



"It's OK ... they're expecting us!"

Guidelines for
FOR FOSTERING Golden
Rescue

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Intake	2
Fostering a Golden	2
Feeding	3
Night time	3
Leaving your foster	3
Leash	4
Vet care	4
Microchip	5
Fostering timeframe	5
Social network	6
Attachment issues	6
Adoption	6
Finances	6
Forever family	7
Administration/paperwork/legal	7
Adoption process	8
Events	9
Support	9
Golden Rescue's coordinates	9



Introduction

To begin with, thank you so much for being part of our organization through fostering Golden Retrievers. This is such an important frontline role and we are grateful that you have stepped up to help. We appreciate what you're doing to help Golden Retrievers who are in immediate need. With your care, love, and guidance, your foster will have every chance at finding their forever family.

The following points are meant to provide a snapshot/overview of the fostering role. We hope it helps you get oriented into your new role. Naturally, you may call any of our spectacular volunteers if you need any clarification or assistance.

Here we go...

- An intake volunteer, the person responsible for bringing the dog into our program, will call you about a potential dog in need of fostering.
- If you agree to foster, arrangements will be made to get the dog to your home.
- The intake volunteer will provide you with pertinent information about the dog (kind of food, medical needs, temperament, etc.)
- Make a vet appointment asap. The intake volunteer will make suggestions as to the vet clinic we would like you to use.
- Take a picture of your foster and e-mail it to your intake volunteer.
- Your first priority is to give the very best care to your foster dog. Of secondary importance is that you assess your foster (keeping a daily diary may be useful) so that you can provide us with as much information as possible in order to make the perfect forever family match.
- The only place your foster dog may be off-leash is in your secured backyard. As the foster dog is not bonded to you, your foster may bolt so keep your dog leashed wherever you go.
- When your foster dog is ready to go to his/her forever home, please fill out the behaviour evaluation with as much detail as possible and include a wish list for the perfect family/home. Send your evaluation to the intake volunteer who will share your evaluation with the adoption team.
- You will be involved in the adoption process. When suitable adopters are sourced, arrangements will be made for the adopters to visit your foster in your home. Please share your thoughts with the placement volunteer as we value your opinion on whether the potential adopters will provide a suitable home.
- The adopters will pick up their new family member from your home. Prior to the adopters arriving, fill out the Placement Summary and print two copies ~ one for our records and one for the adopters. Also print two copies of the Indemnity Agreement and complete the forms as much as possible. Make sure everything is signed properly and give one copy to the adopters.
- We have a set adoption fee for dogs seven years of age or younger. For dogs that are over the age of seven or who have special needs, we ask for an adoption fee of their choice.
- After the adoption has been completed and your foster dog has gone to his/her forever family, please send in all the paperwork (Indemnity Agreement, Placement Summary, and adoption fee cheque) to Golden Rescue, attention Operation Team Lead.
- Please e-mail foster@golden-rescue.net and let us know when you will be ready to help transition the next Golden through the foster process.
- And know that without you, we may not have been able to help this beautiful creature! From our Golden Retrievers past, present, and future...thank you!!!

This was a snapshot of the fostering process. Hope you're with us so far. Remember to call or email if there's anything you'd like to know...

The following pages will provide you with the detail needed to foster successfully. Much of it is common sense and if we repeat what you already know, please forgive us as we are trying to cover all situations in as much detail as possible.

Intake ~ A Golden Needs You...

When someone advises us that they want/need to give up their Golden, the request is referred to an 'intake' person who typically has a behaviour evaluation done to assess the dog. After this is completed, the search begins for a foster home that matches the needs of the dog. This is when you will receive a call. You will be provided with whatever information we have as well as what the needs of the dog are, such as vet care (vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchip, etc.). We will answer all your questions, provided we know the answer.



You can set limits for the type of dogs you are able to foster and we will honour your wishes.

If any foster dog you've accepted proves difficult to handle, Golden Rescue is there to support you. Remember, it takes time for the dog to settle and become accustomed to your home. For cases where further help becomes necessary, we have animal behaviorists and trainers as well as volunteers with experience to determine the best course of action.

