

## ➤ How much does it cost to foster a dog?

Lack of funds should not prevent you from fostering—we ask only that you provide good-quality food and lots of love. You may have additional expenses for any toys you choose to provide and any damages the foster dog may cause.

GRR provides the crate and handles all of the foster dog's veterinary expenses and medications (including heartworm and flea/tick preventative), unless you want to donate those expenses to GRR (they are tax deductible). We'll send along any medications we already know the dog needs, and simply ask that you call and let us know if there's a medical issue that needs to be checked.

## ➤ I don't know a lot about dogs or Goldens, is there training?

ABSOLUTELY! All foster homes receive GRR's *Foster Care Manual*, which provides guidance on routines and special aspects of fostering. In addition, you will get training and education during the foster approval process, and you'll be assigned a Foster Coordinator who is always just an e-mail or phone call away to answer your questions and provide support.

## ➤ What if I have questions or problems with a foster Golden?

Our Foster Coordinators are available for consultation on problems not covered in the manual. GRR members are organized around the cause of helping this truly exceptional breed of companion dog and they will help you too!

## ➤ I'd like to foster. What do I do next?

Once your family has decided— together—to foster a Golden Retriever, please go to our website at [www.GRR-TX.com](http://www.GRR-TX.com) and read our adoption policies. Foster families are required to adhere to the these policies even if they are not adopting. You may then fill out the application and begin the process on-line. If you do not have internet access, call our Hotline (512-659-GOLD) and leave a message. We will return your call and fill out the application for you. This will be passed on, and if it's approved, you will have a detailed telephone interview and a home visit from one of our volunteers. Once the application process has been completed, a Foster Coordinator will contact you to talk in more detail about

your responsibilities and to answer your questions. Please email [Volunteer@GRR-TX.com](mailto:Volunteer@GRR-TX.com) or contact us at (512) 659-GOLD if you have any other questions about fostering.

## ➤ Why do I have to go through the adoption approval process to foster?

All GRR foster homes go through the adoption approval and education process. We do this for two reasons. First, we want the foster family to be familiar and comfortable with the adoption process so they'll know how potential adoptive families for their foster dog are screened. Second, many foster families do eventually fall in love with one of their foster dogs and adopt him or her.

## ➤ If I can't be a foster parent, is there another way to help?

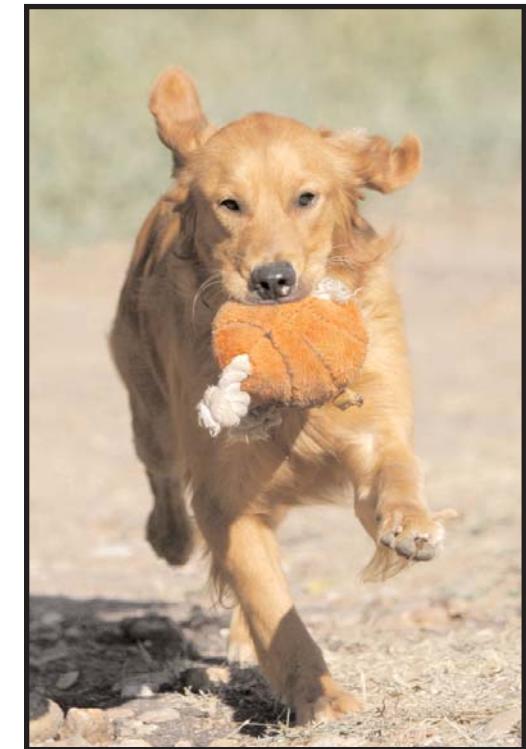
YES!! You can volunteer to transport Golden Retrievers to vet visits or their foster homes; you can work our hotline and gather information from potential adopters and surrendering owners; you can participate in any number of GRR activities, such as education, fund raising, our annual picnic and other special events; or you can help with home visits or data entry. We need volunteers for a variety of tasks, and chances are we have something that suits your interests and the time you have available. We will be glad to have your help, and you will be glad you got more involved in sharing your love of Goldens.

Gold Ribbon Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. The Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc. recognizes it as a rescue organization. Membership dues, adoption fees, fund-raisers and donations finance its activities. Donations are tax deductible.

