

CARETAKER PACKET

What does it take to be a caretaker?

Caretaking for a homeless dog can be extremely rewarding and fun. The feeling of knowing that you have saved a life and helped bring back the spirit of an animal is quite a wonderful feeling.

You might be thinking, "I could never do that, I would want to keep every one of them." Many caretakers do think this in the beginning. Adoption day is very hard, but all caretakers will tell you that if you do not let them go, where will the next homeless dog go? It gets easier as you see the many wonderful people that decide to open up their hearts and homes to a rescue dog.

What do I get out of being a caretaker?

Other than the rewarding feeling of knowing that you have helped save a life, WWW does provide you the necessities you will need: Special Dog food, if needed, any medication required, and kennels (if required). All dogs are temperament evaluated for your home situation before the dog enters your household. If for ANY reason, a dog is not working out for your household, WWW will pull the dog as soon as possible and place elsewhere. If at all possible, all dogs are medically evaluated by us and given tick/flea control if necessary before they enter a caretaker's home.

What will be expected of me?

Caretakers are asked to take care of the dog until such time as he/she is adopted. Should the dog need to be removed from the caretaker's home, we ask the caretakers to give WWW at least 2-3 days to locate a new caretaker. We try to make sure that the dog is completely vetted prior to going into a caretaker's home. Although, some cases we do ask the caretaker to transport their foster dog to and from the vet, should long-term care be needed. Above all, caretakers are expected to give love and compassion to the dogs in their care...just as one of their own.

Frequently asked questions:

1. Isn't it really hard to give up your foster dog?

Absolutely, it is one of the bittersweet things in my life. But if you take on the responsibility you will be greatly rewarded by the experience.

2. I think that I would want to keep them all...

Well, I thought so too but Bosco is my 52nd foster dog and I have only kept 3[?]. I should mention that if you are considering a second or third dog, this is the BEST way to ensure that the dog is a great fit. You can foster with the option to adopt within a thirty (30) day period. If you decide that maybe that dog is not the best fit for you, at least we have a lot of information about his ideal home.

3. What if I decide that I cannot part with my foster?

Most rescue groups will allow the foster first rights of adoption, provided that the best interests of the animal are taken into account.

4. Isn't it a lot of extra work?

If you already have one dog, it really isn't any additional work. In fact, if you get a great playmate for your dog they will wear each other out playing chase and tug and other doggy games.

5. Don't you need to be an experienced dog trainer or rescue person?

All rescue groups are affiliated with experienced dog trainers and behaviorists who provide their services free of charge to make the transition into foster seamless.

6. Isn't there a lot of additional expense with fostering dogs?

Medical care is covered by the rescue groups, and they often provide all food, toys, crates, leashes and collars. If you do find yourself buying extra goodies at the pet store, save your receipt and claim it on your federal taxes as a non-cash donation.

7. What if the dog I choose isn't a good fit for my home?

All rescues are grateful to have foster homes and will screen you to determine what type of pet would be appropriate in your home environment.

8. What type of support do I receive for my foster dog?

Any support needed. The rescue group will provide "technical" support, including behavior modification, food, supplies, medical care, etc. You must only supply a safe, comfortable, calm place and lots of TLC.

WOOF, WIGGLES N WAGS CARETAKER APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Email Address:

Home Phone:

Work phone:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Your Employer:

Your Occupation:

Please list names & occupations of other adults in household:

Are there any children that live in the home? If yes, list names and ages:

Have you ever fostered before? If so, what rescue(s) and what is the contact info?

Name of personal reference and how acquainted:

Phone Number for your Reference:

Years Acquainted:

Do you have pets currently? If so please list breed, sex, name and age of each:

Are all of you current pets spayed or neutered?

If your current pets are not spayed or neutered, why?

In the past 5 years, have you had any other pets that are no longer with you? If yes, please explain what happened to them:

Why do you want to foster a dog?

What research have you done on the specific breed you'd like to foster?

What would you do if your foster dog has any of the following issues:

Was a chewer?

Wasn't fully potty trained:

Not trusted to free-roam in the house but doesn't like to be crated?

Excessive barking when outside?

Would you consider a special needs dog (blind, deaf or on medication) or a senior dog?

Have you ever given up a dog? If yes, explain why:

If you have dogs currently, what are you feeding them (if kibble, what brand)?

If you don't have a dog, what do you intend to feed when you adopt (if kibble, what brand)?

Who will feed, exercise, and train the dog?

Are you able to teach the dog basic obedience?

Where will the dog sleep at night?

How many hours will the dog be alone each day?

Where will the dog be kept when no one is at home?

Who will take care of the dog in your absence (vacations or emergencies)?

