



**Greater California German Shepherd Rescue, Inc.**

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*~ It's all about the dogs ~*

## **Fostering/Foster To Adopt ("FTA") Agreement**

Thank you for your interest in fostering one of our dogs! We rely on our foster homes to give our dogs a safe place to stay while they are in transition to their permanent homes. With your help, we can save more homeless and at-risk German Shepherd Dogs.

To participate in our Fostering or Foster-to-Adopt (FTA) program, you will need to sign up as a volunteer and pay \$20 annual dues for administrative purposes. We will visit your home so we can make an appropriate placement for your situation. Once you have had a home visit, you can take the dog home and foster the dog until your next local Adoption Day (AD) at Modesto or Rancho Cordova. If you are Fostering-To-Adopt, the dog will be unavailable to any other prospective adopters for the 30-day FTA period.

**The dog still belongs to us until the dog has been adopted and all of the paperwork has been done and fees have been paid. Vaccination records and spay/neuter certificates are part of the final paperwork.**

In the interests of safety, clarity, and consistency for the dog's benefit, we require that ALL FTAs follow these rules for the dog. Please don't do anything we would have to undo if the dog needs to be placed in another Foster home. If you have any questions about these, please ask!

- \* Do not change the dog's name until you own it! We mean it!
- \* Immediately report any incident of aggression (snarling, growling, nipping, biting, etc.)
- \* Immediately report if the dog goes missing and do everything possible to find the dog
- \* Get each and every vet visit & expense pre-approved per guidelines under Veterinary Visits
- \* Do not engage in any play or training that encourages the dog to bite
- \* Do not allow the dog off-leash except in a completely fenced, private home, yard
- \* Do not take the dog to a dog-park, as the potential for dogfights is too high
- \* Do not take the dog out of the area without pre-approval from the Area Coordinator
- \* Do not allow the dog on the furniture. We mean this, too!
- \* Do not shave the dog
- \* Do not train the dog in a foreign language
- \* Allow prospective adopters to meet the dog if you decide not to adopt
- \* Bring the dog to your closest Adoption Day once a month at a minimum or arrange it's transport

**\*\*Please leave the collar and our rescue tag with the ID number on the dog at all times!\*\***

Since almost all of our dogs come to us with no training or manners, it's very important that we keep both dogs and humans safe! We require that our fosterers know how to handle their foster to adopt dog properly, and to teach them basic manners, which includes housebreaking, yielding to human authority and touch, and boundaries. We provide handling instructions at every adoption day.

### **Foster-to-Adopt**

If you are interested in our Foster-to-Adopt (FTA) program, this will give you approximately a month to have the dog at your home. This means you will be expected to come back to the next adoption day the following month where you met the dog to finalize your adoption unless otherwise agreed-upon by us in advance. This means that if you meet the dog at the River Adoption Day, for example, you will need to return to the next Riverbank Adoption Day the following month to finalize the adoption.

If you attend a Petco Adoption Day in Riverbank or a Pet Food Express (PFE) Adoption Day in Sacramento or Roseville and take a dog home from there, you will need to return to finalize the adoption at that location. The reason for this is because we receive additional money from our sponsors for every adopter we walk through their door. This adds up to about \$25 per dog and we can't afford to pass that up! We will do off-site adoptions for the extra \$25 if one of our volunteers is willing to meet with you and finalize the adoption. The South Lake Tahoe area is the only exception to this condition. Exceptions to the 30-day period must be approved by a GCGSR volunteer and no additional vet care (unless an existing medical condition) will be covered and no liability issues will be considered as well.

If you're Fostering-To-Adopt, on the Monday prior to the next monthly Adoption Day, you will need to make a decision to either adopt the dog on that Saturday at the Adoption Day, or to make the dog available again unless otherwise agreed-upon by us, and you'll need to advise us of your choice. If we don't hear from you and you don't show up, the adoption fee will go up by \$25 per month until you return or adopt the dog. Exceptions to the 30 day period must be approved by a GCGSR volunteer and no additional vet care (unless an existing medical condition) will be covered and no liability issues will be considered as well.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We may require Fosters-To-Adopters to show proof after the trial period that the dog has basic manners, won't jump on people, can walk well on a leash, will Sit, Down and Wait, and has continued to be socialized. If the dog comes back with fewer manners than it left with, we may require you to attend training before allowing the adoption of the dog.

### **Veterinary Visits:**

Each and every vet visit and expense must be pre-approved with the exception of life-threatening emergencies. If you are in our regular areas of service (Modesto, Sacramento, and North/East Bay), we have an arrangement with local vets so we can take care of the expenses. We will only pay for vet visits at our partner vets. If you take the dog to your own vet, you will be responsible for the bill in total and we will not reimburse you. GCGSR is not responsible for veterinary costs of personal dogs or other pets in the household that may be injured or become sick due to the Foster-to-Adopt dog.

**In case of emergency, such as bloat or major injuries,** please take the dog immediately to one of our partner vets during business hours (listed below), or to an emergency vet clinic during off hours and call us as soon as possible. If you are out of our regular areas, then use the closest emergency clinic. Please contact us in route or as soon as you arrive if possible, but no more than 24 hours after the incident. We can usually provide a credit card and approve primary treatment. Once the dog is stabilized, we will need to approve anything beyond that. We take a very conservative approach to treatment, and what an individual might do for one dog, we can't always do since we have 30-40 dogs in our program at any one time. We have vets who work with us at a discount, and very experienced volunteers who can sometimes handle treatment options that normally would be done in a hospital, therefore we don't always approve certain treatments. The only way we can continue to save dogs is to be as economical as possible; we must balance the difference between treating only one dog with caring for over 100 dogs per year.

If you need help, please call our 877-268-0255 toll-free voicemail line. It goes to all of the Area Coordinators and knowledgeable volunteers. It will be the quickest way to get a response to your questions.