



## ***RURAL DOG RESCUE Foster Contract***

This Agreement is made and entered into on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between Rural Dog Rescue (hereinafter "Rescue") and the following individual(s) \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter "Foster.").

WHEREAS: Foster wishes to foster one or more animals for Rural Dog Rescue. This executed Foster Agreement ("Agreement") is binding for any and all future animals fostered for Rural Dog Rescue. If there is a break in fostering of more than one year, a new Agreement will be executed by all parties.

Foster Category: \_\_\_ CAT 1 (attends events) \_\_\_ CAT 2 (does not attend events – fostering until a CAT 1 foster is available) \_\_\_ CAT 3 (critical or recovery care – does not attend events since dog is recovering from heartworm treatment, illness or injury) \_\_\_ Cat 4 WEEKEND OR HOLIDAY FOSTER

Please initial the following:

\_\_\_ **Compassionate and Appropriate Care:** Foster will provide appropriate care for every Foster Dog that is taken into their home, until the Foster Dog has been successfully placed in a permanent home or, in the event this foster placement does not work out for any reason, until the Foster Dog is placed into another Foster home. Foster will provide the care *without expectation of reimbursement* for any normal and customary out-of-pocket expenses. Rescue does, however, pay 100% of all medical care. Food will be provided when available (it is not always available). Please do not feed food that contains corn, wheat, soy or chicken by products as these are the number one allergens in dogs.

This care shall include, but is not limited to, loving and humane treatment, proper and nutritional foods, regular exercise, and appropriate toys. Foster will also provide at all times fresh water, shelter from adverse weather and temperature extremes, a safe fenced yard, and when necessary, all necessary and appropriate medication provided by Rescue. Foster will oversee the dog's medical and veterinary care with Rescue's approval.

\_\_\_ **Training/Helping Foster Dog to Become More Adoptable:** Foster will be patient and tolerant at all times while fostering. Foster acknowledges that one of their primary goals in fostering is to help the Foster Dog become more adoptable. Foster agrees to work with the Foster Dog on house- and crate-training, if necessary, and to address anything else which will help to make the Foster Dog more adoptable. Foster will not employ harsh training methods, will never physically or emotionally abuse the Foster Dog, and will not let any other person or animal physically or emotionally abuse the Foster Dog.

**\_\_\_Grooming:** Foster will provide regular grooming of the Foster Dog to include bathing, brushing the coat, cleaning the ears, trimming nails, and cleaning nose flaps and tear residue.

**\_\_\_Indoor Only Dog:** Foster agrees to keep the Foster Dog as an “indoor only” dog (living inside the home), and the Foster Dog will not be left outside at any time without proper adult supervision or when no one is at home.

**\_\_\_Medical Expenses:** Foster will advise Rescue of any medical expenses over and above the standard vet care Rescue provides. Standard care includes routine vaccinations, spaying or neutering, heartworm test, fecal test, deworming, and micro-chipping. Foster will not authorize veterinary treatments, procedures, or medications without the prior approval and authorization of Kim Hawkins.

**\_\_\_Standard Medical Treatment:** Foster will notify Rescue if any medical treatment becomes necessary during the time they are fostering and will obtain necessary medical treatment as soon as needed, after notification to, and approval by, Kim Hawkins.

**\_\_\_Emergency Medical Treatment:** If the Foster Dog needs emergency (life-saving) medical treatment, Foster will provide necessary emergency care immediately, with no required pre-approval by Rescue. If emergency is not life-threatening, foster must first get approval from Kim Hawkins – Rural Dog Rescue.

**\_\_\_Administration of Medications/Supplements:** Foster agrees never to administer medications of any kind without prior approval from a Rescue-approved vet or a Rescue representative. This shall include, but is not limited to, aspirin, vitamins, supplements, flea medication, heartworm preventative, and prescription medications.

**\_\_\_Collar and ID Tags:** Foster will make certain that the Foster Dog is wearing a martingale collar or harness that securely fits and that the identification tag provided by Rescue is securely fastened to the collar at all times.

