

BeFreegle Foundation
Workshop

BeFreegle Foundation Workshop

Welcome



What is a Freegle?



A dog, usually a pure purpose bred beagle, who has been retired from biomedical research.

The next time you take a medication or have a surgical procedure please thank a freegle or other animal from research for their sacrifice.

Freegle FAQ's

- Why are animals/dogs used in research?
- Why beagles?
- What was done to them?
- Are they damaged in any way?
- What types of behavior can I expect in a dog who has been recently retired from research?
- Some new freegles are very outgoing and adjust fairly quickly to their new circumstances. Others hang back unsure of that is expected of them.



Fostering

Our dedicated fosters are why we are able to pull dogs from research labs.
Without you this would not be possible.



A word about our freegles

The first couple of weeks can be an exceptionally challenging time for fosters, adopters, and for the freegles too. The freegles are unfamiliar with everything in their new environment. Some are fearful and others can't wait to get their new lives started. Some refuse to walk on leash, others insist on peeing in their favorite spot in your home. Or hold it for 2 days or refuse to eat.

There may be a moment when you ask yourself what you've gotten yourself into. Or become frustrated with yourself or your freegle. That's okay we are here for you to help you every step of the way. As the old saying goes, this too shall pass. We promise.

There's a reason a large percentage of our fosters end up being foster fails.



What's Provided



We want to make life as easy a possible for our freegles and their families by providing you with everything you need to care for your freegle!

- Crate (for fosters, if needed)
- Food (one small bag to get you started)
- Heartworm medication
- Flea/tick preventative
- A brand new leash and harness donated to us by our generous supporters
- Collar and ID tag for fosters
- Adopters bring collar and ID tag at pickup

Your freegle will be given a full medical evaluation by BeFreegle's vet, prior to going into their foster or forever home. Each freegle is tested for and put on heartworm preventative, microchipped and brought up to date on their vaccinations.

Fosters - Should your freegle become ill at any time while in your care you must contact us at once. In the event of an emergency please bring your freegle to the nearest emergency vet and call us on the way. If it's a true emergency, all expenses will be covered by BeFreegle. When in doubt call one of us.

Adopters – Please contact your vet should your freegle become ill or require emergency care.

Patience...



...is a must when bringing a freegle into your home since they truly don't know what is expected of them. It's our job to help them learn all the new rules that being outside of a research lab require.

!Important!



Your freegle MUST wear a collar and ID tag.

Beagles are excellent escape artists. They can dig a hole, hop a fence, or take advantage of an open door or gate to bolt. This is an emergency situation and while prevention is the best course of action to take you must call us at once as you are running down the street after them!

Adopters we recommend keeping a collar and ID tag on their freegle. Fosters are required to keep the BeFreegle issued collar and ID tag on their freegle at all times.



As cute as I
am I will
always be a
flight risk.

Humane Handling



- Low Stress Approach: Reduce stress by using the least amount of restraint possible, avoiding loud noises, and preventing harsh handling.
- Observe Behavior First: Before interacting, assess the dog's body language (e.g. fearful, eager, or aggressive).
- Utilize the following dog body language charts. You can find this full document, including the body language chart, on the foster page on BeFreegle website.
- Gentle Control: Use minimal force and avoid grabbing, dragging, or trapping a freegle, which can increase fear.
- Training and Preparation: One of the primary purposes of this workshop is to provide you with the basic training tools needed to handle a freegle.
 - Environment Safety: Whenever possible, choose a quiet, calm location and avoid overcrowded areas.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes

