

## Information for Foster Carers

Thank you for becoming or considering becoming a Dog Rescue Newcastle Foster Carer. Foster carers are absolutely vital to our work of saving abandoned cats and dogs. The more foster carers we have, the more dogs and cats we can save.

We provide everything you need to care for a pet, including veterinary care. This always includes collar and ID tag. We can also provide a lead, harness, seat belt tether, flea and worm treatments, pet bed and bedding, dog coat and kennel if needed. We ask that you provide food for foster pets in your care, but if you are unable to do so, we can help out with pet food.

In return, we ask that you welcome a dog or cat into your home and treat him or her as if he were your own and commit to keeping him until we can find a permanent home for him.

We are a volunteer organisation with limited resources so anything you can provide for your foster pet, including transport to and from the vet, will be greatly appreciated but not required. We are here to support you. Please ring or preferably email us, with any questions or concerns you may have. Contact information is at the end of this document.

Please understand that we cannot guarantee a dog's age, breed or temperament. Please be cautious when exposing your foster dog to other animals, to children and to the elderly. When in doubt, keep them separated or closely supervised.

### On Arrival

On arrival your foster dog should be wearing a collar with a Dog Rescue Newcastle ID tag attached. **This collar and ID tag must remain on your foster dog at all times (24 x 7), including when in your home and on your property.** Sue can be contacted on that number 24 hours a day. Contact Sue or Anne if you need a collar or ID tag.

Usually, your new foster dog will need to be (1) bathed, (2) given a worm tablet and (3) given a monthly flea and tick preventative upon arrival at your home. Ask the person who dropped off the dog if any of this has already been done. It is important to bathe the dog thoroughly as soon as possible to wash off any viruses, fleas, and dirt which he may have picked up at the pound. We recommend Fido Flea Shampoo for the initial wash and then Aloveen Shampoo for subsequent baths.

It is important to record date of flea and worm treatment and vet visits on a "Dog's Details" document. Keep this document accurately and then give it to the person who adopts your foster dog.

Your dog should already have been microchipped upon release from the pound.

## **Desexing and Vaccination**

We will book your foster dog in to our vet for desexing and vaccination within a fortnight, unless the dog has kennel cough. Check with Sue that the appointment has been made. If you are able to drive the dog to the vet then we would appreciate it, otherwise, we can arrange transport.

After desexing, please keep the dog clean to prevent infection. Keep an eye on the stiches and watch out for any signs of infection such as redness, swelling, or feeling hot to the touch. Don't let your dog lick the wound.

If your dog was desexed at our preferred vet, Macquarie Road Vetz at Warners Bay, then there will not be any stiches which need to be removed. But if a different vet clinic does the surgery, desexing stitches may need to be removed 10-12 days after surgery. If you cannot take the dog yourself, please contact DRN to arrange.

## **Kennel Cough**

If your foster dog has come from a pound environment there is a possibility he may have contracted Kennel Cough. If this is diagnosed before your dog is delivered to your care you will be provided with a course of oral antibiotics to administer. If your foster dog develops symptoms of Kennel Cough (coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, 'flat' demeanour) after arriving in your care please contact DRN so the delivery of the appropriate medication can be organised.

Your foster dog cannot be desexed until kennel cough has cleared up. You should also contact us if your foster dog develops vomiting or diarrhoea. If your foster dog appears unwell at all please contact DRN without delay so we can arrange prompt veterinary treatment.

Please ensure that your own dogs, or any other pets in your care, always have their annual vaccinations, and flea and worm treatments up to date, and you shouldn't have any problems with their health.

## **Parvo Virus**

Parvo Virus is a contagious and often deadly virus in dogs. It can be prevented by making sure your dog always gets his annual vaccinations. It is most common in dogs under 12 months of age. After infection, symptoms will appear in 3 to 14 days. Be alert for signs of infection in your new foster dog for the first 2 weeks and contact Sue or Anne immediately if you suspect you see a sign.

The initial signs are: lethargy and loss of appetite. Contact Sue or Anne immediately if you see either. These may be followed later by a strong desire to drink a lot or a little, vomiting, fever (sometimes), diarrhea, and dehydration. If you see any of these symptoms act promptly. Do not wait. The sooner treatment is started the better chance the dog has of survival.

