



Mid-Atlantic Pug Rescue Volunteer & Foster Program

Mid-Atlantic Pug Rescue (MAPR) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to providing for the short and long term needs of abandoned or surrendered pugs. We give rescued pugs veterinary care, a nurturing foster environment, and permanent placement into a loving home. In addition, we offer education to the public on the special responsibilities of pug ownership and the need for domestic animal population control. We rescue and place nearly 150 pugs a year throughout Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, North and South

Carolina, and Eastern Tennessee.

Volunteer opportunities are available to suit every level of involvement! While our greatest need is for loving foster homes, there are numerous other ways for volunteers to assist. Below is a list of just some of the volunteer opportunities.

- Phone interviewers- MAPR interviews each applicant to better understand what type of Pug they are seeking, what their lifestyle, family situation, and schedules are like and their general Pug knowledge. This helps us to determine which Pug would most likely be an ideal candidate for each family.
- Reference Checkers: MAPR requires all applicants to provide a veterinary reference (if they have owned or currently own animals), as well as, two personal references. The veterinary reference check is to ensure that animals are up-to-date on vaccines, Heartworm preventative, and are properly cared for. We ask personal references to tell us a little bit about the applicants and if they have any concerns or reservations about recommending the applicant for a rescued Pug.
- Transport assistance: MAPR covers 6 states so we can always use help when we need to relocate a Puggie! Transporters normally drive 1-1.5 hour trips and they help us get dogs from their former homes/shelters to their foster homes and other locations.
- Fostering: Foster homes provide a temporary home until a loving forever home can be found. Since Mid-Atlantic does not have a shelter, we rely on volunteers to open their hearts and homes until a permanent home can be found. Foster families are the 'bridge' between wherever a Pug may have come from and the new beginning of a life filled with love. More information about the foster program follows.

If you would like to help MAPR help needy pugs in your area, please visit www.midatlanticpugrescue.org and complete the MAPR Foster and Volunteer Application.

MAPR Foster FAQs

What is involved in being a foster parent to an MAPR pug?

- Provide a safe, loving, and healthy home for the foster pug(s) and humanely work with the pug on basic obedience, socialization, house training and house manners
- Schedule and transport pugs for veterinary care, if necessary, and administer any medication prescribed to the pug; obtain preauthorization for any non-emergency vet care or other purchases related to a foster pug; retain all receipts and forward those to MAPR by mail
- Provide an initial assessment and multiple periodic assessments of your foster pug(s) to your adoption coordinator and remain in consistent contact with your coordinator throughout the time that your MAPR foster is in your home

- Provide (via e-mail) a digital photograph and a “personals ad” of the pug(s) to your adoption coordinator.
- Handle any phone calls and emails to prospective adopters and MAPR volunteers promptly and professionally at all times and participate in periodic phone conferences with the coordinator to determine adoption roles, process updates and to help select a forever home for your foster.
- Correspond with adoptive family and adoption coordinator and attend to any and all details in a timely and professional manner

What does the typical foster process involve?

When we are contacted by someone wanting to surrender a pug, we determine the needs of the dog and match that against our list of available fosters in the area where the dog is being surrendered. Geographically, the pugs that come into the rescue are spread over a wide area. We service VA, NC, SC, MD, WV, and Eastern TN, but pugs come to us from even further away, and we even have volunteers in states that we don't typically service. Whenever possible, we try to find the closest available foster parent to wherever the pug being surrendered is located.

When there is a dog needing rescue in your area that we believe will mesh well in your home, your area coordinator will contact you to inquire if you are available to foster that dog. We will share with you all the information we have on the pug at that time so you can determine if you have a suitable environment for that dog. If you are unable to foster, that's OK. It's more important that you foster only the dogs that you feel you can comfortably handle and that you don't commit to fostering when you have other conflicts. Alternatively, if you are able to provide a foster home for the pug in need, you will be provided with contact info for the surrendering party and we ask that you make arrangements directly with the surrendering owner (or shelter) take custody of the pug. Many times, we have to move a pug across a long distance, which is when we utilize the help of folks willing to transport, so you will deal both with other representatives as well as surrendering owners.

If you get the pug directly from the surrendering owner, there is a relinquishment form the surrendering owner MUST complete. They will then turn over the pug, the form, any vet records, food the pug is used to eating, toys, bedding, etc. that the pug uses. We like for them to also provide a donation, though in reality, not all of them do.

Once the pug is released into your custody, you will make an initial assessment of the dog by reviewing the vet records provided to you (if any) and by observing the dog's behavior and overall health. Within 1-2 days of obtaining the pug, you will contact your area coordinator to discuss the dog's needs and develop an action plan for getting that dog ready to be adopted. If the pug needs veterinary care, your area coordinator will help you identify a vet in your area who provides MAPR with rescue pricing. Unless the dog is experiencing a true life-threatening emergency, preauthorization is required for vet visit.

If your vet is willing to provide MAPR with a rescue discount that is commensurate to the rates offered by our participating vets, we will work with you to make arrangements for your vet to see the pug. We address all health issues of the pugs before we adopt them out so whenever there is something we are able to handle within the rescue (like vaccinations, simple medical conditions, etc.) using the experience of our volunteers and leaders, we do so rather than seeking expensive veterinary assistance. Many of our volunteers are nurses or work in vet's offices, and have had many years of experience dealing with the unique health issues of pugs, as well as routine veterinary care so consulting with your area coordinator is always the first step in any medical need your pug may have.

Your adoption coordinator will help you identify and screen potential forever homes for your rescued pug. You will communicate with the adoption coordinator to provide them with information on the type of home your pug needs and together, you will choose the right forever home.

