

GRREAT FOSTER HOME NEWSLETTER

HELP! MY FOSTER DOG GOT LOOSE!

It can happen to any of us. No matter how closely we watch our foster dogs, invariably one will sneak out the front door, jump a fence or yank the leash loose. As much as we all never want to have to make that call to GRREAT that we have lost our foster dog, it is an extremely important call to make. When you call us, we can quickly put a plan into action to call shelters, ask volunteers to come out and search, put up posters and send out e-mails for our members to keep a look out for the dog. If your foster dog gets loose, please call

our Emergency Number: (703) 620-6593 - Press #7 and leave a message with your name, your foster dog's name and a contact number for you. We will get back to you right away.

Additional Tips:

Put a GRREAT collar and tag on your foster dog as soon as possible.

Make sure the collar is tight enough (or keep a no-slip collar around the house for those sneaky escape artists.)

Get your foster dog micro-chipped as soon as possible.

Secure the foster dog in your car when transporting. If your foster dog is a bolter, keep a leash on while in the



Bodie (07-100) relaxing in the pool at his foster home

house, or keep the dog baby-gated away from the door. Take your foster dog on walks in several directions around your home, so if he does get loose he may be able to find his way back. Keep the dog's leash on in the backyard for the first

day or two to make sure he can't jump the fence. If you have an extra tag with your name and address on it put it on your foster dog while you have him. It may speed up the process of you getting him back.

Contributed by Sandy Diamond

PREPARING YOUR FOSTER DOG FOR AN ADOPTION DAY

Of course you want your dog to look her very best and make a good impression on Adoption Day. Here are some ideas of things you can do:

- Give her a bath the night before and brush her coat. Brush her teeth and trim her nails and paw hair.
- Prepare a write-up with a nice digital photo and if you can, bring copies to post on the wall at your station and hand out to people who might be in-

terested in your dog. Sometimes if you are talking to one family you can give your write up to another family to read while you are speaking with the first family.

- Bring a blanket or towel for her to lay on. You may want to bring a small bowl and a bottle of water for her to drink while she is there.

- As long as she does not have resource guarding issues you might want to bring a toy to keep her calm and occupied. Rawhide chews, bones; etc. are not recommended as other dogs may come by and such toys can lead to problems.

Contributed by Julie Palais and Lucinda Twining

TIPS ON DOING YOUR FOSTER DOG'S DESCRIPTION

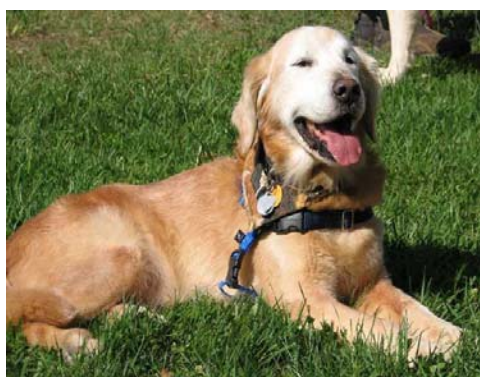
- DO put the best paw forward: Descriptions must be honest but they don't have to be bleak. Be sure to highlight your Foster Dog's positive qualities.
- DO minimize the use of negative language, try for a positive spin: Negative words and phrases add up, be honest but choose a "glass-half-full" approach.
- DO include environmental qualifications like fence/no fence (height/type), kids (ages; would an exuberant dog knock down a toddler, does the dog enjoy children?), other dogs/cats, etc, and support your reasoning.
- DO include significant medical issues in light, easy-to-understand language. You can go into more detail later with applicants who express interest, but being too in-depth or using "scary" or "unknown" language at the outset can turn applicants off.
- DO review other descriptions on the website and DO send your write-up to your POC and the Adoption Coordinator for review. They may have suggestions to offer and they will take care of sending it to the Webmaster.
- DON'T include any reference to AKC registration or pure blood: We do not pass that information along to new adopters (it can lead back to original owners/breeders, this violates our privacy standards.)
- DON'T speculate on breed if your Golden is a mix or may have had "interesting" parentage. Many breeds have negative connotations. Base your description solely on your individual dog's personality, don't label.
- DON'T use negative buzzwords like "aggression" or "alpha." These words have very specific meanings but they are also poorly understood by most adopters. If your foster is truly aggressive, we have other problems than getting them adopted, contact your POC for help. Otherwise, there are other word choices to use.
- DON'T give specific give-up owner history: Previous owners often cruise our website.
- DON'T write the description from the first person (dog's point of view): the webmaster prefers all descriptions be from the third person (foster home's point of view.)
- Next issue, Taking the Perfect Picture.

