



Volunteer & Foster Handbook

Welcome to the American Pit Bull Foundation!

Volunteering with the American Pit Bull Foundation (APBF) is a selfless, yet rewarding, act that has a positive effect on not only the Pit Bulls we love but also the people we are able to impact along the way.

The following handbook is a guide for both volunteers and fosters and is intended to be an educational resource to gain familiarity with the foundation, the principles, and the policies.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering! We look forward to working with you!

The Mission of the American Pit Bull Foundation:

Promoting responsible breed ownership through education, programming, and assistance.

The Purpose of the American Pit Bull Foundation is to promote responsible breed ownership through:

- owner and public education
- positive alternatives to dog fighting
- programs to endorse and recognize responsible breed ownership
- provide medical and financial assistance for dogs with responsible owners
- aid in adoption of Pit Bulls to responsible individuals or families

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization!

We greatly value our volunteers, foster parents, members, sponsors, and partners and strive to continue building strong relationships with our team. Based on our values, we have developed common philosophies that we feel will further strengthen our community relationships and provide the mind set to put the focus on changing the misconception of Pit Bull dogs.

APBF affiliates abide by the following philosophies:

- APBF works in conjunction with other organizations, such as Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control, and other local rescue groups to reduce the number of Pit Bulls that end up in shelters due to irresponsibility on any level. We realize that there are some differences in how operations are carried out and sometimes philosophies differ between groups. However, we are of the mindset that larger scale accomplishments can be reached when organizations play as a team for the big picture. We are always open to new relationships with other rescue affiliations who work for a common purpose and share similar goals.
- APBF does not get involved with politics of large or small scale based on the regulations for a 501(C) 3 non-profit group and because our position which supports responsible breed ownership is not a politically bias-based effort.

- APBF members work on a multi-platform scale. Our mission stretches us beyond simple involvement and we sometimes work with individuals who fight, abuse, and neglect dogs. We build relationships with people who need help and are willing to find involvement in positive healthy activities with their pets. We realize that we cannot reach every person and help them learn responsible ownership, however, we will treat every person we deal with, with respect and as if they will want to learn what we can teach.
- In regards to breeders, APBF does not condone “back yard breeding”. We encourage individuals and families to adopt from shelters based on the great need of homes for Pit Bulls who are homeless. That said, APBF does not look down upon responsible breeding efforts. If breeding were terminated completely and proved to be successful the end result would be breed eradication. Responsible breeders typically only breed between the ages 2 and 6. They only breed registered dogs and register the litters accordingly. They have an excellent relationship with a veterinarian, do not in-line breed close relatives, and provide adequate housing and whelping materials while also providing excellent nutrition before, during, and after whelping. Furthermore, they thoroughly screen buyers, contract the buyers, and keep up with puppy placement post-purchase.
- APBF strives to teach responsibility and accountability. We are not a rescue organization that simply takes in Pit Bulls; we take in owners as well. Some need to be held accountable for their prior actions in a positive educative manor. We help get owners involved in volunteering to learn about everything from obedience to basic compassion. It is not for us to be judgmental, but helpful, along the way.
- We believe that our method to presenting our materials should be in an inviting way that encourages open conversation and does not give off the effect of forcing opinions or beliefs.

The History of APBF: How the Organization Came to Be

Just shy of 2010, the American Pit Bull Foundation (APBF) came to fruition from months of brainstorming, planning, and organizing thoughts. The driving force behind the creation of APBF was to approach the problems of abuse, neglect, unnecessary euthanasia, abandonment, and overpopulation from a perspective that could help break the cycles that rescue groups were currently in. The cycle of simply taking in rescue after rescue as the numbers only increased, rather than making a dent in the rising number of dogs in need of homes. APBF was designed to tackle the root of the problem, as opposed to continuously, and tirelessly, lopping off the head of the giant dandelion, only to have three more heads take its place. The thought process was one initiated to help from the bottom up and not go bankrupt or suffer tremendous burnout and compassion fatigue in the process. The rearing of the organization was not a whim of an idea, rather a learned lesson from doing things the hard way first.

Sara K. Enos, the Founder of the American Pit Bull Foundation, worked as a veterinary nurse and routinely took in owner surrenders at the hospital whose owners could not afford, or simply did not want to provide, needed medical care for their Pit Bulls. Though she occasionally took in other breeds she came to find that most of the dogs that were being surrendered were Pit Bulls. Sara would spend her own money to medically treat these cases under the hospital physicians and then privately seek suitable homes to place them in. During her time at an animal hospital she came to understand that when a case called for an Animal Control report, due to neglect or abuse, these cases most often involved Pit Bulls. Knowing that the county shelter did not adopt Pit Bulls at the time the dogs that the hospital was trying to help were all essentially ending up euthanized. Sara found this to be an exhausting factor and a double edged sword. Motivated by the conundrum she signed up to be a shelter “rescue” so that she would have access to the dogs that they had to call in abuse and/or neglect charges. This would grant her the ability to pull dogs from the shelter and rehome them.

In 2005, a blind Pit Bull named Nana came into a Charlotte animal hospital. She smelled of cedar shavings from her outdoor bedding and her owner wanted to have her euthanized as she was newly epileptic. Though her condition was controllable with medication he did not want to be bothered with administration. He also did not want to surrender her because she, “wouldn’t be comfortable with anyone else aside from him”, he explained to the doctor as she was in the treatment room actively enjoying affection from the staff. Though the doctor handling the case (who was a first year intern) didn’t have an impressive drive to try with this owner, no one could save Nana. No one could convince this owner that she could lead a happy life with another home if he didn’t want to bother with the medication. He simply didn’t care and his

answer was no. So, after the Pit Bull she couldn't save, Enos registered her rescue name with the local animal shelter as Nana's Rescue to honor Nana in saving the lives of others through the shelter.

In 2007, a mere two years later, Enos developed a pattern of taking in more animals than she could financially support and physically care for at any given time. She would take the pregnant dogs because they were the first to get euthanized. She would take the sick dogs, the dogs that needed wound care, or those requiring medical attention. They would stay in her home or with someone who agreed to foster and eventually she would find them good homes with a make-shift application process. Long hours, late nights, and heartbreak after heartbreak over the dogs she could not take in, or save from their condition, ensued.

Not long after this the levy broke. The funds for day to day life were literally going to the dogs and her partner put his foot down as he was witnessing the breakdown of the family from rescue efforts taking over every other aspect of routine. The decision for rescuing to discontinue was made and Nana's Rescue closed intake permanently. Enos moved on to a non-animal related occupation and tried to put animal welfare behind her. It didn't last long.

Shortly after "retirement" Sara was recruited as a seat for the American Pet Cross; an organization directed towards animal welfare needs, (disaster relief, abandonment, abuse, and neglect) created by a friend, Dan Taylor. Sara's focus naturally steered towards Pit Bulls though the organization was geared towards all companion animals. When the Founder of the American Pet Cross tragically passed away the organization collapsed as well.

Motivated by her friend who could no longer continue his own work, and determined that there was a better way to attack issues surrounding animal welfare, Sara conceptualized the basis for the American Pit Bull Foundation.

Targeting Pit Bulls (aside from being a favorite to the founder) would target one of the largest populations in need. In family discussions the organization would focus on why so many Pit Bulls were abandoned, abused, neglected, surrendered at animal control facilities, and would target formulating solutions to those problems. The organization would provide outreach and education and would assist those in need that were behind potential surrenders. Instead of taking on problematic dogs and allowing for owners to simply turn around and continue the same mistakes with another dog this organization would start with the owner. Find and understand the reason for such easy, (or even not so easy) disposal of a family pet. Teaching compassionate care and the value of companion animals. Focusing on solving those issues could in turn, and has, decreased the number of dogs that are surrendered due to solvable issues and therefore decrease the number of adoptable dogs that are unnecessarily euthanized.

In 2010, the American Pit Bull Foundation officially came to life and was incorporated. With the help of community partners and fellow volunteers that shared roles with other organizations the programs and ideologies fell into place almost seamlessly. The Mission Statement was simplified and revised by Heather Vance who captioned intentions with “Promoting responsible breed ownership through education, programming, and assistance”. Combined with a detailed and specific Purpose statement, the organization continues to live and thrive by way of its mission.

In 2011, the American Pit Bull Foundation was awarded 501c3 non-profit status.

With a solid team, enthusiastic volunteers, and community support the organization continues in its successes and strives to maintain the ideals it was formed upon. The goals set forth are implemented to have the greatest long term effects in animal welfare for Pit Bull type dogs and their owners.

Who’s who in the APBF: Contact Information

The 2015 APBF Officers

The APBF Officers handle the major decisions and organizational details of the Foundation.

President: Sara Enos

Treasurer: Kevin Johnson

Secretary: Claire Halliday

Advisory Counsel: Heather Vance

Committee Chair: Nick Ondrako

Nominations for APBF Officers are accepted November first through December 20th, preceding the term year. If you are interested in becoming an APBF Officer, or interested in another key APBF role, email Sara at founder@americanpitbullfoundation.com.

When you have a question, need assistance, or have an idea that you would like to share the following list will help you contact the appropriate person.

Rescue Services

The Rescue Services team is comprised of volunteers representing APBF's fostering, adoptions and adoption services programs.

