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THE RED DOG PROJECT



FIND ONE, SAVETWO

Thank You! For Saving a Life!

We're very grateful you've chosen to foster a dog waiting to go into our prison project. Without your help the dog in your care may have been euthanized for no better reason than no where for him/her to go – but that changed with you!

This packet has specific information about the program as well as general training instruction. If you're new to fostering please take the time to at least read through this packet carefully. We're always available if you have any questions or concerns.

General Length of Stay

Our charity is well versed in finding adopters for dogs in need. Generally the dogs in the Red Dog Project stay in the program for anywhere between 2 and 8 weeks, longer if they need more time. Our goal is to help the project dogs become comfortable in many different settings and that can be a short or long process, depending on the dog and the issues she came in with.

First Few Days

PLEASE NOTE: Dogs just out of a shelter or just off of a transport need a few days without a lot of interaction so they can relax and unwind. Please – **do not ask your foster dog to meet new friends, children or your household pets for a few days.**

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME to read this information on the first few days of fostering:

https://www.rescuedogs101.com/first-7-days-bringing-adopted-dog-home/

Paying for Vetting and Other Costs

We will NOT pay for any veterinary care which is outside of our charity veterinary partner. You will be given a link to a medical incident form – please fill this out if you have an issue and bring to our vet.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT A DOG DAYS/RED DOG REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE TAKING ANY MEDICAL ACTION FOR YOUR FOSTER DOG!

Guidelines for Incoming Dogs

Your foster dog has been:

- Screened for any aggressive behavior toward any people, other dogs or other animals.
- All dogs have been quarantined for three weeks before coming to your home and they have been checked by two veterinarians for general health.
- Your foster dog has been spay/neutered, micro-chipped, heartworm tested, dewormed and given a flea preventative.

Your foster dog has NOT been:

- Tested with YOUR dogs this takes time and shouldn't be done for a few days after the dog is in your home.
- Housebroken while many are housebroken some are not and you should plan for and assume your foster dog isn't housebroken.
- Assessed for issues like separation anxiety our dogs come from neglectful or abusive backgrounds and when they finally find 'love' they often times are anxious when you leave and they feel alone. We have ideas on how to take care of that.

Getting ready to meet the dog on transport

Meet the transporter at the drop point – arrive at least 30 minutes early – Dog Days rescue coordinator will text you with updates regarding transport arrival time.

Please bring a bottle of water for your foster dog to drink once off transport.

Please DO NOT wear sandals or open toe shoes to pick up and don't wear good clothes – the dogs are often smelly and dirty from being in a crate for a long time.

Dog Days will provide collar, harness and leash for all dogs.

Attach the dogs ID tag to the harness assigned for that dog.

Meeting transporter

DOG DAYS COORDINATOR:

Once the transport arrives please ask for the paperwork sent by the rescue for the dogs on board. **Check to make sure there is a Health Certificate and a certificate of Rabies vaccination for EACH dog on board.**

Once paperwork is completed **ask for any supplies sent by the rescue**: food, harnesses, collars, tags etc.

Add files from the transporter to the dog's MANILLA FOLDER. This folder DOES NOT GO TO THE FOSTER HOME and is returned to the Dog Days office for scanning.

Remove dogs from transport and hand to waiting volunteer. DO NOT hand off a dog that doesn't have collar, harness and leash securely attached.

Removing the dog from transport

Put the leash around each dogs neck as a slip leash – immediately put on the Martingale collar. Keep the leash on the Martingale collar and your partner to hold the leash while you put on the harness. Make sure the leash is FIRMLY attached to the martingale collar or the harness. **Do NOT allow the dog to have any opportunity to bolt from the transport.**

Let the dog(s) relieve himself but quickly. Only take one dog at a time on a leash. When you're taking the dog from the transporter (don't take the dogs out of the transport vehicle, allow the transporter to do it for you).

FOSTER VOLUNTEERS:

Dogs may be carsick from the drive – be mindful, move slowly, be calming and give him/her time to adjust.

If you have a puppy – do not let him/her walk around areas where other dogs have been.

Dogs off transport have been in a crate for long periods of time. They're going to be smelly and probably dirty.

Please walk your dog only long enough to go potty. Keep this in mind it is vital:

ALL DOGS OFF TRANSPORT ARE FLIGHT RISKS. ALL OF THEM. DO NOT LET THE DOG WANDER AROUND ON THE LEASH – GET THEM IN A CRATE QUICKLY AND IN THE CAR AFTER THEY HAVE GONE POTTY. THEY CAN DRINK WATER INSIDE OF A CLOSED CAR.

BEFORE FOSTER HOME

Bathing

Because we're never sure what the dog has been exposed to on transport and out of deference to the foster we almost always bath a dog just off of transport. This is often not ideal for the dog and is very stressful. However, we have found it's better if we do it than if the foster goes to a groomer does it themselves. FOSTERS: DO NOT MAKE GROOMING APPOINTMENTS FOR ANY OF OUR DOGS.