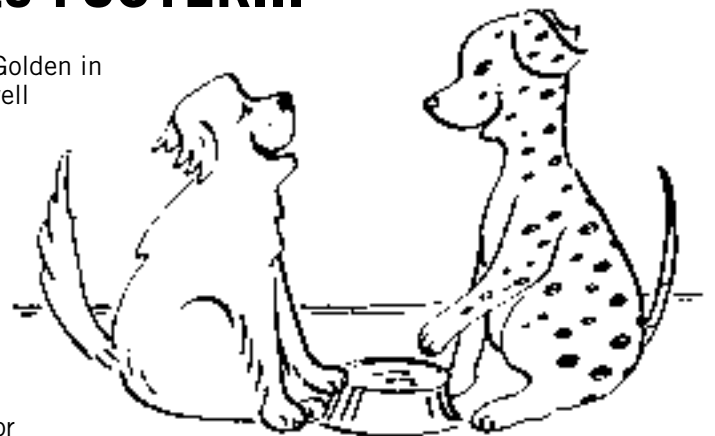
At this time, our transport team will make arrangements for the transfer (date, time, location) of your foster.

The foster family does not get involved with who is giving up the dog. It is the transport team's responsible to pick up the dog. It is best that the people giving up the dog don't know where the dog is going and it's better for the foster home to not meet the people giving up the dog.

Now, you have a Golden to FOSTER...

Thank you...you have provided a safe, loving home for a Golden in need. He/she will look to you for his/her basic needs as well as your extra special care. Please remember that you are holding this foster Golden in your heart as they journey towards their perfect 'forever family', which they so richly deserve.

If you have a dog in your home, the introduction to the foster dog should be done in a neutral area where both dogs feel comfortable.



Your foster will likely be somewhat stressed when he/she arrives. Please give your foster time to settle in with a normal household routine. Try not to have a party or immediately bathe/manicure him/her or have any out-of-the-ordinary activities. Give him/her a few ordinary days to adjust to their surroundings.

It is common for a foster to be somewhat unsettled and restless for the first day or two. Panting, pacing, and excessive drinking are common. By the second or third day, most fosters settle nicely into the routine of their foster home.

TRAINING NOTE: Please note that we use positive reinforcement only for training our foster dogs ~ no e-collars, no hitting of any kind, and no excessive crating and no crating as a punishment. If you find that you need help or support, please call your intake volunteer or Golden Rescue's hotline.

Dogs in foster could need to gain/lose weight and benefit from leash training, crate training, and/or house training. If you have pets, they will likely help too. Lots of foster dogs mimic other dogs.

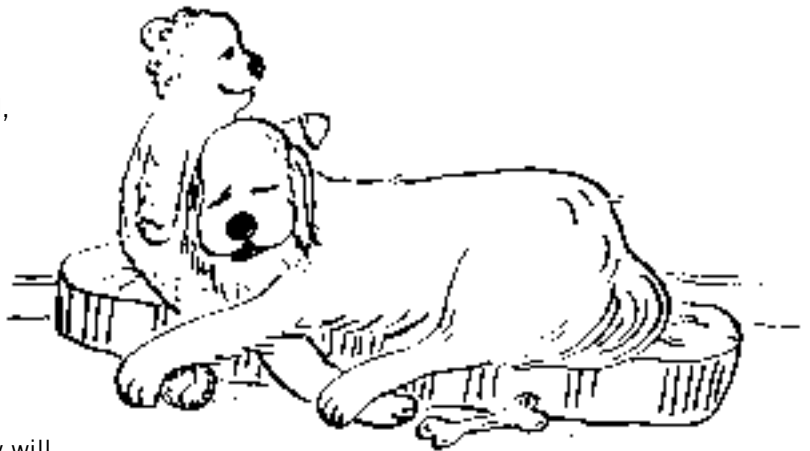
Feed me...

If a foster dog comes with food, it is your choice whether you want to continue with the same brand or to change over (possibly to what your own pets eat). Please make the food switch-over gradual. Mix the two brands together over a period of a week (i.e. 25% new food for two days, 50% for two days, and 75% for two days). If the foster does not come with food or a history of what they have been eating, you can start them on whatever you are feeding your own pet, unless the vet recommends another food. Always feed your own pets first and the foster last. You don't want to set up any unnecessary dominance issues. Your own pet is family and the foster is the visitor (so we don't need to use human politeness).

