

GOLDHEART'S FOSTER TO ADOPT PROGRAM



**GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 206, Mount Airy, Maryland 21771
410-877-9697, e-mail: goldheart@goldheart.org, www.goldheart.org**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

GoldHeart's Foster-to-Adopt Program was created to help place more homeless Golden Retrievers in Forever Homes. More often than we like, we must ask the surrendering home to hold their dog for several weeks or, if the situation warrants, place the dog in a kennel simply because we do not have an available foster home. Neither of these options is in the best interest of the dog and can be very expensive to the rescue.

The Foster-to-Adopt Program allows approved applicants to tell us what type of Golden Retriever they are hoping to adopt: male, female, young, older, good with cats, etc. As we receive calls for surrender, GoldHeart will try to match the dog with an approved Foster-to-Adopt home. A description of the dog is provided to the Foster-to-Adopt family for approval. If the Foster-to-Adopt family accepts the dog, they will foster the dog for two weeks to evaluate whether their home is the right forever home. After two weeks, you must decide whether to adopt the dog, in which case you will have one week to complete the adoption contract and submit it along with the adoption fee to GoldHeart. If the Foster-to-Adopt family decides not to adopt the dog, ***you must fulfill all the agree upon requirements of our Foster Care Provider program.***

In order to be accepted into this program, Foster-to-Adopt applicants must have an approved application and home visit with GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue. In addition, applicants must sign the Foster to Adopt Agreement which requires compliance with all of the Foster-to-Adopt terms and conditions, including the adoption procedures described in the Foster and Adoption Information Packet. You must also have a willing heart to continue to foster until the BEST Forever Home is found for their foster dog.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOSTER TO ADOPT HOME

1. The foster to adopt home (here in referred to as "foster home") must sign and return the Foster-To-Adopt Agreement.
2. The foster is responsible for transporting the dog to all necessary vet appointments. All dogs must be vetted as soon as possible to ensure they are current on all vaccinations, heartworm negative, on heartworm preventative, and harbor no parasites. The foster home must follow GoldHeart's Veterinary Care Policy and submit a completed expense report to receive reimbursement of the initial vet costs.
3. The foster home will provide a safe and loving home environment and will socialize them to humans and other dogs. Dogs are not to be excessively crated (not more than 8 hours in a 24 hour period).
4. It is the foster home's responsibility to evaluate the foster dog's activity level, temperament and personality traits to ensure their home is the best home for the dog.
5. The foster home will provide basic training or reinforcement of proper house manners or obedience skills.

GOLDHEART'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE FOSTER TO ADOPT HOME

1. GoldHeart will provide a complete copy of all give up documentation, which will include medical records and evaluations to the foster home if available at the time they receive the dog or later via mail. **The confidentiality of the former owner will remain with GoldHeart and will not be released to the adopted family (if other than the foster to adopt home).**
2. GoldHeart will pay for routine medical care as detailed in GoldHeart's Veterinary Care Policy. Any vet expense beyond routine care must be pre-approved by the Foster Care Team Leader or Board of Directors. Any unapproved vet expenses, other than a bona fide emergency, will not be covered by GoldHeart and will be the responsibility of the foster home.
3. GoldHeart will provide a one-month supply of heartworm preventative and flea and tick medicine. We will also provide a GoldHeart ID tag, collars, and leashes as needed. Any other articles such as toys, food bowls, blankets, etc that are surrendered with the dog will go with the foster dog to either the foster to adopt home or new adoptive family.
4. GoldHeart will provide the Foster Care and Adoption Information packet to guide you through the adoption process and necessary paperwork. This packet also contains information on how to introduce your foster dog to his new home and members of the family (both human and other animals), evaluating the dog's temperament, feeding, crating, grooming, training, and health care.

ADOPTING YOUR FOSTER DOG TO ANOTHER HOME

Should you choose to place your Foster to Adopt Dog in another home, you will be responsible for continuing to foster the dog and fulfilling the all the requirements of a Foster Care Provider.

