dog in to be seen. There are a couple of meds that work for some dogs or there is CBD or hemp oils and treats we can try as well.

Anxious dogs can be overwhelming and frustrating. The fear and anxiety they are feeling is not fun for them either tho so be patient and stay in contact with me. Together we will figure it out.

## **DOG PARKS-**

**UB DOGS ARE OFTEN NOT DOG PARK MATERIAL** at least right away, so do not take your foster to a dog park unless you have spoken with myself or my daughter. Often times bullies do not do well in dog parks and there are a lot of cities in Iowa (like Des Moines) that do not allow them or do not allow them off lead. If you have any questions about this please contact me.



## **How to Crate Train Your Foster Dog in 6 Easy Steps**

While many people view crates through the human lens of being “caged up,” dogs are naturally den animals and enjoy being in small, enclosed places. It provides a sense of security and calms anxiety.

- Establish the Proper Mindset
- “The more the dogs associate the crate with a relaxed mindset, the more they’ll ultimately enjoy hanging out in there,” says Flayton. If you put the dog in the crate when they’re playing, then they’ll want to come back out and continue to play. But if you bring them in it when they’re calm, they will likely view it as a place of rest. Start by bringing them in for 10 minutes at a time and work your way up from there.
- Determine How Your Dog Will Be Most Comfortable
- Some people use dog beds or towels to create a comfy environment, but that may not always be the best option. Once again, it’s trial and error. “Depending on the dog you

have, they may tear a dog bed apart or they may use it to pee on,” she warns. “It’s not a bad thing for them to just sleep on the crate mat itself. Some dogs actually do prefer hard surfaces.”

- **Give the Dog a Treat After They Go Into the Crate**
- Once again, positive association rules. One of Flayton’s favorite tricks is giving the dog a **KONG toy** filled with peanut butter that she’s put in the freezer. “When they’re hanging out in the crate, they have something that stimulates them, but they have to work down the frozen peanut butter,” she says. It gets the dog used to being in the crate for a longer period of time, while also associating it with an enjoyable activity.
- **Play Crate Games**
- The dog shouldn’t see the crate as a negative place. To ensure this, incorporate the crate into fun games where the pup goes in and out of the open crate at their own will. Flayton likes to throw the ball in the crate when playing fetch or hide treats inside for the dog to find.
- **Set Your Dog Up for Success**
- Once you are ready to give your dog more time inside the crate, do it in small steps. “You don’t want to go out to dinner

for six hours,” cautions Flayton. “Maybe just go get a cup of coffee and come back.” She also advises using [a recording device](#) to determine what your dog does while you’re gone. “Are they anxious? Are they pacing? Or are they calm?” she says. “Then you know — and when you come back, you can reward them.”

- **Be Patient**
- Prepare yourself for at least six months of training. There will be ups and downs since dogs aren’t linear learners, but success will come, says Flayton. “Even when it feels like you’re banging your head against a wall, as long as you stay calm and consistent in your methodology, your dog will eventually look for the reward and you’ll have the opportunity to reward them.”

## **Expectations as a Foster and rules-**

**We need you to be more involved than simply housing and feeding a dog. We expect you to want to see your fosters thriving and put in the time and work on training them and getting them to where they need to be to be more adoptable. If you cannot handle this and want a already perfectly trained dog UB is not the right rescue for you. A lot of the dogs we take in come from less than desirable situations and will need work in at least one area.**

**We will always need current photos of the dogs for social networking. The more photos you send the faster your dog will get adopted. The more you post your dog in social media the faster the dog will get adopted. Post away! It is totally fine if you post your dog, just tag me in the posts.**

**Dogs CANNOT be walked by anyone under the age of 18 in any city or town in the state. No that is not a law that is a UB rule.**

**Dogs CANNOT be left outside unsupervised. It only takes a minute for someone to come and steal a dog right out of your own yard. It only takes a minute for a dogfight to break out. NEVER leave your dogs unattended. We will provide you with a kennel.....use it.**

**Dogs have to be fed IN KENNELS. No free feeding.**

**Dogs CANNOT be on tie outs. Leash walk the dog if you do not have a fenced in yard.**

**You are expected to get the dog or dogs to adoption events and meet and greets and veterinary appointments.**

**I will schedule your foster dogs medical appointments. If you choose to take your foster dog to any other vet than one approved by me, you are responsible for the bill. For emergencies please contact me, Tina Petraline. If I cannot be reached, try Frankie Petraline. If she cannot be reached, try Cali Smith. All of our numbers are on the first page of this book. If you cannot reach anyone contact Starch Pet Hospital in Des Moines Iowa on University ave.**

**Keep dogs on leashes at all times, no free roaming.**

**Do not solicit for funds without permission from me.**

## **Expectations for the Rescue-**

**We will handle all home visits and adoption screening unless you would like to be involved.**

**We will schedule all home visits.**

**We will provide all medical care, spaying and neutering, vaccinations, HW testing, and microchipping.**

**We will provide a kennel and food for your foster dog.**

**We will network the dog and keep them on the website, you are not expected to do those things but you are more than welcome to help.**

**I will schedule your foster dogs medical appointments. If you choose to take your foster dog to any other vet than one approved by me, you are responsible for the bill. For emergencies please contact me, Tina Petraline. If I cannot be reached, try Frankie Petraline. If she cannot be reached, try Cali Smith. All of our numbers are on the first page of this book. If you cannot reach anyone contact Starch Pet Hospital in Des Moines Iowa on University ave.**

**If at any time you can no longer keep your foster dog please allow 3-7 days for transfer.**

**Return all equipment loaned out when you bring the dog back.**

**But most of all have fun! Enjoy your foster dog for the time it is with you!**

**Thank you for your help! Without fosters there would be no Unbreakabull Bullies.**

**I fully understand and comprehend that any and all accidents and incidents that occur while a foster is in my care are my responsibility. Initial\_\_\_\_\_**

**I fully understand that I am not adopting this dog and that he or she will need to be returned upon request. Initial\_\_\_\_\_**

**I fully understand that this is not my dog to rehome\_\_\_\_\_**



**Please sign below so we know you have read the handbook, date as well.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

I'm not interested in whether you've  
stood with the great.....



I'm interested in whether you've sat  
with the broken.

They do matter, Unbreakabull Bullies.

Envy  
adopted  
2016

# Unbreakabull Bullies

Death Row Dog Rescue

## WELCOME TO THE PACK!

Here is what you need to know all in one place!

[unbreakabullbullies.org](http://unbreakabullbullies.org)

Facebook-Unbreakabull Bullies

515.339.5807