**\_\_\_Never Off-Leash:** Foster agrees that **at no time** will the Foster Dog be allowed to be off-leash outside of a fenced area.

**\_\_\_Strangers and/or Unknown Dogs:** Foster will not allow strange people or animals - people or animals unknown to the Foster Dog - to approach the Foster Dog without being in full control of the Foster Dog and the situation.

**\_\_\_Cooperation with Permanent Placement:** Foster will work cooperatively with Rescue to find the Foster Dog a permanent, loving home as quickly as possible after the Foster Dog is ready for adoption. Re-homing process includes application review, phone interviews, home check and adoption (if distance permits), and follow-up.

**\_\_\_Foster Option to Adopt:** The Foster Home shall have the first option to adopt their Foster Dog. If Foster decides they would like to adopt the Foster Dog, Foster understands and accepts that the procedure for adoption will be the same for them as it would be for any other applicant, i.e., (1) foster will be asked to sign the Adoption Contract and make the adoption fee of \$300 adoption donation, and (2) Rural Dog Rescue must agree that the Foster Home

represents a good long-term match with the Foster Dog. Foster understands and accepts that Foster may not permanently keep the animal without the approval and consent of Rescue. This approval and consent *must* be in writing. Should the Foster Home be deemed unsuitable as an adoptive placement, the Rescue Agent shall move forward to place the Foster Dog in an adoptive home as soon as is reasonably practicable.

**\_\_Visits from Prospective Adopters:** Foster understands and accepts that prospective adopters need to visit the Foster Dog before adoption. With prior notice, Foster agrees to facilitate a meeting between Foster Dog and potential adopter, be that in the home of either party or at a central location.

**\_\_Lost, Stolen or Death of Foster Dog:** If the Foster Dog is lost, stolen, or dies, Foster shall notify Rescue immediately.

**\_\_Right to Inspection:** Foster grants Rescue and its representatives the right to inspect the Foster Dog's environment and living arrangements at any reasonable time while they are fostering. Foster agrees not to withhold access to the Foster Dog or the Foster Dog's medical records from Rescue.

**\_\_Sole Property of Rescue:** Foster understands and accepts that the Foster Dog is and shall remain the sole property of Rescue at all times during the foster period. Foster further understands and acknowledges that Foster does not have any right or authority to keep or place the Foster Dog in any other home or with any other individual or in boarding, at any time. Temporarily or permanently moving the Foster Dog to, or placing the Foster Dog in, any other home or in boarding can only be done with the full knowledge and approval of Rescue, which must be done in advance of the Foster Dog's moving. Said approval can **ONLY** be given by Kim Hawkins.

**\_\_Representations:** Foster understands and accepts that Rescue makes no representations or warranties regarding the health, temperament, behavior and/or previous ownership of the Foster Dog.

**\_\_Hold Harmless:** Foster fully understands and agrees to assume all risks involved in any and all activities, tasks or duties performed for Rescue in a volunteer capacity. Foster understands that the behavior of domestic animals may be unpredictable and may result in serious personal injury or death as well as extensive property damage. Foster understands that while they are acting within the scope of their duties as a Foster family for Rescue, and agrees to release, discharge and hold Rescue harmless from any and all liability, claims and damages arising out of or as a consequence of any personal injury or legal damages that may result to members of the public as a result of any activity performed within the scope of the Foster family and volunteer activities for Rescue provided they are performed in accordance with Rescue's Foster policies and procedures.

**\_\_Communication of Other Issues:** Foster will immediately notify Rescue of any problems or difficulties resulting from taking care of the Foster Dog.

**\_\_Legally Binding Agreement:** No provisions of this Agreement may be altered, modified or in any way changed unless the same is in writing and agreed upon between the Foster and Rescue.

