



Increasing Behavior Adoptions through Foster-to-Adopt



Intro to Hearts & Bones Rescue

- ✓ Dual-based in Dallas/NYC
- ✓ Work with shelter partners in Dallas
- ✓ Run our own transport program between the two states
- ✓ Entirely foster-based in NYC



Foster-to-Adopt

- ✓ Launched in September 2022
- ✓ Adoptions down, length of stay up
- ✓ Dogs with behavior quirks starting to bounce between foster homes
- ✓ Burning fosters
- ✓ Dog's adoption chances decreasing with each new home as behavior spirals

Average Length of Stay in 2021

31 Days

Adoptions in 2021

976 Dogs

Average Length of Stay in 2022

43 Days

Adoptions in 2022

801 Dogs

APPLE PIE 335 Days

TUMBELINA 293 Days

QUEENIE
GOLDSTEIN 261 Days

ARES 211 Days

EURYDICE 230 Days

CHARLIE 197 Days

PUMPERNICKEL 170 Days

JOHNNY
WEIR 245 Days

LIZ PHAIR 175 Days

JESSE DIGGINS 205 Days



Meet Apple Pie



Pt 1

- ✓ Piloting foster-to-adopt with our longer stays or more challenging dogs
- ✓ Over and over, the extra time to bond with the dog led to an adoption



Pt 2



Program fundamentals :

- ✓ Start with one week trial
- ✓ Offer extensions on case-by-case basis
 - Looking at behavior, compatibility, and foster numbers
- ✓ Expedited initial meeting (within 1-2 days) if requested
- ✓ No fee required unless they decide to commit to adoption
- ✓ Behavior support
 - Session with a partner trainer for extreme cases
- ✓ Medical support

Pt 3

The Results :

- ✓ No surprises - people were falling in love with their dog!
- ✓ Gives a chance to adopters who aren't a traditional match, but who are willing to try the training
- ✓ Provide more hands-on behavior support
- ✓ Give both our rescue and our adopters peace of mind in the placement
- ✓ Many of our FTAs have become repeat fosters
- ✓ If FTAs pass on adoption, they become invested in finding their dog a home





Meet Quavo



In 2023, we had **79**
behavioral foster-to-adopts



60

successful adoptions

18

who passed on adoption
15 stayed on as the dog's foster

1

return that was due to the
adopter's life situation,
and not the dog

Current Process

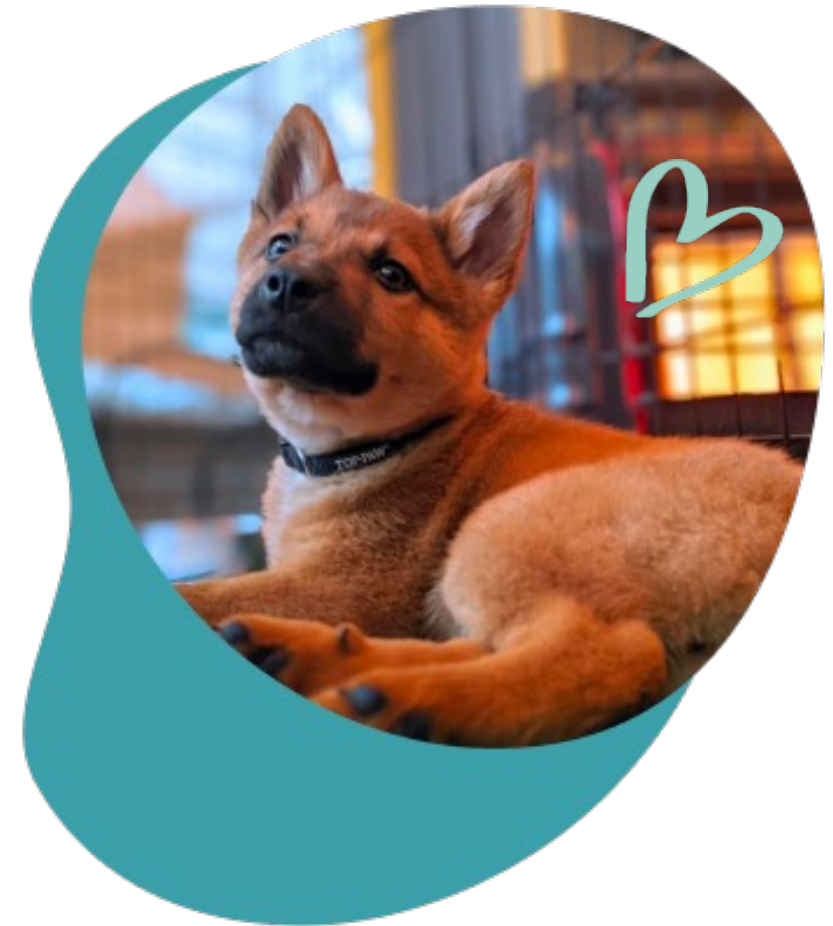
Our program developed slowly over time

Constantly learning and adjusting!

We now offer :

- ✓ Extremely thorough behavior disclosures
- ✓ Video of the behavior if appropriate
- ✓ Foster-to-Adopt Meetings
- ✓ Dedicated foster-to-adopt coordinator
- ✓ Training Plan
- ✓ All FTAs are offered Training Session or

Scholarship



Behavior FTAs have a much lower return rate than other dogs

Outside of the one life change return, we have had zero returns on our behavior FTAs



Why does this work ?

- ✓ Number one reason cited: informed decision about the realities of living with and supporting their dog
- ✓ Deeper bond with the dog through the training process
- ✓ Really feel like they can “save” the dog or that the dog needs them
- ✓ Create a bond with our team and feel like they’ve played a real part in our mission



