

North Coast Greyhound Connection & Adoption of Ohio

Foster Manual

A guide to your responsibilities as a foster family.

*Poem to my Foster Dog By Diane Morgan
Copyright 1999*

*I am the bridge
Between what was and what can be.
I am the pathway to a new life.*

*I am made of mush,
Because my heart melted
when I saw you.*

*For one little time you are mine.
I will feed you with my own hand,
I will love you with my whole heart,
I will make you whole.*

*I am made of steel.
Because when the time comes,
When you are well and sleek,
When your eyes shine,
And your tail wags with joy
Then comes the hard part.
I will let you go-not without a tear,
But without a regret.
For you are safe forever. A new dog needs me now.*

Welcome and thank you for participating in our Greyhound Foster Program!!!

Families who will open their homes to a new dog and provide training and socialization are the heart of our program and are crucial to the adoption process. We will support you in every way we can to make your fostering experience a rewarding one.

As a foster family, you are a representative of not only your chapter, but also of our organization. Our focus is on greyhounds as pets. It is a NCGC policy to remain neutral, and not take a stand one way or another on the greyhound racing industry. Please remember this when you are introducing your foster dog in public.

We hope you will read this manual with an eye toward continuing to improve our Foster Program and sharing ideas and knowledge. Many of you will already know much of this material, but these guidelines are developed and reevaluated periodically to ensure that every aspect of fostering goes as smoothly as possible, both for you and your foster dog. Please feel free to make suggestions that you think would help other foster families.

Again, thank you for participating in our Foster Program. We hope that you enjoy teaching your foster how to retire to a life as a loveable, loyal, well-behaved family pet.



What is fostering?

An ex-racing greyhound enters your life for a few weeks...usually for 4-6 weeks, although some dogs have been in foster care for longer or shorter periods of time (some never leave...the foster family falls in love with and adopts the dog).

As a Foster Parent, you are responsible for teaching your foster greyhound:

- Housebreaking
- Walking on a leash
- Responding to his/her name
- Appropriate behavior indoors and out
- Playing with children and adults



Your foster must be kept indoors as a house pet. Greyhounds have no fur or body fat to shield them from temperatures, have always been kept indoors in temperature-controlled kennels, and are accustomed to being inside around people.

Remember: We are only a phone call away if you have questions or need advice!

- Foster Coordinator-Diane Hartman (419) 357-4709
- NCGC President-Sandy Augugliaro (419) 345-1259

BASIC PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Ownership of foster greyhounds

All foster greyhounds are the sole property of NCGC and shall be returned to NCGC upon request, or if the foster parent is not able to adequately care for the greyhound.

Care of the foster greyhound

Foster parents must provide the foster greyhound:

- Good food
- Fresh water
- Trimmed nails
- Coat brushing
- Teeth brushing
- Periodic bathing
- Love and affection
- Soft and comfy beds and pillows
- LOTS of guidance, supervision and training

Health treatment

NCGC will provide routine and emergency veterinary care through select veterinarians. Foster greyhounds are not to be treated by unauthorized veterinarians, except in cases of emergency. Expenses resulting from unauthorized routine care will be the responsibility

of the foster parent. You must contact the foster coordinator, president, or area coordinator for authorization.

The designated veterinary practice for NCGC is Reynolds Road Animal Hospital, Toledo, Ohio (419) 531-5589.

See attachment D for some suggested treatments for minor health issues.

Help with the placement process

Foster parents play an important role in the placement and adoption process and may be asked to be available to talk to and to meet with prospective families, and you are encouraged to bring your dog to any and as many events in your area or others as possible. The more your dog is out; the more likely they are to be adopted!

ID Tags

Make sure your foster wears his or her greyhound collar and NCGC tag at all times. You might also have a tag made that says NCGC FOSTER along with your own address and phone number. If your foster dog gets loose, it will have double protection with the NCGC tag and your tag.

Greyhound names

You may call your foster greyhound any nickname you like while you're at home. However, when you are in official situations, such as when you visit the vet or talk to potential adopters, please use the name that NCGC gave your foster dog. A foster dog with the wrong name creates problems for those of us who keep the official records. For example, when we contact the vet for test results, it causes confusion if you listed the dog under a different name and no one can find the medical files. Potential adopters will refer to the dog by its NCGC name also, so please be sure to use the NCGC name in these official situations.

Attending functions

Foster families are encouraged to attend any and all greyhound functions with their foster dogs. The greyhounds that have been adopted and are now pets make great sales dogs for their kind, and the foster dogs give a prospective family the opportunity to actually begin picturing themselves with their very own greyhound.