Golden Rescue recommends feeding your foster a high quality food (not a grocery store brand). Please visit www.dogfoodanalysis.com for guidance on quality foods.

Night-Night...

Sometimes our foster dogs come with their own bed, toys, treats, etc. and sometimes they don't have anything with them other than their golden spirit. If you find you have a dog with no bed and you have an old comforter, this can work as their 'special place'. If you are able to send this with them when they are adopted, it will give them some continuity. Watch for half price days at Value Village...you can purchase quilts or comforters for about \$4.00.



Our foster dogs are companion dogs and are not to be left outside unattended. At night, we expect they will sleep in the house with the family, in whatever room works for you.

Ask your intake person what the dog is accustomed to and duplicate if the practice is acceptable.

Your foster will have a new forever family soon and we have no way of knowing what their practice will be in terms of allowing their dog on furniture or the bed or we should discourage this practice, especially if the dog is not accustomed to doing this in the first place.

Awww! You have to go out and leave me...

Everyone has times when they have to go out and cannot take their pet(s) with them. We suggest that you confine the foster dog either in a small room or a crate until you know that you can trust them to have the freedom of the house. Do not crate a dog unless you know they have been crate trained in the past. You may want to start with short periods of time until you know what they will and won't do while you're away. We do not want our fosters going to doggy daycare or a kennel, no matter how good they are, so if you have a trip booked or may have to travel during your foster period, please wait to foster. If you do need to go away for a short period of time during your foster and your foster cannot accompany you, please arrange for in-home care. If in-home care is not possible, please contact Golden Rescue to discuss alternatives.



What's a leash?

It is surprising how many dogs come into foster care that have not learned to walk with a leash. Training needs to begin immediately. Usually, it is a work-in-progress. On the foster assessment form (that you will eventually fill out), you will need to assess how leash training is progressing so that the adoptive owners can take over the training with consistency. Positive reinforcement training is the first choice for leash training; however, there are lots of aids on the market to help with the 'puller'.

Some folks prefer the 'gentle leader' type of halter which goes around the mouth. This is not a muzzle. If the dog pulls on the leash, it will tighten around their snout and they really don't like that so will stop pulling. The 'sporn' training halter or the 'easy walk harness' are also good ways to walk a puller. These will teach them quickly how to behave on leash.



NOTE: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS A PRONG OR SHOCK COLLAR TO BE USED ON A FOSTER DOG

Another type goes around the front legs (with padding) and over their mid-section. If the dog pulls with this variety, it will tighten where the padding is on their legs and they don't much like this either.

These systems do not hurt the dog and assist greatly with leash training. You don't want to be walking a large, strong dog you can't control. If you lose control and let go, they may bolt. We also don't want them pulling you down onto the ground. And, you want them to know, without any doubt, that you are the boss, so keeping them under control is very important.

IMPORTANT: FOSTER DOGS MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT ON A LEASH, EXCEPT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD IF FULLY FENCED. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE YOUR FOSTER TO A DOG PARK FOR AT LEAST A WEEK OR UNTIL UP-TO-DATE ON VACCINES AND YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR DEMEANOR. LET THEM ACCLIMATIZE TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT FIRST. WE ALSO NEED TO BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR FOSTER IS SOCIALIZED AS WE WANT TO AVOID ANY SERIOUS ALTERCATIONS WITH OTHER DOGS.

My doctor and me...

All veterinary costs are covered by Golden Rescue (unless you would like to donate it for a tax receipt). We have a list of veterinarians who provide their services at a reduced cost and you are requested to utilize these vets in order to keep our costs down. Your intake volunteer will provide you with the basic information regarding the medical needs of your foster dog.