## **Quarantine Period**

If your foster dog came directly from a pound, we recommend that you avoid exposing him or her to any other dogs other than your own until two weeks after your foster dog is vaccinated. This means avoiding taking your foster dog to 'dog parks' and to walking areas very popular with other dog walkers. As your foster dog has just spent a week or two in a pound environment it is possible that they are carrying Kennel Cough, other viral or bacterial infections or even Parvo virus. A two week

quarantine period greatly reduces the risk of spreading these diseases to unvaccinated dogs in the general population. It also gives your foster dog time to develop immunity after being vaccinated.

### **Flea, Tick and Worm Prevention**

When your dog comes out of the pound he needs to be given a monthly flea treatment and worming tablet. When you receive the dog please ask if this has already been done or not. If it has not been done please administer the treatments immediately. Contact Sue or Anne if you need these supplied to you. Record the date these were given. When your foster dog is adopted, tell the new owners when the next treatments are due.

If the dog is still in your care after a month we ask that you provide them with their next dose of flea prevention. Another worm tablet needs to be given every 3 months. If you do not wish to purchase the appropriate products yourself please contact DRN one week before the treatment is due to organise delivery of the appropriate products.

We like to use Revolution or Sentinel Spectrum as it treats Intestinal worms, heartworm and fleas. We also sometimes use Advantix drop for flea and tick prevention combined with a 3 monthly tablet for worms. You may wish to use whatever product you are using on your own dog, which is ok with DRN as long as the dog is being treated monthly.

Revolution and Sentinel Spectrum do not provide tick prevention. We recommend that your foster dog wear a tick collar or that you treat fortnightly with an appropriate product such as Advantix ampoules, Frontline Plus ampoules or Frontline Plus spray to stop ticks. Either way, there is no substitute for checking your dogs for ticks daily.

### **Veterinary Treatment**

If you have any concerns regarding the health of your foster dog please contact Sue or Anne immediately. The cost of veterinary treatment is covered by DRN provided you contact DRN before you seek treatment and you take the dog to a DRN approved veterinary clinic (see list at bottom of document). If you seek veterinary treatment for your foster dog without first obtaining DRN approval you will be liable for any costs incurred. Especially, please don't take your foster dog to the After Hours Emergency Vet in Broadmeadow without getting approval from Sue or Anne first unless you are will to pay yourself.

DRN preferred veterinary practice is Macquarie Road Vets in Warners Bay. Please refer to the Contacts page at the end of this document for a complete list of approved vets.

### **Walking/Leash Free Areas**

**Your foster dog should be kept on a lead at all times when outside your property.** Your foster dog should not be allowed off leash in public areas. DRN does not recommend leash free areas and requires that your foster dog is kept on leash at all times outside your home. There are many important reasons for this. Please contact us if you would like more information. To give your foster dog maximum freedom and exercises when on walks we recommend a long lead; for smaller dogs a retractable lead and harness works well.

For most dogs, especially small ones, **we highly recommend the use of a harness for walking** rather than a collar. The harness prevents neck damage to small dogs and is also safer because a collar can

easily slip over a dog's head, especially when they get excited or scared and back up. A collar and ID tag must remain on at all times, but the collar needn't be tight if it is not used to attach a lead.

The harness should also be used along with a seat belt restraint attachment for car trips. Alternatively, a pet carrier can be used for car trips. No dog should be unrestrained in a vehicle. It is dangerous for the dog and the driver and illegal in NSW.

## House Training

We would like you to begin house training the dog as soon as possible. This is important to raise their chances of getting adopted and in being accepted in a new home. If you are not sure how to do this, there is information in our Adoption Pack, on our website, or contact Sue and it will be emailed to you. Please, never hit, punish or reprimand a dog for having an accident indoors. Refer to the houstraining information on the "Care and Training" page of our webstie for details.

Male dogs, even house trained ones, will often want to "mark" their territory, indoors and out, especially if you have another male dog in the household. To minimise this, keep an eye on him indoors for the first couple of days and tell him sharply "No" when you see him sniff and lift his leg. This behaviour will usually stop in a couple of days. If it persists, please contact Sue for advice and possibly a belly band.

## Feeding

We do not recommend canned dog food of any brand, except to keep on hand if you run out of fresh food.