Vacationing & Out of Town Travel

In the event you have to travel out of town or have a vacation scheduled, please contact N.C.G.C.'s foster coordinator as early as possible and advise him/or her of your plans. You have several options regarding your foster dog's arrangements. First, you can make arrangements with the foster coordinator and return your foster dog to the N.C.G.C. kennel (the Foster Coordinator may even possibly contact other foster homes in your area to arrange stay while you are away). Or, with permission from N.C.G.C.'s President and the Foster Coordinator, you may be allowed to take your foster dog with you. If you chose this option however; and medical care for your foster dog becomes necessary, you will be financially responsible for any related bill incurred for the foster dog while you are away. You will be required to sign a release of liability form as well prior to your departure.

Veterinary and Medical Procedures

Vaccinations and worming

All greyhounds receive routine vaccinations (DHLPP, Corona, Bordatella, and Rabies) and an initial worming before being placed in a foster home. You may need to administer additional rounds of worming medicine to the greyhound after a period of time. Instructions and medicine will be given to you if applicable.

Spay/Neuter/Dental

Before entering foster care, the greyhounds will have the following completed:

- Spay/Neuter
- Teeth cleaning
- Heartworm test
- Any other medical procedures needed

Giving Medication

The foster family will, when necessary, administer medication and follow veterinary instructions regarding the recovery and care of the foster greyhound.

Medications

For those of you who are new, NCGC buys the more frequently used medications in bulk. We will provide Heartworm and Frontline. Our Vets, with the President, handle most other medications. So, if you have questions please check with that person.

Participating Vets

Arrangements for medical care are made by the foster coordinator, president or the area coordinators and are scheduled with the participating area veterinarians who provide services at reduced or no cost. Since we are a non-profit organization, we are not in a position to reimburse foster families for routine medical care provided by their personal vets, if that care could have been provided by one of our participating vets. Call your area coordinator for a referral to an appropriate vet.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, get vet care immediately, with the dog's health and safety first and foremost. If the dog can be transported to a participating vet without endangering its life or health, please do so. If this is not possible, obtain care by the best means available. If anesthesia is required, be sure the vet is familiar with greyhounds and anesthesia. Notify NCGC area coordinator of emergencies as soon as you can.

With this in mind, please follow these procedures:

- Be patient and polite to everyone you encounter. If we in any way seem ungrateful, rude or impatient, the hospital could decide to terminate the service it provides. We can't afford to do this to our dogs.
- Any pertinent information specific to your foster dog can be obtained through the area coordinator so that the vet will be sure of vaccinations and date given, procedures desired, and medical conditions previously noted.

- If you are dissatisfied with any treatment or situation that arises while you are visiting a vet, please remember that in this situation you are a representative of NCGC. What you do or say reflects directly on our NCGC chapter. Please do not argue or make a scene. Instead, call the area coordinator as soon as possible and explain the situation. As the coordinator and liaison to the vets, this person is best qualified to deal with any situation that may arise.

After the spay/neuter

1. Rest and relaxation are the keys to speedy recovery. Give your dog a quiet place to himself.
2. No running or jumping for 10-14 days. Leash walks only.
3. No baths for 14 days following surgery
4. Check the incision area daily for swelling, redness, bruising, or bleeding. For males, make sure the scrotal area is flat. If the sac appears swollen or full, call the vet coordinator and the vet who performed the neuter.
5. Do not let the dog chew or lick the stitches. Use an E-Collar if necessary.
6. If your dog comes home the day of surgery, it may vomit from the anesthesia. DO NOT FEED. Allow only small sips of water or allow to lick an ice cube.
7. The mouth may be sensitive due to teeth cleaning, so feed soft foods for several days.
8. IF YOU SUSPECT A PROBLEM, report any complications or suspicious conditions immediately to the area coordinator.
9. TO CHECK YOUR DOG'S TEMPERATURE, use a bay or rectal thermometer. Lightly coat with petroleum jelly. Gently slide the thermometer a little more than halfway into the rectum. Hold for 2-3 minutes. If temperature is over 103 degrees, see a vet right away. (Normal temperatures for dogs and cats are between 100.5 and 102.5 degrees). A warm dry nose is not necessarily a sign of fever, so use a thermometer to be sure.
10. To administer medication, disguise pill inside some peanut butter, cream cheese, canned food, or something the dog really likes. Pop into his mouth or serve in a dish. For liquid medication, tilt the dog's head up and use a syringe or spoon to pour the liquid down the throat.

FOOD, CARE AND TRAINING

Water and food

Provide access to fresh, clean water at all times. Feed a high quality, all-natural with no preservatives or dye with a protein level of 20-22% kibble. Your foster dog, fresh off the track, may be used to eating raw meat. You may need to mix canned food with the kibble until the dog gets used to eating dry kibble.

