



Good Karma Puppy Rescue

FOSTER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your willingness to donate your time and love to help Good Karma continue their work in rescuing dogs and puppies in order to provide them long-term loving forever homes. Fosters are the cornerstone of our organization and without you, these puppies may never have the chance to live happy and healthy lives!

This packet will provide you with information and guidance for your time as a foster. It will outline what is expected of you, and what your role as foster will entail. It is important to understand what is required of you. Your fostering experience will be a learning process, and at times difficult, but the payoff in puppy love and kisses along with seeing these puppies go to wonderful homes, will provide an immense payoff!

NOTE: You will be required to sign a document of understanding which specifies that you understand your role as foster and what is expected of you. If Good Karma feels that you have not fulfilled your responsibilities or that the puppies have not been taken care of in a proper manner, you may be subject to your foster puppies being removed from your home, as well as not being able to adopt a puppy at the end of your foster period. If you foster for a period of two litter cycles (two different litters, until all in litter are adopted), you will have the option to adopt a puppy with no adoption fee. If you choose not to foster for the duration of two litters, you will be required to pay the adoption fee for the puppy. This is subject to you performing your duties as a foster.

SUPPLIES

Good Karma will provide you with all the supplies you require to take care of your puppies. An explanation of these items will be provided further in the document. These items include:

- Crate
- Ex-pen
- Tarp
- Paper Towels
- Food
- Towels or other bedding for the crate
- Worming medication (liquid)
- Syringes (for worming medication)
- Medication for diarrhea (white pills)
- Cooked chicken

You will need to purchase Blue Dawn dish detergent and zip-ties and have them on hand. This will be used to bathe the puppies and to secure the crate to the ex-pen.

DAY OF PICKUP

On the day of the transport, you will be kept informed on the time the puppies will be expected to arrive. Due to traffic conditions, weather and other factors, the time cannot be guaranteed, but fosters will always be kept informed on when the transport is due to arrive.

The day of the pickup is often hectic. With many puppies and dogs in the transport, the goal is to quickly organize the puppies into the groups going to the various fosters. Our goal is to get you in and out as quickly as possible. Please be patient during this time. You will be provided with your supplies and puppies in a timely manner.

ONCE YOU GET THE PUPPIES HOME

Once you pick up the puppies and take them home, there are a few steps you must take:

- Place the ex-pen and crate in an area that has ample room. It is best to place it in an area that either has floors that can easily be cleaned (such as tile or vinyl). If not, be sure to place a tarp down. Keep the puppies in the closed crate until the other steps are completed.
- Secure the ends of the ex-pen to the crate with zip-ties.
- Set down water and food.
- You may now open the crate door and allow the puppies to explore the ex-pen and drink or eat.

Once your ex-pen and crate are set up, you **MUST** bathe the puppies. The puppies have just gone through a long ride, where accidents do happen. Also, many of these puppies come from shelters or were abandoned, so they will most likely need a good bath.

SUGGESTION: Get all the puppies out into the ex-pen, then close the crate door. This way, you can clean down the crate if needed, and put in fresh bedding. By closing the crate door, you will also be able to keep track of which puppies you have bathed and recognize which are still in need of a bath. During the bath, is a great time to check and see the sex of the puppy. You may want to write it down, along with any distinctive color or markings to help figure out who is who in your litter of puppies. After each puppy is bathed, place them into the crate with the closed door.

For the next steps, it is best to do one puppy at a time. Worm them, then bathe them. It will help keep you organized, and keep the puppies less stressed.

In most cases you will need to give the puppy worming medication. You will be instructed as to the dosage required depending on the size of your puppies. Remove the needle from the syringes provided and draw the medication into the syringe in the correct amount. Take a puppy from the ex-pen and administer the medication orally (you may have to hold their mouth open to give them the medication, be sure to be gentle!). Once that's done, you can proceed to bathing the puppy.

Use Blue Dawn dish detergent to wash the puppies for the first time. It is **IMPORTANT** that you use only Blue Dawn as it is able to not only clean the puppies, but kill any fleas that they might have. Be gentle as you are bathing the puppies. Check for fleas or ticks or anything else of concern. You may want to use a flea comb if you see any fleas, this will ensure that the puppies are thoroughly cleaned. Check for any sores on their skin, or anything of concern. Make note of these concerns so that you can talk with Char and see if anything additional is required for the puppy. This is a good time to determine the sex of your puppies and make note of it.

Make note of everything you do. From the Dawn baths to the de-worming medication. Make note of the date and what you have administered to the puppy. This is required to complete the puppies paperwork in preparation for adoption.