Director of Rescue Services: Kevin Johnson

Email: apbfprograms@gmail.com

Kevin oversees APBF's rescue operations. He works closely with the adoptions coordinator, foster family coordinator, and the Rescue Advocacy Team (RAT Pack) to ensure that the best care and attention is given to our adoptable dogs throughout their time in APBF's care. Additionally he serves as the Foundation's Treasurer for the 2015 calendar year.

Adoptions

Adoptions Coordinator: Maria Tullo

Email: apbfadoptions@gmail.com

Maria is your go-to person for any questions regarding adopting an APBF dog or puppy. She can assist with, and address, questions you may have related to the adoption process, our Adoption Services Program, sponsoring and Adopt-A-Bull, or participating in adoption events.

Adoption assistance and post adoption follow-up: Beth Carr

Email: emcarr88@gmail.com

Foster Opportunities

Foster Family Coordinator: Josh Coppedge

Email: apbffosters@gmail.com

Josh is your go-to person to become a foster parent, answer questions about the APBF Foster Program, dogs that are currently in foster care, and dogs that are in need of foster care. All communications for foster needs will filter through Josh. He remains in close contact with the adoptions coordinator, and the RAT Pack, to help facilitate the right dogs being matched with the right families.

Kenneled Dogs

Briana Bennett

Email: apbfkenneldogs@gmail.com

We currently partner with a few area kennels where dogs are occasionally abandoned or have no other placement options. Mental and physical stimulation for these dogs are crucial, as they

are not residing in normal living conditions, which can create stress. Briania serves as our Kennel Liaison and schedules activities for the kennelled dogs with volunteers, advocates for the dogs, and handles their interactions. Please get in touch with Briania if you would like to get some hands-on volunteer time to provide enrichment to our kennelled dogs.

Fundraising/Events

Secretary: Claire Halliday

Email: apbffundraising@gmail.com

Claire oversees various event committees and heads up small fundraising efforts throughout the community. If you have an idea that you want to run with or if you are interested in assisting with a current APBF fundraiser or event, get in touch with Claire for assistance.

Education

Our main current educational project is the Positive Pit Care School Project which features an 11 week course on compassionate care, disease prevention, overpopulation control, breeding, anti-dogfighting, and more with a field trip to the local shelter and hands-on activities with the dogs. Our educational program is run in conjunction with Beth Brown from Safe Haven Animal Rescue and is currently conducted by:

Sara Enos: apbffounder@gmail.com (email if interested in participating)

Kathy Reilly: sithappens.kreilly@gmail.com

Jina O'Neill: apbfpromos@gmail.com

APBF also conducts summer camp appearances and classroom visits for all ages upon request

Promotions and Press

For interviews, speaking engagements, articles, and other forms of public communications, email Sara at founder@americanpitbullfoundation.com.

There are two APBF volunteers that are currently designated to handle speaking engagements and appearances/interviews. They are:

- Sara Enos: founder@americanpitbullfoundation.com.
- Heather Vance: apbfeducation@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Coordinator: Shannon Mullis

Email: apbfvolunteers@gmail.com

Shannon welcomes the new volunteers and organizes the needs for volunteers at the major events. Shannon is your main communication point for questions about volunteering, for

training needs, and for everything APBF volunteer related. Shannon sends out pertinent information for volunteers regularly.

Volunteer Dog Handling Mentor: Wayne Boulay

Email: wmboulay@gmail.com

APBF Memberships

Membership Director: Sarah Iwanusa

Email: apbfmembers@gmail.com

Sarah is your go-to person to become an APBF member and to answer questions about memberships as gifts, membership benefits, and membership drives. If you would like to help rally more support in way of memberships, please contact Sarah.

Pit Bull Socials Club

Anna Quehl Nyeste

Email: apbfmarketing@gmail.com

The Pit Bull Social Club is for owners, volunteers, fosters, and friends to gather, socialize and talk about everything Pit Bull. The events are geared towards socializing with others that share common interests. Events are once monthly.

Helping Hands Fund

Dr. Angela Abendroth heads up our Helping Hands project which supports members of the public in need of financial assistance. Basis for funding can be found on our website. For questions about the public fund, email Dr. Abendroth at helpinghands@americanpitbullfoundation.com

Volunteer Opportunities Within APBF

- **Adoption Events:** Help by handling dogs during events or providing information and education about APBF to the public
- **Adoptions Team:** Aiding with veterinary reference checks, home visits, and interactions
- **Rescue Advocacy Team (RAT Pack):** Be assigned an adoptable dog to advocate for and assist the Foster Family Coordinator and Adoptions Coordinator with providing the best experience for your assigned dog.

- **Full Time Foster Parent:** Foster a dog in your home until the adoption process is completed and a home has been identified
- **Part Time Foster Parent:** Assist with fostering a dog in your home on a part time basis
- **Transporter:** Help transport dogs to and from veterinary visits, to and from events, etc.
- **Education/Information Table Events:** There are events where we will just have an information booth and will need volunteers to work the table and represent APBF
- **Kennel Interactions:** Some of our dogs current reside in boarding and this is a great opportunity to visit them and spend time with them during the week or on the weekends
- **Plan and Hold Your Own Fundraiser:** If you are a go-getter, help us by holding your very own fundraiser. The officers will need to approve your project before it is executed, but we are open to all of your wonderful ideas! Ask about our project submission page on the website.
- **Lead By Example:** Lead by example with your own actions as a responsible dog owner! Be the change you want to see in this world.
- **Support Partner - Rover.com:** Rover.com is a licensed and insured national website where you can find in-home pet sitters, sitters that can bring your pets to their homes, you can read reviews and sitter profiles, and find sitters that donate through Rover.com's Sit-a-Pet, Save-a-Life Program which donates back to the American Pit Bull Foundation.
- **Wooftrax Mobile Application:** Walk a dog with the Wooftrax mobile application that donates based on how far, how often, and how many people walk for APBF
- **smile.amazon.com:** Go through smile.amazon.com to make Amazon purchases and select American Pit Bull Foundation as the recipient of 5% cash back donations
- **Employer Donation Matching/Grants:** Ask your employer about donation/volunteer matching gifts
- **Getting The Word Out:** Print out adoption flyers from the APBF website and post them at local gyms, coffee shops, employee break rooms, etc. Help spread the word about who we are and what we do!

Volunteer Participation

Training and Supervision

All volunteers must attend an orientation with the volunteer coordinator, a Lead Volunteer or an APBF Officer. Adoption day and event volunteers will receive training the day of the event through the pairing of a Volunteer Mentor as well as a short demonstration given prior to the time that the event is open to the public.

Event Participation

Volunteer commitment and ideas are essential to the success of our events. These events are designed to promote responsible breed ownership, the adoption of our animals, encourage donations, and provide information to the public about our organization.

Volunteer Expectations

Commitment

Volunteers are expected to be committed to APBF's mission and philosophies and while attending events to conduct themselves appropriately. If you have questions regarding our programs or activities please ask before participating. Volunteers are not required to attend every activity or event but if you agree to participate in an activity or event you are expected to adhere to that commitment. Please give at least 24 hour notice if you are unable to make an event that you have signed up for so that we may arrange coverage.

Treatment of Animals

Animals are to be treated kindly, gently, and professionally at all times. We do not use training or handling methods that involve hitting or extreme force, but rather balanced and positive techniques to engage our dogs and puppies. Additionally, while at an official APBF event the use of prong collars and e-collars are prohibited. These collars are for training purposes and not to be on the dogs during these events. Please visit <http://www.drsophiayin.com> to learn more about the methods we follow. Additionally, feel free to ask us for a copy of the Learn to Earn booklet for more information on handling and behavior response.

When handling, volunteers should have complete control over their dog at all times. Be aware of not only your dog but also your surroundings. Volunteers are responsible for making sure the dog stays calm, has plenty of water to drink, takes potty breaks, and is presented to all potential adopters in the best manner possible. Do NOT let dogs meet muzzle to muzzle. Allow for adequate space between your dog and other dogs that creates a relaxed environment.

Confidentiality

All volunteers are expected to maintain confidentiality of all proprietary or privileged information to which they are exposed while serving as a volunteer. This includes information that may involve board members, other volunteers, clients, sponsors and/or the overall business of APBF, as well as any personal information of any of the listed such as home address, contact information, personal status, etc.

Conduct

As a volunteer you are a representative of APBF. When involved in our events or when wearing your volunteer attire, you are expected to present a good image of the organization at all times. This includes language. Please be respectful of our attendants as well as your fellow volunteers. If you disagree with someone, another volunteer, potential adopter, sponsor or event attendee please refer the matter to the event coordinator. Please remain professional at all times while at an APBF sponsored event or function.

Additionally, please be mindful that if you are wearing a volunteer shirt, whether at an event, at the gym, just out and about, or even just hanging out after an event that you are considered "on the volunteer clock" and you are representing the organization. Please refrain from profanity and in the event you wish to hang out casually and enjoy a few beverages with friends, please change out of your volunteer shirt to do so. Please feel free to wear any other APBF shirt while socializing, however, the volunteer shirt does signify work mode and you should be prepared to professionally engage with strangers that respond to your shirt's inviting question.

APBF is a business that provides a public service. Our success is directly dependent on the public and their contributions to our organization. It is imperative that we present ourselves in a professional manner at all times during events. The environment around an APBF table should always be warm, welcoming, inviting and volunteers should always be approachable and friendly. Remember - every encounter is an opportunity.