**\_\_Default of Agreement:** Foster agrees that if they are found to be in default of any of the provisions of this Agreement, the Foster Dog may be seized and removed from the Foster Home immediately, with no prior notice, and they further agree not to withhold the Foster Dog from Rescue.

**\_\_Recourse for Breach of Agreement:** If Foster breaches this Agreement, Rescue will be entitled to enforce its rights by action for specific performance. Foster agrees to pay all expenses incurred by Rescue in enforcing its rights under this Agreement, including reasonable attorney's fees. This Agreement contains the entire agreement by and between the parties, unless amended in writing by all parties.

**\_\_\_Dissolving Foster Position:** If, for any reason, Foster is not able to continue fostering, Foster agrees to notify Rescue immediately. Rescue will make arrangements for removal of the Foster Dog, and Foster agrees to cooperate in those arrangements. Rescue would appreciate as much notice as possible in order to locate another suitable placement for the Foster Dog.

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I understand and will comply with the provisions of this contract.

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Printed Name (Foster Parent)

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Signature

Date

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Printed Name (Rescue Agent)

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Signature

Date

## *Foster Welcome Packet*

Thank you for signing up to foster dogs for Rural Dog Rescue. Foster homes play an important role in keeping our rescue working for the good of the dogs we take in. Without foster homes, we would not be able to save nearly as many lives as we do.

Rural Dog Rescue was founded to save the lives of dogs in poor rural high kill shelters. The main shelter we pull from is Rutherford North Carolina. This county has a huge dog over population problem. The shelter only has 15 runs and take in an average of 100 dogs a month. Strays are euthanized in 72 hours and owner surrenders can be euthanized immediately if the shelter is full – and is often full. There is a tremendous amount of owner surrender dogs at this shelter. The dogs we take in are not breed specific – any dog that is in danger and is an adoptable dog is a candidate. Without you, our foster families, saving these dogs would not be possible. No dog should have to die because he has rescue but the rescue has no place to put them!2

### **Contract**

Please make sure you have read and understand all of the provisions in our foster contract, as the contract is a supplemental document to this packet and includes important information about our expectations regarding caring for foster dogs.

### **Limits**

We request that you foster no more than 2 dogs at a time, and that your total dog count does not exceed your city's legal limits. We also ask that you do not foster dogs for other rescues when you have one of our foster dogs in your home. The reason for this is simply that if your dogs were to fall ill, it would be difficult to know who should assume responsibility for the vet bills.

### **Financial Expectations**

Our rescue provides the following items to our foster homes *for your foster dogs* free of charge:

**General Items:** leash, collar, harness when necessary

**Food and Toys:** Dependent upon donations

**Transportation:** Our rescue does not reimburse any transportation costs you may incur. However, you may be able to take transportation costs as a tax write-off. Please check with your accountant.

**Veterinary Care:** As long as you take your foster dog to one of our veterinarians and the visit is pre-approved by Kim Hawkins, you will not be responsible for veterinary bills. Our veterinary partners have our payment info on file, and payments are taken care of immediately at the time of service. Please respect our veterinary partners' time. They are not under any

obligation to help us, yet they do so because they believe in our mission. Please show up to your appointments a few minutes early and treat our veterinary partners and their staff with respect.

## **Intake Procedures**

Most foster dogs will be provided with veterinary care before coming to your home for fostering. In the event that a dog has not been provided with veterinary care, please contact Kim Hawkins to make a vet appointment. If you need help transporting your foster dog to/from the veterinary office, contact Kim Hawkins

All foster dogs should receive the following standard veterinary procedures as needed:

- Spay/neuter
- Vaccines
  - Rabies
  - DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus)
- Heartworm test
- Microchip insertion
- Worming
- Started on Flea and Tick Preventative and Heart Worm Preventative (provided by rescue)

All foster dogs should be bathed as soon as possible if they are dirty – we do our best to have our fosters in NC send the dogs up clean but it doesn't always happen. If your foster dog is afraid, smear some peanut butter or cream cheese on the side of the tub to occupy them as you bath them. During bathing, note if you feel any abnormal lumps, bumps, or scrapes on the dog. Common physical abnormalities you may encounter include hernias, scratches, hair loss. If you feel something abnormal, call Kim Hawkins to discuss the next steps.