Contributed by Jessie Robinson

SOME RECENT FOSTER DOGS



Billion (07-011)



Giljit (07-044)



Juliet 07-074

FOSTER HOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q: Is it OK to give different heartworm meds? For example: my foster dog has been given Iverhart Plus; does that mean that he needs to continue to take that or can he be switched over to Heartgard Plus at some point?

A: Yes, you can switch to another brand of heartworm meds; however, if the dog (or any other foster dog that has been in your home) has had whip worms, it's better to use Interceptor rather than Heartgard.



Q: I am fostering a dog who gets car sick occasionally and I've never had a dog before with this problem. It's not a big deal to clean it up, but I'm wondering if there are tips for how to avoid car sickness for dogs who can get a little queasy. For example, is front seat better than back seat? Is A/C better than having the windows open? Is there something I can give him before a trip to help calm his stomach.

A: Although you should check with a veterinarian I have read (see the first web site below) that you can give Dramamine to a dog. Alternatively you can use something like Rescue Remedy to calm them, which may help with the car sickness. Here are some web sites with a variety of suggestions:

<http://www.pettravel.com/0001222.cfm>
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17384577/>
<http://www.delcospca.org/carsick.html>
<http://www.wihumane.org/education/caninecarsickness.aspx>
http://www.lcshelter.com/pet_tips_files/travelingwithrover.htm
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1551&articleid=794>



Peaches (05-140) - A Special Needs Golden in long-term foster care (see her story on the GRREAT web site under "Special Needs Goldens")

Questions contributed by Kathryn Eszeki and Lucy Wichlacz

REMEMBER:

ALWAYS CHECK WITH A VETERINARIAN BEFORE ADMINISTERING ANY MEDICATION TO YOUR DOG AND IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE PROPER DOSAGE.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

The Foster Home Team is soliciting input for upcoming newsletters. Please consider submitting a photo of your foster dog or an article about something you have encountered that you would like to share with others. We would also like to hear from you regarding this newsletter. Do you enjoy it? Will you read future editions? What should we change? Please send your thoughts to Sandy Diamond (sandy_diamond@cox.net).

RESOURCES ON THE GRREAT WEB PAGE:

Feed Me, Please! Something good! A Nutrition Guide for Your Golden Retriever:

<http://www.grreat.org/admin/FeedingBrochure.pdf>

GRREAT Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

<http://www.grreat.org/admin/sop-grreat.pdf>

<http://grreat.org/calendar.htm> - GRREAT calendar

<http://grreat.org/contact.htm> - GRREAT contacts

<http://grreat.org/fosters> - GRREAT Foster Home Newsletter



Rusty (06-055) in his forever home

FOSTER HOME REMINDERS

When corresponding with your POC (Point of Contact) please remember to cc: the following e-mail addresses (in addition to your POC):

adoptions@grreat.org
jessica.a.robinson@lmco.com
fosters@grreat.org
goldenresq@msn.com

Also, please remember to put the dog's name and ID # in the subject line of your e-mails and any other words relevant to the subject of the e-mail.

When transporting a dog for GRREAT, please remember to bring a collar with a GRREAT tag on it and a leash so that you can control him securely once you get out of the car. Be sure to attach the leash to the collar and hold on tight before opening the car door.

If your car is big enough it is best to transport the dog in a crate for the safety of both you and the dog.

Remember about the new adoption fees.

Remember it is a requirement that all GRREAT dogs be micro-chipped. Try to get this done as soon as possible after you get your foster dog.

If you're going on vacation, you **MUST** let your POC know where your foster dog will be; whether the dog will be with you, at home with a pet sitter, etc. It's imperative that whoever is taking care of the foster dog knows how to contact GRREAT in the event of an emergency and it is critical that we know the whereabouts of each and every foster dog.

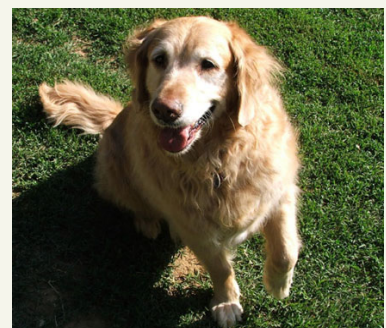
Always keep your foster dog and other family pets separate (either crate the foster dog or babygate the foster dog in an area that prevents him from having access to other pets) if you're leaving the home, until you are 100% sure that everyone will get along.

You might want to put away all high-value toys/chews until you know for sure if your foster dog is ok if one of your dogs tries to take something away from him.

Initially restricting a foster to a smaller area of the house can help ease his transition into your home as well as keep your belongings safe from his curiosity.

NEVER let your foster dog off-leash except in securely fenced areas.

Remember, your POC is available to help you, so don't ever hesitate to ask questions. There is no such thing as a dumb question!!



Shelby (03-209) looking very pretty after being groomed.

Contributed by Julie Palais, Mary Collings and Lucinda Twining