Standard protocols/procedures for Goldens in our care are:

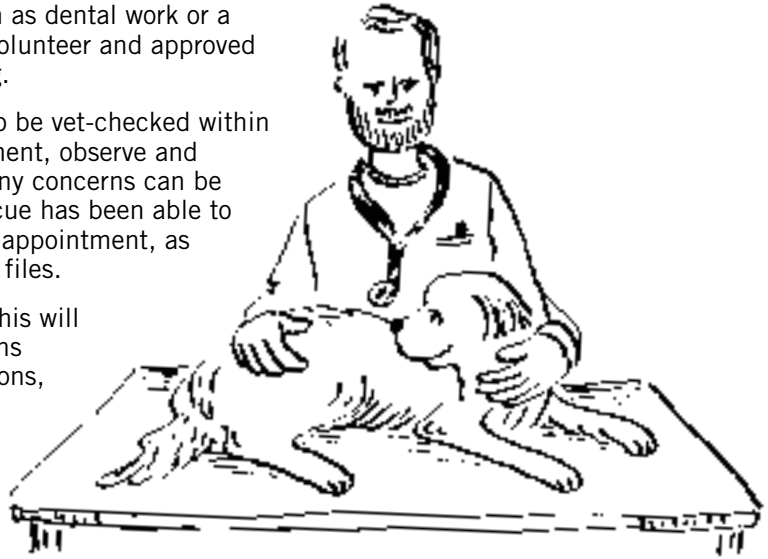
- spaying/neutering
- microchipping
- vaccinations as required (rabies)
- DHPP (distemper, parvo) & heartworm test
- one month treatment for heartworm/fleas (i.e. Sentinel, Revolution, AdVantage Multi, Heartguard)



If you or your vet notice anything of concern (such as dental work or a lump), this has to be discussed with your intake volunteer and approved by the operations or intake lead before proceeding.

You should make an appointment for your foster to be vet-checked within a day or two of their arrival. Prior to your appointment, observe and examine your foster as much as possible so that any concerns can be expressed to the vet. Vet records that Golden Rescue has been able to secure will have been faxed to the vet prior to the appointment, as the records are kept in the central Golden Rescue files.

If your foster dog has not been spayed/neutered, this will be done while he/she is in your care. If vaccinations need to be done or we have no record of vaccinations, this will come first. After about a 10-day wait, the spay/neuter can be done. You and the vet will decide upon the timeframe; however, the sooner your foster can join his/her new forever family, the better.



Each dog is assigned an identification number when they arrive at Golden Rescue. This continues with them throughout the process, so please ensure that this number is given to the vet for ease of invoicing.

Our supporting vets invoice Golden Rescue directly, so you do not incur the costs.

NOTE: We would appreciate having more veterinarians on-board with our organization, so if your vet does not support Golden Rescue, we ask you to encourage them to become a supporting vet. There are benefits for both sides so it's a win-win. If there's some or any interest on your vet's behalf, please let us know and we will contact them to find out how we can work together.

You're going to 'chip' me? What next?

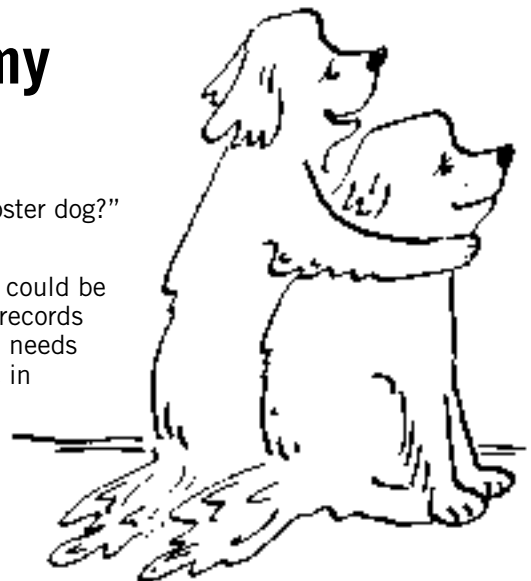
Each dog goes to his/her 'forever family' with a microchip for future identification. The vet will use a wand to check if your foster dog already has a microchip and, if not, arrange to have one inserted. This is a very small chip which is placed with a needle in the back area of the dog. It is then registered with a microchip company with Golden Rescue as the owner. Once an adoption takes place, the information will be changed to that of the adoptive family's.

How long will you be my mommy and daddy?

It is normal for new foster families to ask, "How long will I have my foster dog?" and the answer is, "It depends".

Dogs that come in with all records up-to-date with no apparent issues could be adoptable in two to three weeks. Those who come in with no medical records and need to be spayed/neutered are in foster longer...until all medical needs are met. Dogs coming in from shelters or humane societies tend to be in foster for a month longer.