## **Contacts**

Kim Hawkins – 410-310-4420 [info@ruraldogrescue.com](mailto:info@ruraldogrescue.com)

## **Introductions**

Take care when introducing your new foster dog to your family members. Make sure your children understand how to properly behave around dogs. They should sit calmly and offer their fists to the dog to first sniff. The next step is to scratch under the dog's chin. Under no circumstances should small children be left alone with your foster dogs nor should they ever engage in roughhousing such as trying to "ride" your foster dog, pull his or her ears, etc. Children should be advised that if a dog starts jumping or nipping, they should turn their backs and stand with their arms folded. You should always be present to ensure that neither child nor dog gets hurt.

When introducing your new foster dog to your family pets, keep foster dogs on leash until you are sure that all pets will "play nicely" together. NOTE: No matter how happy your

foster dogs and family pets seem, keep them separated when you are not available to supervise. This is for the safety of the foster dog and of your family pets. If you are having trouble, call Kim Hawkins for assistance.

## Standards of Care

**Living Space:** All foster dogs should be kept as indoor dogs. They should sleep inside the temperature-controlled portion of your home (e.g.; not in the garage). They should be allow outdoors for activity only under adult supervision, and should never be allow off-leash in unsecured areas.

**Crating:** All foster dogs should be separated from each other and preferably crated when left alone, unless otherwise instructed. Some dogs love their crates, and others dread them. The best way to familiarize a dog with a crate is to feed him or her in it. Begin by simply putting the food in the crate. As the dog becomes more comfortable, shut the crate door while the dog is eating. Then start putting the dog in the crate for short periods of time throughout the day with a treat. Once he or she is comfortable with this, you can start crating him or her for longer periods of time. Use the words, "Crate up," when you put the dog in the crate.

Do not leave your foster dog crated for more than 6 hours at a time, except, of course, at bedtime.

**Feeding:** Foster dogs should be fed dry food twice a day: once in the morning and once at night. Feed according to what the dog should weigh – most come out of the shelter under weight. If your foster dog is not interested in eating, mix in some wet food to make it more appealing. If this doesn't work, try a different bowl or try hand-feeding. For more assistance, contact Kim Hawkins.

**Training:** We do not expect our foster parents to be expert dog trainers. However, we do ask that at the very least, you do not reinforce bad behavior. If a dog jumps, do not reward him or her with pets and praise. Just turn your back until the dog keeps all feet on the floor. Then reward the dog with praise. Ask your foster dog to sit for treats by saying, "Sit," and holding the treat above the dogs nose and moving your hand back toward his or her tail slowly. If a dog misbehaves, give him or her a firm "No" or "Ah-ah," and if necessary, spray him or her with a water bottle (*never* in the face). Also it is important to teach a dog to not charge the door when it opens. If the dogs is a "door charger" please have them sit when opening the door. This could save a dogs life.

**Exercise:** All foster dogs should be walked at least twice daily. This is not only important for your dog's physical health but it's important because dogs who walk nicely on leash are more adoptable than dogs who don't. When you're out walking your foster dog, turn around and walk him or her in the opposite direction for a few steps if he or she starts to pull. When the dog is walking on a loose leash, turn back. Do this as many times as necessary to get your foster dog to walk on a loose leash.

If you have a yard, do not leave dogs out there to play amongst themselves unsupervised. Dogs should never be tethered in a yard or anywhere else. Foster dogs should



also not be allowed into a yard protected by an invisible fence. Invisible fences and tethering are both equally dangerous because they allow people, other dogs, and predators in but do not allow the resident dog out. This is always an unsafe situation, and it is not allowed.