Please list the veterinarians that your pets have seen in the past 5 years (veterinarian's name, address and phone number):

Do you live in: Single family home Apt/Condo Mobile Home

Other (please describe):

How long have you lived at this address?

Do you own or rent?

If you rent, do you have permission to have a dog?

Landlord's Name, address, and phone number:

Describe your yard:

Is your yard fenced? If yes, describe fencing (made of, height, etc):

If you do not have a fence, how will exercise/toilet be handled?

May we visit your home before you start to foster?

Is anyone in your home allergic to animals?

Is your entire household supportive of fostering? If not, why?

How did you hear out about Woofs, Wiggles n Wags Rescue?

Do you have the ability to separate your rescue dog from your own if necessary?:

Any additional comments that may help us process your application?

Woofs,Wiggles,n Wags Caretaker Agreement

I/we _____ (herein referred to as: Caretaker) agrees to receive dogs from Woofs,Wiggles,nWags Rescue (herein referred to as: WWW) for the purpose of caretaking until a permanent adoptive home can be found, I/we agree willingly to all the following terms of caretaking:

- I. WWW dogs are the sole property of WWW and decisions regarding their placement, medical care, behavioral modification, and euthanasia are exclusively made by the Director of WWW (hereafter referred to as Director). Under no circumstances does a Caretaker have the right to place, sell, give away, abandon, donate, or euthanize the WWW dogs in their care. Furthermore, all medical treatments given or extreme behavior modification techniques practiced must be discussed with and approved by the Director before implementation.
- II. As the Caretaker, you are responsible for providing indoor/outdoor accommodations including food, water, and providing ample amounts of attention and one-on-one care for the dogs placed in your care. WWW will not reimburse the caretaker for any of these items, and their debt will be the responsibility of the Caretaker. It is the prerogative of the Caretaker to buy additional items such as toys, bones, cookies, etc., at their own expense. It is understood that caretaking is usually not a short-term event, and that caretaking can take several weeks, possibly even months. Boxers AND OTHER SHORT NOSED BREEDS are VERY sensitive to outdoor temperatures and under NO circumstances will your foster be left outdoors with no adult on the property. All rescues MUST be crated indoors when no one is at home. Please be aware of your foster at all times to make sure that they do not overheat.
- III. **Veterinary Care:** WWW will strive to have all dogs fully vetted by the time they enter a Caretaker's home. Sometimes that is not always possible. WWW prefers the dogs to be seen by our own Veterinarian and the Caretaker agrees to make necessary efforts in order to transport the dog there if necessary. Some dogs enter a Caretakers home needing no veterinary care; others need varying degrees of veterinary care. The care required for each dog will be specified.
- IV. **Special Requirements:** If dogs in your care need medications, special diets, etc, it will be the Caretaker's responsibility to make sure the dogs receive this necessary care. If immediate need arises and you must visit another veterinarian, the WWW Director must be contacted to give pre-approval. These pre-approved expenses will be reimbursed by WWW after the Caretaker sends WWW an original receipt for the services rendered.
- V. **Vaccinations:** WWW will be responsible for vaccinating the rescue dogs. DA2PP, and Rabies vaccines are necessary if there is no written proof of current vaccination provided by the previous owner or shelter. WWW will determine if such proof has been provided, and inform the Caretaker of any vaccines that are necessary. If necessary, WWW will pre-approve these expenses through our veterinarian or through a shot clinic and reimburse the Caretaker.
- VI. **Testing:** All testing, medical or otherwise, requires pre-approval by the WWW Director.
- VII. **Spay/Neuter:** WWW will schedule an appointment for spay/neuter of dogs in the Caretaker's home with our Veterinarian. The Caretaker agrees to transport the dogs to and from our Veterinarian and provide after care as prescribed by our veterinarian. If transport to our veterinarian is impossible, the Caretaker should discuss this with the WWW Director to pre-approve the expenses elsewhere. If the dog has a medical condition that prohibits its spay or neuter the Caretaker must take all necessary precautions to ensure that the dog is not bred.
- VIII. **Emergencies:** In the case of a life-and-death emergency, the Caretaker must act in the best interest of the foster dogs. All efforts must be made to contact a Director in the event of an emergency, but it is understood that sometimes this is not possible. If an emergency occurs,

the minimal amount of vet care should be given to ensure the dogs is free of pain and out of danger, until the Director is contacted and further authorization is given. In the case of a severe emergency where the veterinarian recommends euthanasia, as the best interest of the dog, WWW will reimburse for the cost of this procedure. A written report of the event should be made by the veterinarian and sent WWW along with the receipt.

