



**SOUTHWEST COLLIE RESCUE
FOSTER AGREEMENT**

Date:

Name of Foster:

Address :

Home Phone:

Business Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail Address:

SWCR will pay for all approved veterinary expenses, including spaying or neutering, vaccinations, heartworm and fecal tests, blood work, x-rays, medications, etc. Speak directly to an SWCR representative for approval of routine expenses or unusual vetting expenses. Your SWCR representative contact may need to work with the SWCR Board for approval of unusual vetting expenses. SWCR also will pay for an initial grooming and a pre-adoption grooming just before the foster dog is placed with an adopter.

1. As soon as the rescued foster dog is in your custody, check for ticks, fleas, wounds, sores, eye infections, ear infections, etc. Please notify your SWCR coordinator of any immediate health problems. If the dog seems healthy, have the dog bathed and groomed ASAP. The dog will probably smell bad! If you can do the grooming yourself, bless you. It's an excellent way to bond with your foster dog. Professional groomers sometimes want to shave a badly matted dog. Please don't let them! Call your SWCR Coordinator first.
2. All vet visits should be cleared with your SWCR except in an emergency. If, when you first check out your dog, you see anything problematic – especially wounds, signs of infection or evidence of illness -- take the dog to a vet immediately and notify your SWCR coordinator of both the conditions and the outcome of the vet visit.
3. Your foster dog will need to be brought up to date on all vaccinations and a Rabies shot and Bordatella protection and have a heartworm and fecal test in your initial vet visit. A previous owner or shelter may have vaccinated or dipped the dog already. Be sure to check any existing records, so you can advise the vet on what is needed immediately. If the dog has ticks or fleas, please Frontline the dog immediately. If the dog is covered with ticks, we also test for Ehrlichia or other tick borne diseases. Please do not authorize blood work, x-rays or other tests without approval.
4. If your foster dog needs to be spayed or neutered, you'll need to take the dog to a vet for the procedure. You'll also need to follow veterinary instructions for home care if needed.
5. You'll need to provide your foster dog with good-quality food, fresh water, routine grooming, and general care. Any change in diet should be gradual so the dog can adjust.
6. You are encouraged to keep your foster dog indoors at least some of the time. This will help determine if the dog is well-mannered indoors and housebroken. During the day, your foster dog must have access to water, shade and shelter. This means access to your house, or to an outside shelter, or to all-day shade outdoors. Your foster dog must be allowed indoors when outside temperatures are too hot or too cold.
7. You'll need to communicate regularly with SWCR and notify us immediately if problems arise or things are not working out, so that if necessary we can work to place the dog in another foster home.

8. Communication works both ways. SWCR will stay in close touch with you to monitor the dog's progress, work out any problems that arise, assist you in writing a bio for the SWCR website and update you on adoption efforts.

9. Be sure to monitor your foster dog's behavior indoors, on a leash, out in public, with children, with other dogs, with cats, etc. This is essential to help us evaluate the dog for proper placement in a permanent home.

10. Your foster dog will need gentleness, patience, reassurance, love, and probably some informal training. Remember, you may be the first human who has ever treated the dog with kindness.

a. The dog may not be housebroken, though collies and shelties do learn fast.

b. The dog may be a little clueless: Some rescued dogs have never played with other dogs, met a cat, seen a toy, or slept anywhere but on hard dirt or concrete.

c. Your foster dog may be full of fear. Some are afraid to go into a house because they've been punished there. Some are afraid of men, trucks, a raised hand, a loud voice.

d. The dog may have few or no manners. Try to teach the dog not to jump up on people, not to surf the kitchen counters, not to chew on your possessions, not to steal things out of the trash or off desks, not to goose you with a nose, etc. Try to teach the dog to come when called, sit, stay, and walk on a leash. The down command also is useful.

Note: You are not expected to perform miracles! Rescued dogs do not lose bad habits overnight. Some continue to jump up on people and insist on kissing them. Some obey the stay command when and if they feel like it. In short, sometimes training is easier said than done. But please keep trying. And if your dog doesn't learn to be housebroken or continues destructive habits, SWCR needs to know, since these things affect the dog's chances to be adopted.

11. We do everything in our power to place your foster dog in a forever home as soon as possible. We feature the dog on our website, contact people on our waiting list, and talk the dog up to everyone we know who, we think, needs a collie or a sheltie. We do not dump the dog at your house and forget about both of you.

12. Some foster dogs - the old, the infirm, the behaviorally challenged -- can be much harder to place than others. Others may spend less than three weeks in foster care. The average time is a month or so. Be sure to tell us how long is too long for you to foster.

13. SWCR has the right and the responsibility to remove the foster dog from your home if we believe you are not living up to the agreements outlined herein. SWCR will contact you, state our concerns, and remove the foster dog at an agreed time. At no time does SWCR relinquish its right of ownership of the foster dog while in foster care.

14. If you wish to adopt the foster dog at some point, you agree to go through the standard adoption procedures as outlined by SWCR and to pay the standard fee for adoption. In long-term foster situations, we often reduce the fee.

15. Everything you do to restore your foster dog in mind and body is a priceless gift to a fellow being. Many rescued foster dogs have known much suffering. Your house is the halfway house between that suffering and the happy life that lies ahead. The love you give and the lessons you teach, will help to ensure that happiness. Without you, we at SWCR could not do our work. We can't thank you enough for your compassion and generosity.

I/We, the fostering party, have read the above responsibilities and agree to abide by all of the requirements in this agreement. I understand that SWCR has the right to remove the foster dog from my care if SWCR feels I have not conformed to this agreement.

Foster Signature:

Southwest Collie Rescue Representative Signature: