**WOULD YOU LIKE TO FOSTER A GOLDEN RETRIEVER?**

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

* Due to the nature of dogs in need of foster care we are looking for foster homes with no other pets in the home.
* No young children, but those with older children can be considered. We are looking for families where the minimum age of children is 13
* There must be a completely secure garden.
* Extensive dog handling and caring experience. Previous fostering experience is very helpful. (any dog breed)
* You need to be able to keep a dog with you at all times, especially at the beginning of the foster period. After the settling in period, dogs should not be left for more than 4 hours, and in many cases for less time
* An understanding that fostering duration is very open ended and cannot just be fitted in between personal commitments and absences.
* Enthusiasm, compassion, empathy and the appreciation that every dog is an individual.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AS A FOSTER CARER?

## Care for all the dog's needs – feeding, walking, grooming, training, socialising

* Be willing to follow our guidance and regulations on training and handling.
* Provide regular updates, by email, on health and behaviour of a foster dog.
* Be happy to play a part in the rehoming process by providing photos, videos. Be happy to have possible new owners visit to meet a foster dog.
* Be able to transport a dog securely in a car. Highway code Rule 57
* Have easy access to veterinary care including out of hours support.

**WHAT TYPE OF DOGS WILL I FOSTER?**

Most dogs require a foster home for either urgency for owner to relocate, or behaviour assessment of the dog or the dog’s medical needs. We will always ensure the dog is suitable for you and will discuss all the details of the dog with you first so you are fully informed. Age range? – very young to very old.

## WHAT SUPPORT WILL A FOSTER CARER RECEIVE?

## Regular contact with SGRR.

* All supplies needed for your foster dog will be provided, costs generally reimbursed rather than goods in advance.
* You have the right to ask for the dog to be removed from your home if the arrangements are not satisfactory to you. SGRR can ask to collect a dog at any time.

## HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

### **1. APPLICATION**

Complete the attached application form. Please provide as much information as possible.

### **2. telePHONE CALL**

SGRR will call you for an informal chat and to answer any questions you may have.

### **3. WELCOME A HOME VISIT**

This is in no way to judge your home. It is only to check that it is a safe environment for our dogs.

**FAQs**

**Can I foster as a trial to see if we are suitable to adopt?**

Fostering is not meant to be a means to adoption. We really need foster carers who can commit to fostering long term so that you can help several different dogs who need foster homes.

**Can I adopt my foster animal?**

Fostering is not meant to be a means to adoption. We really need foster carers who can commit to fostering long term so that you can help many different dogs who need foster homes. We generally ask for a minimum three-month commitment to fostering. If after this time you have a foster animal that you would like to adopt, we can then discuss this with you.

**I am out all day, can I foster?**

Time alone for foster dogs needs to be kept to a minimum. At the beginning of the foster period dogs cannot be left at all and the maximum daily leave time once settled is no more than 4 hours.

**Can I take my foster dog to work?**

For safety reasons, foster carers are not permitted to take their dog to work. Meeting lots of new people can be overwhelming, even for confident dogs.

**Can I let my foster dog off-lead?**

For safety and insurance reasons foster carers are not allowed to let their dog off a lead in public places.

**Can I leave my foster dog with a dog sitter or dog walker?**

For safety reasons foster carers aren’t permitted to leave their dog with anyone who is not a registered volunteer with SGRR or their immediate family at fosters discretion.

**Can I go on holiday?**

We will do our very best to make other arrangements for the foster animal but please make us aware of all holiday/home absences before taking in a foster dog.

Application Form

**Please respond with as much detail as you can. This is a WORD document, please type away!**

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| Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Telephone  email |  |

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| 1. Why would you choose to foster a dog rather than to adopt a new companion? |
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| 1. Is your home a quiet home or busy home with lots of visitors? |
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| 1. Tell us about your daily/weekly routine when you have a dog in your care |
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| 1. Which is your vet practice? Where are out of hours provided? |
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| 1. What is your experience of caring for a Golden Retriever or other breed. Age/gender, please tell us about the character and behaviour of previous dogs owned or fostered. |
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| 1. Do you have any holidays or planned absences booked in the next 6 months? |
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| 1. Health issues/behaviour issues   These are some of the issues that you may be faced with. How would you handle each of them? |
| *A foster dog may be infested with fleas and worms.*  *A foster dog may have orthopaedic conditions and need a very careful exercise routine. He may need specialist veterinary care.*  *A foster dog may be overweight and require a strict diet and regular weighing.*  *An unspayed bitch may come into her season.*  *An unspayed bitch may show signs of developing a pyometra.*  *An unspayed bitch may need to be spayed whilst in your care.*  *A foster dog may display nervous behaviours, wont drink, wont wee, may not want to come in the house or may not be house trained at all.*  *A foster dog may show guarding issues over high value items such as food, furniture and space.*  *A foster dog may be collar shy.* |

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| 1. Please tell us about your home and garden environment. Is there an area in your house that can be secured and will allow you to manage a dog limiting his access to the rest of the house? Perhaps the utility or an area of the kitchen. Nervous dogs can benefit from this regime. Attach a video if helpful. |
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| 1. Letting a much-loved foster dog go to a new home is never easy so please consider the emotional strain this may put on each family member. The end of fostering can involve a dog being returned to the original home or a prospective new owner will need to visit your foster dog for introductions and matching. Are you happy to have strangers visit? They would be accompanied by an SGRR volunteer. |
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*General Data Protection Regulation*

*In order to comply with Data Protection legislation we need to have your permission to store personal data about you. Our Data Protection Policy, stating your rights and how we store and use personal data can be found on our website*[*www.sgrr.org.uk*](http://www.sgrr.org.uk/)

*You can request a printed copy of our Policy from your co-ordinator whose contact details are printed at the bottom of this form.*

*By returning this form attached to your email you agree to SGRR storing your personal data under the terms in our Policy and the form will be held by the co-ordinator*

**I understand my personal data will be stored by SGRR………(**insert X)

Please complete and return to ………Rachel Clark………………………………………..