Fundraising for APBF

You may encourage donations for APBF at any time. Donation jars may be made available to you as requested. Any direct or indirect solicitation of commercial businesses must be done through prior Officer approval. You may feel free to present your lead at any time, but all correspondence needs to be handled through the Officers to keep our books in order and eliminate any miscommunication.

Volunteer Attire

Volunteers must dress appropriately throughout event participation. Event volunteers are asked to either wear an APBF Volunteer shirt (available through our website) or animal welfare attire (preferably Pit Bull related) with a name tag or lanyard to signify that you are a volunteer.

Media Procedures

To ensure that efforts are not duplicated and information is accurate any dealings with the media must be brought to the attention of the officers. Media includes anything printed, broadcast, or televised about APBF. We welcome any contacts or story ideas you may have and ask that you communicate with the Officers prior to submitting any formal writing/articles.

Suggestions

As you go about your volunteer activities you may notice ways to improve the quality or efficiency of your volunteer service. We ask that you share these ideas with the Volunteer Coordinator through daily conversation, in meetings, or through a note via email to explain your idea. After considering your suggestion the Volunteer Coordinator will let you know whether or not your suggestion will be implemented and, if so, what action will be taken. Be on the lookout for improvements. Your ideas can make a difference in the level of our success and the quality of our volunteer program.

Recruitment of other volunteers

Tell your friends about our program and entice them to volunteer their services. Feel free to share event photos through social media.

Online Safety

The safety of our volunteers is important to us. To that end, APBF will not release a volunteer's phone number, age or other personal information to anyone outside of our organization or to other any volunteer, (with the exception of our Officers and Lead/Senior Staff Volunteers) without that volunteer's written permission to do so.

APBF Volunteer Guidelines for Petsmart Adoption Events

APBF values the partnerships built between other community business members and charitable organizations in the same way that we value our dedicated volunteers. In order to maintain these important relationships we have implemented a set of guidelines to follow when working as an APBF volunteer or representative in order to keep consistency in always exceeding the standards of the businesses that we are partnering with.

1. Arrival/set-up

- a. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the shift for set up in order to be fully ready to receive incoming guests. Petsmart employees and trainers answer calls about our attendance during the week; be ready for your potential adopters as though they will be there exactly at “go time”.

2. Attire

- a. Please dress casually professional. The following are acceptable:
 - Jeans without holes, slacks, tidy shorts and capris.
 - Clean, wrinkle-free, APBF, canine welfare, and Bully breed T-shirts are appropriate, as are plain tops/blouses that are tidy in appearance.
 - Please avoid overly loud attire; we need to keep the focus on the adoptable dogs and puppies.
- b. There are no requirements as far as tattoos and piercings; all are welcome. We do discourage dangly jewelry/piercings as they can leave the wearer susceptible to untimely removal and injury when working with dogs.

3. Donations

- a. Petsmart has allowed APBF to collect donations while participating in the adoption program. Please place the donation jar or box on the table in a place that you can monitor it closely to avoid theft.
- b. Please do not openly solicit donations. We do not want to make people feel obligated or uncomfortable, however, will certainly graciously accept donations offered.
- c. We cannot sell any items during the Petsmart adoption events. We can, however, give donators a bumper sticker, wristband, or other APBF item as a “thank you” for their thoughtfulness. Please offer these items when donations meet or exceed our actual cost on the item you offer donators. (i.e., if someone leaves \$5, please feel free to offer them a bumper sticker or wristband).
- d. Donations are tax deductible. If someone leaves a sizeable donation and would like a letter as receipt for the IRS, please gather their name, telephone number, and email address so that our Treasurer can provide them with a receipt.
- e. We can take donations in the form of check, and/or cash at the event; we can take any form of credit or debit online. Please offer a tablet or a phone for guests to make an online donation, on the spot if interested, or, if they would like to donate at a later time, please provide website information for people to take with them.

- f. Membership forms are included in the event box and individuals may sign up for local/national memberships on site. Feel free to encourage them to sign up automatically online via their smartphone or an APBF tablet at the event. Please refer to the shift leader if you have any questions in regard to memberships

4. Minors/guest volunteers

- a. Petsmart currently covers the liability insurance for our adoption events; it is not covered under APBF. We, therefore, need to follow the specific requests of our host store in regards to guest volunteers and minors.
- b. Anyone that is helping at Petsmart adoption events must have a current volunteer form on file with APBF even if they are only a temporary volunteer. If you have not filled out an APBF volunteer form please visit the website and fill one out prior to attending events or working with the dogs.
- c. Minors under 16 years of age that are old enough to follow direction are invited to participate in APBF events. Anyone under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult responsible for their care for the duration of the event, who also must have a current volunteer form on file as well
- d. Guest volunteers are asked to please direct specific questions received by the public to experienced APBF volunteers. Please feel free to ask the lead volunteer any questions that you may have in regards to the adoption process, the Foundation, or volunteering.

5. Breaks

- a. Please feel free to take a personal break during the shift to use the restroom, to eat, or to make personal calls.
- b. Please do not leave items of value if you are the only volunteer on duty, (i.e. the donation jar, decals, etc.), please bring them with you.
- c. Please use your break time in another area, (outside, in the break room, etc.) to eat and make personal calls. Please remember to be professional and only make calls that are related to the event, arranging home visits and interactions, and checking veterinary references. You are encouraged to take pictures at the event and post them on social media when not directly interacting with the public. If there is not another volunteer present to field questions please wait to run applications over the phone so that you can be available to the public at all times.
- d. If you would like to smoke please do so away from guests, dogs, children, and other volunteers. Please be certain to throw your cigarette butt in the appropriate receptacle. Please wash your hands and use breath refreshment prior to returning from a smoke break.
- e. Break Room Rules
 - Please keep in mind that Petsmart has very kindly granted us temporary use of their break room to eat our lunch. This is not a normal privilege and we are very thankful to have a space to take a quiet moment to eat.
 - Please do not bring any friends, family, or other guests into the break room.
 - Please do not enter any other restricted areas of the facility.

- Please do not bring animals into the break room.
- Please do not touch any of the lockers, open the cabinets, or move any of the employee items that are in the break room.
- Please feel free to use the vending machines to purchase drinks/snacks.

6. Engaging guests

- Present yourself in an inviting manner; make eye contact with guests, greet everyone who walks through the door, and position yourself in a fashion that gives the impression that you are open for conversation.
- Ask guests about their own pets and feel free to answer any questions that they may have.
- If a question arises that you are unsure of the answer feel free to ask for their information so that the Adoptions Coordinator or the appropriate person can personally contact them with answers.
- Always speak positively. Even when others initiate conversation that speaks lowly of other individuals or organizations based on practices with dogs don't take the bait. Remember that passing judgment only closes doors and ears. Listen to what they have to say and try to change the topic to a more positive subject or approach the topic in a more positive light.
- Be prepared for some opposition. Working with a misunderstood breed will occasionally lead to someone misunderstanding your intentions as well. You are there to educate in a kindly manner; feel free to share your positive experiences regarding the dogs and why you have chosen to volunteer for a Pit Bull organization.
- Please refrain from any inappropriate language.

7. Information for Foster parents that attend the APBF/Petsmart Adoption events.

- As a foster parent you are an adoption advocate for your pet. Feel free to share fun personality characteristics with interacting guests/potential adopters.
- Please let experienced APBF volunteers handle the adoption questions and application process. Once a dog or puppy is enrolled in the APBF adoption process all decision-making in regards to placement is handled by the APBF adoptions team.
- Feel free to ask the Adoptions Coordinator or the lead APBF event volunteer any questions that you may have about the adoption process, the Foundation, or fostering.
- Please do not engage in personal conversation with guests regarding topics that are not of relation to the dogs/puppies, the Foundation, or the adoption process, (i.e. financial status, personal views, politics, religion, etc.).
- DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION TO GUESTS/POTENTIAL ADOPTERS**

8. Guests handling dogs/puppies

- Please ask guests to utilize hand sanitizer provided prior to handling puppies.
- Please encourage guests to interact with the dogs and puppies available for adoption.

- c. Please keep control of all leashed dogs at all times, (do not allow guests to go for an unsupervised walk with the dogs).
- d. Please ask children to sit on the floor or in one of the provided chairs to hold puppies and stay within arm's length as a safety measure against an accidental dropping.
- e. Please politely ask guests to keep their personal pets at a distance from our dogs and puppies. Some of the visiting puppies may still be going through their initial puppy vaccinations and we do not want to put them at risk (nor do we want to put another dog at risk of acquiring a communicable disease from them). It is important for the younger puppies to participate so that they are getting socialization during their critical period, however, we would like to keep them as safe as possible while attending the events.
- f. Please do not allow guests to give the dogs food items or toys directly. Some dogs may be resource guarders or food aggressive which could lead to an altercation. Please feel free to accept treat and toy donations to send home with the foster dogs. Any items purchased for a particular dog will go directly to them.

9. Dog interactions

- a. Please pay close attention to your assigned foster dog or puppy in regards to reading body language. If you feel that your assigned dog is uncomfortable with another dog walk them back to a distance where he/she begins to relax.
- b. Leashes should be loose but controlled with the dog not pulling.
- c. If a dog get overly excited/stimulated and is barking or becoming anxious walk them away from the situation and get her attention with a basic command such as "watch", or "look" to divert her attention. Reward your dog for being obedient any paying attention to you, not the source of the anxiety.
- d. Regarding scuffles and bites; prevention is key. Get to know your assigned dog well and pay close attention to their interactions to avoid any altercations. Remember that just because a dog is friendly with most dogs, does not mean that they will be friendly with all dogs.
 - If an APBF dog is bitten by a guest's dog it is important to get their information and verify that their dog is current on their vaccinations.
 - Immediately notify the Petsmart manager on duty if an altercation occurs.
 - Seek medical attention at one of our approved facilities for open wounds if applicable.