Once you and the adoption coordinator have settled on the perfect home for the pug, you will contact the selected family to arrange a time and place for them to get their new pug family member. There is an adoption contract that they must complete and sign and your area coordinator will help you with the contact and the adoption finalities. You will provide the adoptive home with any “personal” items that the pug is attached to (bedding, toys, etc.), copies of vet records (with the previous owner's name blacked out) and of course, their new pug.

Once the adoption is complete, you can sit back and take a breather while it lasts. Unfortunately, the population of unwanted pugs is far too high, so our foster homes stay pretty busy. Thanks to our many wonderful

volunteers, these sweet fur babies get a second chance to be treated like the little valued family companions they were meant for.

What kind of support will I get from MAPR?

You will be assigned an area coordinator who will be your main point of contact. Your area coordinator will help you through every step of the foster and adoption process and will help you get authorization for vet visits, answer questions/give advice about health and behavior issues, help screen and select applicants. You will also receive a foster kit with basic medical supplies, a training manual that walks you through every step of the foster process and access to our volunteer leadership. All of our volunteer leadership is here to support you in whatever way you need. We are accessible by phone at most any time and always by email as well. Our volunteers have years of experience with rescuing pugs and we will do everything in our power to make this an enjoyable experience for you!

How long does it normally take for a dog to be adopted?

The honest answer is that “it depends”. There are so many variables – the age, health and behavior of the dog, the quality of the applicants we are getting. Typically, older, more special needs dogs take longer, as there are fewer people applying who have the capacity for providing them with proper care. On Average, we try to place the dog in a permanent home within a month, whenever possible. In most cases, we will know at the time of surrender if a dog is a “special needs” or “long-term” foster and we will let you know that when we contact you to see if you can foster that dog so you can have all the information you need to make your decision.

Am I expected to pay for veterinary care?

Veterinary care provided to our pugs is covered by MAPR. When vet care is needed, you should discuss these arrangements with your adoption coordinator in advance of your vet visit. Unless the dog is experiencing a true life-threatening emergency, preauthorization is required for vet visit. If you are seeing one of our participating vets, the fees will be billed directly to MAPR. You may use your own vet ONLY if your vet is willing to provide MAPR with a rescue discount that is commensurate to the rates offered by our participating vets. If your vet is willing to provide commensurate pricing, we will work with your vet to provide our billing information so that you will not have to cover any expenses. In most cases, if you have obtained pre-authorization, you will not have to cover any vet fees as we will make sure our billing information is on file with the vet prior to the visit. Again, unauthorized, non-emergency vet visit are not reimbursable but if you do have charges and need to be reimbursed, please retain your receipts and we will reimburse you. Since MAPR accepts dogs regardless of medical condition, we rely on all of our volunteers to help us keep vet costs down while making sure that our pugs get the care that they need.

What other expenses are reimbursable?

MAPR provides its foster homes with a foster kit that contains many of the most commonly needed pet supplies (i.e. flea and tick preventative, heartworm preventative, dewormer, etc) but you will be expected to provide the dog with food and other miscellaneous supplies (toys, leash) as needed. The expense of food and other miscellaneous items is not reimbursable by MAPR but some expenses may be tax deductible as charitable donations. Please consult your tax advisor for confirmation about specific items. Additionally, keep track of the mileage you drive in transporting pugs – it’s also tax deductible. If you purchase supplies (i.e. crates, gates, beds, etc) for your foster pugs, keep it on hand for future fosters.

What if I decide I want to adopt a pug that I am fostering?

It happens. Some foster parents fall in love with the pugs they foster. How could they not? If that happens, the foster parent is given first-right-of-refusal to adopt the pug but we ask you notify your area coordinator before we begin screening candidates to adopt the dog (i.e. in the first 1-2 weeks the dog is in the foster’s home). We will not stop an adoption in progress to accommodate a foster family.

Who decides who adopts the dog I foster?

We believe that as the foster parent, you know the dog best. Therefore, while we will provide our own but the foster parent has a substantial influence on who is selected to adopt the dog. It's an enormous responsibility, and we want each foster home to think about all aspects before reaching a final decision. We're here for help and consultation throughout the adoption process.

Why are you so picky about who adopts a pug?

We want the pugs that people adopt from us to be with their new family forever. Therefore, we go to great lengths to make sure the pug is a match for the family. Change is hard on pugs, and losing a family they've bonded with causes depression, and some have actually mourned themselves to death. We work hard to educate new adopting families about the care pugs require, the potential health issues, the cost, etc. before they adopt. We do require by contract that if, for any reason, they can't or don't want to keep the pug they adopt, it must be returned to us – not given away, not sold, not taken to a shelter – returned to us. We know where the pug is for the rest of its life, and we want it to be in the home that we chose...forever.

What is the approval process to become an MAPR foster parent?

You will need to complete the MAPR Foster Parent Application that is available on our website. Once we receive your application, you will be contacted for a phone interview. During that call we will talk with you about the foster process, discuss the different duties of foster parents, and generally try to get an idea of what type of pug would be best suited to your situation. We also check the references (both personal and veterinary) that you provide on your application. Finally, one of our volunteers will conduct a home visit to ensure that your home is animal-friendly. Once approved, it could be months before a pug that fits your home dynamic comes in, or it could be the next day! We review our foster homes using the same criteria and selection process that we use to select our adoptive homes so many of our foster families come from the ranks of those who have adopted a MAPR baby from us.

This is just a brief overview of how fostering works and is not meant to be all inclusive. The experiences foster parents bring to MAPR is as different as the pugs that come into the rescue, but that diversity also helps strengthen our organization. Our foster parents are the critical link that allows us to rescue and place nearly 150 pugs a year and we believe that the foster experience will be one of the most rewarding things you will do as a volunteer. Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about fostering with MAPR and we look forward to working with you!