



White German Shepherd Rescue

FOSTER PROGRAM GUIDELINES

If you are considering taking on the rewarding and incredibly beneficial task of fostering a homeless animal for White German Shepherd Rescue (herein referred to as WGSR), you should carefully review the following guidelines, in addition to the Foster Agreement you will be asked to sign.

Fostering parents and families form the backbone of the work we do. We cannot exist as a rescue if people are not willing to bring needy animals into their homes while we search for permanent homes for them. Fosters have our undying gratitude and deepest respect and admiration. There are never enough foster homes to go around, and each is precious to WGSR and the animals we are trying to save.

Families with young children must assume all liabilities associated with fostering a German Shepherd Dog.

To make your fostering experience as positive as possible for you, your family, and your furry friend, herein referred to as “dog, or “foster,” please abide by the following before bringing him/her home:

1. Arrange for WGSR to introduce the new animal to your own pet(s), if any, outside on neutral territory, preferably in a park setting or greenbelt near your home. A member of our staff will gladly supervise the introduction of the newcomer to any and all pets in residence. Once inside, it is best to situate the foster animal in a crate at first, and introduce him/her gradually to other household members. Do not try to make the fostered dog an immediate part of your family. Let him/her settle into the new place, and help him/her learn the rules of the house as soon as possible. Never let the foster take over and place your own animals at risk or under stress.
2. WGSR will provide a specific type collar for walking a fostered dog. Dogs can easily slip out of a flat collar, which should be worn for identification purposes only. Some training collars should be removed after a training session. If you do not know how to use or size a collar properly, please let us know and we will show you.
3. Prior to taking in a foster dog, ask questions and educate yourself about the characteristics of the breed (it's not always a purebred German Shepherd), age, gender, temperament, and why he/she is in need of adoption. This will give you insight as to what type of behavior to expect. We ask that you provide WGSR with periodic updates, by email or phone, regarding the dog's progress. Remember, all will find homes, sooner or later, if we work cooperatively together. Please be sure to advise us of any significant changes in your household or work schedules. You must also let us know of any plans to move.
4. **Never** turn over a foster to someone who claims it is his/her lost pet! This person could be mistaken, or he/she could be deliberately trying to mislead you. The animal could have been removed from his/her former home for all kinds of reasons. The claimant could well have mistreated the animal. Report any such claims to WGSR immediately, and we will investigate.
5. If necessary, WGSR can lend you a crate, a collar and/or leash. Whenever you transport any animal, make certain you have him/her on a leash, with ID & collar and **NEVER** transport in the open bed of a pickup truck. If you plan to foster on a regular basis, it would be a great help to WGSR if you

could get a crate of your own. Make sure the animal has ample room to move around when choosing the proper size. Mature GSDs usually require a 42 inch at home, 36 inch for a vehicle.

6. Foster families typically provide food, treats, and chew toys for their foster animals, with no reimbursement from WGSR. If you are unable to do this, please let us know.

7. If your fostered animal becomes ill or gets hurt, contact Nancy Swanner immediately at 602-863-1519 OR 602-692-8350. WGSR covers medical expenses, but all expenses, treatment and medication must be pre-authorized. WGSR has specific veterinarians who work with our rescue. Should it be necessary for your foster dog to see a veterinarian, in all but emergency situations you **MUST** contact us first. In cases of emergency, when every moment could mean the difference between life or death, do not hesitate to take the animal to a vet immediately or to an emergency clinic if after regular vet hours (see our list of vets and emergency clinics provided). We will work out emergency expenses. The important thing is to do everything possible to save the animal in distress. Know where your closest vet and emergency center are located before you foster any animal. Keep the numbers handy and easily accessible. The time to search is not when you are holding a sick or injured animal in your arms. WGSR reserves the right to refuse medical treatment when, in its opinion, it is not in the dog's best interest.

8. Please understand that in the world of canine rescue, there is no time frame with respect to how long you will be asked to house and provide for your fostered dog. We have placed our rescue dogs in their new homes in as little as 48 hours and as long as one year. There simply is no way to know in advance. Each time a dog in transition is moved, it becomes increasingly traumatic, disorienting and stressful to the dog. Our goal, therefore, is to provide as much stability and routine, prior to placement, as we possibly can. **Thus, we ask that you think about and inform us BEFORE accepting a dog into foster care, of any planned trips, seminars, work responsibilities, family, or other commitments that you know of ahead of time, so that we can make the necessary arrangements.**

9. WGSR understands that occasionally, the unexpected or unforeseen arises. Our fosters need to understand that we normally cannot make a dog instantly disappear on short notice. We must sometimes have time to arrange for housing or a safe haven to which we can move your fostered dog should the need arise. In the event you feel that you are not able to continue fostering the dog, we need as much advance notice as possible in order to accommodate your request. In cases of uncontrollable aggression, destruction, or any other situation deemed potentially dangerous, the dog will be removed immediately.