DOGGIE LANGUAGE



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



**"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"**

Animal Welfare

Reducing Stress and Observing Behaviors



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Housetraining

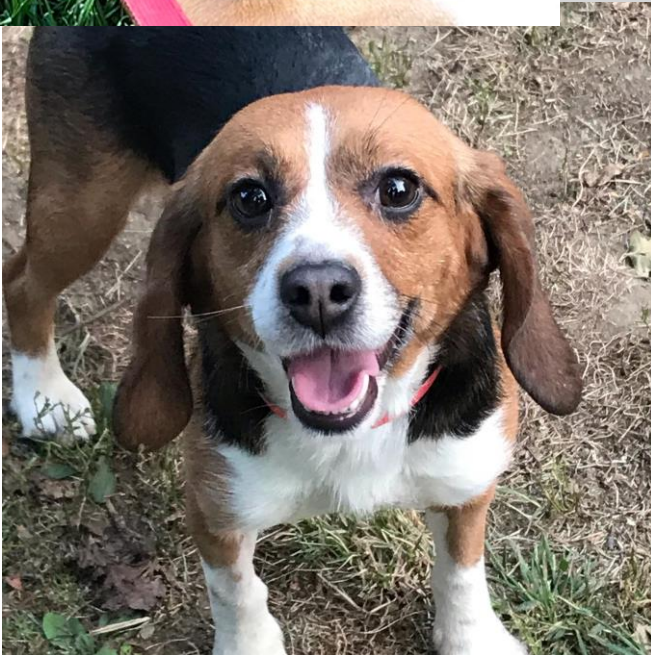


* Freegles are used to eliminating indoors. It is our responsibility to teach them that pottying outside is a positive thing by create opportunities for them to succeed.

How do you do that?

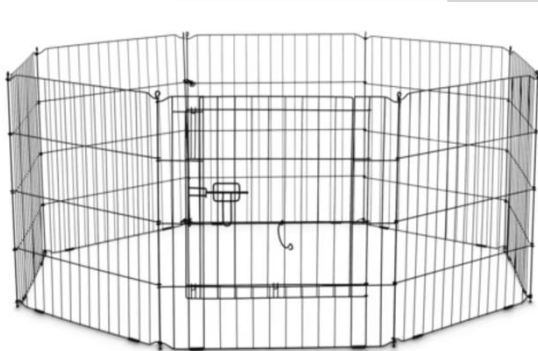


Do's



- Create an environment to set them up for success. Your eyes must be on your freegle at all times she is indoors and out of the crate.
- If you cannot watch your freegle inside we recommend crating them. It's okay to keep them in the crate, its not forever. If they strongly object to the crate an x-pen may be a better choice.
- Designate an area outside where you want them to potty.
- Begin on day one with a verbal command whenever you see them eliminating outside. We use "go potty" to teach them to potty on command. This does really work!
- Bring a high value treat with you when you take your freegle out and reward them when they potty outside. A high value treat such as chicken. Something they will only get when pottying outside. Use treats sparingly, chubby freegles are not healthy freegles!

Oops...



- If your freegles eliminates in the house, do not scold them! Scolding has shown to be very detrimental to the housetraining process and actually teaches a dog that pottying in front of you is bad.
- If you catch them in the middle of eliminating, use “uh oh” or “eww” in a quiet voice.
- If you are frustrated, please take a step backward and a deep breath. It’s going to be okay; you're doing great.
- If your freegle is eliminating in the house they may have too much freedom and they don’t know what to do with it as they’re still learning the rules. Make their world smaller. Block off a room or use an x-pen.
- Do pick up the phone and call us. We are here to help you. We have a great deal of experience in this process and will help you through this potty crisis!