**Toys and Bones:** Do not give your foster dogs the following toys or bones because of the hazard they pose to your foster dog's health: rawhides. Dogs should never chew bones unsupervised.

**Socialization (Dog Parks):** This will be on a case by case basis due to liability issues and needs approval by Kim Hawkins.

**Veterinary Emergencies:** Please keep our contact list in an easily accessible place. The list provides the numbers of people to call and vet clinics to visit if you have an emergency. For regular veterinary procedures, please call Kim Hawkins to arrange.

**Severe Medical or Behavioral Issues:** If your foster dog is discovered to have a severe medical or behavioral issue that causes the dog to become unadoptable, call Kim Hawkins to discuss options. We cannot re-home dogs who are unpredictably aggressive toward dogs or who show aggression toward humans, and at times, we do need to make the difficult decision to euthanize them. If your foster dog is found to have a terminal or incurable illness rendering him or her "unadoptable," as long as the dog is not in unmanageable pain, we will keep that dog in hospice care in your home or the home of another volunteer. The decision will be made jointly.

**Lost Dog Procedure:** Foster dogs should never be allowed outside of a fenced-in area off leash. Nevertheless, sometimes things happen and foster dogs get loose. If your foster dog gets loose, call **Kim Hawkins** immediately. If possible, we will help you organize a search party and alert people in the area where the dog got lost. Notify your local shelter and any vets in the area and post signs.

## Documentation Requirements

**Snapshot:** We ask that you fill out a dog snapshot when he or she comes into your care and that you update it regularly. Once the dog is adopted, please send us a printed copy along with the adoption contract and check (or simply email it to us).

**Photographs and Video:** Please also try to photograph your new foster dog and send to Kim Hawkins at [info@ruraldogrescue.com](mailto:info@ruraldogrescue.com) as soon as you can. If you can take video of your foster dog, please post it to Youtube.com and then send us the link. Pictures are key in getting dogs adopted quickly. Also feedback about personalities are HUGE help!

Here are some photo guidelines:

- Photograph dogs outside. If it's very bright outside, have the animal sit or lie down in the shade. If the dog is too hyper, let him or her run around for a while, and then try again. If that doesn't work, try having the dog sit in a car.
- Photograph the dog in front of a background against which he or she stands out. (E.g., don't photograph a black dog sitting on a black chair.)

- Squeeze a squeaky toy behind your back or over the dog's head to grab his or her attention. Talking sweetly or excitedly can help make the dog perk up his or her ears, too.
- Take your time. Snap a few photos here and there. You never know what you may get.
- Try to take photos that capture the dog's personality. If he or she loves toys, take pictures of him or her playing with them. If the dog has a wonderful breed characteristic, highlight that in the photos. Accentuate the positive and downplay the negative.
- Avoid using a flash. Dogs with glowing eyes may send the wrong message!
- Hold the camera still, and if the photos come out blurry, try again.

**Examples:**



*Wish you were here!*



*Cheeseburger!*



*Wanna play?*

As you can see, the photos don't have to be perfect. They simply need to express the dog's personality and entice the reader to want to learn more.

**Descriptions:** Within three days of receiving your foster dog, please write a bio for him or her that we can post online. The bio can be from the dog's perspective or yours, but it should include the dog's age, weight, sex, likes and dislikes, issues (stated as positively as possible), and what type of home you believe would be perfect for your dog. Once you write the bio, send it to Kim Hawkins at [info@ruraldogrescue.com](mailto:info@ruraldogrescue.com)

**Example:**

Last month was very special for me. After five years of sitting in a wire cage, I finally got to touch grass for the first time! Nobody ever talked to me at the place where I lived, but when I came to my foster home, I got a name: Ruby. Doesn't that have a nice ring? It feels so good to run around the yard and hear people calling my name. Sometimes I'm so happy that I run up to them and stretch my paws up to the sky! They tell me I shouldn't do that so much, but hey, I only weigh 20 pounds, and I'm just looking for a hug! I guess I'll work on it. But really, I'm just so happy to hang out with my people and cuddle. I like other dogs and cats, too, but they don't feed me cheese, so I'll take people first any day. I went to a veterinarian recently, and he poked at me. The good news is I heard I don't have to go back for another year. I had a lot to learn about living in a house when I came to my foster home, but my foster mom says I'm catching on fast. I still have a few accidents here and there, but I know I'll get this potty training thing down in no time. I'm pretty easy to care for. I know how to entertain myself when my foster parents aren't home, but I do like to go for our morning and evening walks. Would you like to take a walk with me?