10. Dogs placed in foster care come from a variety of sources and situations. Many, such as shelter dogs or strays, have a mystery history, that is to say, we know nothing of their past. One of the most valuable and necessary roles our fosters play, is that of observer. By living with and caring for a dog we know nothing about, you will be providing us with information such as whether or not the dog gets along with other dogs, cats, or kids. You will learn, along with us, about a particular dog's behavior, temperament, issues, challenges, training level, etc. The majority of German Shepherd Dogs in rescue are either under or unsocialized. They could have been confined to their yards or property and not properly exposed to the outside world. Ongoing socialization is necessary for all dogs and for German Shepherd Dogs in particular.

11. Whether you own or foster, getting the dog out around strangers, and all of the sights and sounds of the outside world is absolutely necessary. WGSR is always willing to assist you with training guidance, in the case of a socially reactive dog.

13. The decision to place a dog in your foster care was made on the basis of your existing household at the time. Adding **any** pets or other fostered animals could easily upset the dynamic of the household. We require that no new animals be added to your home or care without the express knowledge and permission of WGSR. Not advising us could create conflicts within your pack or even a potentially volatile situation. Safety for all is our utmost concern. You will be asked to provide us with a list of pets currently in your home, along with your work schedule, if applicable.

A Word About Commitment

Everyone involved in animal rescue is making a commitment to that animal. White German Shepherd Rescue is committed to the search for an appropriate, suitable, loving and permanent home for each dog. We are committed to their health and well being.

Our Fosters make a huge commitment as well. We also ask that our adopters commit to the dog they adopt for life. It is often, a seemingly, thankless task.

We are all volunteers who frequently have trouble comprehending why humans behave the way they do sometimes, when it comes to the way they treat or regard animals. It can be frustrating, time consuming, exasperating, enraging, exhausting and all consuming. Many times the only thanks lay in our successes. For every dog that would have otherwise met with an unthinkable fate, we have our entire volunteer staff to thank for the successful outcome.

We regard you, our foster families, very seriously and with much gratitude. We respect and appreciate your commitment. Fostering is not a decision to be made lightly. Fostering is not a means by which one gets to “try out” various dogs in search of the right companion dog for ones self.

That said, special consideration is always given to foster requested adoptions.

Remember, aside from our sincere gratitude and each fostered dog’s love and adoration, it may be the only thanks you hear.

Welcome aboard and Thank You!

All questions should be directed to [Nancy Swanner](#) of White German Shepherd Rescue

602-863-1519-h&f / 602-692-8350-c / WhiteGSDRescue@aol.com

VET: DYNAMITE CREEK ANIMAL HOSPITAL
DR. THOMAS HUTCHISON-480-488-3002
28212 N Tatum Blvd, Ste D1, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

WhiteGSDRescue.com



WHITE GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

2807 West Michelle Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85053
602-863-1519 (H/F)
602-692-8350 (C)

FOSTER AGREEMENT

This agreement is made and entered into on this _____ day of _____ 2022, by and between White German Shepherd Rescue (herein referred to as WGSR) and the following individual(s), hereinafter referred to as "Foster."

This agreement is valid and in force for any dog(s) in Foster's care on behalf of WGSR now or in the future. WHEREAS Foster wishes to foster one or multiple dogs for WGSR, this agreement holds binding for any and all future dogs fostered for WGSR, even if there is a hiatus between fostering.

FOSTER's NAME _____

Now, therefore, the parties to this agreement agree as follows:

1. Foster will provide compassionate and loving care for whichever dog is taken into their home for as long as necessary, until such time as the dog has been successfully placed in a permanent home.¹ This care includes, but is not limited to, adequate food, water, shelter, exercise and medication, when required.

2. Foster will carefully review the Foster Guidelines provided by WGSR and will ask any necessary clarifying questions before taking any dogs into his/her care. Foster will promptly address any matters of concern to Nancy Swanner of WGSR.

3. Foster will be patient and tolerant during the dog's transition period (which can last from a few days to a few months). Foster is prepared to work with the dog on basic training, such as housebreaking, walking on lead and/or crate training. Foster will keep the dog primarily inside the home; the dog will not be outside without proper adult supervision.

4. Foster will notify WGSR if any medical treatment becomes necessary while caring for the dog and WGSR will ensure that appropriate medical treatment is provided. Foster will not hesitate to provide necessary emergency (life threatening) care; however, WGSR must be notified immediately and advised of the prescribed course of treatment. All medical care decisions shall be the sole responsibility of WGSR. **Foster may not authorize veterinary treatments, procedures, or medications nor incur expenses for same without the direct approval and authorization of Nancy Swanner (except in the case of an emergency, in which case authorization shall be obtained as quickly as possible before any procedures or fees are incurred). Should foster wish to take the dog to his or her vet other than the vet used by the rescue and wishes to be responsible for the cost, only verbal authorization to take the dog to the vet is required and the foster shall be responsible for all vet costs.**

_____ I have read and understand the paragraph above regarding veterinary treatment.

¹ Foster understands that WGSR allows for a two (2) week trial period after placement for adoption, during which the dog might be returned to them as fosters.