NEVER FEED:

- Raw meat (unless approved by N.C.G.C. President)-it may contain salmonella
- Food that could be spoiled. Discard old food. We recommend establishing feeding time twice a day and sticking to that schedule. If your foster does not finish in 10-15 minutes, it's best to pick up the food and discard it and try again at the next feeding time. Your foster will soon realize that feeding time is the time to eat and you will not promote free feeding habits that are hard to break.

Leaving food out, especially moist food, can promote the growth of bacteria and lead to stomach upsets and diarrhea. Wash your dog's food bowls thoroughly at least daily.

- Chicken bones, pork bones, or fish bones – these can be swallowed and their sharp ends can pierce the stomach or intestinal walls.
- Any bone that could splinter or be swallowed whole.
- Chocolate – contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs.
- Supplements – unless prescribed by our vet
- Alcohol – thirsty dogs can drink fatal amounts quickly. Plus, drunk and alcoholic dogs are not cute!

Tapeworms

If you see little white worms in the dog's stool or around its rectum, it is most likely tapeworms. They are not contagious and cannot be passed from one dog to another. They can only be contracted if the dog swallows in infected flea or eats raw meat. **IF YOU SEE TAPEWORMS, YOUR DOG HAS FLEAS.** Call the area coordinator to get a de-wormer for your dog.

Feeding Time

When feeding your new foster dog, **NEVER DO SO CLOSE TO YOUR OWN PETS.** They may be protective of their food bowls. Feed the foster dog in a separate room or and **SUPERVISE.** Reinforce the pack order at feeding time; the top (alpha) dog should be fed first, then the second, etc. If your foster's crate is a handy place to feed as it creates a good feeling about their crate and prevents competition over food.

General Care and Grooming

Check your foster dog frequently for cuts, scrapes, fleas, and ticks. Talk with your foster coordinator for appropriate treatment. **DO NOT EVER USE FLEA COLLARS!**

Groom periodically with a grooming mitt or glove, as most dogs fresh off the track have never had much grooming or bathing. They will probably shed a little and enjoy the attention very much. If you have your foster dog for any length of time, they may need a bath. If you cannot adequately administer a bath to your greyhound, please let the Foster Coordinator know and other arrangements will be made.

Introduce your greyhound to teeth brushing. Teeth brushing is an important and you will need to ease your foster into this technique. Initially let the foster greyhound sniff the tube of toothpaste. Then with time, let him/her lick the paste and eventually rub the paste with your finger over the gum areas. When the time is right and you will know, transition from your finger to using a brush and gently brush the greyhound's teeth.

Nail trimming is also a part of general care. Trim your foster's nails as you would your own. If you cannot adequately administer a bath to your greyhound, please let the Foster Coordinator know and other arrangements will be made.

Housebreaking

Greyhounds come from the track crate-trained and the transition to housetraining is usually accomplished in a day or two.

- When you are at home, keep the dog with on a leash so that you can catch him or her in the act of having an accident. Correct the dog with a firm “NO” and take him or her outside. Praise profusely
- When you are not at home, your foster should be crated.
- Never correct a dog if you don’t catch him or her in the act. Dogs aren’t able to connect your correction with an action that took place five minutes ago.
- Do not allow the dog free run of the house until you are sure that he or she is completely housebroken.

Walks

Take your foster dog for walks and teach him or her to stroll calmly on a leash. The exercise is good for both of you. For dogs that pull excessively, use a gentle leader. Call the Foster Home Coordinator if you need a gentle leader.

Play

Teach your foster greyhound to play. This is something he or she has probably never done. Greyhounds love soft stuffed animals, especially if they squeak.

Outdoors, greyhounds can work up fairly good speed, even in a small yard. Look for small stumps or pipes that could break or dislocate a toe, or bushes with sharp, broken branches at greyhound eye level. Also, check for poisonous plants; some of the more deadly plants are:

- Yew
- Mistletoe
- English holly berries
- Philodendron
- Jerusalem cherry
- Azaleas
- Rhododendron
- Foxglove
- Waterhemlock
- Milkweed
- Rattlebox
- Corn cockle
- Jimson weed
- Jessamine
- Oleander
- Castor bean

NOTE: If you have a pool, be aware that although dogs are natural swimmers, they cannot pull themselves up!!!

