

CATAHOULA RESCUE OF NEW ENGLAND

FOSTER GUIDELINES

Instructions:

- *As a foster you are required to read through the following guidelines.*
- *Please sign the last page and return the rest of the document is yours to keep.*

When Your Foster Arrives:

1. It is recommended that new dogs are kept segregated for 10 days before introducing them into your pack. This is to insure your new foster does not get sick and in turn pass it on to your dogs. If you do not do this and the dog becomes sick and gets other dogs in your household sick it will be your responsibility to treat your personal dogs.
2. Some exceptions to keeping new fosters segregated would be if your dog was in temp foster care prior to arriving to your home or was put into boarding before the dog arrived (which most of our dogs are). If you have questions about this please let us know.
3. Fosters are required to take the last leg of transport to pick up their foster dog. If you own personal dogs, do not bring your personal dog along on the transport. In general, it is a good idea that your foster dog has at least a day or so to de-stress before you attempt to do introductions with your personal pets. If you have questions about how to properly introduce dogs, please ask for guidance.
4. It is a **MUST** that all foster dogs wear an ID tag!! It can be something generic like "Catahoula Rescue" and then your phone number and city/state. This way you can use it on another foster when your current one is adopted.

Proper Collars and Leashing:

1. All dogs **MUST** be kept on leash, this is a **RULE**. If you allow your personal dogs off leash that is your business but all fosters **MUST** be kept on leash.
2. By committing to a foster you are committing to exercise them daily which includes walking them daily.
3. If you do not have a fenced yard, you can take them to an enclosed area daily to run. If an accident occurs due to the dog being off the leash the foster will be responsible for all bills.
4. Recommended collars to be used on fosters are regular nylon collars, martingale collars, or harnesses.
5. We **DO NOT** use choke chains or shock collars. We practice positive reinforcement with training and also believe those type of collars can lead to health issues down the line.

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Vet Care:

1. All vetting **MUST** be approved prior to making an appointment or going in.
2. We **WILL NOT** be covering visits if we are told of vet care that occurred without approval or if the dog is taken to a vet that is not contracted with us. The vet **MUST** be approved within our approved system. When taking a dog to the vet for treatment by Shannon will approve the visit and the procedures, before **ANYTHING** extra is done a call will need to be made and it will need to be approved by Shannon. We will speak with the vet and discuss what is needed.
3. Our funds go 100% to our dogs as we are **ALL** volunteers however we need to use the funds wisely in order to be able to continue successfully rescuing as many dogs as we do. Please let me know if you are unsure of the approved vet near you.
4. Covered vetting includes the following: DHLPP, Rabies, Bortadella, microchip, fecal test with deworming if necessary, spay/neuter, HW test for dogs over one year of age.
5. The rescue pays for all heartworm positive dogs to be treated with heartguard.
6. We also treat dogs with various forms of mange (demadex or sarcoptic) and will treat for other illness if needed.
7. It will be the foster's responsibility to provide routine heartworm preventive as well as flea treatment for their foster. To defray these costs you can claim them on your taxes as pre-new laws thanks to the federal government here is some information as please refer to www.irs.gov and <http://voices.yahoo.com/how-claim-pet-care-as-tax-deduction-11038884.html>

Paperwork & Accountability:

1. It is the responsibility of the foster to get **ALL** paperwork when receiving a dog from transport, picking a dog up from a shelter, or taking a dog for a vet appointment.
2. It is **MANDATORY** that this paperwork be mailed to Shannon within **one week** her of receipt. There is no need to request paperwork more than once. We must have all paperwork in our hands for your foster's file and also so that we have the necessary information when we prepare an adoption agreement.
3. If you take a dog for a rabies shot it is your responsibility to make sure you walk out the door with the rabies certificate, if you get a dog micro chipped it is your responsibility to request the company name and microchip number, etc. Please be accountable for your charge (foster dog).
4. As a rule you should be checking in with either Shannon or the Foster Coordinator at least once or twice a month either by phone or email with updates on your foster. Everyone is busy and we are all volunteers, but it is important to know how everyone is doing and if you or your foster needs help. Please reach out, we are here for you! Updates and photos are important to keep these dogs fresh with updates on the websites.