Join us, won't you? For more information about becoming a member of Gold Ribbon Rescue visit:

[www.GRR-TX.com/membership.htm](http://www.GRR-TX.com/membership.htm)

*Make a difference to a  
Golden Retriever in need—volunteer to  
foster for Gold Ribbon Rescue.  
Thank you!*



# Foster Care Program

**[www.GRR-TX.com](http://www.GRR-TX.com)**  
PO Box 956  
Austin, Texas 78767-0956  
512-659-GOLD

*The most important part of GRR's rescue program is the foster home. Foster homes provide adoptable Golden Retrievers with a home environment where their habits and behavior can be evaluated. Foster homes also offer GRR's matchmakers vital information about the dog, helping them find him or her the best possible forever home. GRR needs caring, responsible Golden Retriever lovers to join our foster team by opening their homes and hearts to our rescue Goldens.*

*Fostering is a wonderful experience. Even though it's hard to let your foster dog go, it's rewarding to see a delighted family and a happy dog come together and know that you really helped a deserving animal get a wonderful forever home.*

*In this brochure, you will find the most frequently asked questions about fostering, as well as information on how to join our foster home team or any of our other volunteer teams.*

### **➤ Why should I become a foster parent to a Golden Retriever?**

Foster care provides a new beginning for a deserving Golden Retriever. By fostering a dog, you get to provide him with a safe and loving environment where he learns to be an adored family member. And since you know the dog best, you help us determine the best new and forever home for that dog. Each time you help match a displaced Golden Retriever with the right family, you will know that you have done something good, caring, helpful, and lasting. You will have been a major player in helping a Golden find a happy life.

### **➤ Why are foster homes used?**

As an ethical rescue organization, GRR is committed to disclosing any behavioral or medical problems our dogs may have to potential adopters. Our foster homes help us find these problems. Our foster policy is also practical— we want adopters to make an informed choice about the dog so the adoption can be a permanent and happy one. The observations and recommendations of the foster family are crucial to GRR's continued success in placing rescue Goldens.

### **➤ What will I need to do?**

Foster homes are responsible for the **daily** care of the foster dog, including: feeding, socializing, exercising, brushing and grooming as needed, and most importantly, providing love and security to a special Golden Retriever at an often-difficult time in his or her life.

### **➤ How long does a dog stay in foster care?**

Foster dogs are typically in our program from two weeks to two months. Healthy dogs usually stay two to four weeks. Special needs dogs or seniors may need months. Most dogs learn the foster home's routine within a couple of days, and settle in beautifully.

### **➤ What if I can't keep him any longer?**

While it is best for the dog to stay in one home, we realize plans can change unexpectedly. And sometimes a dog simply doesn't work in your home. If your foster dog needs to move, just contact your Foster Coordinator. She will work with the Intake Team to find another suitable foster home.

### **➤ Will I become attached to my foster Golden?**

Almost certainly! Most foster families become very attached to their foster dogs. But, when you meet the people who will provide a permanent, loving home for the dog you've helped rescue, you will feel immense satisfaction to see him or her move on to a new and better life.

### **➤ May I adopt my foster dog?**

GRR does not encourage or expect you to adopt your foster dog—but we also recognize the realities of fostering, including the fact that foster families can fall in love with their foster dogs! Therefore, foster homes always have first right of adoption if they do fall in love and can't let their foster dog go. They also have significant say in approving any potential adoptive home, as they know the dog best and know the kind of home he'll do best in.

### **➤ May I choose which dogs I foster?**

We will call you to discuss any potential dog we're thinking of for you, and provide as much information about the dog we can. You may certainly set limits on the kinds of dogs you foster and if you are asked to foster a dog who doesn't seem right for you, you can decline. We'll make every effort to take into consideration the type of dog you think will work best in your existing home environment (other pets, kids, etc). There are times, though, when we have more dogs in

desperate need than we have open foster homes.

In such emergency situations, we may ask you to foster a dog that may not quite fit your specifications! We ask that you keep an open mind and an open heart for these dogs, as they often become our most precious rescue successes.

### **➤ How much time does it take?**

From an hour a day to however much time you are willing to spend with the dog. Most are genuinely grateful for whatever time you have to give. Some dogs may need to go to the vet for a check-up, booster shots, etc. We have transport volunteers available if you are unable to get the dog to any necessary appointments.

### **➤ Do I have to be home all day with the foster Golden?**

No. Many of our foster family members are employed full- or part-time and still provide a quality environment for the dog. However, our first concern is safety: for you, your family, your own dog(s), and the rescue dog. Therefore, we suggest that any time you are unable to supervise the rescue Golden directly, you confine him to a small, secure area, such as a crate or baby-gated laundry room. Usually, after you've observed the dog for several days (and he has had a chance to learn your routine) you will be able to determine whether he is trustworthy enough to have free roam of all or part of your home.

### **➤ What do I have to do to get them ready for adoption?**

Mostly, they just need love and attention. Many dogs need to lose or gain weight, and we'll work with you on that. Some will need help with housebreaking and crate training. If you want to provide basic obedience training, that would be great, but it is certainly not required. Your current dogs will help with training, too. Believe it or not, dogs learn a lot by just observing.

We also ask for weekly updates on the dog's personality and progress. The answers you provide on the weekly foster report card give the matchmakers the information they need to find your rescue Golden the perfect forever family.