We sometimes get pairs who need to stay together or a dog with special needs. These placements can take a longer, thereby extending the fostering time. With pairs or special needs dogs, we typically do adoption alerts or post them on our website to highlight their needs. You can see these adoption alerts at www.goldenrescue.ca



Social networks...

In terms of social networking, Golden Rescue is fine with you putting posts on Facebook or tweeting about your foster dog. In order to increase Golden Rescue's visibility to help us find potential adopters, it would be helpful to link our adoption notices to your Facebook page or to generally suggest adopting as an option...but never specifically for your foster. If you encounter someone who may be interested in adopting, their adoption application must go through regular channels.

Do you love me (you become attached)...

You will become attached to your foster dog (usually in the first few minutes)... and you can't help it. Just remember that, through the adoption process, you play a large role in determining who will be the forever family and until we all believe we've found the best possible family, your foster stays put. You will end up with a great deal of satisfaction as you see your rescued Golden move on to his/her new life.

The parting will be difficult and they may not even look back when they leave; however, rest assured you have been an important part of their life and they will never forget you.



Adopting a foster dog...

The Golden Rescue organization would grind to a halt if we didn't have foster homes. We need lots of foster homes at all times, as some folks need to go 'on hold' from fostering for a variety of reasons.

We do recognize that foster families fall in love with their foster; however, please remember that you have agreed to provide a **temporary** home for this Golden.

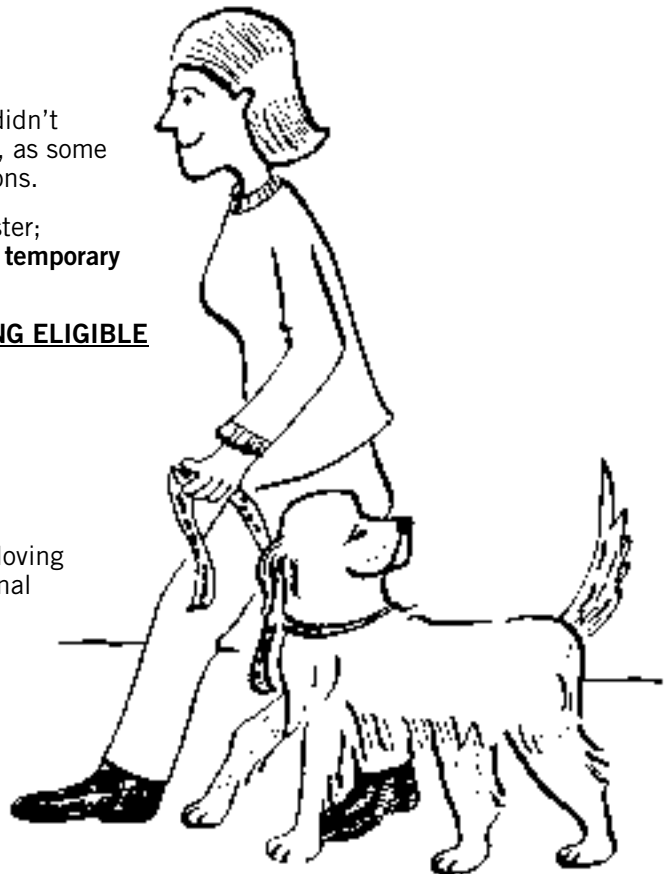
IT IS NECESSARY TO FOSTER THREE DOGS BEFORE BEING ELIGIBLE TO ADOPT A FOSTER DOG.

How the finances work...

We only ask for you to provide good quality food, a safe and loving environment, and some training. There may be a few additional expenses for any toys or treats you may choose to purchase.

Golden Rescue will provide a crate (if necessary) and all veterinary expenses incurred through our approved vet supporters.