Furniture

Please do not allow your foster dog on any human furniture in your home including but not limited to: your sofa, your love seat, your recliner, you or your children’s bed(s). How do you know that the adoptive parents will allow pets on their furniture? It’s much easier to train your foster dog to not access furniture than it could be for the adoptive parents to keep them off their furniture once this pattern has started. Further, allowing

your foster dog on furniture may create behavioral issues as well. Also, please instruct your children to not allow the foster dog on any furniture.

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

This disturbing phenomenon is fairly common in dogs of all breeds, but it is perhaps more pronounced in retired racing greyhounds due to the environment in which they have been kept during their racing careers. The saying, "Let sleeping dogs lie", must have originated from a source with personal experience in this area!

A dog that growls or bites upon being disturbed while sleeping is not generally considered to be an aggressive or vicious dog. These dogs are usually well adjusted, sociable, affectionate dogs in all other aspects of their ability to relate to people and other pets. Reacting negatively to sleep disturbance is not uncommon, even in human beings.

A specific place for the greyhound should be designated with a soft bed or blanket on the floor or in a crate with the door left open (**NOT ON HUMAN FURNITURE**), and everyone should understand that this place is off limits for all but the dog. Teaching children this rule should be no different from teaching them anything else that is necessary for you to protect them from things that may injure them. Some greyhounds sleep with their eyes open or partially opened. Please observe your foster dog's sleeping behaviors and communicate any sleep aggression to the Foster Coordinator. If you must wake your foster dog, call its name firmly and have it walk to you.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN CRAWL UP TO, RUN UP TO, JUMP ON, KISS, HUG A DOG THAT IS LYING DOWN AND/OR SLEEPING.

Greyhounds do not understand the meaning of a child or children rushing, crawling, running up to it or trying to kiss or hug it, when it is laying down (even if it is awake!). A dog may choose to get up and walk away, do nothing, growl or it may even snap or bite.

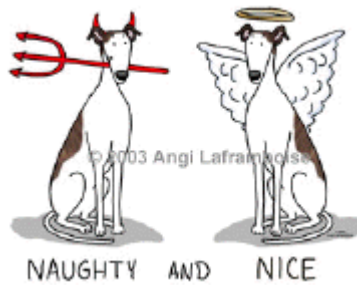
YOUR FOSTER DOG AND OTHER ANIMALS

Socialization

SUPERVISE and socialize your foster dog with your own greyhounds, dogs, cats, and children. Remember, your foster dog has been a racing machine thus far in its life. Your mission is to show this dog how to relax and be a good family pet.

Getting Acquainted

Take precautions while you are getting to know the dog's personality, especially when he or she is around other animals and children. Introduce them slowly. NEVER leave the foster dog alone with cats, small pets and other dogs that have behaved aggressively or dominantly. **You will be supplied with a muzzle for your foster greyhound, USE IT when making introductions and also for, at least if not longer, the first week when the dogs are together. Do not leave dogs together unsupervised and un-muzzled!!!**



Introducing the foster to your dogs

1. Have them meet on neutral territory; for example, introduce them on the sidewalk in front of your house or down the block.
2. Keep the foster dog on a short leash close to your side. **Make sure your foster has his/her muzzle on.** Bring out your dogs on leashes one at a time. Do not let them rush the new dog. Observe the reaction of the new dog and of your own dogs. Watch for any signs of aggression and/or dominance.
 - Head and tail held high, stiff and rigid
 - Tail held high and wagging stiffly
 - Raised hair along the spine from the shoulder to the tail
 - Growling or snapping of teeth
 - One dog attempting to mount the other.

- Immediately correct any show of aggression with a very firm “NO!”
3. With leashes still on, let them sniff and greet each other, then take them around your property and into your house. If all dogs are behaving well with each other, you may remove leashes, but continue to monitor and supervise. Do not leave dogs alone unattended until you are 100% sure that all are getting along well.

Introducing the foster dog to your cats

Introduce the greyhound to your cat indoors with the greyhound muzzled and leashed. Hold the leash tightly in your hand. Leave the cat on the floor. Walk toward the cat slowly. If your dog pulls or lunges, give a sharp pull on the leash and shout “NO!” Keep the dog on a leash for the first few days when the cat is present. Correct the dog every time it shows interest in the cat. **A spray bottle filled with water is helpful.** If you observe any of the following signs, please inform the foster coordinator:

- Teeth clicking or snapping with ears alert
- Fixed gaze or start that cannot be broken
- Trembling or lurching

Behavior towards small animals

NEVER allow the foster dog to run and play with cats or small dogs – indoor or outdoors. Play can turn to hunt in a flash, and no cat or small dog is fast enough to get out of the way of a determined greyhound. **Muzzle when necessary.**

Possessive behavior

The foster dog may be possessive of food, toys, and space at first. Your own dogs may begin to exhibit possessive behavior. Do not leave dogs unsupervised with food, rawhides, toys, etc. Correct all possessive behavior.