Food

We usually buy the dogs food after seeing their physical shape although food may be purchased in advance and given to you. If not, food may be purchased at Chewy and reimbursed by Dog Days. Due to unknown allergies all dogs will start on a Limited Ingredient or Grain Free foods.

Feeding

We understand foster dogs may have a few days of adjustment in their new home where they may be a bit "blue" or not eating well. Please keep in contact with us to give us an update on the overall health and well being of your foster dog.

The dogs in our program are fed food appropriate for their age and physical condition and that food will be provided to you when you receive your dog. **PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE FOOD THAT WE HAVE GIVEN YOU FOR YOUR DOG BUT DO CALL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.** If you change a dog's food suddenly they will have bloating, gas and diarrhea – not fun for any of you.

Treats

Treats, chews, 'busy' toys are all great diversions for your new pup and we will provide them for you. **DO NOT GIVE YOUR FOSTER DOG ANY RAW HIDE PRODUCTS** or treats, bones, or toys not provided by us.

Meeting Household Dogs

Please **avoid a meeting with your household dogs for at least a few days** it will really help your foster dog get adjusted and comfortable.

Discipline

Our program emphasizes **positive training only**. We do not hit or yell at dogs for any reason. If you have questions on appropriate training techniques please ask, we have many training information resources at our office as well.

Housebreaking

Without a doubt **house breaking is best accomplished by using a crate** and consistent language (let's go potty) and schedule. Please ask for training information on housebreaking.

Aggression

We do not tolerate aggression in any of our dogs and all have been screened appropriately. However, dogs, like people, react differently to different situations. If your dog shows any signs of aggression please contact us immediately.

Length of Foster

Generally our dogs are in foster for anywhere from one week to 12 weeks. We are very diligent at promoting our dogs and finding responsible adopters for them.

Using a Crate

The dogs in our program are required to use a crate at night so we like to establish that routine early on. If you don't have a crate please let us know and we will provide one for you.

Bathing & Grooming

Please let us know if you're thinking your dog needs any bathing or grooming before you do so. Usually your dog has seen a groomer before coming to you and often times **bathing and grooming can be very stressful for a shelter dog.**

Publicly Sharing Information and Pictures of Your Foster Dog

We have a great community of dog lovers who would LOVE to see your pictures or tell your stories about your foster dog. Please visit our Facebook page at Dog Days Adoption Event and thank you for giving us your updates!

Questions or Something is Wrong

Please call the rescue coordinator (numbers at the end of this document) if there is anything of concern. You have a medical sheet to fill out if there are any issues, please bring this sheet to the vet or send to us at <u>info@godogdays.org</u>.

Adoption Events

Frequently our volunteers will hold an adoption event where we meet potential adopters and conduct interviews and adopter screening. Dogs from the project are scheduled to meet all family members and household pets of prospective adopters before an adoption contract is agreed upon. If you can bring your foster dog to this event it would be very helpful, but, if you can't, please let us know a week in advance and we will arrange a volunteer transport for your dog.

*PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND ALL OF THE DOG'S BELONGINGS AND PAPERWORK ETC. WITH THE DOG WHEN SHE GOES TO THE ADOPTION EVENT.

Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. Where do the dogs come from? All of the dogs come from shelters, pounds or neglectful situations and they all were in imminent danger of being euthanized.
- 2. **How do you find adopters?** Through our web site and adoption events held around the state.
- 3. How long will I have my foster dog? Usually around three to six weeks would be a normal foster timeline. Some dogs are adopted much faster and some a bit longer. We generally like to allow the dog to have a few weeks of time to acclimate to the foster setting before going to a forever home. This allows the adopter to learn more about the dog's behavior and traits from the foster parent.
- 4. **How do you make sure adopters are responsible?** All of the adopters we work with have had a background check, references and vet checks done before they speak with our adoption counselor. If the counselor feels the adoption would be a good one we then schedule a meeting between a

resident dog, if there is one, and the new dog. If that goes will we finalize the adoption. After the adoption we send a volunteer to do a home visit where we check on the dog in the new family answer any questions etc.

- 5. What if I want to adopt my foster dog? That's fantastic, there is probably no better adopter than a foster parent! Please contact your adoption coordinator to manage the adoption paperwork.
- 6. What if my foster dog doesn't like my resident dog? Please call us immediately with any concerns regarding dogs not getting along we'll send someone to your home to help with the issues or move your foster dog to a new location. BUT we expect that you will bring your resident dog to meet the foster before placement whenever possible.
- 7. **Do you pay for vetting costs? We will ONLY pay for vetting work done at a partner vet hospital**. We will not pay for any supplements or monthly preventatives unless approved by the rescue or adoption coordinator.
- 8. **Can I find an adopter for my foster dog on my own?** Absolutely! But they will still have to fill in our online adoption application and go through our adoption process.