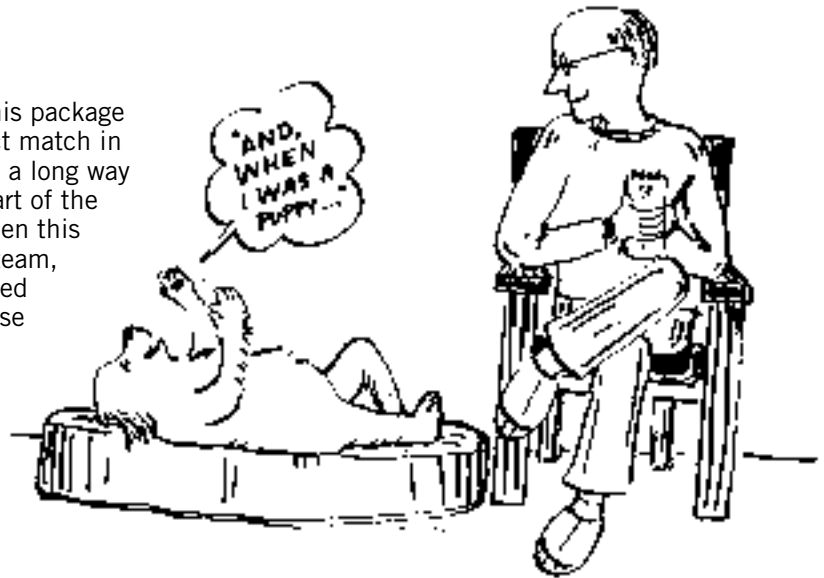
We will send any medications we have for your foster. Please call to let us know if a medical issue arises or is discovered.



My forever home...

A behaviour evaluation form is included in this package that will form the basis for finding the perfect match in an adoptive home. Love and attention will go a long way to your foster dog being ready to move on. Part of the assessment is a 'wish list' for your foster. When this assessment/wish list is sent to the adoption team, they will use the information you have provided to determine the best 'forever family' so please make your report as comprehensive as possible.

When your foster is ready to go to their forever home, a placement volunteer will be assigned to go through the adoption process with you.



Forms, paperwork, legal documents...

The following forms will be in your package and are used as follows:

INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

This is the legal document that is signed by the adopters as well as the person representing Golden Rescue (usually you). Please ensure that the adopter(s) read this over and bring to their attention the area that states that, if for any reason they are not able to keep this Golden, they must return it to Golden Rescue.

This is where you also receive the adoption fee. If the adopters are writing a cheque, please ask them to make it out to Golden Rescue. If they give you cash, you can deposit it and send a cheque or purchase a money order for Golden Rescue.

The cost to adopt a Golden is \$400 if the dog is not special needs or if he/she is seven years of age or younger.

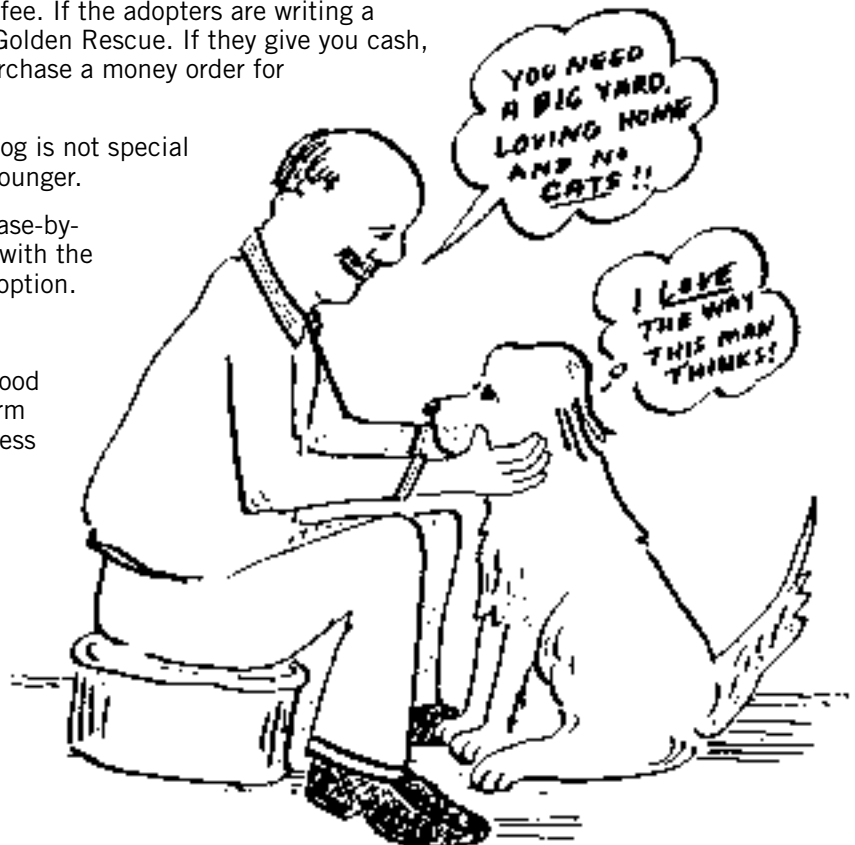
Other circumstances are determined on a case-by-case basis, so you will need to discuss this with the placement person assisting you with the adoption.