CARING FOR THE PUPPIES

The next steps will be the most important. You will need to keep an eye on the puppies to ensure that they are healthy. Observation is the key to ensuring happy and healthy puppies. Some things you can do:

- Watch that the puppies are eating and drinking
- Watch to see whether any puppies are lethargic or appear not well
- Keep observant to ensure no puppies are throwing up. If they are, note what the vomit looks like (foamy, which implies an upset stomach which could be due to stress), if it is a different color, etc.
- Check their feces to ensure that it appears “good” (what is described as a Tootsie Roll. Not too hard, well-formed and shaped)

Because of the initial stress the puppies may be under, diarrhea may occur. Watch and observe whether any puppies are either straining, or having diarrhea. If the diarrhea is very watery, you will need to give that puppy one of the white pills provided. You will be instructed as to how to cut the pills to administer the correct dosage based on the size of your puppy.

During this time, things will get messy. Ensure that you keep the puppy area and crate clean. Wipe up the urine and feces as quickly as possible (you will be provided with lots of paper towels). Puppies are playful (and messy) and will often use the bathroom, then step it in. Make sure the puppies are clean by either wiping them down occasionally with a soft cloth soaked in warm water, or using sanitizing wipes. This will help prevent the spread of bacteria or illness.

THE CHICKEN TEST

Each day, you will be required to perform what is called the Chicken Test. You will be provided with a cooked chicken for this test. Cut very small pieces of the chicken, and remove the skin if there is any. Get into the ex-pen with the puppies and hold the chicken out for the puppies to see and smell.

Lack of appetite is an initial sign of illness. Check that all the puppies are converging on the chicken and anxious to grab it from your hands and eat it. If you see any puppy hanging back, laying down or not wanting the chicken. Make note and contact Char.

THE FUN STUFF

Once you have secured your puppies and they are taken care of and content, you can begin the fun part of being a foster – giving them lots of love and preparing them for their forever home.

Try to interact with the puppies often. This will help you gauge their temperament. It is important to be honest with prospective adopters about your puppies’ personality. Are they more playful, a little more chill? Try to note these things so you can better describe the personality of the puppies.

Choose names for your puppies. These names can be whatever you choose, just try to stick with names that are not suggestive or lewd. We try to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere with our adoptions, so let’s keep the names to a G-rating.

PICTURES

You will need to take pictures of your puppies as soon as possible. Once we are comfortable that the puppies are healthy and ready for their forever home, the sooner we are able to post them online, the better the chances we have of them being adopted.

Pictures are key to the adoption process. First-time fosters find this step the most challenging, because the pictures MUST meet very strict criteria. It may take you several tries, but the time spent getting the right pictures will make a world of difference in applications for the puppies.

If you have bows or other “props” use them on the puppies. Place the puppies in an area where they don’t have much ability to move. A counter top, a recliner, a chair. These work well and keep the puppy from wandering too far. Place a blanket or other colorful fabric as a backdrop. Place the puppy down and get ready to take pictures. Making loud (but calm) noises towards the puppy will direct their attention towards you and help get the best photo of the puppy.

The best shots are ones where the puppy is sitting up, with their ears forward and looking directly at the camera. If their head is slightly tilted, this is all the cuter! Be sure that their ears are forward. If their ears are back, they appear scared. This can also alter what breed the puppy looks like. We try to be entirely honest in our assessment of what breed the puppies are, but sometimes the wrong picture can make an adorable puppy look like a breed that makes prospective adopters uncomfortable.

Again, pictures are key to the adoption process. You may find yourself frustrated when you take a photo and it is rejected. Don’t take it personally. Our goal is only to provide the best photos possible so that puppies are adopted. Once you feel you have good picture, text those pictures to Char along with the sex of the puppy and their name. Send them one at a time, with the necessary info.

ADOPTION EVENT

As a foster, you will be required to attend our adoption events, which are slated for every Sunday from 1-4 at Premier Pet Supply in Beverly Hills. If all goes well, your puppies will be adopted at your first event. If by chance all your puppies are not adopted, you will be required to take the remaining puppies home and take care of them until the next adoption event.

Prior to the adoption event, bathe your puppies. If the puppies appear dirty, prospective adopters will find this off-putting. Again, use the method of keeping them all in the ex-pen area, then after they are bathed, put them in the (cleaned) crate. This will make transporting them easier. In some cases, you will be instructed to also give the puppies another dose of de-worming medication.

Try to arrive approximately 15 minutes before the event. Bring the ex-pen you were provided. At the event, you will be directed where to place your puppies. Oftentimes these events can become chaotic, with many prospective adopters showing up. If there are several applications for your puppy (you will be told of this beforehand) the standard protocol will be to let all prospective adopters meet the puppy. This will go on for about an hour to allow all of the prospective adopters to meet the puppy to see if the puppy is a good fit for them. After about an hour, Char will discuss with adopters the next steps.

