



What if I have questions or problems?

Our Foster Coordinator and other officials are always available for consultation, as are other foster families. Routine medical concerns, as well as medical emergencies, should be brought to the attention of the Foster Coordinator. Some dogs may not be housebroken, may be ill or may have had little socialization or obedience training. Despite these challenges, our foster homes will tell you that, when given a chance, these dogs not only improve, they flourish.

What if I can't keep the dog any longer?

While it is best for the dog to stay in one home, situations sometimes change. The GRRSWF Foster Coordinator will assist in arranging to transfer your foster dog. If vacation or some other event falls during your fostering period, we will help you find temporary accommodations.

Will I have a say in who adopts my foster dog?

Foster homes play a pivotal role in a dog's adoption. Potential adopters often meet a Golden for the first time in the foster home. Even though the adopting family has been approved as a potential adopter, you will have the opportunity to be sure they understand your foster dog's needs and will provide the best home. If you are not comfortable with your foster dog going to that home, then you may make your concerns known to the Adoption Coordinator who will take them into consideration before a final decision is made.

Will I be able to follow my foster dog's progress?

We have a Follow-up Coordinator who is responsible for post-adoption communication with the adopter to ensure the adoption is going well. If the adopter has any questions or concerns, the coordinator may ask the foster home to contact the adopter to answer questions or provide additional information. We want to avoid infringing on the privacy of the adoptive home, but we consider following up on the progress of adopted dogs to be critical to a successful adoption.

What if I want to adopt the Golden I foster?

If you decide to be a foster home, it is with the understanding that you are working toward helping a Golden to a permanent home elsewhere. However, sometimes it's impossible to say goodbye and foster families have the option to adopt the dog.

I'd like to foster, what do I do next?

Visit our website and complete the Foster Application on the Foster page where you can also read more about how the foster process works. Next, we will arrange a visit to your home to discuss in more detail the fostering role and to answer any questions you may have.

Are there other ways to help?

We always need volunteers to help at our events and with fundraising efforts. We invite you to read our website or go to our Facebook and Instagram pages to learn more.

Call or email us for volunteering opportunities. We especially need help with fostering, transport, fundraising and event support.

(239)369-0415

GRRSWF.org info@GRRSWF.org

Follow us



FOSTER

Seeking caring, responsible, dog-experienced foster homes



GRRSWF.ORG

Volunteers with decades of combined rescue experience founded GRRSWF in 2009. We are dedicated to finding exceptional homes for Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes who are homeless, abused, abandoned or surrendered by their owners.

Fostering

Why is it important for dogs to spend time in foster care?

Foster homes give a dog the chance to adjust and settle in to a new home setting where a family can observe habits and behaviors in order to provide valuable information about the dog.

Where do you get your dogs?

Our dogs come from five primary sources: owners, shelters, breeders, strays and overseas. We rescue dogs of all ages. They range from well trained, spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccinations and other medical care, to out of control, intact, neglected, sickly, and everything in between. Most are unsettled in an unfamiliar environment and with people they don't know for the first few days. You will receive as much information as we have about your dog, not just medical, but behavioral, too. Our primary goal is safety – yours, your own dog's and of course the foster dog's.

Will I need any special supplies?

In addition to food and toys you may have for your own dog, GRRSWF will provide everything else you may need to care for your foster dog, including a crate (if needed) collar and leash, etc. During your foster home visit you and the GRRSWF volunteer will take an inventory of dog items you have on hand.



What kind of experience do I need?

You will help us evaluate the dog so it can be placed in the right home. We do not expect foster dogs to leave your home fully trained. We do want them to walk on a loose leash, eliminate while on leash, sit and lie down on command. They should be housebroken, crate-trained and tolerate a certain amount of grooming. Sometimes these expectations are negotiable, particularly for senior dogs. You'd be surprised how much your own dog(s) can teach a foster dog when it comes into your home!

What will I do as a foster parent?

Foster homes provide daily care, including feeding, exercising, grooming, and evaluating behavior and temperament. You will reinforce basic obedience commands. You will note anything that may require veterinary care. You will work with our Foster and Medical Coordinators to get the dog to the vet if needed. You will also provide love and a sense of security. Finally, all dogs come with a name they have had all their lives or one the rescue has given them. We require that the foster not change the name as our computer system, and our veterinarians use this identification to track the dog through our program.

How much does it cost to foster?

You will have some expenses for quality dog food, transportation and any toys you provide. Veterinary expenses, including heartworm preventive and flea control, are paid for, or provided by GRRSWF.

How long is a dog in foster care?

While some dogs go immediately to approved adopters on our waiting list, other dogs go to foster homes until the best possible home is found. A complete evaluation of a dog takes a minimum of two weeks. Golden Retrievers with special needs (e.g., medical issues, elderly or in need of training) may spend months in foster care. Occasionally, we also need hospice fosters for dogs who are terminally ill. When you agree to foster, we'll ask you how long you would be willing to foster a dog.

How much time does it take to foster?

Being a foster parent is a 24-hour-a-day commitment, but that doesn't mean that you have to be with your foster dog all the time. Most of our fosters are employed full or part-time and still provide a quality environment for the dog. Depending on the foster dog, you may need to spend more time with training, exercising or attending to medical needs. Before we place a foster dog with you, we will consider your schedule and abilities vs. the dog's needs. For safety reasons, we require that any time you are unable to directly supervise, the foster dog must be confined to a small, secure area or a training crate (we will provide one if you don't have one); this protects the dog and your home.