## **Adoption Process**

**Applications:** We receive approximately 20 applications each week. Our adoption coordinator will process the applications but you may be asked to talk to the potential adopter as well.

Talk with the applicant on the phone to get a feel for whether or not they will provide your foster dog with a good home. Ask general questions about the applicant's experience with dogs and with your foster dog's breed in particular and what the applicant is looking for in a dog. Then move on to more specific questions that might be sticking points for your particular foster dog (E.g., cats, children, long absences, six-foot fence, etc.). Don't be afraid to ask difficult questions, like what a younger married couple will do with the dog if they have children. You want to be sure your foster dog is not going to end up back in rescue.

**Home Check:** When you decide an applicant might be a good fit for your foster dog, the next step is to set up a home check. Home checks are done by the closest available volunteer or by you if applicable. If the applicant lives far away from all volunteers, we will either ask a volunteer from a different rescue to complete the home check or approve it to be completed remotely, in which case the applicant must send a video showing the yard, fence, and indoor areas to which the dog will have access.

Here are some items to address when conducting a home check:

- Fence (walk entire fence line)
  - Secure with no loose boards
  - Touching the ground and not patched with rocks and cinderblocks
  - At least 4-6 feet high (depends on the dog)
  - Free of any furniture or features that dogs could easily use to jump it
  - Free of holes or gaps
  - Locking mechanisms on gates
    - Usually suggested but not mandatory
- Yard
  - Reasonably groomed
  - Free of obvious choking and poison hazards (including poisonous plants)
    - No children's toys, junk, accessible trash bags, and cigarette butts
  - No exposed plastic or metal edging that could cut a dog
  - Area for dog to eliminate
- House
  - Reasonably clean
  - Free of obvious choking and poison hazards (including poisonous plants)
    - No swallow-able children's toys, junk, office supplies, cigarette butts, etc.
  - No exposed wires
  - Garbage cans are inaccessible to dogs
  - Dog crate is out of direct sunlight
  - Dog has easily accessible water source
    - A toilet is *not* an acceptable water source!
  - Basement access is limited or basement is free of hazards
  - Cleaning supplies, detergent, and medicines are kept in inaccessible places

- Family has a screen door or a plan to prevent dog from dashing outside when someone comes in

**Fences:** We do adopt dogs out to homes that do not have the appropriate fencing. However, some dogs *need* a high privacy fence because of jumping, barking, or fence-fighting behavior. Assess your foster dog honestly and ensure you put him or her in the appropriate home *for that particular dog*.

**Meeting:** If you conduct the home check, you can certainly bring your personal or foster dog with you to see how he or she reacts to the environment. If you didn't bring your foster dog to the home check but the family passes your foster dog's specific requirements, you should arrange for the dog to meet the family (and the family's dogs) in a neutral place, like a park. That way the dogs can get to know each other without any territorial issues. If the adopting family does not have dogs already, having them come to your home to pick up the dog, meeting in a central location, or bringing the dog directly to their home is acceptable. Transport assistance is available. Contact the transport coordinator for assistance.