Leaving pets home alone

Before you leave home, separate the foster from other animals by crating them. A crate will be supplied by NCGC (if needed) for your use. As the foster parent, **the decision to crate or not is not yours to make.** If your foster is showing extreme crate anxiety, please contact the Foster Home Coordinator or the Area Coordinator.

Injuries to your family members or other pets caused by the foster dog(s)

The foster program is vital to our placement success. You as a foster parent not only have the responsibility to care for your foster dog but your own pets and family members too. NCGC recognizes this invaluable commitment you have made. However, accidents and injuries to your pets and family members can happen. NCGC will not be liable (financially or otherwise) for any and all injuries that may occur to your family members and/or other pets caused by your foster dog. We simply do not have the financial capability to pay for these incidents. Please note that most injuries or incidents can be prevented if you faithfully use, read and understand this manual.

Insurance

We encourage you to enjoy your foster dog and socialize him or her as you would your own dog. We do, however, want to remind you that we do not carry insurance as a group. If your foster dog inflicts injury on another dog or person, your homeowner's insurance policy may cover you under the liability portion of your policy. You may want to check with your insurance company to find out how and when such protection is extended.

Lure Coursing

Lure coursing your foster dog is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to straight line and traditional courses.

Dog Parks

Foster dogs are NOT to be taken to dog parks for the following reasons:

1. As you know, many of these foster dogs are not safe with smaller animals. A few of them have been involved in incidents at dog parks, and there have been some incidents with dogs already adopted into homes. We are concerned about potential liability if a foster dog injures or kills another dog at such a park.
2. Although the risk of injury to a foster dog at a dog park is minimal, it is, nevertheless, of concern to us. So far, NCGC has covered all the medical costs for dogs in foster homes. It would only take a few large medical bills, however, to put us in the red.
3. Small and medium dogs (and the reputation of greyhounds as pets) are at risk if you take your foster to a dog park.

Should you take your foster dog to a dog park when we have requested that you not do so, NCGC will expect you to be responsible for any legal, financial, and medical problems that occur.

The Adoption Process

While the foster greyhound is in your care, placement representatives will be making home visits to prospective adopters and attempting to find the perfect match for your dog.

For this reason, it is important that you keep the Area Coordinator up-to-date regarding your foster dog's personality, behavior, health, and idiosyncrasies. For instance, you will want to note if the foster dog has begun to limp, has an ear problem, etc. Please see Attachment C. We have provided a foster evaluation form for your use. It is not required, but it makes a great document to release to the adoptive family when the time comes.

When your foster dog's profile matches an adopter's profile, you will be contacted Area Coordinator for more information.

The Placement Rep or designee will complete the adoption paperwork at your home or at another location. You may or may not be asked to help transport the foster dog to the adoption location.

Adoption tips

Exposure, exposure, exposure. Take your foster dog everywhere you possibly can, show off the dog's positive traits and work on correcting any bad habits. Another tip that you may not have thought about: What you say about your foster dog and greyhounds in general has a great impact on potential adopters. You can scare them away by jokingly saying the wrong thing. Emphasize your dog's positive qualities, cute expressions, and delightful personality. We have had adopters change their minds because of an offhand comment a foster parent made. Don't jeopardize your foster's chance to find a home by saying the wrong thing.

Bouncebacks

A bounceback is a dog that has been adopted and is returned to us. When we get a lot of bouncebacks, it makes it harder for us to rescue dogs from the track. Some of the most common reasons dogs are returned are:

- Housebreaking problems
- Separation anxiety
- In appropriate behaviors (such as jumping on furniture, people and counters or excessive pulling on the leash).

As a foster parent, you can help! Make sure your foster is housebroken. Practice leaving the dog home alone so it's used to a working person's schedule. Correct undesirable behaviors such as jumping, counter surfing, digging, chewing, housebreaking, and pulling on the leash. Your goal, as the foster home, is to have the dog "graduate with honors" into its new home!

Recommended Reading

Adopting a Racing Greyhound, Cynthia A. Branigan

Greyhound: A Complete Owner's Manual, Caroline Coile

Living With More Than One Dog, Carol Cronan

Good Owners, Great Dogs, Brian Kilcommons and Sara Wilson

Childproofing Your Dog, Brian Kilcommons and Sara Wilson

Good Dogs, Bad Habits, Jeanne Carlson

5,000 Years For a Single Purpose, Stuart McLean

Fostering Q and A

Here are some answers to common questions we receive from foster families. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our policies and procedures regarding common situations. **REMEMBER:** If you are not sure what to do in a situation, it is always best to do nothing until you have contacted the Keeper of the Hounds or the Foster Coordinator. (Let people get mad at us, not you!)

