



## Bay Area German Shepherd Rescue - Foster Guide

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Could You Try It For A Few Weeks and Save A Life?

## **1 - Getting Started**

We love our foster parents as they are our most important volunteers. Without foster parents it's very hard to save the lives of dogs stuck in shelters.

The first step is to complete our application form.

Then our team will contact you to review the details of fostering to see if it's right for you, your family and lifestyle.

Our team will discuss with you what to expect while fostering a shelter dog. We will also cover what expectations we have for our foster homes. You will have an opportunity to ask questions too.

Our goal is to get good dogs out of the shelter and into loving foster homes to prepare them for adoption.

## **2 - Our foster support team**

We have a team of volunteers who are here to help you

One of our team explains to new foster parents what is involved, what to expect and what is expected. They can also answer any questions you may have. , We also have you complete a Foster Volunteer Agreement.

The next volunteer is there for our foster parents who have a dog and have a request or questions. Requests include: need for food, vetting, or supplies. Questions include: behavior issues, health, or anything at all to do with your foster dog.

### **3 - What will my first dog be like?**

We take into account your prior experience with German Shepherds, other animals in your pack, your work schedule, your lifestyle, children, and your home environment to help match the right dog to you.

Shelter dogs come from a variety of environments and their history is usually unknown. Every dog is different and may exhibit different behavior in a home vs a shelter. You can expect a dog to be confused and unsettled at first. They do not know what is expected of them and may not have any training. The following behaviors are not unusual and should be anticipated when you first take a dog from the shelter in to your home:

Bathroom accidents in the house

Swiping food off of a counter

Whining or barking

Chewing

Digging

Not knowing how to walk on a leash

Timidness

Jumping

A foster home may be the dog's first time indoors. We recommend crate training to help the dog learn how to behave and protect your home. Many of these behaviors are easily correctable with guidance and a little patience.

We ask that you consider carefully if fostering a dog is right for you. If your foster dog is not working out and you need it removed from your house, we will make every effort to do so within a few days. Any dog exhibiting aggressive behavior will be removed ASAP,

### **4 - How long does it take for my foster dog to get adopted?**

Our mission is to "Save More Dogs," and our organization is setup to help our dogs find their forever homes! Our teams do an amazing job getting our dogs adopted.

We consistently average about two weeks. Young healthy dogs are adopted most quickly. Some dogs are adopted within the first few days, others have taken a couple of months.

We have between 80-100 approved families looking for a dog.

## **5 - Who pays for Food and medical expenses?**

We provide food or reimburse your cost for food. Approved (or emergency), medical expenses are covered too. We usually provide a few weeks of food when we deliver your dog.

If you need expense reimbursement, just contact our support team! We will reimburse you as quickly as possible.

## **6 - You're going away for a weekend or vacation - what to do?**

We ask that if you are planning a vacation, that you wait until you return to foster a dog. If you have your foster dog for a longer duration and plan a getaway, we can, with notice, make arrangements for someone to care for your dog while you're away.

## **7 - What if you want to adopt your foster dog?**

Within rescue groups this is affectionately known as "foster failing". It happens all the time and many of our volunteers have adopted their foster dogs.

Foster parents always have first choice for their dog. You just need to let our support team know as soon as possible

**Join our team and save lives!**

**Email - [foster-interest@bayareagsr.org](mailto:foster-interest@bayareagsr.org)**