We recommend raw or cooked meat mixed with cooked brown rice, cooked wholemeal pasta, vegetables and PREMIUM QUALITY dried food (such as Science Diet, Advance, Royal Canin, Eukanuba, etc). Do not feed Beneful, IAMS, or cheap foods from the supermarket or discount store. A diet of consisting *only* of dry food is boring for the dog and will encourage him to beg, dig, eat garbage, or to run away.

Never give your dog chocolate, onions, grapes, raisins, sultanas, mushrooms, macadamia nuts, or walnuts as these are all poisonous to dogs. Never give your dog cooked bones as these have dried out in the cooking process and are likely to splinter and choke a dog or cause internal punctures.

Raw bones, rawhide chews (natural, not coloured), pigs ears, chicken necks, and turkey necks are recommended. Even small dogs like bones (raw only) and these are great for their teeth. Most dogs love chicken necks. Please try not to give food or treats made in China as these can be contaminated.

Don't feed dogs fatty foods such as fat removed from chops or roasts because this can cause pancreatitis which can be fatal.

Occasional treats such as dried liver and similar will add welcome variety to your pooch's day.

We don't recommend leaving dry food out and available for your foster dog all the time. The food becomes stale, attracts insects, encourages overeating, and doesn't allow for a mealtime routine. It can also lead to behavioural problems because the dog does not feel dependant on you for food. Ideally, your foster dog should be fed fresh food twice a day. After 20 minutes, remove any uneaten food.

It is cheaper to buy dog food from large pet stores such as Pet Barn, Pet Stock or Anipet, than from supermarkets or vets. You can buy raw bones (brisket or lamb shanks) from your butcher and the pet barns. Please do not support pet stores which sell puppies and kittens by buying anything from these shops.

### **Bathing, Grooming & General Care**

Please bathe and brush your foster dog regularly and keep his coat clean and coat free of matted hair. Your foster dog should be bathed approximately every three weeks in a good quality dog shampoo such as Aloveen or Fido Flea shampoo. Never use human shampoo on dogs.

Your DRN foster dog should be bathed, groomed, ears, eyes, and nails are all checked prior to being viewed by any potential adopters. If your dog needs clipping and you can drive to Charlestown you can make an appointment with groomer Megan, Yappy Times Pet Parlour, 80 Dudley Rd., Charlestown, phone 0435-605-039 or 0418-613-398. *Megan grooms foster dogs for free.* If you can't go to Charlestown, please contact Sue Barker who can make an appointment at a groomer closer to you. If possible, please contact Sue at least 1 or 2 weeks prior to needing an appointment at the groomer so that we can book the dog in.

If you wish to take your foster dog to your own groomer and pay the fee we are very happy for you to do that. We do not want any of our dogs to be viewed by potential adopters unless they are in perfect condition as it reflects badly on DRN and reduces the dog's chance of being adopted.

It is important to regularly check your foster dog's ears, ensure they are clean, free of excessive hair, discharge or abnormal smell. If you have any concerns please contact DRN. Also check his or her teeth. Bad breath usually means your dog has mouth or tooth pain and will need dental cleaning by a vet.

If your dog is scratching, getting red skin, bald patches, is losing hair or showing other signs of skin irritation, please contact DRN promptly so the problem can be treated quickly before it gets worse. There is information about skin problems on the "Care and Training" page of our website.

### **Holidays/No Longer Able to Continue Foster Care**

Please provide DRN with adequate notice, (4 weeks notice is preferred), if you are planning a holiday or are no longer able to continue caring for your foster dog so another foster home can be organised. Please understand that we do not have foster carers available on short notice, so please commit to having a dog for at least 4 weeks.

If you are planning on taking your foster dog away with you or organising family/friends to care for the dog, even if it is only overnight, you must contact DRN to obtain approval and provide the relevant contact details. No foster dog is to be looked after by another person unless we have been contacted beforehand. We always need to approve the carer and need to be able to contact them at all times in case we get an adoption enquiry.

### **Record Keeping**

1. Your Foster Carer's Pack contains a "Dog's Details" document. Please print or make a copy for each of your foster dogs. Record the details of all of your dog's flea and worm treatments, vet

visits, grooming, and other information. Keep this document accurately and then give it to the person who adopts your foster dog. It would also be wise to make a copy of this for your records before giving it away, in case the dog is returned to DRN without the document.

