

**FOSTER HOME CONTRACT**

**FOSTERING FOR BALD IS BEAUTIFUL DOG RESCUE (BisB)**

While in the care of an approved foster home, dogs remain the legal responsibility of BisB.  As temporary guardians of our dogs, foster parents have a great deal of input in how the dog is cared for and placed. However, all fostering is done under the umbrella of the BisB mission and philosophy. Responsible care and consistent communication is crucial to our success. This contract lays out the standard of care expected from all foster homes.

**ONGOING CARE OF DOG:** Foster homes must provide a standard of care that we would expect from anyone who adopts a dog from us. The dog’s health, welfare and safety are our primary concern.

* Feed a quality diet, provide exercise, and maintain a healthy weight for the dog.
* Provide basic training including house manners, leash training, and socialization.
* Keep the dog clean and provide basic grooming such as nail trims, ear cleaning, bathing and brushing.
* Foster dogs must wear identification tags at all times. Dogs are never to be left outside when no one is home. Dogs must be on a leash at all times when not in a fenced yard.
* In the car, foster dogs must always be restrained in a crate, car seat or otherwise appropriate manner.
* If a dog becomes lost, notify Foster Hone Coordinator (FHC/Ellen), Director (Micki) or any other OC member immediately; follow lost-dog protocol.

**VETERINARY CARE OF DOG:** Every effort is made to send a fully vetted dog to a foster home, and so need for vet visits are generally limited to illness or emergency.

* Every foster home should find a low-cost clinic or a vet willing to offer rescue discounts for vet care. This might not be your primary care veterinarian for your personal dogs if your vet is unwilling to offer discounted care.
* If a dog becomes ill, notify the FHC or Director prior to scheduling an appointment with your vet. Your visit must be approved, including expected tests the vet will likely recommend. If at the vet and your vet wants to run more tests, request approval prior to agreeing to additional tests.
* Every foster must know the location of the closest emergency pet hospital. In case of emergency situation, make every effort to contact FHC and/or Director as soon as you are able to do so. You may also contact any member of the Operating Committee.
* BisB provides reimbursement for approved vet services. Provide documentation and completed request form within 30 days of vet visit.

**PROMOTING DOG:** Effectively promoting a dog involves sharing about the dog within the group as well as to the public. This helps us place the dog in the right home.

* Participate in forums regularly to stay in touch with all ongoing rescue issues.
* Post weekly updates on Sunday; all fosters must share observations about your foster dog at least 2x each month.
* Photograph your foster as often as you can.  At minimum, share new and varied photos every 2 weeks for FB and the website.
* Maintain online profile, including basic stats and a bio. If a dog is not generating interest, update bio and pictures once a month.

**SCREENING APPLICATIONS:** Foster homes have primary responsibility to screen potential homes. Communication with potential adopters at this stage is crucial both for the placement of the dog, and for providing consistent customer service to applications.

* Process applications in a timely manner. If you cannot get to the application within three days, tell application coordinators (Kelly/Diane) you need help.
* Always be open and honest with applicant regarding your observations of the dog’s temperament, behavior and habits.
* Never communicate with an applicant in a way that leads them to believe they have been or will be approved until a final decision is made.
* All notes regarding screening must be stored in the comments section of the application. This is what will be reviewed to determine approval. Without them, the application is considered incomplete and cannot be approved.

**FINAL PLACEMENT:**Placement of the dog is approved based on the recommendation of the foster parent, with the endorsement of the Operating Committee. This is a team decision.

* To recommend a home, all detailed notes (interviews, home visit report) must be uploaded into comments section of application and a request submitted to FHC. Allow 48 hours for final decision.
* The transfer of a dog can only take place with a completed contract and confirmation of payment. Upon adoption, contracts must be emailed or mailed to Director. Adoptions are considered finalized once all paperwork is on file.

As a Bald is Beautiful foster parent, I have read and understand this contract.   
In order to remain a foster home in good standing, I agree to support the mission and policies of BisB, and provide all foster dogs with the standard of care outlined here.

Signed,

Print Name Sign Name Date

**Sign and return to** Ellen Westkaemper, 800 Bennett St, Greenville, SC 29609 or email to [ellenwestk@ymail.com](mailto:ellenwestk@ymail.com)