PROJECT Background

The Red Dog Project is a collaborative effort between state agencies, private foundations, businesses and individuals organized to address the medical and rehabilitative needs of high risk, or "project" dogs throughout America by finding unique foster settings to take them in.

Our charity receives many calls throughout the year to help dogs in need of temporary space before an adopter can be found. The reasons may be dire, such as the dog will be euthanized in a shelter for lack of space, the dog may be in danger like living outside next to a highway with no food or shelter, the dog may be abandoned by her owner, the dog may be abused and in need of medical attention or the dog may be fearful and unable to cope with her surroundings.

Often it's difficult to put a dog directly into the home of an adopter when they've come from difficult circumstances. For this reason we feel a rehabilitative foster setting will help both dogs and adopters make a better and more lasting connection. Our rehabilitation goals are to:

- 1. Teach dogs to interact well with other dogs
- 2. Introduce them to human interaction with positive results
- 3. Evaluate their past stressors

4. Heal any medical problems associated with their past life.

Our program tag line: Find One Save Two represents the synergy between a person and their canine companion while each learns about the other in a safe and nurturing environment.

PROJECT Overview

Dogs are similar to us – they are individuals with likes and dislikes, fears and anxieties and 'strong' opinions in some matters. They may love children or avoid them, some love every stranger they meet and some are more selective.

Our project is based on the belief that, in some circumstances, dogs and individuals need time and rehabilitation to be properly socialized.

What does this mean? We look at dogs in many different ways to assess how they're feeling in any given situation, how they will react, what they like and what they don't like. Training is often a repetitive exercise to teach a skill the dog does not naturally possess. So, for instance, dogs don't naturally "heel" but they will instinctively stay in a close range to someone they know and trust, especially in a new setting.

Some dogs will stay longer than others if they need more time to adjust to living in an environment with people and other dogs. Each of the dogs coming into this program will require a different approach for socializing and rehabilitation but love and compassion are great healers of any past neglect or injustice.

Dog Days – Sponsoring Charity

DOG DAYS ADOPTION EVENTS, INC. is an all-volunteer, tax exempt non-profit registered with the state of Connecticut. Our mission is to connect community members who care about and love dogs with the rescues, pounds and shelters who need fosters and adopters.

Since our incorporation in 2010 we have received numerous grants from national organizations like the ASPCA and the Petco Foundation, we are an approved participant in the Combined Federal Campaign, a registered Guidestar charity, a "Best" Charity designation by Independent Charities and we have been recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly for our charitable work helping shelter dogs in need. Our founder often speaks before our legislature on animal welfare issues and

we are fully compliant with all municipal, state and federal laws as they relate to animal rescue work.

Dogs Days has rehomed more than 2000 shelter dogs since 2010 by following responsible adoption practices, above standard veterinary care, meticulous record keeping and superior adopter support.

Our mission is sustained by four initiatives:

- 1. Well attended **ADOPTION EVENTS** organized by our trained volunteers.
- 2. **TRAINING** volunteers to help rescues and municipal pounds.
- 3. **RESCUING** dogs for The Red Dog Project.
- 4. Providing **DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES** for companion animals.

Contact Information

Emergency Number Medical: Pieper Memorial 730 Randolph Rd Middletown, CT 24-Hours	860-347-8387
Charity Veterinarian:	
Veterinary Associates of North Branford Dr. Almo	(203) 481-4238
Rescue Coordinator Lorin Liesenfelt	860.575.0557
Charity Mailing Address:	
Dog Days Adoption Events	
The Red Dog Project	
9 Pine View Drive	
North Branford, CT 06471	
General Phone Numbers:	

Toll Free: 800.653.3134

Emails: General Information

info@godogdays.org

Foster Terms & Agreement

The Red Dog Project is a rescue program created by Dog Days Adoption Events Inc. and its volunteers are acting on behalf of the charity. Our goal is to help the public easily adopt homeless shelter dogs and provide much needed support to small rescues and shelters.

As a foster for our program you agree to abide by the foster guidelines outlined above and understand that:

- You may not take our dog to your vet, change their food or medications, add supplements or make any other changes without approval from Dog Days.
- You may not take our dog to a dog park, out of the state or put into boarding, with another household or any other locations without our previous written consent.
- You must report any incidents regarding our dog such as illness, behavioral changes, loss of appetite or energy and changes to bowl or urinary functions.

______ By initialing here, you agree to follow all of the foster guidelines and rules outlined in this document.

By initialing here, you agree to hold Dog Days Adoption Events Inc. and their volunteers or board members harmless if there is a problem or issue with any dog fostered or adopted through this program.

Your Name

Date