



## FOSTER HOME GUIDELINES

When considering whether or not you would like to become a registered foster home by making application through Australian Cattle Dog Rescue, Inc.® and adhering to the following guidelines, several benefits are offered as a result of this affiliation:

- **General liability insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000,000.** If accepted, you would be covered by our insurance policy in the unfortunate event of a bite incident, as long as all guidelines have been adhered to for the dog involved.
- In addition to liability coverage, our foster homes become part of a network of experienced ACD rescue persons who are available at all times for support, advice and assistance.

1. In order to foster dogs for ACDRI, a Foster Home Registration form must be filled out and submitted to the board of directors. This form will be reviewed by the board and once approved a rescue mentor will be assigned to you to help you with any questions or problems you may encounter. The form is available at [www.acdrescueinc.com](http://www.acdrescueinc.com).

2. To be an ACDRI registered foster home you must be a current ACDCA member in good standing. This membership must be maintained each year. A lapse in ACDCA membership will require you to re-register with ACDRI once your membership is back in effect with ACDCA.

3. During the first year as a registered ACDRI foster home only one rescue dog may be fostered at a time. At the end of this year you may make a request to the board of ACDRI to increase that limit to a maximum of three rescues in foster care at any one time. Your request will be considered by the board and a decision made based on your success with past foster dogs. Due to the nature of this breed and their requirements for training, socialization and interaction with humans, no foster home will be allowed to house more than three rescue dogs at any one time. Transient stays of a few days for dogs in excess of this number will be allowed until other arrangements for the dog(s) can be made. A single incident emergency petition to house an excessive number of dogs may be made to the board in extreme situations, such as what the closure of a puppy mill might produce. Once this type of situation is stabilized it is strongly recommended that the dogs be placed into individual foster homes for training and socialization before being placed into a permanent home. A litter of puppies under the age of 8 weeks will be considered as one foster. Once they have passed that age each puppy will be considered as an individual foster.

4. All dogs going into the program must:

- Appear to be a purebred Australian Cattle Dog. Dock tailed dogs will be accepted providing there are NO other physical deviations from the accepted breed description. Dogs with a dropped ear will be accepted with a veterinarian's statement indicating the ear is dropped due to injury and there are NO other physical deviations from the accepted breed description. If there is any question about a specific dog please provide pictures to the board of ACDRI for a determination BEFORE taking this dog into foster care.
- Be reasonably healthy and capable of living a normal life in a new home. No blind or deaf dogs will be accepted into the ACDRI program.
- Be evaluated as having a good stable temperament. No dogs with a history of biting will be accepted into the ACDRI program. In addition it is strongly recommended that no seriously dog aggressive dogs be taken into foster care due to the difficulty involved in placing them into a new home. Extremely fearful dogs should only be taken in by persons with the experience and time to completely socialize and rehabilitate these animals before their placement into a new home.

5. General recommendations when fostering a dog:

- Do not take any dog out of a shelter unless you are prepared to keep it if you don't get it placed.
- After a dog has been in your home for 2 weeks reevaluate its temperament in order to get a more accurate assessment. All dogs must be kept for a minimum of 2 weeks before placement.
- Put basic obedience training on the dog. All foster dogs should at the least, be leash trained, come to their name, be crate trained and know the following commands, "sit", "down" and "stay". The more training the dog receives the easier they will be to place and keep in a new home.
- Do not take a dog that is a serious liability. Recommend to the shelter staff that they humanely euthanize any obviously unadoptable dog. This is true as well for individuals with biting dogs who wish to turn them in to rescue.
- If you accept a dog from a private owner you must have them fill out the ACDRI owner surrender form and turn over any registration papers and medical records prior to you taking the dog. Contact a member of the board for a copy of this form.

6. Before being placed into a new home all dogs must:

- Be spayed or neutered.

- Be fully vaccinated per the recommendations of your vet for your geographical area. Puppies must be vaccinated as fully as possible during the time you foster them.
- Test negative for intestinal parasites and heartworms. Any dog testing positive for any parasite including heartworm must be fully treated and cleared of the infection before being placed into a new home. All foster dogs must be maintained on heartworm, flea and tick prevention (as recommended by your vet for your geographical area) for the duration of their stay in foster care.
- Be implanted with a recognized international microchip. Registration of this chip must be to ACDRI with the foster person's name and address as primary contact.

7. All prospective adopters **MUST** completely fill out and sign the ACDRI application form.

8. It is strongly recommended that all references be checked and that a home visit and interview with the applicants be conducted prior to approval for adoption.

9. Upon adoption the ACDRI foster person must completely fill out the adoption contract and it must be signed by the adopting party. Both the adopting party and the foster person are to receive a copy of this contract.

10. The adoption fee received for each dog should not be submitted to ACDRI but the amount received must be noted on the adoption contract.

11. After the adoption is complete you must mail **ALL** of the following to the current ACDRI president:

- ✓ a copy of the ACDRI application and adoption contract
- ✓ a clear color photo showing the entire dog
- ✓ a copy of the spay/neuter certificate or other proof of spay/neuter
- ✓ a copy of the medical records for this dog showing vaccinations and all other medical care provided
- ✓ a copy of the microchip registration and expense receipt

Upon receipt of these items, you will receive \$50 to help with the costs of your next foster dog. You will also receive reimbursement for the cost of the microchip including registration, up to a maximum of \$30. The maximum total reimbursement for any one dog will be \$80.