- IX. **Euthanasia:** In some cases WWW rescue dogs have medical or behavioral problems too advanced to responsibly place them in a new home. Unfortunately, sometimes these problems are not discovered, or the extent of them are not discovered, until after they are in the caretaker's home. With feedback from the Caretaker, the decision to euthanize a dog is solely that of the WWW Director. Once the decision is made, it is the responsibility of WWW to have the procedure performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- X. **Pre-existing pets:** WWW cannot take responsibility for any injury or illness sustained to or by a Caretaker's existing pet. If the Caretaker wishes to introduce the rescue dogs to existing pets, this should be discussed with the Director on how to do the introduction.
- XI. **Behavioral problems:** Some WWW dogs may have behavior problems that require the Caretaker to practice behavior modification techniques. Some examples of problems WWW has encountered include: animal aggression, severe shyness/fear, housetraining and other social problems. In many cases the dog simply needs to be in a loving, quiet environment away from other pets or noise. In some cases, more extreme measures must be taken by the Caretaker to correct the problem. The Caretaker will be informed of any behavioral problems that the Directors are aware of before placement into the Caretaker's Home, along with possible modification techniques and/or advise the Caretaker of sources to consult on the problem. Under no circumstances should severe disciplinary or modification correction techniques be applied.
- XII. **Previous owners:** The Caretaker may come in contact with previous owners; WWW requires that such contact should be limited to transportation arrangements or meeting times. Any other contact shall be directed to the WWW Director. Caretakers are the agents of WWW and should not solicit contact with previous owners after the animals are placed in the Caretaker's home, nor should they solicit contact with previous owners after the adoption. WWW may provide updates to previous owners; however this will be done expressly through the Director to avoid potential conflicts and liabilities. If the previous owner attempts to contact the Caretakers, the Director should be notified immediately. WWW also recommends exchanges be made in a neutral location.
- XIII. **Involvement in adoption/future owners:** Some Caretakers like to be actively involved in placing the dogs, others prefer to simply take care of the dog and leave the decision making to the Director. The Director prefers to have the Caretaker involved and is very interested in feedback from the Caretaker on their feelings about the potential adopters. While WWW recommends it, it is up to the Caretaker whether they would like to keep in contact with the adoptive family after the adoption takes place. WWW feels that frequent contact by the Caretaker with the new family helps to ensure a smooth transition, as the Caretaker knows their foster dog the best.
- XIV. **Liability:** The Caretaker accepts responsibility for any and all events that occur in connection with the caretaking of WWW dogs. The Caretaker agrees to release and indemnify WWW from any and all claims, known and unknown, now or hereafter, arising in connection with the dogs.
- XV. **Attorney Fees and Costs:** Should it be necessary for WWW, or its agents and volunteers, to take legal action to recover a rescue dog from a Caretaker or otherwise enforce any provisions of this agreement, the Caretaker agrees to pay all reasonable court costs and legal fees.
- XVI. **Certification of Full Disclosure:** Caretaker attests that all information provided in the accompanying "Caretaker Information Form" is accurate and complete to the best of the Caretaker's knowledge.

XVII. **Forum, Integration, and Severability:** This agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of Arizona, and any suit regarding its subject matter shall be first brought in the courts of Arizona, and Maricopa County. This written agreement constitutes the whole agreement between the undersigned and WWW, and no prior oral or written agreements not explicitly included in this document are to be considered as part of this contract. Wherever possible, the terms and conditions of this agreement shall be interpreted in such a manner as to be effective and valid under applicable law, but if any provision shall be prohibited by or invalid under applicable law, such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or invalidity, without invalidating the remainder of such provision or the remaining terms and conditions of this agreement.

XVIII. **Multiple Caretakers:** Where more than one person, or a non-incorporated group entity appears as a Caretaker in this agreement, each person agrees to be jointly and severally liable under the terms of this agreement, and responsible for compliance with each of its terms and conditions.

XIX. **Liquidated Damages:** In the event that the Caretaker abandons or otherwise transfers the dog without the prior written permission of the Director, or if the dog is abused or mistreated in violation of this agreement, the Caretaker agrees to pay WWW \$500 in liquidated damages, covering costs including but not limited to: veterinary treatment, time and transportation expended in locating the dog, travel expenses in recovering the dog, expenses already invested to improve the dog's health, locate permanent homes, and for legal and other investigative expenses.

I certify the above to be true and complete to the best of my knowledge:

Signatures of Caretaker Household Members: _____

Printed names of Caretaker Household Members: _____

Caretaker address: _____

Caretaker Home and work phone: _____

Caretaker email: _____

Date: _____

Signature of WWW Representative: _____

Printed Name: _____