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Commitment:

1. As a foster you are committing to the dog until a forever home is found.
2. This can happen within two weeks or take up to a year.
3. If you cannot commit to a dog until it is adopted then maybe fostering is not for you.
4. We do not have a physical shelter and are depending on fosters to stay committed in order to rescue dogs and get them in the forever homes they deserve.
5. If something happens in your life, personally, economically, etc. It is your responsibility to stand by your foster until we can find another spot to move them to. We do understand that life has unforeseen struggles, but be just as understanding to your foster and to us as we help you through finding alternative placement.

Food:

1. It is the responsibility of the foster to pay for food. Please keep this in mind when fostering and this may determine whether you can only foster one dog at a time or can afford to foster several.
2. We have had some success with getting pet stores to donate food so in some instances we may be able to help with food, but overall the rescue CANNOT afford to reimburse or purchase food. If you would like to take on calling pet stores and try to get us donations that will be helpful.
3. We do recommend feeding foods with no wheat; animal byproducts or corn, grain free is ideal. Suggestions of grain free foods: Evo, Orijen, Nature's Variety Instinct, Wellness Core, or Taste of the Wild. Suggestions of foods with high quality grains: Innova, California Naturals, Fromm, Nature's Variety Prairie, or Wellness. Best rule of thumb is to make sure meat is the first listed ingredient!
4. Here are three very good book resources about pet foods and feeding if you are interested in learning more:
 - a. [The Ultimate Pet Food Guide: Everything You Need to Know about Feeding Your Dog or Cat](#) by Liz Palika
 - b. [Food Pets Die For: Shocking Facts About Pet Food](#) by Ann N. Martin
 - c. [Dr. Pitcairn's New Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats](#) by Richard H. Pitcairn

Holistic treatments:

1. We do recommend that all fosters have L-lysine and Olive leaf on hand.
2. L-lysine treats kennel cough and other forms of colds and is great to use as an immune system booster. I do recommend putting your dog on L-Lysine for at least 10 days when your new foster arrives, this helps boost their immune system and prevents them from getting any type of URI.
3. Olive leaf is used as an antibiotic and is great to use in two week intervals.
4. To improve the coats of your dog, fish oil and salmon oil are options.

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Photographs:

1. People see our dogs on the internet; they are captured by a photo. Something in the photo is what attracts them to the dogs we rescue. If we don't have photos people will never see our dogs – OR – if we have photos that are not favorable no one will look twice at a particular dog. So, long story short, PLEASE GET US GOOD PICTURES!! There are many times we ask over and over, it is the responsibility of the foster to email us pictures of your dogs so we can post them on Petfinder putting them on FB is not sufficient. They must be emailed at sln2310@yahoo.com.
2. Please do not send me a FB link. We must be sent actual pictures. The longer it takes for you to get us good pictures the longer it may take that dog to be adopted. Please remember the picture says a thousand words, you are selling your foster short if you do not take the time to get good photos.
3. Photographic Angles: You can submit as many photos as you want, but I need at least 2 good photos outside in good lighting that show these two angles:

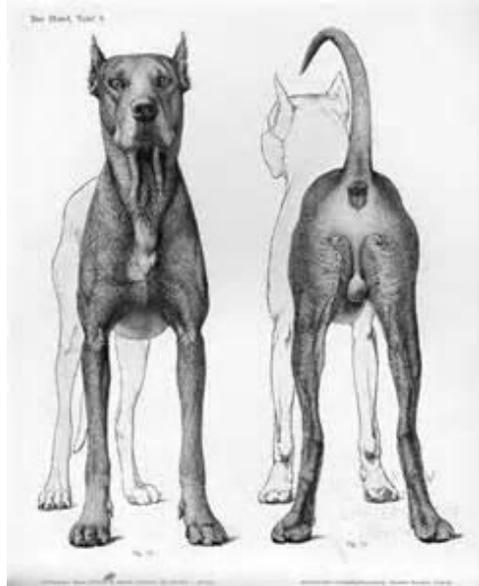
A Profile View



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A Front View (Including Head & Shoulders)



Adoption events:

1. We understand, you all have lives and are busy. We do not expect every foster to be able to attend every event, but please try your best to attend adoption events when you can. These events give the dog's great exposure and many find homes this way.
2. Another great idea if you cannot attend events or you are fostering in a different state is to purchase an "adopt me" bandana. Put this on your foster whenever you go for walks or to the dog park.
3. Also, network your foster feel free to post them on your FB page as well and let your friends and coworkers know you have a rescue dog that is looking for a forever home.
4. You can create a flyer and post it in your vet's office or local pet food stores, get creative. If you need ideas please feel free to reach out to us and we can help.
5. Remember these events are about your foster dogs, and please leave personal pets at home.

