

JPAS R&R PROGRAM FAQ

R&R = Rest & Relaxation

Lets face it; animal shelters are loud, stressful places and not an ideal environment for a dog. While we strive to keep our dogs as comfortable as possible, time out of the shelter is vital for the mental and physical health of the dogs in our care. R&R dogs are happier and more relaxed, and get exposure to potential adopters! Approved patrons may 'rent' a JPAS dog for a lunch break, an afternoon, or a sleepover! (Up to 72 hours; pick up/drop off during business hours).

This program is perfect for:

- those who love dogs but are unable to have one
- visitors who are missing their pup back home
- 'First Date' chaperone- nothing fills those awkward silences like a shelter dog!
- College Students who need stress relief during exams
- Need an excuse to exercise? Our dogs will keep you motivated and on your toes!

Ideas for Adventures:

- Lafreniere Park
- Dog Friendly Bar or Restaurant
- Walk on the levee at Bonnabel Park

We do NOT encourage you to take a shelter dog to a *dog park*. Dog Parks are stressful, high energy places; exactly the type of place your R&R dog needs a break from. You can read more about the dangers of dog parks here:

<https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/blog/Dog-Parks-Are-Dangerous-21816-1.html>

While dog parks are OK for some, with an unfamiliar dog, it's best to err on the side of caution.

How do I get started? If you're over 18, go to the shelter and tell them you'd like to R&R a dog. The front desk will have you initial an R&R contract, make a copy of your valid driver's license, give you a Dog Questionnaire to complete during your adventure, and you're on your way! You do not need to be an active volunteer but we can't guarantee you won't want to become one!

When you rent a dog for R&R, you'll learn things about the dog that can help her find her forever home. Please complete the questionnaire while with your R&R dog. Are you a shutterbug? A photo is worth a thousand words! Please send any pictures to

ipasfosterEB@gmail.com, or post on our Facebook Foster page here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1207214059385995/>.

Small print: If you plan to do a sleepover, the shelter can provide you an R&R Kit which includes a small bag of food, bowls for food and water, and suggestions of places to go.

Medical: In the case of an emergency, contact the shelter immediately at 504 736-6111. In the event of an emergency *after hours*, we work with MSAH (Metairie Small Hospital 101 Metairie Rd. 504 835-4266) If you take your R&R to another hospital, or seek alternative or unnecessary treatment other than what is approved by the shelter, you may be responsible for those costs. Before being eligible for R&R or adoption, dogs have been at the shelter for at least five days. On intake, they are given a health check, which includes vaccinations, fecal and heartworm tests, and spay/neuter. The shelter does not knowingly release animals with contagious diseases to a foster home, however, sometimes symptoms do not present right away. Kennel cough and ringworm are very common- should symptoms present, let us know and we'll try to address any issues right away. Your dog/cat(s) are to be up-to-date on shots and heartworm preventative.

Other Pets: We don't know all aspects of our shelter animal's personality. Dogs are completely different in a home than in a shelter setting and there is no real way to know how a dog will react to other animals. In order to set our dogs up for success, we ask that you do not introduce your R&R dog to other animals unless otherwise approved. The shelter does not assume any responsibility for dog bites to humans or injuries to other pets. If it isn't working out, let us know immediately!

Children: Please notify the shelter if you have children of any age who will be around your R&R dog. Sometimes our shelter animals are traumatized and although they are not aggressive, they may get overwhelmed by loud noises and sudden movements. Generally most of our dogs are friendly with children.

Housebroken? It's hard to know whether a dog is housetrained in a shelter environment when there's no routine and we rarely know the dog's backstory. Sometimes the previous owner can tell us if the dog is housebroken, but with environmental changes, even housebroken dogs may have accidents while establishing routine. We have information about easy techniques for potty training upon request.