**Adoption Events:** Adoption events are a great way to introduce your foster dog to the public. Our adoption events are held on Saturdays from 12-3 at Howl To The Chief 733 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE DC. Our events coordinator will regularly email you about upcoming events you can attend with your foster dog. If you can't make it, please tell the events coordinator, sometimes transportation to and from the event can be arranged for your foster dog. CAT1 Fosters are required to attend adoption events. CAT2 & CAT3 Fosters are not required to attend but welcome if they can do so and the foster dog is ready (CAT3 fosters need approval from Kim Hawkins to attend)

**Turning Down an Applicant:** If you receive an application that is simply not right for your foster dog, please let **Kim Hawkins** know the reasons why you will not be contacting the applicant, so as to help us pass along the application to the appropriate foster family. If you get an application you like, but the family seems questionable during the interview, consider completing a home visit to gather more information. If a family does not pass the home visit but still seems like good adopters, gently discuss the home issues and give them the opportunity to bring their home up to our standards. If the family is simply not going to be a good adopter for dogs in our organization, write them back and gently tell them why they are not being approved, stating it in a way that shows it is in their best interest, too. If turning down an applicant makes you uncomfortable or you'd like assistance in determining what should be said, don't hesitate to reach out to **Kim Hawkins**.

## **Breaks from Fostering**

Foster dogs usually remain in their foster homes until they are adopted, which can be 4 – 6 weeks. We recognize that at times foster homes need to take a break from fostering, be it for personal reasons, travel, or simply to make life a little easier for a time. You should not feel obligated to keep a foster dog if he or she is placing a significant strain on your family pets or home life. If you are having a problem with a foster dog and need him or her to be transferred to another foster home, please contact **Kim Hawkins**. If you are leaving town and need a break,

please let us know as early as you can so we can make other arrangements for incoming dogs. If you are tired of fostering and would like to volunteer in other capacities, we welcome that, too. We greatly appreciate your time and effort in helping our organization save lives, be it for a few days or a several years, and we do not wish for you to feel uncomfortable coming to us to discuss your concerns or life changes that prohibit you from further taking foster dogs. Additionally, if you need a break and then wish to start fostering again, we will, of course, again welcome your assistance when you are ready.

## **Adopting Your Foster Dog**

It's inevitable that sometimes foster families fall in love with their foster dogs. While we encourage you to avoid the mindset that no other family can care for a dog as well as you can and remember that for every dog you re-home, another life is saved, we understand that sometimes foster families will want to adopt their foster dogs. If you decide you'd like to adopt your foster dog, we do ask that you fill out an adoption application, just like any other applicant, as some of the questions on the application are designed to make applicant think through the lifetime commitment of caring for a dog, which we do not require of our foster homes. If approved, the cost to adopt your foster dog will be \$300.

## **Permanent Foster Dogs**

Sometimes terminally ill dogs will come into rescue, and we look to our foster families to help these dogs live out the rest of their lives with dignity and love, however long that may be. If you have a foster dog who is discovered to be terminally ill, you will have the choice of whether you wish to provide lifetime care for that dog or have a different foster home provide it. Either way, the rescue will be responsible for the costs of medical care, but the foster family caring for the dog will be required to take him or her to our vet. If you decide to be a foster family for a permanent foster dog, you must be resigned to helping your foster dog "cross the Rainbow Bridge" when the time comes. Through the life of the dog, we will continue to provide the foster family with support and advice.

## **Foster Home Termination**

Our foster homes are our most valuable assets. However, we must always act in the best interest of the dogs this organization has been created to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home. Our rescue follows the aforementioned policies because we believe they give our foster dogs the best chance to thrive. Any violation of these policies may be grounds for termination as a foster parent. If we find you are in violation of one of our policies, we will call you to discuss the issue and determine the action that must be taken, which may include probation, temporary suspension, or termination.

## **Educate Yourself and Others**

Please familiarize yourself with our website. We ask that all our foster volunteers read the adoption contracts so they understand the procedures.

If you have friends of family who are also interested in helping dogs, please send them our way! We are always looking for new volunteers to help with administrative duties, transportation to and from adoption events, meet and transport dogs coming up from fosters in NC, foster recruiting, fund raising, adoption and volunteer coordinator, website manager and newsletters.