2. The other important record you should keep is a notebook of all adoption inquiries. We strongly recommend keeping a small notebook near your phone, or with your mobile phone, and keeping notes on all phone enquiries. Include the date and time of the call, which dog they are inquiring about, their phone number, home address, and email address. Write it down even if the foster dog has been spoken for or adopted, and keep it even after your foster dog is adopted. If the adoption fails and the dog becomes available again, you will want to ring these people back and ask if they are still interested in the dog. You can also recommend one of our other dogs to them.

### **Listing Your Foster Dog for Adoption**

After your foster dog has been desexed and vaccinated and is ready for adoption we will list him on our website. You will need two things from you:

1. At least 2 digital photos (preferably more)  
If you have a digital camera and can take good photos then you can take the pictures yourself. One photo should be a head and shoulders picture with your dog looking right into the camera. The other should show his entire body against a person or object in order to show the size of the dog. Please refer to our "Dog Photo and Description Guidelines." If you can't take great photos, we'll arrange for a volunteer to photograph your foster dog. Please send an email to Terri (see Contacts page) to request a photographer to come to you. Note we can also use short videos up to 2 minutes long of your pet if you can make these.
2. A detailed description of your foster dog's personality, preferences and behaviour and what sort of home is best suited to your foster dog. Please refer to our "Dog Photo and Description Guidelines." Then, you can fill in our "Template for Dog's Adoption Listing". Don't stress about writing this, you can just make a list of characteristics and I'll edit it before posting online.

After you have some photographs and a description, please send these in an email (one or more) to Terri [dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com) Later, if your foster dog has been listed for several weeks and you've had no inquiries, please contact Catherine to arrange more photographs and consider rewriting the dog's description.

### **Adoption**

Refer to our document "Adoption Procedure" for more details.

After your dog is listed you should (hopefully) start getting phone calls from people interested in adopting him. Please refer to the "Adoption and Yard Check Questions" document for what to ask people interested in your foster dog.

We strongly recommend keeping a small notebook near your phone, and keeping notes on all phone enquiries. Keep all of this information even if the foster dog has been spoken for or adopted. After your foster dog is adopted, don't throw away the notes about all the inquiries. If the adoption fails and the dog becomes available again, you will want to ring these people back and ask if they are still interested in the dog.

If you have more inquiries for your foster dog after he or she has been spoken for or adopted, please ask the people who miss out to check our website for other suitable dogs. Sometimes people find one of our dogs on PetRescue.com.au or on Facebook or see a poster and haven't seen our own website with all of our other dogs: <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/> If you have time, you can check our website for dogs similar to your foster dog so that you can suggest people look at that dog or dogs.

DRN dogs are only rehomed after potential new owners have been carefully screened; this involves an interview and a premises inspection "yard check". If you have a family member or friend interested in adopting your foster dog they must contact DRN and go through the normal adoption process. If you choose to adopt your foster dog yourself, you still need to pay the normal Adoption Fee to cover all of the costs of your dog's rescue and veterinary care.

Even if someone comes to meet your foster dog, you must not let them take the dog until you speak personally to Sue or Anne and gained their approval. They will let you know when all the inspections and interviews have been done. Don't rely on being told this by any one seeking to adopt the dog!

At the time of adoption, 3 things must happen.

1. Payment must be received by you -or- direct deposit confirmed (Newcastle Permanent: BSB 650 000 Account: 503087208). If the new family have paid by direct deposit you need to confirm that the funds have been received (check with Sue or Anne or be given a deposit slip). Otherwise, they must pay with cash. We don't accept personal cheques. Remember to always get approval from Sue or Anne before letting your dog go.
2. Two copies of our DRN Adoption Agreement must be filled out by the people buying the dog and by you as a representative of Dog Rescue Newcastle. One copy is given to the new owners and you should retain the other copy.
3. Also, the three part "NSW Companion Animals Register Change of Owner Form" must be filled out and signed. The middle (pink) copy is given to the new owners, and you should keep the other two copies (white and yellow). If you don't have a form you can download it from <http://tinyurl.com/3e4skcl>

Please remember that the completed DRN Adoption Agreement form, and the "NSW Companion Animals Change of Owner Form", and the Adoption Fee need to be sent to Sue Barker within a few days after the adoption.