10. Retractable leashes/Proper gear

- a. The use of retractable leashes on APBF dogs and puppies is forbidden at any APBF event, including Petsmart adoption days. There are extra slip leads kept in the event box if an alternative leash is needed temporarily.
- b. Please pay close attention to guests entering the store with their pets on retractable leashes. Often pets on retractable leashes are not in direct control by their owners and injuries can occur as a result.
- c. Please do not recommend retractable leashes to owners under any circumstances

- d. Martingales, Easy Walks, Gentle leaders are acceptable at events; please do not bring your dog wearing a prong collar, electric collar, bark collar, or electric fence collar.

11. Keep the event space tidy and professional

- a. Please keep all items that are not APBF related off of the event table, (drinks, keys, bags, etc.)
- b. Personal items should be kept out of site to avoid theft and to maintain a professional appearance.
- c. Please try to straighten paper items regularly as guests peruse and take information.

12. In the event of an emergency

- a. Call 911
- b. Notify the store manager
- c. Call Sara once the situation allows.

13. Adoptions

- a. APBF does not do same-day adoptions. In order to give a potential adopter time to consider their decision in taking on a pet for the entirety of its life this policy helps, somewhat, to avoid the spontaneous adoption where owners are not necessarily prepared for a new pet.
- b. Please ask to review the adoptions procedures and policies if you are not yet familiar with the full adoption process, requirements, and qualities sought in a potential adopter.

14. Event breakdown

- a. Please do not start breaking down prior to the end of the adoption event.
- b. Please put all flyers and informational paperwork into their corresponding folders.
- c. Please make note of and notify the adoptions coordinator if copies of specific info sheets or flyers are in need of refill for the following event.
- d. Please ensure that all applications, volunteer forms, and foster applications are received by the appropriate coordinator.
- e. Please make sure that the table, chairs, puppy playpen, and other supplies are put away in the space provided to us below the shelving unit next to the training area.
- f. Please do not leave any items behind in the event area.
- g. If working inside, please ask for the mop to quickly clean the area where the dogs and puppies were positioned.
- h. If working the Saturday shift, please leave the event box with the manager in the office. If working the Sunday shift, please see that the event box is taken home to be given to the volunteer leading the following Saturday shift.
- i. Donations should be collected by the Adoptions Coordinator or the lead volunteer at the end of each shift and deposited by the Founder, the President, or the Treasurer.

APBF is a no Drama Zone!

Addressing complaints, directing suggestions, and respecting co-volunteers:

We are an all-volunteer-based business, but we are a business, and under the 501(c)3 regulations we are expected to act as such. With that in mind, please be professional about your complaints that you feel need to be addressed. Non-working events, i.e. social gatherings or any gatherings where alcohol is consumed, is not an appropriate platform for discussing concerns/complaints that a volunteer, or group of volunteers, feel truly need to be raised to the attention of the organizational leaders.

This behavior leads to gossip, which leads to hard feelings, and unnecessary drama amongst hard-working dedicated volunteers that all strive to fulfill the same mission and purpose together. To say the very least, this is not behavior that will be tolerated in this organization. We all may need to vent at times to relieve stress and there is nothing wrong in doing so, however, be respectful about it. Treat your fellow volunteers with respect at all times.

If you have a valid concern or suggestion that you feel will make a beneficial impact in voicing, please address one of the board members. If you do not have one of the member's contact information you can find it on our website where a full list of who's who and contact information can be accessed from any internet-capable device at any time.

Volunteering is not meant to be, but can sometimes be, a stressful endeavor with the particular dogs that we focus on. We are a passionate group and when emotions run high we, again, need to focus on the fact that we are all in this together for the same common goal and need to act accordingly.

We do want your feedback. The good, the bad, and even the ugly so that we can grow as a team and cultivate our efficiency together. What we expect is that each of you handle yourselves in a professional manner and that you bring forth issues or concern at appropriate times with the appropriate audiences that can properly address the situation.

What this group has become and accomplished together is truly something to be proud of. We have experienced feat after feat that we could never expect to accomplish on our own. This is one awesome team. Let's keep it that way!

APBF Programs and Rescue Services

APBF Positive Pit Care School Program is geared towards teaching compassionate canine care to high school students. The eleven week class involves hands-on learning with Therapy certified Pit Bulls, canine demonstrations, a field trip, positive rewards for participation, visual aids, interactive learning games, and more.

The course covers topics in depth such as:

- Responsible Breed Ownership
- Canine Diseases & Preventions
- Dog Bite Safety
- Breeding & Overpopulation
- Positive Alternatives to Dog Fighting
- Breed Identification

The purpose of the Positive Pit Care School Program is to identify areas of educational need and provide the vehicle to fulfill those needs in regards to compassionate canine care.

Our youth hold the key to the future with companion animals. It is our goal to lead them in a way that provides a solid platform for them to make their own educated decisions in regards to providing a healthy, compassionate, non-discriminatory environment for companion animals.

Helping Hands Fund was created to provide assistance to responsible Bully breed owners who are facing financial difficulties and are in need of medical assistance for their dogs.

Assistance offered through the APBF Helping Hands Fund is targeted towards, though not limited to, special needs such as the following:

- Vaccinations, Heartworm testing, parasite screening, deworming
- Gastrointestinal surgery: intussusceptions, GDV, foreign body surgery
- Orthopedic surgeries: amputations, fracture repairs, cruciate repairs
- Skin and ear infections
- Ophthalmologic issues

Funding is generated through public donations and the ability of APBF to provide financial assistance varies based on the current balance of the fund. APBF reserves the right to deny any application for any reason deemed appropriate by the Foundation, or, in the event that funds are not currently readily available for distribution. Assistance is also available for individuals who personally rescue an animal and fully intend to provide permanent ownership to the dog.

Adoption Services: APBF, as primarily an educational organization, has limited ability for intake of adoptable dogs and puppies. The APBF Adoption Services Program is designed to aid owners and/or individuals who rescue a dog in permanent placement through a specific screening process. The screening process is the same used for the dogs and puppies that are available for adoption directly through APBF.

APBF does not guarantee a timeline for placement as adoptions can take anywhere from 48 hours to a year depending on the dog's situation, personality, any medical needs, etc. APBF will, however, work diligently to help expedite adoption with efficiency.

Operation Sidekick: Operation Sidekick is a project dedicated to providing and training service dogs to support veterans and minors that suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, (PTSD). With the growing recognition of the mental and physical health benefits that service dogs provide also comes the growing demand for service dogs to fill those needs. Veterans and minors make up a large majority of individuals that especially fall victim to PTSD.

The purpose of APBF's Operation sidekick is to pair veterans and minors that would benefit from a service dog with a highly trained and well matched [service dog] for little to no cost.

APBF Foster Program: Checklist, Information, and Guidelines

Becoming a foster parent is an exciting endeavor but does require some preparation. The following will help you be sure you are prepared and ready for your new arrival.

1. Mark calendar with:
 - Heartworm and flea prevention due dates
 - Follow up veterinary appointments
 - Spay/neuter dates
 - Adoption events that you can participate in with your foster dog
2. Attach the microchip tag to the collar of your foster dog.
 - If your foster dog is not yet microchipped please coordinate with the Foster Family Coordinator to get an appointment scheduled and chip implanted. The microchip paperwork will stay at the hospital.
3. Attach a foster tag to your foster dog's collar
 - Foster Tags should have the following information:
APBF Foster dog
Your phone number
apbffosters@gmail.com
4. **Thoroughly read through the Important Information and Tips for Foster Parents handout and contact the Foster Family Coordinator with any questions or concerns.**
5. Be sure to have all of the basic equipment for housing your foster dog:
 - Crate
 - Food and water bowl
 - High quality dog/puppy food
 - Treats to encourage good behavior
 - Tough crate toys such as Kongs
 - Proper collar and leash
 - Dog bed

Important information and tips for foster parents:

Emergencies: If you are in the Charlotte and surrounding area please, if feasible, take your foster dog to one of our partner emergency facilities and contact the Foster Family Coordinator as soon as possible:

Animal Medical Hospital (704)334-4684

Long Animal Hospital (704) 523-2996

Non-life threatening injury or illness: please take your foster pet to Carolina Pets Animal Hospital (CPAH) (704)220-0226. If going to CPAH, they require prior approval to treat APBF patients, so please contact the Adoptions Coordinator or Sara Enos in the event that your foster dog needs medical attention.

If you are uncertain as to how urgent a situation may be, please call one of the emergency facilities listed above and ask the advice of the technician or veterinarian on staff.

Feeding: We recommend feeding adult dogs twice daily and fully weaned puppies three times daily before converting to twice daily around 8 months of age. Dogs one year of age and older should be on Adult dog food while dogs 8 years of age and older should be evaluated for switch to senior food. Puppies, along with pregnant and lactating females, should be on puppy food. High quality food such as Eukanuba, Royal Canin, Blue Buffalo, and similar products is an important part of their nutrition plan. Try to stay away from foods that contain chicken feet, beaks, snouts, and other unfavorable bi-products. Please do not feed your foster dog from the table, from the counter, or left over meal scraps; this is not healthy for companion animals and enforces the bad habit of begging and counter surfing. It is recommended that you feed your foster dogs separately from your family dogs to avoid any food aggression triggers.