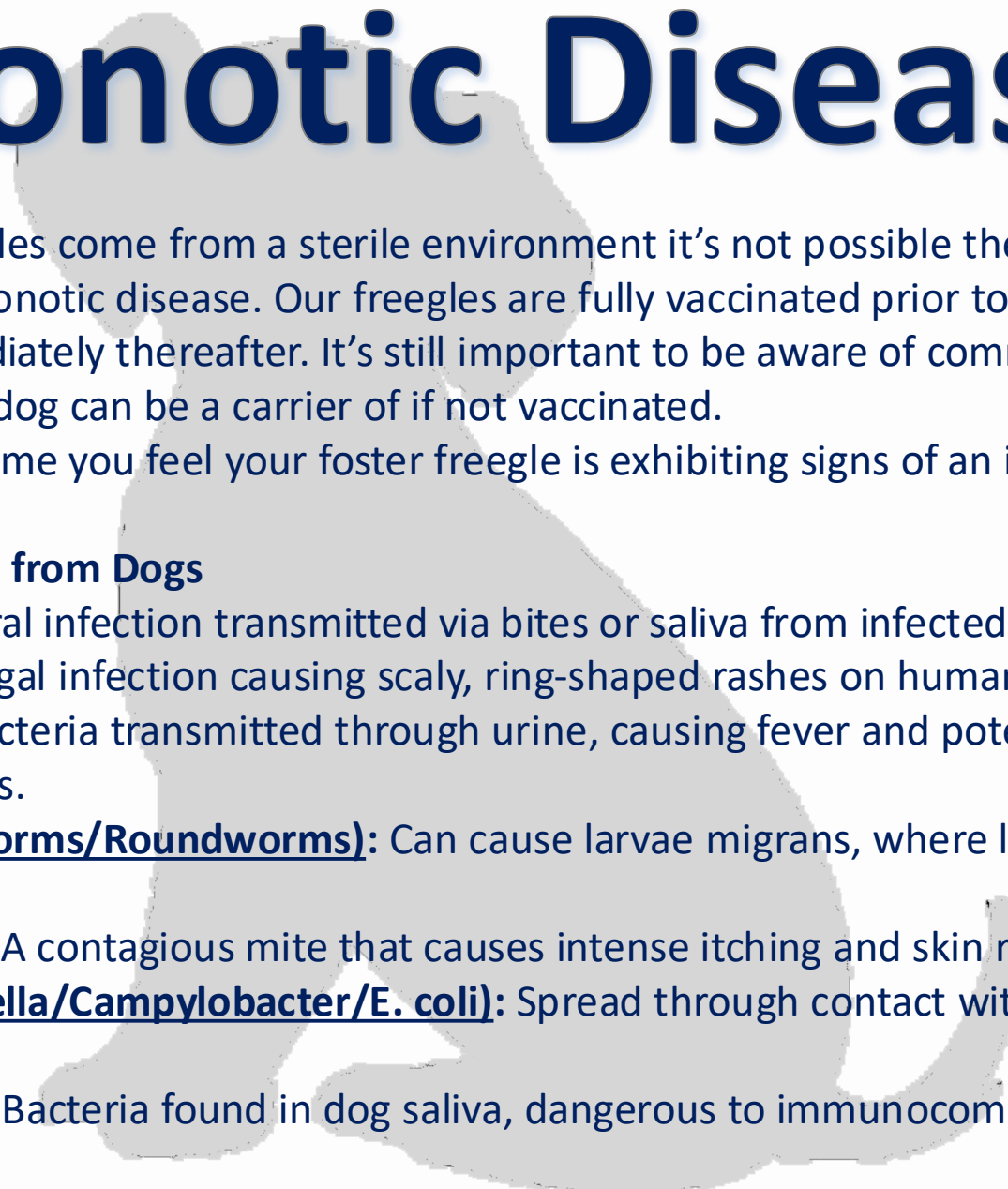
Sanitation

When any freegle eliminates in an area not designated as an outdoor potty space, safety protocols are important to keep our volunteers, adopters, fosters, and our freegles safe and healthy.

- Sanitation is a 2-step process
 - First, manually remove dirt, feces, and organic matter. Then apply a disinfectant to kill viruses and bacteria.
 - Regular household bleach is an effective and cost-efficient disinfectant
 - Either an off the shelf disinfectant with bleach can be used
 - Or mix bleach with water at a ratio of $\frac{1}{2}$ cup per gallon
 - Recommended contact time is 10 minutes
 - Always rinse the area with clean water afterwards
 - Be sure to dispose of any organic matter and then wash hands thoroughly with soap and water



Zoonotic Diseases



Because our freegles come from a sterile environment it's not possible they would be infected with a zoonotic disease. Our freegles are fully vaccinated prior to them coming into our care or immediately thereafter. It's still important to be aware of communicable diseases that any dog can be a carrier of if not vaccinated.

If at any point in time you feel your foster freegle is exhibiting signs of an infection, please call us right away.

Zoonotic Diseases from Dogs

- **Rabies**: A fatal viral infection transmitted via bites or saliva from infected animals.
- **Ringworm**: A fungal infection causing scaly, ring-shaped rashes on human skin.
- **Leptospirosis**: Bacteria transmitted through urine, causing fever and potential kidney damage in humans.

Parasites (Hookworms/Roundworms): Can cause larvae migrans, where larvae move under human skin.

Sarcoptic Mange: A contagious mite that causes intense itching and skin rash in humans.

Bacteria (Salmonella/Campylobacter/E. coli): Spread through contact with contaminated feces.

Capnocytophaga: Bacteria found in dog saliva, dangerous to immunocompromised individuals.