1. The foster home will provide a write-up and photo of their foster dog and send it to the GoldHeart webmaster who will post it on the Available Dogs page. You can e-mail this information to webmaster@goldheart.org or mail it to GoldHeart at P.O. Box 206, Mount Airy, MD 21771.
2. You will be the contact person for any approved applicant interested in adopting your foster dog. Since you have interacted directly with your foster dog, Goldheart relies on your evaluation of prospective adoptive family and the home best suited for your foster dog. You make the decision for placement with a new adoptive family, but it must be the best home, not just the first or any home for the dog.
3. As foster care provider, you must accurately complete all of the necessary paperwork for the adoption process. GoldHeart depends on you to ensure copies of all documents and records are given to the adopter. Copies of the adoption contract and the adoption fee must be sent to GoldHeart in a timely manner.
4. The foster care provider will need to follow-up with the new adopted family several times to ensure the dog and new family is adjusting well..



GOLDHEART FOSTER TO ADOPT AGREEMENT

NAME(s): _____ DATE: _____

I/We agree to abide by the following conditions and requirements of a GoldHeart Foster to Adopt Home.

1. Foster dogs remain the property of GoldHeart. I/we understand foster dogs must be immediately surrendered upon request from an authorized GoldHeart agent. If it is necessary for GoldHeart to take legal action to recover a foster dog or otherwise enforce provisions in this agreement, I/we will pay all court costs and legal fees incurred.
2. I/we will provide foster dogs with adequate food, fresh water, exercise and a healthy living environment.
3. I/we understand foster dogs will not be chained outside or on an outside tie-out at any time, and will not be transported in the back of an open truck or similar vehicle.
4. At no time will a foster dog be allowed to run free. A foster dog will be allowed off lead only in a fenced yard or secured area and while under supervision.
5. A foster dog will never be allowed to remain outside throughout the night, or kept outside when I/we are not at home.
6. It is understood that all foster dogs will live inside the Foster Home and not with a family member, friend, neighbor or any other person who is not an authorized GoldHeart foster care provider.
7. GoldHeart will reimburse only pre-approved veterinary care expenses as outlined in the Veterinary Care Policy.
8. If a foster dog is stolen or lost I/we will immediately notify a GoldHeart Board Member at 410-877-9697 www.goldheart.org
9. Foster dogs must never be given to any other party, or for any reason or be transferred to another home unless the Foster Team first approves such a transfer or move.
10. I/we will observe and evaluate the temperament, personality and activity level of each foster dog for two weeks from the date the dog is received into the foster home to determine if the foster dog is the right dog for my home. After two weeks, I will call the Foster Care Team leader and tell them of my decision. whether or not to adopt the dog. After that I/we will have one week to either complete the adoption contract and submit the adoption fees to GoldHeart (if we have decided to adopt), or provide a picture and write-up on the dog to allow the dog to be placed on the GoldHeart's dog's available for adoption page on the website.
11. Should I/we decide to place the dog up for adoption, I/we agree to continue to foster the dog and fulfill all the requirements of a regular Foster Home.

12. Foster dogs will be adopted only into pre-approved homes under the supervision of GoldHeart. Regularly scheduled follow-up contacts will be made by the foster care providers with the adoptive homes to ensure the success of the placement and well being of the dog. Adoptive homes must be accorded courtesy, respect and privacy at all times. Excessive, casual or aggressive contacts are not allowed.
13. I/we will complete the form "Foster Home Report Card" for each foster dog, will give a copy to the adoptive home and will send a copy to the Adoption Team Leader for inclusion in the dogs file.
14. All adoption fees/donations must be immediately forwarded to the Treasurer. All medical records, AKC papers, pedigrees and other documents pertaining to the foster dogs must be immediately forwarded to the Adoption Team Leader. All problems or concerns should be immediately directed to the appropriate GoldHeart personnel.
15. If any provision of this agreement is or becomes unenforceable, or void by force or operation of law, the other provisions shall remain in effect, valid and enforceable.
16. Every effort will be made to provide as much information as possible to the Foster Homes concerning foster dogs. GoldHeart does not warrant any dog regarding medical status, behavior, disposition or temperament.
17. Each and every clause, in entirety, has been read and understood by me/us. By signing this document I/we agree to adhere to the terms and conditions. I/we affirm I/we have never been charged with animal cruelty.
18. I/we accept responsibility for any and all events that occur in connection with the fostering of a rescued dog. I/we agree to release and indemnify GoldHeart from any and all claims, known and unknown, now and hereafter, arising in connection with any dog provided by Goldheart.

SIGNED _____ PRINT _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED _____ PRINT _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Please return your completed signed agreement:

GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.

Foster Home Team Leader

PO Box 206

Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

GoldHeart is an all-volunteer, charitable, 501(c)(3) organization www.goldheart.org



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