Behavioral/Training Issues:

1. If you are having a training or behavioral issue with your foster dog and do not know how to work through it, do not wait, call Shannon immediately. We will help work with you to try and resolve it.
2. These issues are not something to wait and then reach out about. We want to solve them sooner, rather than later.
3. We ask that you do not email us about the issue, rather if it is a difficult or serious problem it is best that you talk to one of us directly over the phone, please make sure you call.

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4. Remember, Catahoula's need mental stimulation as well as physical. You have to keep both in balance to have a well-balanced dog. So, if you aren't supporting both, you might want to reexamine what you are doing with your foster to change that.
5. Also, you are the leader, your foster looks to you for guidance. Make sure you are providing it.
6. Here are some wonderful resources that might help you:
 - a. The Complete Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog by Don Abney
 - b. The Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog by Don Abney and Luana Luther
 - c. Getting in Touch with Your Dog: An Easy, Gentle Way to Better Health and Behavior by Linda Tellington-Jones
 - d. Scaredy Dog! Understanding & Rehabilitating Your Reactive Dog by Ali Brown
 - e. <http://fearfuldogs.com/>
 - f. http://www.dogscouts.org/Article_links_page.html
 - g. (wonderful site about body language)
<http://www.diamondsintheruff.com/diagrams.html>

Adoption:

1. What happens if you are fostering a dog that you would like to adopt? All fosters get first say in adopting their foster if they choose. Please keep in mind that the adoption fee does still apply.
2. The adoption donation for our rescue ranges from \$250-\$400. To the long term fosters, those that have fostered over 5 dogs, please speak with Shannon if you are interested in adopting your foster.

Adoption Process:

1. Please speak with Shannon if you are unsure of the adoption protocol. An application **MUST** be submitted and **APPROVED** before any potential adopter can meet one of our dogs.
2. The approval process consists of the review of the application, phone interview, vet reference and two personal references.
3. Once the potential adopter is approved we will then pass on the application for the foster to review, you will then be able to call the potential adopter, ask any questions you would like, and also set up a meet and greet.
4. We also do home visits! Please remember we are looking for **FOREVER** homes for our dog which is why our approval process is extensive.
5. Potential applicants can be directed to Petfinder.com or given our email address to request an application.

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Contact Information:

Shannon L. Nachajko, President

Phone: (H) 207-273-1320

(C) 207-975-0909

Email: sln2310@yahoo.com

Mailing: 30 Clements Pt. Road
Warren, ME 04864

Alison Lance, Foster Coordinator

Phone: (H) 859-519-8917

Email: aml622@aol.com

Mailing: 303 Melissa Dr.
Nicolasville, KY 40356

In Closing:

1. Most importantly LOVE YOUR FOSTER! We may not always know their past but we are responsible for their future and it is up to us to help make them the best possible dog they can be! Please treat this dog as a member of your family which includes play time, taking them on outings and basic training.
2. Fosters are responsible to house break and teach the dog basic manners if not already known (IE: sit, stay, leash manners, patience, good food manners)...just think about what you would expect from a dog that is in foster care if you were adopting...
3. If you have children: please monitor your foster around your child at ALL times. We do not want our fosters set up for failure.

We have to say we appreciate EVERYONE involved with Catahoula Rescue of New England! We have a wonderful team and are adding new people to our team every day. We know at times it gets overwhelming and stressful. What we do is not easy but we save the lives of many houlas in need and there are so many dogs out there that would not have had a chance if it wasn't for us. Let us know if anyone has anything to add to this list or any suggestions...we can continue updating the above and maybe making some modifications as time goes on.

THANK YOU!!

"Saving one dog may not change the world but it will make a world of difference for that dog"

Shannon L. Nachajko
Catahoula Rescue of New England, President

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******PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SHANNON VIA EMAIL OR POST******

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Driver's License #: _____ **State of Issue:** _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Statement of Understanding

My signature below is my acknowledgment that I have read the attached document, "Catahoula Rescue of New England Foster Guidelines", in its entirety. I understand the expectation of the said rescue and if I had objections and or questions to this information presented in this document, I have enclosed them in written format for further review.

Foster Signature

Date

Catahoula Rescue Director Signature

Date