

Checklist for Foster-Based Rescue Groups

An Adoption Ambassadors program – whether whole or in-part – can help your group place more animals. This checklist can help keep you on track and chart your progress.

1. Define Your Program

You already know how your program works, so why write it out? Clearly and thoroughly writing a description of your program and all its elements can help make sure stakeholders are on the same page and have a consistent view of your individual needs and capabilities. You probably already know that not everyone who works with your group has the same perception!

2. Examine Your Program

Ask your staff and volunteers what's working – and what's not – for the rescue as a whole, for the animals in your care, for the shelters you work with and for the public. This kind of thorough self-examination can lead to those great “aha!” moments that can move your organization onward and upward!

3. Be Open to Change

Relaxing the kind of policies that hold your program back can bring tremendous rewards. Consider lifting your rules regarding:

- Fenced yards
- Landlord checks
- Home visits

A first step could be to develop an adoption procedure that can be done by volunteers without others having to approve it.

4. Communicate & Work Your Plan

Once you've identified what elements of Adoption Ambassadors will work for your rescue, make sure all your volunteers know what's expected of them and that you'll check in on their progress regularly. Remember: Start small – baby steps will help you find your balance until you know where you're headed!

For more information, visit ASPCApro.org/ambassadors