5. WGSR provides standard care such as spaying/neutering, vaccinations, worming, fecal checks, or bloodwork, as deemed appropriate for that specific dog. Any unauthorized veterinary expenses undertaken by Foster, are the sole responsibility of Foster and will not be reimbursed.

6. In the event Foster contributes any preauthorized money toward the care of the dog for which Foster requires reimbursement, Foster will submit any and all receipts directly to WGSR within 30 days of incurring such expense. If receipts are not submitted within 30 days, the money spent will be considered a donation to WGSR and no reimbursement will be made. ALL EXPENSES related to the fostering of said dog REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM WGSR.

7. WGSR will provide each dog with an appropriate collar and identification tag which Foster will ensure is worn at all times. Foster will make certain that both the tag and collar are securely fastened.

8. Foster will immediately notify WGSR of any problems or difficulties resulting from taking care of the dog or arising while taking care of the dog or if the dog has escaped.

9. Foster agrees to keep the dog on a leash when outside or whenever he/she is not in a securely fenced area and never to leave the dog unsupervised in an area containing an unfenced swimming pool. Foster will never tether or chain the dog in the yard **and will never transport the dog in the open bed of a pickup truck.**

10. Foster will not use harsh training methods. Foster will never strike or choke the dog in an attempt to discipline nor use the crate as a form of punishment.

11. Foster will never leave the dog outside in a yard or elsewhere without adequate adult supervision. Foster will not allow strange people or animals (people or animals unknown to the dog) to approach the dog without being in full control of the dog and the situation. This includes visiting a dog park without the express permission of WGSR.

12. Foster will provide WGSR with periodic updates and photos (if possible) regarding the dog's adjustment and progress in the home. Foster acknowledges that these updates will be used on the dog's online bio page and gives permission for WGSR to use the narratives and photos (whether taken by the foster or by a WGSR representative) in this fashion.

13. Foster understands and accepts that prospective adopters will wish to visit with the dog before adopting him/her. Foster must give WGSR access to the dog in order that the dog may be shown at a mutually convenient place, often times involving transport.

14. Foster will work cooperatively with WGSR to enable WGSR to find the dog a permanent, loving home as quickly as possible. The sharing of information pertaining to your fostered dog is of paramount importance. **If Foster decides he/she would like to adopt the fostered dog, and WGSR deems it to be a suitable adoption, Foster understands and accepts that the procedure for adoption will be the same for him/her as it would be for any other applicant (except that the 2 week trial period will be waived), and Foster is advised that the customary/standard adoption contract and adoption fees apply to them.**

15. **This agreement does not give Foster any rights to adopt their foster dog nor any rights of ownership.** Foster understands and accepts that the fostered dog belongs to WGSR and Foster may not keep, transfer, move or give this dog to anyone without the express permission, knowledge and authorization of WGSR. Foster has no ownership rights whatsoever in the fostered dog(s), nor does Foster have a guarantee of adopting the dog they are fostering.

16. Foster understands and accepts that the dog is and shall remain the sole property of WGSR. Foster further understands and acknowledges that Foster does not have any right or authority to keep the dog, nor place the foster dog in other homes or with other individuals. Moving the dog or placing him/her in permanent homes can only be done with the full knowledge and approval of and by WGSR. **WGSR shall have the right to reclaim the dog from Foster at any time and for any (or no) reason.**

17. Foster understands and accepts that WGSR may have very limited knowledge about the background/history of any dog placed with Foster and WGSR makes no representations or warranties concerning the health, temperament, age, behavior and/or previous ownership of the dog as much information has or may have been garnered from third parties.

18. Foster acknowledges that sufficient advance notice is required in order to find alternate accommodations for the dog should foster become unable to continue their foster obligations.

19. Foster agrees to indemnify and hold harmless WGSR from any direct or consequential damages arising out of this foster care agreement. This includes any and all manner of actions and causes of actions, suits, debts, dues, accounts, bonds, covenants, agreements, judgments, claims, and demands whatsoever arising out of or relating to the adoption, placement, and / or possession of the dog.

I have received, read, understand and agree to the "FOSTER GUIDELINES" provided by WGSR and this FOSTER AGREEMENT. I further agree to keep WGSR apprised of my fostered dog's progress, changes in his/her health status, unusual behaviors, or other matters of relevance.

Signature of Foster Date

White German Shepherd Rescue Representative Date

Name of Foster _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please list (on reverse if necessary) all other pets in your residence at the time you accepted your WGSR foster dog. Include dogs, cats, reptiles, ferrets, other small mammals & livestock; indicate age, gender & breed. Thank You!

DOG #1 _____

DOG #2 _____

CAT #1 _____

CAT#2 _____

OTHER _____

OTHER _____