

GOLDHEART'S

FOSTER-TO-ADOPT PROGRAM



GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.,
P.O. Box 394, Chester, Maryland 21619-0394
Phone: 410-877-9697
e-mail: goldheart@goldheart.org
Website: www.goldheart.org

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

GoldHeart's Foster-to-Adopt (FTA) 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 FTA 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 and we do not have an available foster home, GoldHeart will try to match the dog with an approved FTA home. A description of the dog is provided to the FTA family for consideration. If the FTA 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, the home must decide whether to adopt the dog, in which case they will have one week (unless otherwise directed by a GoldHeart Board member) to complete the adoption contract and submit it along with the adoption fee to GoldHeart. If the FTA family decides not to adopt the dog, they **must fulfill all the agreed upon requirements of our *Foster Care Provider* program**, and that includes having a willing heart to continue to foster until the BEST Forever Home is found to adopt the dog.

In order to be accepted into the FTA program, applicants must have an approved adoption application and home visit with GoldHeart. In addition, applicants must sign the "Foster-to-Adopt Agreement" (included herein), which requires compliance with all its terms and conditions, including the adoption procedures described in the Foster and Adoption Information Packet that will be provided by GoldHeart.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOSTER-TO-ADOPT (FTA) HOME

1. The FTA home (herein referred to as "foster home") must sign and return the "Foster-to-Adopt Agreement" (2 pages).
2. The foster home 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.

B. GOLDHEART'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE FOSTER-TO-ADOPT (FTA) HOME

1. GoldHeart will provide a complete copy of the dog's give up documentation, which typically includes medical records, and may include other evaluations, medications, etc., at the time the FTA home receives the dog or later via mail or email. The confidentiality of the former owner will remain with GoldHeart and will not be released.
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 Home Coordinator or in his/her absence, another GoldHeart Board Member, or by vote of the 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, collar and leash as needed, and make arrangements to microchip the dog. 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.

C. 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 all the requirements of a GoldHeart Foster Care Provider.

1. The foster home will provide a write-up and photo of the foster dog and send it to the GoldHeart webmaster or his/her GoldHeart designee, who will post it at the "Available Dogs" page. You can email this information to the webmaster@goldheart.org, GoldHeart designee, or mail it to GoldHeart at P.O. Box 394, Chester, MD 21619-0394.
2. You will be the contact person for any GoldHeart approved adopter interested in adopting your foster dog. Since you have interacted directly with your foster dog, GoldHeart relies on your evaluation of prospective adoptive family(s). You must contact the Adoption Coordinator (adoption@goldheart.org) to review application and home visit report for any prospective adoptive family. Please keep in mind that GoldHeart does not operate with a "first come - first serve" attitude. Rather, as a foster parent, you must be very careful to match your dog to the best-fit forever home, and the first approved family inquiring about a dog posted as available, may not always be the best-fit.
3. As a 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. The original adoption contract documents and the adoption fee must be mailed/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.



www.goldheart.org

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 that 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. I/we understand that 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. I/we understand that foster dogs may carry diseases or parasites that may be transmittable to humans or other animals. GoldHeart will be held harmless if such an event should occur.
9. If a foster dog is stolen or lost, I/we will immediately notify GoldHeart at 410-877-9697, and if no response, leave a message and send an email alert to goldheart@goldheart.org.
10. Foster dogs must never be given to any other party, or for any reason, or be transferred to another home unless the Foster Home Coordinator or in his/her absence, another GoldHeart Board Member first approves such a transfer or move.
11. 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 Home Coordinator or in his/her absence, another GoldHeart Board Member, and tell them of my decision whether or not to adopt the dog. I/we will then have one week (unless otherwise directed by a GoldHeart Board member) 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 GoldHeart's "Available Dogs" adoption page on the website.

12. 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.
13. Foster dogs *will ONLY be adopted 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. Recommended follow up post placement contact intervals: after 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months.
14. I/we will complete the form "Adoption Contract" that includes "Foster Dog Disclosure Information" and an "Adoption Release" form for each foster dog (whether we adopt or are adopting to a pre-approved home), will give a copy to the adoptive home, and send original, along with all adoption fees/donations (payable to GoldHeart) to the address provided in the contract for inclusion in the dog's file.
15. All medical records, AKC papers, pedigrees and other documents pertaining to the foster dogs must be copied/scanned and emailed to goldheart@goldheart.org. Alternatively, they can be mailed to GoldHeart with documentation covered in item 14 of this agreement. Any problems or concerns with documentation should be immediately directed to the appropriate GoldHeart personnel.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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 are signing of my/our freewill and not under duress of any kind. I/we affirm I/we have never been charged with animal cruelty.
19. 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 the animal.

SIGNED _____ PRINT _____ DATE _____

PHONE(S) _____ EMAIL _____

SIGNED _____ PRINT _____ DATE _____

PHONE(S) _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

Please return your completed signed agreement (2 pages) to:

GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 394
Chester, Maryland 21619-0394

Alternatively, you may scan and email to: goldheart@goldheart.org.