During the event, try to stay near your puppies. Prospective adopters will come up to you and ask questions about the puppy. Here are some common questions and answers you can provide:

How old is the puppy – Char will give you approximate age of the puppy

What sex is the puppy – Some adopters are looking specifically for either a boy or girl

What breed is the puppy – Breeds are a guess. Ensure prospective adopters understand that in many cases, we don’t know the breed of the mother or father because these are shelter or abandoned rescue puppies. Explain that puppies can have multiple fathers, which makes our guesses just that - guesses

What is the temperament of the puppy – After having the puppies, you have hopefully paid attention so that you can give an honest assessment of the puppy and their temperament. Be sure to be honest, as we prefer that puppies not be

returned because they weren't a good fit. If a puppy is very high energy or has separation anxiety (needs more personalized attention) – **BE HONEST**.

Is the puppy house-trained – This is a very contentious issue. Many prospective adopters would prefer that a puppy be ready to be housed-trained. Explain that the process of house training cannot begin until a puppy is at least four to five months old.

This is also an excellent time to explain the ex-pen and how it is a great way to prepare the puppy for both crate training and eventually house training. Explain how it gives the puppy room to play, while getting used to their crate.

Talk with prospective adopters and also ask them questions. You are key to finding these puppies a good home, and your input and insight into the adopter is valuable. Here are some questions to ask:

How many hours a day is someone home – Good Karma takes pride in trying to find the best homes for our puppy. Just because someone has the adoption fee, does not make them a good adopter. We try to ensure that there is generally someone home throughout the day, so that the puppy isn't crated all day. Enforce with the adopter that crating a puppy this young is not acceptable. If the person works, politely explain that we prefer homes where the puppy can be cared for throughout the day in the beginning stages. Again, this is another good time to stress the ex-pen and how it helps in reducing puppy stress.

Does the home have children – Some puppies are not well suited to homes with children. Again, this is where your observation of the puppies comes in handy. Is one of the puppies very active? Does the puppy nip a lot? (common when puppies are young and teething). These types of puppies may not be suitable for young children.

Do they have other dogs in the house – Again, an important factor in adopting a puppy. How is the puppy they are interested in around other dogs (if you have existing pets, this is a great time to explain how the puppies reacted to your pet(s)). Do they get nervous or scared? Also, find out the breed and age of the existing dog in the adoptive home. Does that dog feel comfortable with other dogs? Will it be uncomfortable with a young and needy puppy who will most likely want to play?

Again, your goal as a foster is to ensure that the prospective adopter has a home suitable for a new puppy. Our main goal is to avoid surrenders, so being sure an adopter is ready for the responsibility is a key factor for you as a foster.

You must stay at the event until either all your puppies are adopted, or until the end of the adoption event.

FOSTER AGREEMENT

I, _____, agree on this ____ day of _____, 2016 to foster puppies for Good Karma Puppy Rescue. I agree to abide by all the rules set forth in this guide, and provide a safe and loving environment to the puppies in my care.

I understand my responsibilities which include (initial each):

- Bathing the puppies when I pick them up, during the course of my care, and prior to the adoption event _____
- Administering worming medication, and diarrhea medication if necessary _____
- Observing the health and behavior of the puppies and administering the Chicken Test daily _____
- Ensuring the puppies are eating and drinking _____
- Attending the Adoption Event and staying for the duration of the event _____

I understand that if I foster for a period of 14 days or more, I may receive a puppy with no adoption fee. If the puppies I am fostering are adopted before the two week period, I agree to foster at least one more time. If I choose not to foster a second time, I will pay the adoption fee for the puppy. This is subject to my performance as a foster. I further understand that at any time, if it is deemed that the puppies in my care are not receiving the proper attention as outlined in this guide, the puppies may be removed from my care with no notice, subject to the discretion of the Director of Good Karma. All breeches of the guidance set forth in this guide will be fully documented for future reference should any complaints be filed against Good Karma. The following criteria are grounds for rendering my foster contract null and void, and I will not be allowed to adopt an animal per the foster agreement (initial each):

- Not bathing the puppies after being picked up, during their time with me, or prior to the Adoption Event _____
- Not administering de-worming medication _____
- Not documenting de-worming medication dates _____
- Not observing the health of the puppies and ensuring no health issues are present _____
- Attending the Adoption Event but not staying with the puppies (this includes leaving for a period of time, or not interacting with prospective adopters) _____
- Not attending the Adoption Event _____

Name – Printed (Foster)

Signature (Foster)

Charmaine Wichmann – Director – Good Karma Puppy Rescue