

## **WOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A BTRNC FOSTER HOME?**

A more satisfying experience you will not find elsewhere!

Fostering is a very challenging, yet hugely rewarding experience that is shared by the entire family. The dogs in our program require loving, stable environments that will provide the training and rehabilitation they need to prepare them for their forever homes.

Many of our dogs are owner surrenders, strays and come to us from shelters. Many have been neglected and/or abused and lack proper medical care. Most often, we do not know the dog's history and behavioral characteristics. Some dogs need house training or crate training, one may need to recover from surgery or injury and another may need time to build the confidence and trust stripped from him at the hands of a cruel owner. We cannot save and rehabilitate these dogs without your participation in our foster program; foster families are an integral link in the rescue process. The BTRNC volunteers recognize the importance of having qualified foster homes available for our constant influx of dogs. Therefore, I encourage you to learn more about how your family can help.

### **What do I do if my foster dog escapes, is lost or stolen?**

**Notify the following BTRNC Lost/Stolen Emergency Dog Contacts:**

**Betsy Myers 336 339 4368**

**Lisa Goersch 828 461 7303**

**Mark Fenton 703 731 3090**

### **How do we become a designated foster home?**

We require that you complete a foster home application and sign a foster home agreement indicating that you comply with the terms of the contract. We also conduct reference and veterinary checks and do a home visit. The purpose of the home visit is to validate that your home will in fact provide a safe haven for a foster dog. We also like to meet with your family face to face to get to know each other. Once all this is completed and reviewed by the foster committee, we work towards placing a foster dog in your home.

### **If we do not live in MD, NC, SC, VA or GA, can we still become a foster home?**

We generally do not maintain foster homes outside the above five state area. However, this determination will be made on a case by case basis. If you are interested in fostering and live in other than MD, NC, SC, VA and GA, please contact Betsy Myers or Lisa Goersch.

### **Can any home be a foster home?**

No, not every family is cut out to be a foster home. We screen all applicants very carefully and attempt to identify risk factors early in the screening process. Families that commercially breed dogs or do not provide their pets proper veterinary care such as rabies vaccines and heartworm prevention are not suitable for our program. We assess each application on its own merit because we know that each family is unique but the bottom line is that we must protect for the dog's well-being and safety.

### **Why must we sign a foster contract?**

BTRNC considers rescue and improving overall animal welfare a very important mission. As a foster home, you contract to uphold BTRNC's policies. If a foster home cannot or will not comply with BTRNC policies, the dog will be removed from the foster home. The BTRNC foster application/contract is a legal document and will be treated as such. Therefore, a signature is required.

### **Must we have a fenced yard?**

No, a fenced yard is not a requirement for fostering.

### **Can we be a foster home even if we have small children?**

Yes. Many of our foster homes have children. However, the home must provide a safe and stable, low stress environment for the foster dog. This is often impossible when there are multiple small children in the home. Also, foster moms are responsible for socializing or rehabilitating the foster dog. This too is difficult when there are small children in the home.

**Must we own our home?**

No, ownership is not a requirement of fostering. However, if you rent, BTRNC does require a copy of your rental agreement. BTRNC will not pay for any pet fees the owner may levy on you for having additional animals.

**How long a foster period must we commit for?**

There is no predetermined time limit associated with fostering. Some foster dogs are adopted very quickly while others remain in the program for months. In some rare cases, a foster dog may never get adopted. BTRNC will work with each family on a case by case basis if the family becomes unable to keep their foster dog.

**What happens if the foster dog and our home do not fit well together?**

BTRNC will not leave a foster dog in an environment that is high risk for the dog or the family members. Foster families are encouraged to advise Betsy Myers if they are having difficulty integrating the foster dog into the home.

**Are we responsible for vet bills?**

No, BTRNC pays all vet bills for the foster dog. However, if a vet bill is incurred as a result of non-compliance with our foster contract or gross negligence, BTRNC may require the foster family assist in the payment of expenses.

**What are we financially responsible for?**

Foster families are responsible for daily life expenses such as food, bedding, accessories and toys. BTRNC considers these items a (non-tax exempt) donation to the rescue.

**Do foster dogs bite?**

Biting behavior does occur when animals are in strange and new situations. Fear biting is not uncommon in foster dogs.

**Once approved, how is a foster dog chosen for our family?**

Once BTRNC has screened your application and coordinated your home visit will screen incoming dogs for suitability for your family. You and a BTRNC representative will discuss the dog's origins and behaviors and collectively choose a dog that appears to fit. Unless the foster family is a veteran home experienced with many animals, every attempt will be made to put a dog without substantial behavioral problems in a first-time foster home.

**Does BTRNC guarantee the behavior of the foster dog?**

BTRNC volunteers are not certified trainers or behavior specialists. Foster dogs have unknown histories and their behaviors cannot be guaranteed. It is up to the foster family to employ control measures and take action to manage their home. Integrating a dog into your home properly is very important. Remember, the dog looks to you for structure and control. The foster parent must be the leader.

**Must we administer heart worm and flea/tick preventive?**

BTRNC requires all foster dogs be given preventives unless the dog's health conditions preclude. BTRNC considers these monthly preventives to also be a donation from the foster home to the rescue.

