



FAQ's of Fostering for Rescue Village

Adult Dog Edition

This year, Rescue Village is working with various rescuers, rescue groups, shelters, and volunteers to give adoptable dogs who might otherwise be euthanized a second chance at a happy ending. We are going to use foster homes as a means of adoption for adult dogs. This helps us by freeing up more space at the shelter to take in more dogs. Since these dogs will be adopted from their foster home, below are more specified questions about this program.

Q: I work, can I still foster?

A: Yes! And we would love to have you! Most adoptive families work 8 hours a day, so working a full 8 hour day doesn't exclude you at all! It's a good way for your foster dog to learn a normal family routine.

Q: Can I foster if I have pets of my own?

A: Of course! Foster dogs should stay separate from resident animals for at least 7-10 days to reduce the risk of possible disease transmission. While GHS provides veterinary care for animals before they are sent into foster homes, we usually do not have any prior medical history on the animal(s). We also recommend that your resident animals be current on all vaccinations as this will help protect them from possible disease transmission.

We also ask that you ALWAYS feed your foster dog in his/her crate. This helps prevent any problems between resident dogs and the foster dog, and helps promote crate training.

Q: Do I have to crate train my foster dog?

A: Yes. For the safety of the foster dog, we will have you crate your foster dog during feedings and whenever you cannot supervise them and at night. Crating is also the most effective way to help with house training.

Q: Can I foster if I have children?

A: Yes! Being a foster home can be a very rewarding experience for children and families. It teaches children about the selfless nature of being a volunteer, how to responsibly care for an animal, and how to help homeless animals even if you can't adopt them. As a general rule, children under the age of 16 should NOT be left unsupervised with foster dogs.

Q: Am I responsible for finding a home for my foster dog?

A: No, but we need your help! Photos and stories of the foster dog will be put on our website, facebook page, and wherever else we can put them! However, we do ask that you attend as many off site events as possible. The more foster parents can help us promote their foster dogs to their family, friends, colleagues and the general public, the faster they will get adopted.

Q: So, what is the process for an adult dog adoption from foster care?

A: If someone shows interest in meeting your foster dog, you will be called to set up an appointment here at the shelter for a meet and greet. If you'd like, you can sit in with the adoption counselor to talk about your foster dog. We definitely encourage this because no one knows your foster dog better than you. Potential families love to hear how a dog may be in their home, so your knowledge of your foster dog is so important! If they decide to adopt the dog, the adoption will take place right then at the shelter, and the adoption counselor will proceed with all the paperwork and medical information.

Again, we also ask that you attend as many off site adoption events as possible. You will be given significant notice as to when and where they will be held. There will be an adoption counselor on site to again work with the adopter and complete any necessary paperwork.

Q: I don't have a fenced in yard; can I still foster an adult dog?

A: Yes! While a fenced in yard is great for playing and running without worry of running away, leashed walking is just as great! Remember, your foster dog should never be let off leash while outdoors.

Q: Can I take my foster dog to an off leash dog park for exercise and socialization?

A: No. Due to liability issues, we ask that you do not take your foster dog to an off leash park. Dog parks can be overwhelming to some dogs, and it may not be a healthy or good experience for your foster dog. A nice long walk on leash is the best thing for your foster dog!

Q: Do I have to provide medical care for my foster dog?

A: No. GHS provides ALL medical care for your foster dog. Before an animal goes into foster care, he/she receives a basic medical evaluation, vaccines, de-worming, Heartworm testing & preventative, and flea treatment. You may have to bring your foster dog back to the shelter every couple of weeks to keep their vaccines and deworming up to date.

Q: What if my foster dog gets sick?

A: Call the Programs Coordinator immediately. If necessary, we will have you bring your foster dog to GHS for any medical treatment. GHS cannot reimburse you if you take the animal to any vet other than GHS.

Q: What if I cannot foster at the time of need?

A: That's ok! We will call someone else on the "active waiting" list. Because of the amount of dogs that need foster, there will always be another chance to foster down the line. We will just try you again another time.

Q: What if I have a foster animal and cannot continue to foster?

A: That's ok! We ask that you call and try to give us at least 24-48 hours' notice. We will then line up another foster home for your foster dog.

Q: Can I adopt my Foster dog?

A: Yes. As a foster home, you will get first "dibs" on adopting your foster dog. But remember, if you adopt your foster dog, will you be able to provide foster for more dogs that will need you in the future?