Q: What do I do if another foster family asks me to foster their dog and I already have a foster dog?

A: Tell the person to contact the Area Coordinator, who will help address any problems the foster parent may be having. The Area Coordinator will know whether or not there are any foster home openings. Under no circumstances should you take the foster dog without authorization from the Area Coordinator.

Q: What do I do if another foster family asks me to take their foster dog for only a few days, say, while they go away for the weekend?

A: Again, you should tell the person to contact the Area Coordinator for appropriate advice about what to do with the foster dog.

Q: I just got a call from a placement rep who is referring a family to come see my foster dog. No problem, right?

A: You should suggest to the placement rep that he or she check with the Area Coordinator, since she is the one who decides who looks at each dog.

Q: When I took my foster dog to the vet, the vet recommended a blood panel and other tests. It sounds reasonable to me...how should I respond to the vet?

A: ALL medical, except for emergency life-saving procedures, must be approved by the Area Coordinator, Foster Coordinator or the President.

Q: I was out walking my foster dog the other day and met the most wonderful couple...they instantly fell in love with my dog! I told them that if they filled out an application right away, they could adopt my dog. Did I do the right thing?

A: By all means, encourage them to seek further information and fill out an application. **HOWEVER,** Make **NO PROMISES** to anyone regarding your foster dog or any other. You have no way of knowing how many applications are being acted upon or which dogs are available.

Q: I know the perfect family for my foster dog. Can I take him over to their house to see how they'll get along?

A: Only trained placement reps should be doing home visits.

Q: My foster dog bit my other dog and I incurred a vet bill for the medical treatment. Will NCGC reimburse me for this expense?

A: No. NCGC will not be liable (financially or otherwise) for any and all injuries that may occur to your family members and/or other pets caused by your foster dog. We simply do not have the financial capability to pay for these incidents. Please note that most injuries or incidents can be prevented if you faithfully use, read and understand this manual.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

In Case of Emergency

Contact the Area Coordinator, Foster Coordinator or the Greyhound Coordinator. If you have a life-threatening emergency, take your foster dog to the nearest emergency animal hospital. Please reach the Foster Home Coordinator, Area Coordinator, Greyhound Coordinator or the President before making that decision.

Routine Vet Appointment

The Area Coordinator, Foster Coordinator and the President are responsible for arranging the routine vet appointments. Please call either of them if your foster dog is vomiting, having diarrhea, bleeding, limping, refusing to eat or drink, having seizures, or in any way seems sick. They will immediately schedule an appointment with the appropriate vet.

Important Phone Numbers

President: Bill Taylor (419) 307-1074-cell or (419) 332-9803 (home);
reward41@yahoo.com

Foster Coordinator: Diane Hartman (419) 357-4709; sillydogs@thewavz.com

Greyhound Coordinator: Hiede Robinette (419) 463-8515; hiederook@yahoo.com

NCGC President: Bill Taylor (H): 419-332-9803; Mobile: 419-307-1074
Email: reward41@yahoo.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AS FOSTER PARENTS!!
We, and the greyhounds, appreciate it!!!!

ATTACHEMENT B

FOSTER DOG EVALUATION

Complete the following evaluation form as applicable. Should you have a dog in foster care for an extended period of time, please complete an additional evaluation form or use a blank sheet of paper to update the information. Be sure to contact the Foster Home Coordinator if any significant problems arise or you have any questions.

DOG: _____ **Male** **Female** **(circle one)**

Date entered foster care: _____

Foster Parent/s: _____

Feeding Schedule Maintenance

Brand: _____

Dry **Canned** **Combination (circle one)**

Amount: _____

Schedule: _____

Special Instructions/Comments:

ATTACHMENT C

Personality

Please circle all that apply. Explain if necessary and not if changes occur. Be sure to include any measures taken to help the dog adjust to resolve any issues.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Friendly | Calm | Fearful | Timid |
| Alert | Active | Dominant | Submissive |
| Outgoing | Shy | Aggressive | Curious |

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Behavioral Evaluation

Please circle all that apply. Explain if necessary and not if changes occur. Be sure to include any measures taken to help the dog adjust or to resolve any issues.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Calm when left alone | Displays anxiety when crated |
| Displays no anxiety | Afraid of people/men |
| Not afraid of household noises | Easily stressed (explain below) |
| Displays no destructive behavior | Displays destructive behavior (explain below) |

Behavioral Continued
(Please explain below if circled)

Afraid of other noises

Territory marking issues

High prey drive

Should be in environment where someone is home often

Would probably do better in a calm/quiet environment

Comments:

Socialization

Please circle all that apply. Explain if necessary and not if changes occur. Be sure to include any measures taken to help the dog adjust or to resolve any issues.