Crate Training 101



- Most dogs have a natural instinct to want to be in their den/crate and we want them to be as comfy as possible while spending time in there.... But...
- Sometimes a freegle will eliminate in their crate while you are out of the house or when they are in there while you are busy, soiling their nice plush bedding.
- They are not doing this out of spite, dog do not have the capacity to be spiteful.
- To correctly crate train a freegle that is eliminating in their crate you must make their crate smaller by putting a box or plastic bin in the crate.
- Your freegle should only be allowed to turn around any lay down. This is not mean or cruel and won't last forever, we promise.

Leash Walking 101





Leash Walking Tips

- Begin with teaching your freegle to make eye contact with you. Before giving a treat, get their attention, hold the treat near your eye and tell them “watch me”.
- Teach your freegle to stick to one side by making that side as rewarding as possible by tossing treats on that side.
- If your freegle begins to pull on the leash, stop and take a few steps backwards. Wait for the leash to go slack before continuing.
- Desensitization exercises will help your freegle become accustomed to outdoors sights and sounds.
- Take your time and allow your freegle to explore their new environment and play them to get them relaxed on leash.
- If your freegle is reactive to other dogs or people catch them right before they react by stepping in front of them or making a quick u-turn. Redirect.
- Be patient and keep practicing!



Sleeping on the furniture...



***Foster freegles** are *NEVER* allowed to sleep or hang out on your furniture!

Why not?

- *Freegles do not understand the concept of sleeping on any kind of furniture. They've never had that luxury before.
- *Not every adoptive family will want to allow their new freegle to sleep on the furniture. This is actually not unusual at all. People can be good pet parents and not allow their pets on the furniture. It is easier for a new adoptive family to teach their freegle to sleep on the furniture than to try to untrain them to not sleep on the sofa!
- *Please do not allow them on your furniture but sit on the floor with them and snuggle them to your hearts content!! Or hold them in your lap while sitting.
- *Remember, we are a temporary home for our freegles until they get adopted. Our goal is to have polite well trained freegles who reflect well on BeFreegle.



Getting Adopted



Getting Adopted

- On average our freegles are usually in foster care between two weeks to three months.
- Foster families always have the first opportunity to adopt their foster freegle, with plenty of advanced notice. Please do not wait until we have an application in hand for them. We don't want to disappoint anyone.
- Please do not set up meet and greets with anyone without a member of the BeFreegle team requesting it. We could have an open application on your foster freegle and again, we don't want to disappoint anyone. Potential adopters must fill out an application prior to meet and greets.
- We need your help in getting your foster freegle to adoption events or taking them with you when you go places. We set up local adoption pop ups occasionally and hope you can attend to help your foster freegle get adopted.
- Keep in touch with us. Send updates and photos!
- Remember, the more fosters we have the more labs we can contact so please share your experience with family and friends and recruit them to foster too!



Going Home

- Saying goodbye to your foster freegle is never easy, but rest assured we do everything to make sure our freegles are going to the best possible homes.
- We ask our adopters to please keep in touch with us. Not all adopters want to keep in touch, but we make every effort to include them in our BeFreegle Family.
- If the adopter wants to stay in touch with the foster a BeFreegle team member will let you know and ask to forward on your email address.
- Once your foster freegle has been adopted we ask that you return all their supplies that we have provided. Unless, of course, the next freegle needing a soft place to land winds up on your doorstep!
- If you adopt your foster freegle we ask that you keep open the possibility of welcoming another foster freegle into your home. You will be an experienced freegle foster by then!



We promise...



...that within a very short period of time your freegle will be learning so much about their new world because of you. Following our guidelines will set you and your freegle up for a positive experience that we promise will be quite rewarding for you. We want this to be a positive experience for you and your family.

The Media



- We love to be in the news and have adopted many of our dogs through local media, so if you know anyone who wants to do a story about BeFreegle please let us know. Networking is the best way to spread the word about BeFreegle and our precious freegles.

Social Media

- Please refrain from corresponding with anyone, you do not know, who expresses interest in our freegles via a post from BeFreegle. This includes replying to questions about a specific freegle.
- We've had a few bad actors contact fosters and it's our job to keep not only the freegles safe but you as well. Early on we had one young foster who was social media stalked after replying to a comment.
- Did you know that 99.9% of the inquiries in social media posts are never followed up on. We provide all the information applicants need on our website and we always refer people there for more information on the dogs.



Make time for play!



??Questions??



Thank You!!

