



## Thank you for offering to foster for the **Dog Rescue Dunedin Charitable Trust** what you need to know .....

DRD is based in Dunedin. Without our fosterers we would not be able to rescue and rehome as many dogs as we do. As a DRD fosterer you may be dealing with dogs that are fearful, anxious and/or reactive. New situations can be scary, and it will take the dog time to adjust to being part of your family, usually between 2 weeks to a month. It's important that you take things slowly, allow the dog to settle in to your home, and don't be too eager to get the dog out and about meeting new people and dogs, or going to dog parks etc.

### **What we can supply**

DRD will supply some food at the drop off together with bedding/blankets, collars/leads, registration tag and foster dog tag, and foster me jacket (and crates in some instances). The dog must live indoors and sleep inside. Please let us know if you have special circumstances.

### **Veterinary Treatment**

All dogs are taken to the vet before being taken to fosterers and are microchipped and given their first vaccination, as well as worm treatment (in severe cases fosterers will be given more treatment and instructions for the next dose). In some cases we ask our fosterers to take their foster dogs to our vet for their booster vaccinations and for de-sexing if required. DRD will cover vet fees. In cases where our dogs are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you do not expose them to other dogs or take them to dog parks or parks etc as they may pick up diseases like Parvo, Kennel cough etc. Please make use of the DRD dog park, see details in our manual. Taking them for small walks around your street is fine, but please be aware of them sniffing and DO NOT let them eat anything whilst out walking. They must be kept on a leash.

### **Training**

We have copious amounts of information and training tips that have been provided by our fabulous trainer/volunteers, these can be found in our foster manual. We also have a closed Facebook Page for fosterers.

### **Behavioral Issues**

You may have to deal with dogs that are not toilet trained, so patience is a must! Puppies are generally the ones who take the longest. You may come across some behavioral issues which we will help you deal with as best we can. We have a trainer who works with our foster dogs if needed, however we do need you to help with some basic training on your own. Any dogs with noticeable or severe behavioral issues tend to be fostered with our more experienced fosterers.

### **Commitment**

It may take up to several months to rehome a dog, so you need to be able to give a full commitment to the time it may take – which may include people coming to meet the dog. We have had issues in the past with people offering to foster and then finding it “too hard” and asking us to find another home for the dog. We understand how much work is involved in fostering and we appreciate the effort our fosterers put into working with and rehabilitating these dogs, but please understand it is extremely frustrating and time consuming for us with our small group of available fosterers and the large number of dogs needing foster homes if we have to find a new foster home. It is also unsettling for the dogs each time they are moved.

If you don't think you can commit long-term, we also need Assessment Homes for a “safe” place for 2 to 3 days immediately after a dog is rescued until transfer to a suitable foster home can be arranged. So please take the time to consider if you have the time, energy and determination to help a dog who really needs it. We can assure you that the experience is so rewarding and your foster dog will ALWAYS remember who you are and how much love and care you showed them.

**Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.**

**Email: [info@dogrescuedunedin.nz](mailto:info@dogrescuedunedin.nz)**