BEHAVIOUR EVALUATION & WISH LIST

This is how we determine who would be a good match for this dog. Please complete this form when the dog is ready for the adoption process to begin. It outlines many areas to evaluate your foster and these will assist with the best placement. Please provide as much information as possible to the placement person.

PLACEMENT SUMMARY

This form is provided by the foster family to the adopting family. It contains information about food, medicine, vaccinations, etc. and is a quick reference for the new family.



How the adoption process works...

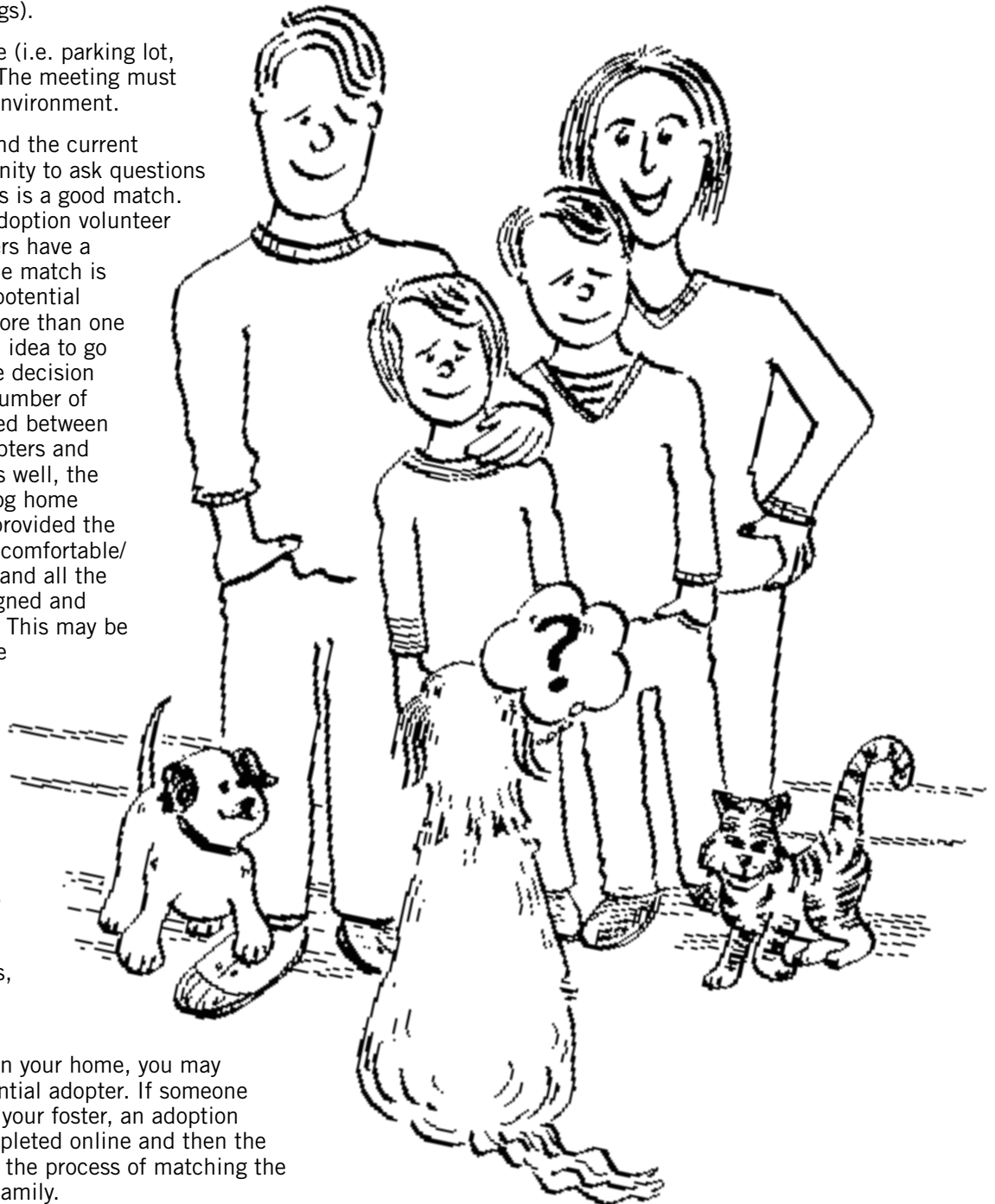
When you and the placement person have decided on the best potential adoptive family for your foster, the placement volunteer will call the adopter and tell them that a dog has been matched to them. This phone call is more of an interview to ensure the match is a good one. The placement person will then arrange for a Golden Rescue volunteer to do a home visit to the potential adopter before the dog is met in foster. If this goes positively, the adopter will be given your name and number and they will call you to discuss the dog further. A meet-and-greet (potential adopter-to-foster) is arranged (usually at your home) to meet the dog. **All members of the adopting family must attend the foster home visit...including any dogs they may have.** It is important to see the interaction between family members and the foster dog (and potentially other dogs).