Treats: Treats are an essential component in training. Purchasing treats are acceptable or you can use baby carrots, sliced apples, small chunks of hotdogs, blueberries, cooked egg yolks, or even homemade doggie treats, (recipes available). For a list of common foods that may potentially be harmful and which foods are acceptable to give, please visit:

<http://www.asPCA.org/Pet-care/ask-the-expert/ask-the-expert-poison-control/people-foods.aspx?qna=1>.

As with feeding, chew toys initially should be given separately from family dogs and other fosters as well until all dogs are familiar and comfortable with one another and there are no signs of tension when toys are out in a common area.

Living arrangements: All foster dogs are to be kept as indoor pets. APBF does not adopt dogs into outdoor living situations nor outdoor foster situations for the welfare of the dogs involved. Pit bulls in particular are a very social breed that thrive off of being a part of the family and are truly companion animals. Our foster families help set our adoptable dogs on the best path to a successful adoption as a family companion.

Routine: Pit Bulls thrive off of routine. Try to keep your daily activities laid out in a similar manner. You will notice that once your foster dog gets the routine down they will anticipate and get excited about each step of the routine. Not to say that surprising them with a day of hiking or a simple ride in the car isn't also on the top of their exciting list; they will appreciate the daily routine as well.

Names: A foster dog's name is also a part of their routine. Multiple names can be confusing to not only the dog but to potential adopters who are looking to apply for a specific dog as well. One name may be selected by the foster parent if a name has not already been assigned to a foster dog/puppy. Once the foster pet has a listed name it is not to be changed or to be called by other names until he/she has been adopted. If the dog/puppy already has a medical record started prior to the foster parent receiving the foster pet a name has already been assigned and is also to be kept as is until adoption. Names that are in the system already cannot be chosen for foster pets. If the foster parent is choosing the name they can submit three of their top favorites to the Adoptions Coordinator and Foster Family Coordinator. If the first name has not been in the system prior it will be chosen. If the name has been used previously the second name or third name will be chosen.

Exercise: Pit Bulls are an energetic breed and typically require a good deal of exercise to keep them happy. Daily runs or walks, swimming and playing ball are great healthy activities. For the more adventurous, getting involved in an agility class or fly ball lesson can benefit both foster parent and foster dog. Keep in mind that the interaction portion of the activity you choose is key. Simply letting your foster dog out to run on their own in a fenced yard will not provide adequate stimulation. Basic puppy and manners classes can be arranged through APBF if needed.

Forming good habits: Working on training basics with your foster dog at home, is important to the success of their adoption.

- Basic commands such as sit, off, stay, down, heel, wait, place, and ok, should all be worked on while a dog or puppy is under the care of a foster parent.
- Avoid giving your foster dog or puppy attention and/or treats unless they do something for the reward first (obey a command, settle down when overly excited, etc.). Ignore pushy behavior (such as pushing their way into your lap or moving your arm) and reward quiet and calm behavior by calling the dog over and providing affection and/or treats.
- Ask incoming house guests to ignore your foster puppies and dogs at first and then to greet them only after the excitement level has decreased.
- Avoid allowing your foster pets on your furniture or to sleep in your bed, even if your pets are currently allowed on the furniture/in the bed. Not all adoptive families allow dogs in their own beds or on the furniture and the habit can be difficult and confusing for the dogs to break. Families with small dogs will also often allow the smaller dogs on the furniture yet not the larger dogs to provide a "time out" from play space where the smaller dogs can have their own quiet and undisturbed area. Lastly, certain dogs can be/become territorial of beds and furniture so it is better to avoid the issue.

Training: Basic training classes are available from time to time for foster parents to work with a professional trainer and their foster dogs. To inquire and join an upcoming class please email your Foster Family Coordinator. If you are having specific behavioral issues, please also notify the Foster Family Coordinator and we will assemble a plan to handle the behavior and/or work with a behaviorist on the issue.

Leash laws and your foster dog: in Mecklenburg County, where most of our foster families reside, there is a leash law ordinance in place for public areas and communities. Information about the leash law can be found at: charmec.org. The basic overview from their site is as follows:

*The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have strict leash laws that apply to all animals except cats (see the nuisance animal section for laws pertaining to cats). Animals must be on a leash, contained within a fence or an **operable and marked** invisible fence. An animal may be loose in its own yard if there is an adult (18 years or older) immediately next to the animal **and** the animal responds to direct verbal commands of the person. All regulations aim to protect the health and safety of our citizens. Please be a responsible pet owner and abide by the law. Violations will be investigated and stiff fines may be applied. Fines range from a \$50.00 citation for the first violation and up to a \$500.00 citation and permanent seizure of the animal for a fifth violation. To report an animal at large, please call 311.*

We believe that leash laws are important and implemented for not only the safety of other dogs and people but your own and your foster dogs as well. Please keep your foster dog leashed at all times unless in a fenced in area or indoors.

Leaving your foster dog home while you are away: During the “getting acquainted” period a crate can be a very helpful tool in teaching your new rescued foster about boundaries, manners in the house, and is a safe means of confinement while you are away. You should not leave your own dog and your foster dog unattended in the case that something happens while you are away. With new dogs it is often unknown if there are any “triggered” behaviors and if you are not home when a behavior is triggered it could lead to a devastating incident.

Puppies in particular need boundaries. Utilizing a crate can help the process of potty training, can be a safe nap spot, and a great “time out” tool when play gets too rough. While away from home puppies need to be kept in a safe spot such as a crate to keep them from chewing items that could potentially be hazardous to their health (wires, toxic items, ingesting toys, etc.).

Rat Bait and Anti-freeze: There are many toxic substances that can pose a threat to dogs. Rat Bait and Anti-freeze are two very common toxins that are considerably dangerous. Not only are they both lethal but they are very enticing to dogs as well. Please do not use Rat Bait, no matter how well you hide it, as dogs always seem to find a way to find it. Please use alternative methods that do not involve poisons if you are experiencing an issue with mice or rats. With Anti-freeze, please be sure your dog is not able to reach containers that hold the substance and that they are not close to leaks on the driveway, in the garage, or other areas where vehicles are parked.

Should your foster or family dog ingest either of these substances it is an emergency situation and you should proceed to the emergency hospital immediately.

You are your foster dogs' biggest advocate: Adoptable APBF dogs and puppies are featured on our website, petfinder.com, adoptapet.com, pbrc.net, and affiliate websites. In order to efficiently find the right families we ask foster parents to network in order to help increase the exposure to adoptive families. Each of the adoptable dogs is featured on the APBF adoption flier which is available on the website. Foster parents are encouraged to post fliers at local coffee shops, gyms, and other community boards to help get the word out about rescued dogs in need of loving homes. Foster parents are welcomed to make their own fliers featuring their foster dog or puppy and publicly post as well. Additionally, the Rescue Advocacy Team (RAT Pack) will be there to assist you along the way. Each of the APBF foster dogs will be assigned RAT Pack team member to help you and your dog find its forever home.

You may be asked to be involved in the interaction or adoption process. Foster parents come to know their foster pets better than anyone and are very valuable in determining whether a family will be able to provide the best environment and lifestyle to suit a foster dog's needs.

When in doubt, call us! If at any time you are faced with a behavior you don't understand, an ailment you are concerned about, or have any questions in regards to fostering or adoption please do not hesitate to call. We are here to support our foster families and help make their fostering experience as rewarding as possible.

Attending events with your foster dog and/or puppy: Positive hands-on experiences with APBF foster parents greatly helps to curb the negative public images that often surround pit Bull dogs. This is also one of the best ways to get your foster dog noticed by potential adopters.

- Only bring one dog per handler to any event
- If you would like your foster pet to participate, however, cannot stay at an event please make arrangements with the event coordinator ahead of time to secure volunteer assistance and to schedule specific drop off and pick up times. Please be courteous of other volunteers and do not be late.
- Please do not give out your personal information to any member of the public for any reason. If someone is interested in adopting your foster dog or puppy please have them fill out an APBF application and contact the Adoptions Coordinator. It is dangerous to give out personal information to strangers without them having been screened prior. It is a direct violation of the Foundation to arrange an interaction and/or home visit without pre-screening and permission from the Adoptions Coordinator first.
- Remember to let the volunteers do their job. As a foster parent you can provide great insight to the personality of your foster dog but the volunteers know the ins and outs of the Foundation and can best cover the policies.

Can I keep up with my foster pet after he/she is adopted?

We ask adopters to feel free to post information about their newly adopted pets on the APBF Facebook page so that everyone can join in the excitement of a new adoption with the new owners. Owners do not have an obligation to foster parents; only to APBF. Once a dog or puppy is adopted the new owners are allowed their privacy in raising their new family member.

That said, APBF follows up with adoptive parents to make sure that everything is going well in the new environment and that the new owners are following through with their commitment and adoption contract appropriately.

In the event that an adopter wishes to communicate with the foster parent regarding their new pet we will contact the foster parent to first ask permission and will then exchange the information if the foster parent agrees.

In the event that a foster dog/puppy is returned, we will ask the original foster parent to take the foster pet back if they are able to avoid a minimal amount of stress in transitioning a dog/puppy back into the APBF Adoption Program.

