

ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION ("ARF")

Dear Foster Home Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Animal Rescue Foundation and in becoming an ARF foster parent.

Please read the attached document which provides a basic outline of the responsibilities associated with fostering.

Please realize that these dogs are rescued in the true sense of the word and they need your commitment and care to see them through to their permanent homes.

Once you have decided that you do in fact wish to volunteer as an ARF foster home, please contact me at 432-2731 or e-mail arf_ontario@rogers.com .

Yours truly,

ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION

Laurie Ristmae
Managing Director

Attachment

FOSTER HOME - PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

DRIVING

Following are some examples of when you may be asked to do some driving relating to your foster dog:

- Initial pick-up of the dog (e.g. from an ARF volunteer's home OR vet clinic), sometimes on short notice.
- To/from vet appointments, as required. Strathroy is the clinic location. (i.e. for spay/neuter).
- Pet store drop-off and pick-up for showing on Saturdays.

SOCIALIZATION, CARE AND OBSERVATION OF THE DOG

When we first receive a dog, he/she is placed in a "holding area" to first assess the animal's health. From here, the dog is placed in a foster home. Crates are provided for the dogs and we **strongly** encourage our foster homes to use them.

- If the dog has not been fully vaccinated, please minimize contact with other dogs and keep them on your property and away from off-leash parks, especially during the initial 14 day quarantine period. This two week period of time allows us to evaluate the dog's health and behaviour.
- Please supervise the dog carefully when in your yard to prevent any attempts to escape.

In addition, ARF vaccinates and deworms all animals in our care (and surgically alters dogs over 6 months of age). An adoption envelope will be provided with each dog which will indicate the vaccination and deworming schedule and you will be responsible for ensuring that any necessary treatments are performed when due.

TRAINING (housebreaking, leash walking)

of the dog will be done using POSITIVE RE-INFORCMENT methods ONLY. ARF **does not** use any training devices (i.e. choke collars) or any form of Force training (i.e. alpha role, muzzle grabs) Foster homes are encouraged to attend the classes our trainer conducts in order to learn more about positive training and the rewards of its long term effects on the behavioural health of the canines. Our trainer is always available to help you learn more about the programs.

A weekly training class, six sessions, is recommended for first time foster homes. Your foster home coordinator will inform you of when the next session begins.

While you are fostering an ARF dog, you may expect to receive calls from more than one ARF volunteer. Note that we have many areas of responsibility throughout ARF and volunteers may be calling you at various times as part of their responsibilities.

ADOPTION OF THE DOG

ARF has a network in place which will ensure that the dog finds an adopting home. All calls coming into the adoption line are screened. Suitable candidates will be given your name and number (but not your address) in order to contact you to arrange an appointment should they wish to see the dog in your care. **It is VERY important for foster homes to be available by phone and/or e-mail to ARF's adoption coordinator during the adoption process. ALSO, being prompt with returning calls/e-mail to potential adopters is important to the ultimate goal of placing the animals in their forever homes, while also maintaining ARF's responsible image.** Potential homes are also found through visits to our website and by showing our dogs at various pet supply locations. In all cases, when you meet the potential adopter, it is important to try and determine if the dog would be a good match for the home and vice versa. We encourage you to do additional screening, once the adopter comes to see the dog in your home. As the foster parent, you have a lot of input as to who will be the new guardian will be; in some cases, you may be the only ARF representative to meet the candidate in person. If you are more comfortable going to a potential adopter's home for the visit, ARF supports and encourages that decision.

Once you have approved the new owner(s) of the dog, the potential adopter must wait 24 hours to pick up the dog. The potential adopter must fill out a form explaining the waiting period to help ensure that he/she is making the correct decision. As well, a contract must be completed. This should be filled out together with the adopter to ensure agreement on all points. The adoption fee and completed forms (3) is then delivered to Laurie or Bert or picked up by L/B (along with collar, tags, kennels, etc.).

Please note that potential adopters must first be screened by our adoption line

QUESTIONS?

ARF volunteers are always available to assist you. If you cannot find the answer to your question in your ARF Foster home Guidelines book that is provided with your first foster dog any of the other foster homes, or coordinators are ready and able to help.

We have a professional dog trainer to answer **all** behavioural questions. A nutrition coach to answer any feeding questions. We **truly appreciate** the amount of effort involved in fostering ARF dogs and puppies and are more than happy to answer any questions that you might have.

We hope that you'll become a part of the ARF network of volunteers and, although it can sometimes be challenging, we hope that you will find it to be a rewarding, fulfilling experience.

Please contact arf_ontario@rogers.com and we can set up a time for our foster home coordinator to meet with you.