Prefers company of other dogs

Shows anxiety or confusion if not around other dogs

Spends most of its time with other dogs

Recommend be placed with other dogs

Prefers the company of people

“Velcro” Dog with you at all times

Content to play with you or self instead of other dogs
Plays with other dogs but limited interaction

Socialization (cont)

Cats/small animal friendly

Not cat/small animal friendly

Not cat/small animal tested

Small children not recommended

Other dogs not recommended

Crowds and noise environment overwhelming

Comments:

Training

Housebreaking: Please explain if there are any issues and list any measures taken to correct them. Please be sure to indicate any improvements or setbacks.

_____ **No housebreaking issues.**

Stairs

Explain if having trouble learning/managing stairs.

_____ **No problems with stairs.**

Basic Commands
(Please circle all commands that apply)

Sit

Lie Down

Stay

Come

Heel/walks on leash without effort

Comments:

Grooming Behavior

Special Grooming Instructions

Medical

No medical concerns **Extended Care**

Heartworm Medication: _____

Date given: _____

Medication: _____

Dates: _____

Dosages: _____

Comments:

ATTACHMENT D

Other medical issues (If dog is seeing a vet other than a NCGC vet, please be sure to include the name of the vet/clinic.)

First Aid Tips and Helpful Hints for Foster Homes

The following first aid and helpful hints information in no way replaces advice and care provided by a trained veterinarian. It is for treatment of minor issues that may arise with your new foster greyhound. If you feel your foster greyhound requires professional medical care please contact the Foster Home Coordinator or the Greyhound Adoption Coordinator. If the situation requires immediate medical care please take your greyhound to a NCGC listed veterinarian or emergency clinic.

Diarrhea/soft stools

Greyhounds right of the track have undergone a great deal of stress. Along with the changes in their schedules and living arrangements, they also encounter food/diet changes and may be host to internal parasites. All of the above can cause your foster greyhound to have bouts of diarrhea and/or soft stools. Be sure your foster dog is getting plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Some greyhounds may have different reactions to the food they are eating. If you find that nothing else is a contributing factor to mushy stools, you need to consider changing the brand and ingredients of food being fed to your foster greyhound. If diarrhea continues for 3 or more days seek veterinary care. To help with stool issues try the following (not all together and only as needed):

1. 1 teaspoon of Kaopectate (or similar product) as needed to diarrhea.
2. Add a couple teaspoons to ¼ cup of plain canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix) to the kibble. Adjust amount as needed.
3. Tbsp to ½ cup of cottage cheese added to their meal
4. Active Acidophillus tablets (these can be found at your local pharmacy).

If diarrhea is chronic you may be advised to feed your foster a bland diet:

1. Withhold food for a period of 24 hours to allow the digestive system to settle.
2. Prepare a diet of boiled hamburger or chicken and rice or cottage cheese (1 part hamburger/chicken to 2 parts rice).
3. Feed for a couple days and then reintroduce their normal diet gradually over the next few feedings.

Gas

Due to stress and diet changes, your foster greyhound may have excessive gas. Yogurt works wonders on this offending ailment. If gas continues consider evaluating the brand of food you are feeding. A change may be necessary.

-Add one tsp of yogurt to each meal. Plain or vanilla usually works the best as some dogs may have tummy upset with fruit.

Sores

Sores may be due to insect or dog bites that have been left untreated and/or become irritated due to less than clean living conditions. Often times these sores do not heal and can spread if the dog is under any stress. Staph bacteria, which is a regular presence in the body, can become highly activated and aggravate the existing sores. This is not a contagious form of staph. If the sores do not respond to treatments, fester and become pus filled, seek veterinary care, as your foster will probably require a dose of antibiotics to help him heal. If you notice the sores in the early stages follow these steps to help the healing process:

1. Trim/shave the hair at the site of the sore (hair will hold moisture to the area and you want it to stay dry).
2. Clean the site with warm water and mild soap or antiseptic wash.
3. Pat the area dry and dab it with Hydrogen Peroxide (this will help the area to dry out)
4. Apply a very thin layer of antibiotic ointment to the area. (Antibiotic ointments are heavy in moisture so be sure to apply a very thin layer.)
5. Monitor the site, keeping it as clean and dry as possible.