APBF Adoption Requirements and Application Process

APBF only has a few hard and fast requirements for adoption. The Foundation looks more at the situation the dog will be brought into and if it is a good fit for that dog and the potential adopter(s). The requirements the potential adopter must meet include:

- All current pets must be update to date on vaccines/heartworm prevention. We all know sometimes this can slip and if a potential adopters pets are not up to date we will give them a chance to bring the pets up to date and speak with them on the importance of vaccines/heartworm prevention.
- All current pets (cats/dogs) must be altered. This will only be waived is there is a valid reason this cannot be done, such as medical issues with the pet that make surgery unsafe. In this case, any pets going into the home must be altered before doing so. If an adopter's pet is unaltered, and they are willing to alter after speaking with them, they can still adopt. This being the case the new pet cannot be released to the home until the surgery of the current pet has been completed.
- The adopted dog must be allowed by the HOA/Landlord/Apartment complex. This can be flexible based on the manager of the residence in question. Several corporations that manage apartment complexes state in policy that they do not allow several breeds but the managers running the actual facility do not enforce it. After speaking with the residential manager you can usually gage if this will be a problem. HOAs and personal rental properties tend to be stricter.
- The applying adopter must not have recently given away or surrendered a pet. If a pet was given away or surrendered in the past the situation of why and where the pet went will be reviewed to see if they could now potentially be a fit for the APBF dog.
- No underground fencing should be used as the main containment of the pet. There must be a physical fence, in addition to the underground fence, or the pet is to be kept on leash or under control of the adopter when outside.
- No dogs are to be adopted as outdoor only dogs. All dogs must be primarily housed inside. If the potential adopter is looking to keep the dog in an outside kennel the adoption application will not be approved.
- The potential adopter must not have been charged with animal cruelty in the past or cited by Animal Control for cruelty or neglect.

Part One: Submission of the adoption application

I. Applications for specific dogs

An application is received with a specific dog or puppy listed

- A. If an inquiry or an application is submitted and the animal has already been adopted a message will be sent similar to this example:

Thank you for your email and interest in Charlotte. Charlotte was recently adopted and is no longer an available APBF dog. That said, we have several other dogs and puppies that are in need of good homes. Zen is another female, about the same age as Charlotte, that may potentially be a good fit for your family. If you are interested in meeting Zen, or would like assistance with finding another match, please visit our website: www.americanpitbullfoundation.com to view other adoptable dogs. Additionally you can visit our Facebook page to see a listing of courtesy posts regarding other dogs in need of a forever home. Thank you again for your interest in Charlotte. We truly appreciate your interest in adopting a rescue dog.

- B. Review the application to get a quick overview if the dog applied for would be a good match. What other pets are listed, are there children in the home, if so, what age?
 - 1. In the event that there are any flags regarding the dog they have selected, related to the current household situation, inquire as to what drew them to pick the dog they are applying for and suggest other adoptable dogs that may better suit the household.

II. General applications

An application is received from someone wanting to save a shelter dog or puppy and would like assistance finding the right match.

- A. Review the application and talk to owners about what they are looking for in a dog specifically. For example: adult, puppy, male, female, color, size when grown, cat friendly, dog friendly, etc. Also, talk to them about why they are looking for a specific type.

III. All applications

- A. Check that the application has been completely filled out.
- B. References
 - 1. When calling for a veterinary reference you are verifying that the applicant is a client, has the pets listed on the application, and they are altered or unaltered as listed. Additionally all listed pets are current on vaccinations and have purchased or have a prescription for heartworm medication. Take note if other animals are

- referenced from the veterinary's office and get a feel for their overall relationship with their vet's office.
2. Example of phone call to vet hospital for reference check:
Hi, this is Sara with the American Pit Bull Foundation. I am calling to get a veterinary reference on one of your clients. Last name is Smith, first name is John.
 3. Occasionally an office will require the client's permission to release medical record information to you. Simply call the applicant and request that they contact the office and grant permission for the veterinary reference.
 4. Personal references
 - a. The purpose of this list is to have other means of contacting an owner post adoption if necessary. If the owner moves, changes phone numbers, etc. this serves as a back up to locate the family. We do not typically phone these references during the application process.
- C. Key items:
1. Surrendered pets listed
 - a. What were the circumstances?
 - b. Perform an animal control reference to verify if needed
 2. Living arrangements
 - a. If renting, call landlord to verify that there is not a breed specific clause in their rental agreement
 - b. Are there children in the home?
If yes, what ages are the children? Is the dog they are applying for compatible with the family environment? Do the children play, or will they play a daily role in the lives of the dogs, (feeding, playing, walking, etc.).
 3. Use Google to research the home and neighborhood to get a feel for the surroundings. Is the home close to any Pit Bull problem areas in Charlotte? We want to ensure the safety of the dog and the owner, as well as keeping Pit Bulls from going into abusive situations.
 4. How many pets are listed, what ages are they, are any intact?
If dogs are listed as unaltered, what is the reasoning? Are they show dogs, breeders, or are the owners keeping them intact for other reasons?

Part Two: Home visits

- I. Pre-visit/interaction
 - A. Use Google to research the home and neighborhood
 - B. Set up your check back system with another volunteer or family member.

1. Give the address and phone number to someone you know that can be on-call for you until you are through with the home visit/interaction.
2. Set up your code word to give during your check back call in the event that you feel you are in an unsafe situation.

II. The home visit

- A. When you arrive, if you, at any given time feel that you are in an unsafe situation do not get out of your vehicle. Drive away and notify your check back person as well as an APBF board member.
- B. When you arrive at the home, notify your check back person via text or phone call and ask them to start timing your 15 or 30 minutes to check in time.
- C. Let the potential adopters lead you through the home. Do not walk into a room ahead of them.
- D. When your 15 or 30 minute call occurs politely excuse yourself from the conversation to accept the call. Notify your check in person of your estimated departure time.
- E. Take in your surroundings and get an overall feel for the family environment and interactions. Will this make an ideal situation for the dog and the family?
- F. Take this opportunity to get to know the adopting family by making casual conversation and cover the following topics as appropriate:
 1. Outdoor living situations: *APBF does not adopt dogs into outdoor living situations. Dogs should not be left outside while owners are away, nor off-leash outdoors except in designated areas (Mecklenburg Leash Law).*
 2. Doggie doors: Many owners allow dogs to enter and exit the home as needed to relieve themselves. Doggie doors should only be in use with a fenced in area and should be locked when owners are not home.
 3. Invisible Fencing: We do not recommend putting any dog, especially strong-willed breeds, on Invisible Fencing without a physical fence in place as well. APBF members, volunteers, and adopters are eligible for a \$150 coupon from Invisible Fencing if they are interested in utilizing the system in conjunction with a physical fence.
 4. Nutrition: Inquire as to what type of food they will have their adopted dog eating. Feel free to suggest adequate selections based on the needs of their dogs. If you are interested in learning more about the differences in dog foods inquire with the APBF Founder or contact your local dog food representatives.
 5. Heartworm and Flea preventatives: APBF does not recommend any over the counter heartworm or flea medications aside from the Advantage and Frontline products. Owners should buy directly from their veterinarian.

6. When leaving: Thank the family for their time and let them know we will be in touch very shortly. Be sure to contact your check in person to let them know you are leaving safely.

Tips:

- Don't take their word for it. Owners often think they are experts from watching TV shows or what they have learned from another dog. For example: If an owner comments that they have a dominant or submissive dog ask them what type of dominant or submissive behaviors they display.
- Education is key. Many people don't understand all of the aspects related to caring for a Pit Bull. We are looking for individuals/families who are eager to learn and our main concerns is that the dog/puppy is well cared for.

Miscellaneous Policies

APBF never cuts corners in regards to the health and wellbeing of the dogs in our care. We treat them as we would our own dogs. We will never make a decision regarding treatment of an animal based solely on cost. Once APBF has accepted responsibility of a dog or puppy we accept full responsibility of them, come what may.

APBF Routine vaccine/healthcare schedule

Incoming Puppies:

Vaccines must be boosted between 3 and 4 weeks to be efficient

Heartworm and flea preventions are listed at each visit, however, are given every 30 days, (not 3 weeks)

Age	Vaccines	Preventatives	Other
2 weeks		Dewormer	
5-6 weeks	DHPP	Dewormer Heartworm/flea prevention	Fecal
8-9 weeks	DHPP	Dewormer Heartworm/Flea prevention	
11-12 weeks	DHLPP CBVIN	Dewormer Heartworm/Flea prevention	
15-16 weeks	DHLPP CRV1	(dewormer is only given if there is a positive fecal) Heartworm/Flea prevention	Fecal
1 year	DHLPP3 CBV	Heartworm/Flea Prevention	Fecal Jr. wellness, with HW/Lyme/Erlichea

	CRV3		
2 years	Lepto CBVIN	Heartworm/ Flea prevention	Fecal Jr. wellness with HW/Lyme/Ehrlicha

- Puppies that come to APBF older than 5-6 weeks will pick up the vaccine schedule at the marked age range above. For example, an 11 week old puppy will start with DHLPP, CBV, a fecal, and a deworming.
- Puppies need to be 11 weeks to receive both the Lepto portion of the DHLPP and the Bordatella vaccine, (CBVIN).
- Slight lethargy and mild fever can sometimes be expected after routine vaccinations. If extreme lethargy, vomiting, or facial swelling occurs the hospital where the vaccinations were given should be contacted. Also the APBF Foster Family Coordinator and the Adoptions Coordinator so that notations in the dog's chart may be made and future vaccines can be given with an antihistamine on board.