**What if the foster dog needs to go to the vet?**

Routine vet care is coordinated in advance with Betsy Myers by phone or email. Emergency vet care is coordinated while at the clinic by phone with Betsy Meyers.

**Must the foster dog wear a harness at all times?**

Yes.

**Must the foster dog wear ID tags at all times?**

Yes.

**Must the foster dog be crate and house trained by us?**

Yes, we strongly encourage you to crate and house train the foster dog. Many of our intakes already are trained but some need this training. A dog that is house and crate trained stand a much better chance of adoption than one that is not.

**Do we have to purchase a crate for the foster dog?**

Not necessarily. BTRNC may have an extra to lend or BTRNC may purchase a crate for the foster dog. Also, the foster family may purchase a crate and that way the home will have it for future foster dogs.

**What do we have to do to get our foster dog ready for adoption?**

A cute photo and biography must be submitted as soon as possible to our bio-writer for the website posting.

The foster dog must be rehabilitated or socialized to the point that he/she is expected to do well in a forever home.

All veterinary requirements must be accomplished: vaccines, micro-chip, alter and treatment of acute illness/injury. Chronic illness/injury must also be addressed and documented.

**May we adopt our foster dog?**

Yes. Foster families must contact Betsy Myers with their desire to adopt BEFORE their foster dog is being screened for an adoption applicant. Foster families are subject to the same adoption fees as non-foster applicants.

**How do we learn how to be a good foster home?**

BTRNC provides a foster home guidelines booklet and foster home checklist that you will find helpful. By taking care of the foster dog the same way you take care and love your own pets is a great start!

**May we source adoption applicants for our foster dog?**

Sure, the more adoption applicants BTRNC approves, the more dogs get adopted. Please send those interested in adoption to our website [www.BTRNC.org](http://www.BTRNC.org) to complete an adoption application.

**What happens to the foster dog when we go on vacation?**

Foster family should notify Betsy Myers of their travel dates. BTRNC will post for a request on the volunteer Facebook page. If no one is available to board the foster dog BTRNC, will work with the foster family to locally board the dog.

**Please view the following agreement. If you agree to the terms of the foster contract and would like to become a foster home, contact our Volunteer Coordinator for more information.**

#### **SECTION 4 FOSTER HOME AGREEMENT**

##### **BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOSTER HOME AGREEMENT**

I certify that all the information contained in this agreement is true and complete. By signing this document, FOSTER agrees to all terms, policies and regulations administered by BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA (BTRNC).

FOSTER shall keep Boston Terrier as an indoor pet, and will ensure that Boston Terrier wears harness with 3 tags (rabies, microchip and BTRNC ID) at all times.

FOSTER shall ensure that Boston Terrier is kept under positive control at all times; either on leash and/or in enclosed area.

**FOSTER will immediately notify the following BTRNC Lost/Stolen Emergency Dog Contacts if Boston Terrier is lost or stolen:**

**Betsy Myers 336 339 4368**

**Lisa Goersch 828 461 7303**

**Mark Fenton 703 731 3090**

FOSTER shall conduct integration into home, socialization, training and rehabilitation as necessary to prepare Boston Terrier for adoption.

FOSTER shall notify Betsy Myers of any change in status to include new address, new phone #, new family members, new pets.

BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA assumes responsibility for all **pre-approved/authorized** routine veterinary expenses; BTRNC will not pay for **unauthorized routine** vet services and supplies.

(1) FOSTER shall provide and maintain veterinary care for Boston Terrier, including all vaccinations, heartworm preventive, flea and tick control and all other care authorized by BTRNC and recommended by a veterinarian.

(2) FOSTER must obtain prior authorization for routine vet care from Betsy Myers prior to services being rendered.

(3) FOSTER shall obtain immediate vet services for A bona fide **life-threatening** medical emergency as needed and contact the Betsy Myers as soon as possible thereafter.

FOSTER shall provide, at own cost, those items that contribute to the healthy, safe and loving environment, and socialization of a Boston Terrier to include food, toys, chews, crate and bedding.

FOSTER shall provide a status report for each Boston Terrier as requested

FOSTER shall contact Betsy Myers immediately should a biting incident occur.

FOSTER shall contact Betsy Myers if the FOSTER becomes unable to keep or provide for their Foster Dog.

FOSTER shall not sell, give, or otherwise transfer Boston Terrier to anyone other than a designated member of BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

FOSTER shall advise Betsy Myers immediately upon Foster's desire to adopt the foster dog AND prior to an applicant being approved for adoption of your foster. Standard adoption fees apply. Adoption fees are payable upon FOSTER'S decision to adopt.

**FOSTER REPRESENTS THAT NO MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD HAS EVER BEEN CHARGED WITH CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, CHILDREN OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

FOSTER shall indemnify and hold harmless BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA and its members from any and all loss, damage or expense incurred by the foster Boston Terrier(s).

BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA does not warrant the temperament or behavior of any foster BOSTON TERRIER.

BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA does not warrant the physical health of the foster BOSTON TERRIER.

BOSTON TERRIER RESCUE OF NORTH CAROLINA reserves the right to IMMEDIATELY remove Boston Terrier from FOSTER should FOSTER not uphold the terms of this agreement.

Upon receipt of foster dog, please ensure that you keep a copy of this agreement and return the original to the BTRNC representative.

Signature and date of all adults residing in household:

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