



## B.A.A.R.K.

Barrington Area Animal Rescue and Kennels NFP

### Fostering – Expectations

#### What you can expect from B.A.A.R.K.

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#### Prior to arrival at your foster home.....

##### Medical

Your foster dog receives an initial vet check, and age-appropriate vaccines upon arrival into our adoption program. Vaccines include rabies, bordatella (kennel cough), distemper/parvo.

He/she is also heartworm tested. If heartworm-negative, he/she is started on a heartworm preventative. If heartworm-positive, treatment will be provided by B.A.A.R.K. and instructions for care provided to the foster family able to care for a heartworm-positive pup.

Some dogs may need to be placed on de-wormer with additional doses sent home with you to dispense to your foster dog.

All dogs must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption. While ideally the animal will be altered prior to arriving at your foster home, this often is not the case. B.A.A.R.K. will schedule the spay/neuter appointment after the dog has arrived in his/her foster home. We ask that you take your foster to the appointment. However if this is not possible, B.A.A.R.K. will make arrangements and ask that you work with us to facilitate this process.

In addition to preventative medications (monthly heartworm preventative and flea & tick control), some foster dogs will require additional medications. IT IS CRITICAL THAT MEDICATIONS BE DISPENSED EXACTLY AS REQUIRED.

Your foster dog will be microchipped for permanent identification.

##### Grooming

B.A.A.R.K. will make every attempt to provide your foster dog with a bath or any necessary grooming, prior to his/her arrival at your foster home. However this may not always be possible. In this case, we suggest you provide your dog with a bath....which will do wonders in making him/her feel better!! If medicated shampoo is required, this will be provided to you. If professional grooming is required, B.A.A.R.K. will make arrangements. We ask for your assistance in assuring that your pup arrives for his/her spa appointment!!

## Training

Foster families are expected to assist their foster dogs in acquiring (or refining) their doggie manners and to promote good “house manners.” This includes behaviors such as housebreaking, not jumping on people or countertops, walking nicely on a leash, etc. We strongly advocate positive reinforcement training, that is, rewarding desirable behavior with a treat and ignoring undesired behaviors.

Dogs who require more intense behavior training will be placed in foster homes appropriate to those needs. If it is determined that formalized training classes would benefit the foster dog and foster family, such training will be considered, at a training facility approved by B.A.A.R.K. (at B.A.A.R.K.’s expense).

## Adoption of your Foster Dog

The foster family is not responsible for placement of its foster dog into his/her forever home, however contribution and input into this process is highly valued. His/her foster family knows the dog better than anyone, and is best positioned to ensure the best match possible!

B.A.A.R.K. promotes its available dogs via Facebook and on its website, as well as on Petfinder and Adopt-A-Pet websites. In order to provide the most accurate and detailed information, we ask our foster families to contribute updates on their temporary resident, as well as photos when possible.

We ask that the foster family participate in “meet & greets” with potential adopters (offsite or at the foster home), as well as attend adoption and other offsite events. If it is not possible to attend such an event, we ask that the foster dog be made available to attend the event, escorted by an available B.A.A.R.K. volunteer.

## Help Along the Way

Remember, fostering a homeless dog should be rewarding and enjoyable!! Sometimes however, challenges arise. We at B.A.A.R.K. are here to help you. If you have any questions, or if concerns about medical or behavioral issues arise, please be sure to contact us at the email or phone number provided to our fosters.



# B.A.A.R.K.

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### What we expect from our foster families

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Foster families are the lifeline of any foster-based organization. The number of qualified foster homes determines the number dogs who can be rescued. By fostering a homeless animal, you are truly saving his/her life.

Each dog entering B.A.A.R.K.'s foster program will have his/her unique needs. Some dogs may be shy and insecure, and will require confidence building. Another may need a brush-up on his/her doggie manners. Others may be seniors, or medically challenged. Such foster homes will have specific requirements beyond the expectations outlined below.

#### **B.A.A.R.K. expects foster families to.....**

- ♥ Provide a loving, nurturing, attentive environment with plenty of affection toward your foster dog.
- ♥ Feed your foster dog a high-quality dog food. (Please let B.A.A.R.K. know if you are able to provide dog food, or if you'd like B.A.A.R.K. to provide it.) Occasional healthy treats are allowed, if desired. Provide fresh water at all times.
- ♥ Dispense all medication, including monthly preventatives, exactly as instructed.
- ♥ Ensure that your foster dog is wearing a secure collar with identification tags AT ALL TIMES.
- ♥ Crate your foster dog, or confine to a secure area when not home, or otherwise able to oversee his/her behavior. This provides a safe, secure environment for your foster and keeps him/her from getting into trouble around the house!
- ♥ Supervise your foster dog at all times when not indoors.
  - ♥ If you have a fenced yard, it must be secure on all sides...and gates are closed!
  - ♥ Your foster dog must never be kept on a chain or left outside unsupervised under any circumstances.
  - ♥ When walking your foster dog, he/she must be securely leashed at all times. (We discourage the use of retractable leashes due to loss of control over the dog.)

- ♥ When walking your foster dog, we ask that you work with to discourage negative behaviors:
  - ♥ Pulling/jumping/excessive barking
  - ♥ Chasing cars/lunging at other walkers
- ♥ Provide appropriate exercise. This becomes particularly important for a younger dog or one having excessive energy!
- ♥ Provide to B.A.A.R.K. regular updates (weekly, or even more frequently!!) on your foster dog's behavior, progress, and personality so as to identify the most ideal forever home for him or her. Photos are also very beneficial!!
- ♥ Ensure your foster dog keeps any/all veterinary appointments scheduled.
- ♥ Bring your foster dog to any offsite adoption events, or "meet & greets" when possible. If you are not able to do so, we ask that you make the dog available so that another B.A.A.R.K. volunteer can accompany him/her to such events.

Confirm that your foster commitment does not result in violation of any municipal codes, homeowner covenants, or other such contracts, codes, or agreements within your community; that you are not exceeding the number of animals allowed in your household as stipulated in such contracts, codes, or agreements; and that there are no breed restrictions resulting in your inability to foster a breed of interest to you. In addition, we encourage you to check with your homeowners/renters insurance to confirm that fostering a dog does not invalidate your policy in any way, and that you are not denied coverage due to breed restrictions related to the foster dog of interest to you.

### **Foster homes must NOT.....**

- ♥ Change the name of your foster dog. All of his/her records are under the name provided by B.A.A.R.K..
- ♥ Place your foster dog in any stressful situation that may prove to be overwhelming . This may include exposure to a group of many people, children, a dog park, another dog.
- ♥ Place your foster dog into a different home if you are not able to care for the dog temporarily. If a situation arises and you cannot foster for a short time, notify B.A.A.R.K. immediately so alternative arrangements can be made.
- ♥ Leave your foster dog unattended outdoors. Whenever outdoors, your dog must be supervised at all times.
- ♥ Promise the dog to a family member, friend, or other acquaintance. Adoption of the dog must follow B.A.A.R.K.'s adoption policies which include completion of an adoption application, screening of the potential adopter(s) and review and signing of the B.A.A.R.K. adoption contract.
- ♥ Engage in or permit others to engage in any dangerous or abusive behavior, or other mistreatment of or involving your foster dog.