Incoming Adults:

Age	Vaccines	Preventatives	Other
1-7yrs	DHLPP CBVIN CRV1	Deworming Heartworm/ Flea prevention	Fecal Jr. wellness with HW/Lyme/Ehrlicha

- 3-4 weeks after initial vaccinations are given, the DHLPP is boosted.

Important If a dog tests positive for Heartworm disease **no other preventive is to be used except for Heartgard** which the dog will be started on immediately to kill any baby worms developing. Other Heartworm preventions used with Heartworm positive dogs can kill them and should never be used.

The second year after the initial adult visit, (usually the dog is adopted at this point), they are to receive a DHLPP, (the DHPP portion is now good for 3 years, the Lepto portion is still annually boosted), a 3 year Rabies vaccine, and either an annual, or bi-annual CBV, (based on the amount of contact with other dogs they come into contact with). Annual blood work, (Jr. Wellness panel) should be run and Heartworm and Flea prevention maintained.

Incoming Senior Pitizens:

Age	Vaccines	Preventatives	Other
7 and up	DHLPP CRV1 CBVIN	Deworming Heartworm/Flea prevention	Sr. Wellness panel, (including U/A) Fecal

Seniors are seen bi-annually and an intermediate blood panel is performed at the 6 month mark. At one year after the initial senior visit, a DHLPP is given, (with the DHPP portion being

good for 3 years and the Lepto, still annual), a 3 year Rabies vaccine, and a bi-annual or annual Bordatella vaccine, (based on the amount of contact with other dogs).

The annual senior wellness panel should include CBC, Chemistry panel, Thyroid (T4/FT4), Heartworm, Lyme, Erlichea and the urinalysis The biannual is a CBC and Chemistry profile.

A few notes on medical treatment through APBF:

- Contrary to some belief, there is technically no such thing as “slow kill” for treating Heartworm disease and therefore APBF does not condone this “method”. APBF follows specific guidelines from the American Heartworm Society which is the leading expertise on Heartworm disease in canines and felines. More information is available on the APBF website and all questions are welcomed at any time in regards to treatment.
- All medications given to dogs under APBF’s care must be given under prescription by a licensed veterinarian. At times medications will be donated and can be used appropriately for other dogs, however, a prescription must accompany any medications administered.
- APBF will not euthanize a dog for medical ailments due solely to expense under any circumstances. Euthanasia is only performed as a last resort measure for extreme behavioral issues impeding the possibility for adoption, or to ease suffering that cannot be appropriately managed with medical treatment.
- APBF does not perform pregnant spays.

APBF Frequently Asked Questions

There are many people who are interested in our organization and you can expect quite a few questions when you volunteer at one of our events. Below are several general FAQs followed by more event specific type FAQs.

What does the American Pit Bull Foundation do?

The purpose of the American Pit Bull Foundation is to promote responsible breed ownership through providing owner and public education, positive alternatives to pit fighting, programs to endorse and recognize responsible breed ownership, provide medical and financial assistance for dogs with responsible owners and to aid in adoption of Pit Bulls to responsible individuals or families.

How does the American Pit Bull Foundation work with other rescue efforts and organizations?

APBF has partnered with Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control to help reduce pet overpopulation through the Spay and Neuter Program. APBF also works hand in hand with Animal Care and Control to help Pit Bull owners responsibly care for their dogs, to pull fighters out of pits and enter them into positive training programs, and to help re-home adoptable Pit Bulls that come into the county shelter.

APBF is also dedicated to support positive local Pit Bull rescue efforts and operates as a “team player” amongst other canine rescue organizations.

Where does the money go?

Membership donations and general donations are added to a fund that is distributed amongst APBF programs as needed.

Sponsorship donations are directly applied to a program, a dog, or an event being sponsored. For example the Positive Pit Care School Program, a particular adoptable dog, or an event such as the annual APBF Agility event.

What is the Dollar Difference Fund?

Because a dollar really can make a difference this fund was created to generate donations that are easy on budgets and build quickly without hassle. The program works just like a direct deposit account where \$1, (or the amount of your choice) a week is directly deposited into an APBF account, via PayPal, from your checking account or a credit card.

The Dollar Difference Fund is also set up with the possibility to work through your company's payroll department the same as a direct deposit would. If you are interested in incorporating the Dollar Difference Fund at your place of employment contact the payroll department, recruit fellow co-workers, and start seeing the difference a dollar can make.

What does the American Pit Bull Foundation consider to be a "responsible" Pit Bull owner?

Simply put, a responsible Pit Bull owner is one who does not put their pet into harm's way; physically and/or mentally.

A responsible Pit Bull owner has a good relationship with a veterinarian to help upkeep overall health, both from a preventative perspective, (vaccinations and Heartworm/flea treatments), as well as a nutritional perspective; keeping dogs on a diet that compliments their daily needs. Should disease or discomfort arise responsible owners seek professional treatment for their Pit Bulls.

A responsible Pit Bull owner provides the physical (daily exercise) and mental stimulation needed for a healthy and happy existence. Companion animals thrive on companionship and family interaction. The American Pit Bull Foundation is dedicated to helping owners that need help in any of the areas listed above.

How will the American Pit Bull Foundation promote owner accountability and responsibility?

APBF is set up to help owners help themselves, as well as help homeless dogs in need. Financial and education assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis. In some instances, if medical assistance is needed APBF may donate a certain monetary percentage and/or offer an owner a re-payment plan. In other circumstances, APBF may require owners to attend training/education sessions and/or volunteer time in exchange for services.

I am on board now as a volunteer. What can I do to help?

Find your niche, there is one for everyone, with APBF. Explore the different volunteer opportunities on our website. They range from fostering, to training, to helping with events. Become a member, recruit friends, family, and co-workers, talk to your employer about the Dollar Difference Fund, or simply donate. You can also check out the Needs for Pits list on the web site where tangible items needed are listed; everything from blankets, to microscopes, to land for the future rescue site of APBF.

Where is your facility? Where are you located?

APBF does not have a facility that houses our adoptable dogs. Instead we use a network of foster families who bring the dogs into their homes to prepare them for adoption with their forever families. The majority of our foster families are in North Carolina but we are expanding and growing with increased interest.

Where do the APBF dogs come from?

Our dogs come from many places. The most common thread however are dogs in need of love and caring to prepare them for the next step in their lives.

What is the APBF adoption fee and what does that entail?

The APBF adoption fee is \$185. This covers the adoption costs for the dog who will be fully vetted and will be spayed/neutered. For all adopted dogs APBF requires basic training as a requirement. APBF has a discounted rate with Petsmart for \$100 which, if selected, would bring the adoption fee to \$285. Adopters do not have to use Petsmart for their training but a basic training course is required, and needs to be documented, for our adopted dogs.

Can adopters take a dog home today from an adoption event?

No. APBF does not perform same day adoptions.

What is the adoption process?

Once there is interest in adopting an APBF dog, either through a picture and description on the website or through actual contact at an event, the family will need to complete the on-line adoption application. Once submitted the applicant(s) will be contacted by a member of our Adoptions Team who will discuss the next steps.

Where do I get more information about your organization?

Our website is www.americanpitbullfoundation.com On the website we provide information about our history, mission, programs, adoption processes, upcoming events, as well as pictures and descriptions of our wonderful dogs currently available for adoption.

Informative Information and Handouts

Pit Bull Myths Debunked

We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about this wonderful genre of dogs! There are many myths surrounding the bully breeds and hopefully after reading this article you will be more armed as an advocate for spreading the truth about Pit Bulls.

We thank our friends at www.pitbulllovers.com for publishing these myths.

MYTH: ALL PIT BULLS ARE MEAN AND VICIOUS.

It is reported on temperament tests conducted by the American Temperament Test Society that Pit Bulls had a passing rate of 82% or better — compared to only 77% of the general dog population.

These temperament tests consist of putting a dog through a series of unexpected situations, some involving strangers.

Any signs of unprovoked aggression or panic in these situations result in failure of the test. The achievement of Pit Bulls in this study disproves that they are inherently aggressive to people. (Please visit ATTS.org)

MYTH: AGGRESSION TOWARDS OTHER ANIMALS MEANS PEOPLE ARE NEXT.

“Many working breeds have antipathy towards other animals – coonhounds go mad at the sight of a raccoon, foxhounds will not hesitate to tear a dog-like fox to shreds, greyhounds live to chase and maul rabbits and even dog-like coyotes. Even the ever-friendly beagle will slaughter a rabbit, given the chance.

And yet the greyhound, coon and foxhound and beagle are among the friendliest of breeds towards humans. And it is the same with the pit bulldog. His work through the years has been control of other animals – never humans. A correct pit bull is more often than not submissive toward all humans, and adores children.

A pit bull that snarls, lunges or growls at non-threatening humans is NOT typical of the breed.”
(Written by Diane Jessup)

Pit bulls that do show aggressive behavior towards humans are not typical of the breed and should be humanely euthanized.

MYTH: IF A PIT BULL WAS NEVER TRAINED TO FIGHT, IT WILL BE SAFE WITH OTHER DOGS.

Pit Bulls can live peacefully with other dogs and animals. However, the Pit Bull has historically been bred to take down large animals. Early and continual socialization can help a Pit Bull be more animal friendly. Genetics, however, play an important role in how the dog will respond to other dogs and animals.