Make sure the dog is wearing a collar with the DRN ID tag when he or she is adopted. You should also give the new owners our Adoption Pack and any bedding or toys your dog loves. If your dog has a harness, the new owners can purchase it for \$15. If your dog has a coat they can purchase it for \$15. If they need a lead you can sell them one for \$5. Prices can vary.

If you receive a deposit for a dog (50% of Adoption Fee, non refundable) \*, please email Terri [dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com) asking her to mark the dog as "On Hold". When a dog is adopted, please send her an email asking her to mark the dog as "On Trial"\*. At the end of the 2 week trial, please send her an email telling her the trial is over and the dog can be removed from the website.

\*More details are available in our "[Adoption Procedure](#)" document available from Sue or Terri.

## **We're Here to Support You**

Remember, you are not alone. If you have any problems or concerns, please contact Sue or your local foster carer coordinator if you have one. Email is preferred for non-urgent matters; otherwise please phone (see Contact Information on last page).

If we need to contact you, our preferred methods of communication are email and Facebook. We sometimes need to send out urgent bulletins and other important information and these are the most practical way for us to do so.

**Please make sure we have your email address by sending an email to [dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com) so you can be added to our Foster Carers mailing list.**

An increasingly important method of communications within our group is **Facebook**. We post all our latest announcements, requests, news and events on our Facebook fan page first. It's also a quick way for you to send us a message. **We request that you go to our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/DogRescueNewcastle> then click on the "Like" button at the top of the page to the right of the title.** You can post photos and a description of your foster dogs on our page. If you have web access but are not signed on to Facebook, you can still see our Facebook page but won't be able to post on it. You can also see our Facebook activity on the bottom of our website homepage <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/>

## **Thank You!**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SAVING A DOG BY BEING A FOSTER CARER! Without foster carers, we could not save any dogs from death at the pound. The time, resources and love which you give your foster dog is greatly appreciated by Dog Rescue Newcastle and by your foster dog!

**<< Note: DRN contact information is on the next page >>**

## Dog Rescue Newcastle Contact Information

Please contact Sue and Anne **using email** unless your inquiry is urgent.

### DOGS:

Sue B. 0415-367-144 email: [docman4@bigpond.com](mailto:docman4@bigpond.com)

### DOG ADOPTION LISTINGS, FACEBOOK, AND WEBSITE:

Terri email: [dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:dogrescuenewcastle@gmail.com)

### CAT ADOPTION, FOSTERING, etc:

Jesskah 0435-832-43 email: [jesskahhh@bigpond.com](mailto:jesskahhh@bigpond.com)

### CAT ADOPTION LISTINGS, FACEBOOK, AND WEBSITE:

Jesskah 0435-832-43 email: [jesskahhh@bigpond.com](mailto:jesskahhh@bigpond.com)

### Approved Vets:

Macquarie Road Vetz, Warners Bay ( <b>our preferred vet</b> )	4956-7719
Belmont Vet, Pacific Highway	4945-9044
The Barn Veterinary Services, Muswellbrook	6543-1888
Motto Farm Veterinary Hospital, Heatherbrae	4987-5087
Tanilba Bay Vet, 43 Lloyd George Grove	4982-3266

### After Hours Emergencies:

<u>1st choice:</u> Mobile Vet, Dr Linda Tabley	0439-490-720
<u>2nd choice:</u> <i>only in life threatening emergencies and with approval from Sue or Anne:</i>	
The Newcastle Animal Emergency Centre	4957-7106
4 Lang Road, Broadmeadow	

### Sydney:

Animal Tracks Veterinary	9764-6066
24 The Crescent, Homebush (Sydney)	

### Dog Rescue Newcastle Bank Accounts:

We have 2 accounts at Newcastle Permanent. It's important to use the correct one:  
For **Adoption Fees** and everything other than donations: BSB 650 000 Account: 503087208  
For **Donations only**: BSB 650 000 Account: 986245302  
(note that all donations \$2 or more are tax deductible)

### Find Us Online:

Website: <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DogRescueNewcastle>  
Photos: <http://tinyurl.com/dogsnew>  
YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/utubedogs>  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DogRescueNew>