Meeting in a public place (i.e. parking lot, park) is not acceptable. The meeting must take place in the home environment.

The potential adopters and the current fosters have this opportunity to ask questions to determine whether this is a good match. After this meeting, the adoption volunteer and foster family members have a discussion on whether the match is a good one. Sometimes potential adopters will come for more than one visit, as it may be a good idea to go away and think about the decision to adopt. However, if a number of conversations have ensued between the foster home and adopters and the 'meet and greet' goes well, the adopters may take the dog home after this first meeting (provided the foster family is perfectly comfortable/happy with the adopters and all the documents have been signed and transactions completed). This may be even more common if the adopters are travelling a long distance (as it would be unfair to ask them to come a second time).

NOTE: We provide full disclosure to the extent we have information. In this way, the adopter has no surprises when they adopt the dog. Because of our in-depth processes, very few dogs come back into the program.

While your foster dog is in your home, you may have contact with a potential adopter. If someone is interested in adopting your foster, an adoption application must be completed online and then the adoption team will begin the process of matching the dog with his/her forever family.



May I take my foster Golden to Golden Rescue events?

As much as we need help at our events, we ask you to never take your foster to an event. As you know, one of the purposes of fostering is to assess needs and behaviours. As our history with each foster is largely unknown, we never know what might trigger aggression so we would rather not take any chances with the public. The other reason is that our fosters are already trying to adjust to a new environment so we don't want to stress them further by subjecting them to crowds and unknown situations.

How will Golden Rescue support my foster family?

We will provide you with as much support as you need. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your intake liaison. In the event that you cannot reach them, please call our Hot Line or email info@golden-rescue.net and leave a detailed message so the most appropriate person can call you back (within 24 hours).

Where Golden Rescue is located...

We are located all over Ontario. We do not have an office facility. Our formal address is a mailbox only.

Our organization is run by volunteers. We have a board of directors and we have charitable status.

With all of today's technology, it is easy for all of us to stay in touch.

Again, welcome! We are only a phone call away – and we trust that your work with us will be a joy to both you and your foster dog. You are truly giving a dog a second chance at life and you have 'come to the rescue' in a very important way.

GOLDEN RESCUE™

Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service Inc.

REGISTERED CHARITABLE NUMBER: #88810 1128 RR0001

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 31026
Barrie, ON L4N 0B3

Physical address:

37 Mapleview Drive West
Box 31026
Barrie, ON L4N 9H5

Hot Line:

416-657-2445 or 1-866-712-8444

Email: info@golden-rescue.net

www.goldenrescue.ca



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“Thanks for everything. You guys at Golden Rescue are the best, best, BEST!”



**Thank YOU for coming to the rescue
and opening your hearts and home to a
Golden who needs a second chance!**