The Pit Bull has been bred to not back down and withstand pain until the goal is met. This quality does not carry true in all Pit Bulls, but it is safe to assume it is a potential in any Pit Bull in order to avoid conflict.

Pit Bulls have a late maturity, and a Pit Bull that was dog friendly at 7 months old may suddenly show signs of intolerance to unfamiliar dogs around two years old. Spaying and neutering the dog may help to prevent “turning on” or the genetic urge to fight another dog.

All dog fights are preventable, however. Socialize a Pit Bull slowly with new dogs, and never let them play unattended. Remove items such as toys and food bowls to avoid stress.

Pit Bulls can live happily with other pets; if not left unattended. Even the “best of friends” can fight, and the outcome can be tragic. This can be true for dogs that have been together for years. Often, after the first serious fight, relations between the dogs are never the same.

Keeping that first fight from happening is a great way to ensure peaceful relations for the long run. If there is a multiple-dog household, it is important to separate the dogs when there is no one home.

Many people use crates for short times, put dogs into separate rooms, use kennels, or have outdoor areas set up for separation that are safe and secure. Pit Bulls can get along wonderfully

with animals like cats, rabbits, and ferrets, but for safety's sake, never leave them alone together.

MYTH: AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIERS HAVE 1600 P.S.I. IN JAW PRESSURE

Dr. Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia states, "To the best of our knowledge, there are no published scientific studies that would allow any meaningful comparison to be made of the biting power of various breeds of dogs.

There are, moreover, compelling technical reasons why such data describing biting power in terms of "pounds per square inch" can never be collected in a meaningful way. All figures describing biting power in such terms can be traced to either unfounded rumor or, in some cases, to newspaper articles with no foundation in factual data."

MYTH: AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIERS LOCK THEIR JAWS.

Dr. Brisbin: "The few studies which have been conducted of the structure of the skulls, mandibles and teeth of pit bulls show that, in proportion to their size, their jaw structure and thus its inferred functional morphology, is no different than that of any breed of dog.

There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of "locking mechanism" unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pit Bull Terrier.

MYTH: TREADMILLS ARE ONLY USED TO GET DOGS READY TO FIGHT.

Many responsible owners utilize treadmills to help exercise their dogs. This is useful in places where weather prevents outdoor exercise, or in situations where off-leash exercise is not an option.

The treadmill is used by people that show their Pit Bulls, and do sporting activities like weight pull and agility to help keep their dogs in shape. Because Pit Bulls are athletic animals, responsibly using a treadmill can help them be healthier and happier.

MYTH: PIT BULLS BRAINS SWELL/NEVER STOP GROWING.

This rumor started with the Doberman, and has since been said about game-bred dogs in general. The concept of an animal's brain swelling or growing too large and somehow causing the animal to "go crazy" is not based in truth in any way.

Their brains grow at the same rate as any other dog, and the only time that a Pit Bull's brain is going to swell is if it receives a serious injury. If an animal's brain were to grow too big for its head, the animal would die.

MYTH: IT IS UNSAFE TO GET A PIT BULL FROM A RESCUE OR SHELTER BECAUSE THEIR PAST/GENETICS ARE UNKNOWN.

Under the best of circumstances, it is great to know the history of a dog, the history and health of its parents, and what that line of dogs were bred for.

If a person is buying a Pit Bull from a breeder, this information should be of top importance. However, in most shelter/rescue cases this information is not available. The Pit Bull at the shelter will often be a wonderful pet. It is important to know the general behavior of the dog.

Has it shown any aggression towards humans? Most Pit Bull rescues will not accept or adopt out Pit Bulls with any level of aggression or excessive shyness towards humans. How does this dog do with other dogs? Has it shown any undesirable behavior or habits?

It is suggested that a potential adopter of a Pit Bull bring the whole family to meet the dog. Often, shelters and rescues will allow you to take the dog for a home visit to see how they respond to the new surroundings. Most adoptions of a Pit Bull are amazing successes, and the adopter is not only receiving a pet, but they are also saving a life!

MYTH: IT IS BEST TO GET A PUPPY SO THAT YOU CAN MAKE IT BEHAVE HOW YOU WANT IT TO.

Many people feel if they get a Pit Bull as a puppy they can train it to not be aggressive towards other dogs and increase the likelihood that the dog will have no undesirable behavior qualities.

Puppies can be a lot of fun and very rewarding, but with a new puppy there is no way of knowing how that dog will act as an adult.

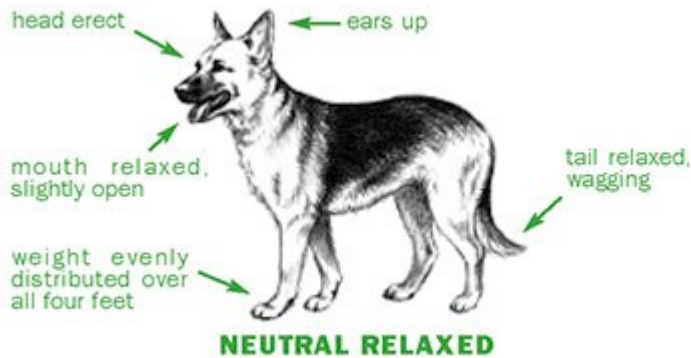
One benefit of adopting a young adult or full grown Pit Bull is the ability to avoid the uncomfortable puppy behavior stage. This includes constant destructive chewing, house breaking, excessive and uncontrollable energy, teething and puppy biting, possible whining, howling, and barking for attention at night, and the time and effort it takes to begin teaching general manners and obedience.

Another benefit is that an adopter can know how an adult Pit Bull will do with other dogs, cats, children, car rides, and other certain situations. Bringing a puppy up in the most loving and social environment can only alter its predetermined genetic urges so much.

In other words, having a dog since puppyhood does not necessarily mean it will have all of the qualities desired in a pet. It may end up having some traits that are undesirable. An adult Pit Bull, however, will have more of an established personality, and an adopter can know what to expect with the dog.

Reading Canine Body Language

While dogs cannot speak, they do display their state of mind via their body language. By taking careful note of ear position, pupil dilation, facial tension (particularly around the muzzle and forehead), tail carriage and body weight distribution, an observer can detect whether a dog is relaxed or fearful, or acting in a submissive or dominant manner toward the observer.



Arousal

The dog has been stimulated by something in his environment. When the dog is excited by something pleasurable, the hackles will be down and the tail will be carried a little lower and will loosely wag. The muzzle will be relaxed and the tongue may be seen. This posture may be displayed to subordinates in order to express higher ranking pack position.



Aggressive Attack

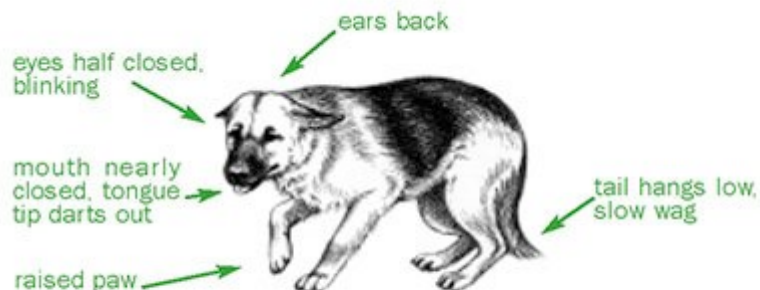
This threatening posture is used to chase another away or, if need be, to attack in order to protect possessions, pack or self.



AGGRESSIVE ATTACK

Active Submission

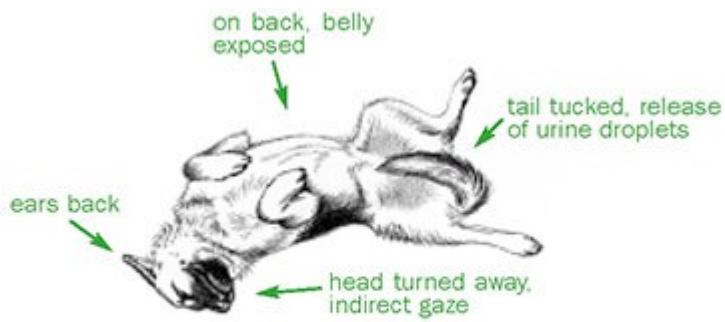
This pacifying posture is used when a dog acknowledges another dog or human's higher social ranking, or to inhibit another's aggression.



ACTIVE SUBMISSION

Passive Submission

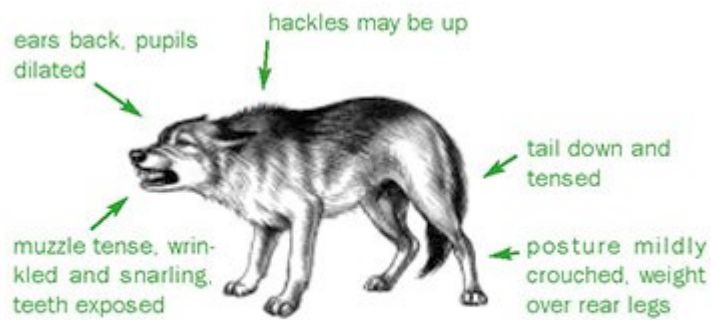
Bellying up indicates surrender, a pacifying gesture offered to a more dominant or aggressive individual.



PASSIVE SUBMISSION

Defensive Aggression

When fearful, a dog will give warning signals to indicate he does not wish to be approached. If, unheeded, he will bite to protect himself.



DEFENSIVE AGGRESSION

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