If your foster is on antibiotics

If your foster greyhound is on antibiotics add a teaspoon of yogurt to their food daily until the treatment is over. Yogurt is used to replenish the good bacteria in the digestive tract that can be destroyed or depleted during the use of antibiotics. Antibiotics can cause an upset stomach and loss of appetite, so don't panic if this occurs. Should this behavior continue and loss of appetite increase contact the Foster Home Coordinator or Adoption Coordinator. A change in medication may be necessary.

Bleeding Tails

You may receive a foster greyhound whose tail has a lot of hair worn off and sores on it. Treat the sores as mentioned above. Occasionally one will arrive with the tip of the tail actively bleeding due to a sore or split. If your foster is a real tail-wagger this could slow down the healing process, especially if they are banging the open tail against a hard surface or the wire crate. Sometimes open and split tails can take a week or longer to begin to heal so be patient and diligent. Try the following steps to help the healing process:

1. Clean the bleeding area with warm water and mild soap or antiseptic wash.
2. Put a thin layer of antibiotic ointment on the area
3. Cover with a gauze pad and wrap securely with gauze. Secure the gauze in place using a medical grade tape or vet wrap. You may have to tape (with bandage tape) the gauze wrap to the tail itself to prevent it from coming off (especially with the wagers). Greyhounds have sensitive skin and may react to the adhesives on certain tapes. Try to use a bandage tape made for sensitive skin or use the vet wrap.
4. Remove and clean the area as necessary.
5. Reapply bandage if needed.

If the simple gauze wrap is not working, try the following:

1. Take a clean, white athletic sock and cut about 2-3 inches off the top
2. After cleaning the bleeding area on the tail, slip the sock over the tail.
3. Tape the sock securely to the tail using a bandage tape or vet wrap.
4. Remove the sock as necessary, clean area and replace if needed.
5. The athletic sock is great for dogs that keep pulling tighter gauze wraps off their tail. It provides a soft and thick cushion for the tail and is lighter and less restrictive. It also allows air to pass and heal the wound.

You can also try the hair roller:

1. Take a foam hair roller and place it over the open area.
2. Secure the roller in place with gauze and bandage tape.
3. Remove as necessary, clean and replace if needed.

Shedding and Flaky Skin

Stress and diet changes are factors in maintaining a healthy coat and skin. Your foster greyhound may arrive with their coat in rough condition and will go through a period of excessive shedding. Once this coat has shed, a new fresh coat will grow in its place. A quality food is key to development of a healthy coat and skin. You do not need to feed your foster greyhound supplements at this point but feel free to contact the Foster Home Coordinator if you have any questions. Regular grooming will help remove dead hair and aid with the growth of new hair and stimulate the skin. Should you notice long term and excessive shedding or noticeable and unusual bald spots appearing, contact the Foster Program Coordinator or Adoption Coordinator. Your foster greyhound may require a thyroid or other medical tests.

Night Time Crying

As a foster home you may experience some sleepless nights with your new foster greyhound. Remember that they have gone through a lot of changes and it may take time to adjust to their new life. It is not unusual for the new foster to cry during the night. This may be a result of lifestyle changes, stress, sores or pain due to injury, anxiety, loneliness, fear of the dark, etc. Try the following suggestions to help your foster with his transition to a sleep filled night. Please remember that every dog adjusts at a different pace. It may take only a couple days or even a week or more for your dog to make the adjustments.

1. Leave a light on and gradually lower the lighting during the night until you have weaned them to full darkness.
2. Leave a night light on
3. Check to see if they are cold and provide appropriate crate bedding

4. Soft music (track kennels play music at all times, so the dogs are used to the noise)
5. Medical issues (if this is the case, you will notice the problems during the day as well).
6. Place the dog's crate in a room where someone sleeps so he will not be alone (this usually works wonders for crying greyhounds).

Putting Weight on your new Greyhound

Greyhounds race at a different weight than most of us are used to seeing in a pet greyhound. Most often they will enter your home needing to put on several pounds, usually 5-10 lbs. If your foster grey arrives in a more severe state, you may need to add even more pounds to bring it to a healthy weight.

Initially you will want to feed your new foster greyhound more than a normal amount of food. For example, if the greyhound would normally be fed 4 cups per day, you may need to feed it 5-6 cups per day until it reaches an acceptable weight. Do not rush the weight gain. Evaluate your foster greyhounds needs and work from there. Should you have a greyhound that is very underweight but also has a parasite issue as well, feeding the dog 6-8 cups a day to put weight on may cause more harm than good. Also, if ill or at their desired weight, the dog's body may not process the excessive food properly and this could lead to further medical issues, extra weight gain or excessive waste.

