



FOSTER MANUAL

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Proudly serving the Coastal South Carolina and Georgia Areas

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Introduction

Welcome to the world of fostering with Grateful Golden Rescue of the Low Country (GGRLC). You are embarking on a wonderful and sometimes nutty journey, ending in a new beginning for a deserving Golden.

This manual details each step in the foster home experience and is based on the experience of many Golden lovers who have trotted this path before you. Please read it thoroughly and ask any questions you may have before your first foster dog arrives. Even if you've fostered before, you'll find it worthwhile to review the manual from time to time. It describes important GGRLC policies and procedures and offers new and, we hope, helpful ways to make the fostering experience easier and more rewarding for both the Golden and their foster family.

As a foster parent, you have one of the most important jobs in the rescue organization. It will be you who will spend the most time with your foster Golden, and it will be your recommendations that will be primary in the selection of the right adoptive family. You will evaluate the Golden's temperament and reinforce basic obedience and house manners as needed. You will also be responsible for some necessary paperwork, which we keep to a minimum, and most important – giving love and security to a special Golden at an often difficult time in his or her life. In short, you will be a nurse, a teacher, a record keeper, a behaviorist, a fund-raiser, a groomer and a friend – basically, a parent.

If all this sounds like too much, it is not. You do not need to know everything about everything. Our organization is full of people who share a wealth of knowledge and true dedication to the task. If the Rescue representative you call doesn't know how to answer your question, she or he will find someone who does. Few people are organized around a cause more unifying than this, the love of a truly exceptional companion animal.

Besides providing help with many of the issues that arise in fostering, this manual provides the names and telephone/fax numbers of people who are ready and happy to answer your questions (*Appendix A*).

The question we're asked most often is, "Don't you become so attached to these dogs that is hard to give them up?" Of course we do (and you will, too). Most of the time, the foster dog's stay with you will be two or three weeks. The minimum is one week. In that time, you can't help but become attached to each other. However, when you know the dog you've fostered is going to a good home and you see the joy on people's faces when they meet the Golden of their dreams, you're reminded of why you got into rescue in the first place; to give something back to this wonderful breed. Each time you help match a displaced Golden and a good family, you'll know that you've done something fine, rare, and lasting.

Thank you for joining GGRLC as a foster parent. You will not regret it.

Good Luck and have fun!

Acknowledgements

GGRLC would like to acknowledge the Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue and Rescue a Golden of Arizona for allowing us to use their Foster Manual as the basis on which this manual has been drafted. We have benefited greatly by all of their hard work and the countless hours they must have spent putting their experience and knowledge on paper.

GGRLC would also like to acknowledge all of the foster families that are willing to open up their hearts and homes to all of our orphans. Without each of you this manual would not be necessary because this program could not exist without you.

I. Introducing the Foster Dog to Your Family

A little forethought now – as you're first bringing an "orphan" Golden Retriever into your home – can make life a lot easier for you, the foster dog and the permanent members of your family – canine, feline or (especially) human.

NOTE: Until you fully understand your foster's personality and temperament, use caution. Please give the dog several days to acclimate himself to you and his new environment before introducing visitors into the home.

Meeting your children: Always supervise when small children are around the foster dog; you can't know how the dog will react to kids, especially if he has never been around children or has had bad experiences with them. Teach the children to respect the dog's privacy when he goes to his special place (his crate, his dog bed or just a corner of the room) to be alone. Don't let children try to take a toy away from a dog or bother him at mealtime. Even though the kids may enjoy watching their own pets eat, explain that even the nicest foster dogs might bite if they haven't always been treated well and might think the kids would take their food.

Meeting your pets: Your pets may resent the intruder, and if the foster dog is frightened, he may exhibit aggressive behavior to mask his fear. Even an initially friendly greeting may be replaced by a squabble over a special place, a toy, food, etc. So keep the foster dog away from your pets until you, your pets and the foster dog know more about one another. The foster dog should not share dishes with your other pets.

More specific suggestions for the initial meeting with your pets:

Dogs:

Find a neutral territory – away from your dog's "turf". Put both dogs on loose leads and have each dog controlled by a different person.

If you are at home put all food and toys away. Let the dogs approach each other and sniff for ten or fifteen seconds. Be matter of fact. Keep the leads loose, because using a lot of tension on either dog's leash may make one or both dogs assume that there is a threat, prompting protective aggression.

Now call both dogs away, but don't pull. If they show no sign of aggression, repeat the procedure for slightly longer. If there are signs of aggression, correct immediately (see the section on ***Training and Behavior***) and keep the dogs apart. If you see two wagging tails and one or both dogs go into the "play" stance, you can let them play together – but keep the leads on awhile for security.

Keep all toys picked up until a firm friendship has been established. Then, introduce the least special toys first. Feed the dogs from separate bowls, far enough apart (e.g., at opposite ends of the kitchen) that they won't feel a need to defend their food.

Cats:

Be particularly careful to pick a meeting place that affords the cat an escape route. A first meeting in a room with only one exit door will make your cat very wary.

Do not force a meeting; often, dogs and cats work things out very well on their own given time.

Don't hold the cat in your arms. He'll feel restrained, the dog will feel jealous, and you're likely to be scratched.

CAUTION

If the dog growls or barks, correct him (see *Training and Behavior*).

Finally: Your own and other volunteers' experiences will be invaluable in making safe and successful introductions. However, even if your dogs are used to guest dogs and are very accepting, go step-by-step. There is always a possibility that even a timid Golden, if rescued from neglect, may rebound and begin to test the pack order.

CAUTION

While it is our policy to accept only non-aggressive Golden Retrievers who are not known to snap or bite, this is not a guarantee. Should your foster dog growl, snap, bite or show any other sign of aggression, call your Foster Coordinator immediately.

II. Caring For The Foster Dog

This section provides general information. Should situations or questions not covered in this manual arise, please call your Foster Coordinator for additional assistance.

Identification

The first thing to do for your foster dog is to be certain that he has a strong collar that fits, that all previous tags have been removed, and that a GGRLC tag is attached to the collar, along with rabies tag and microchip tag, if applicable. It is important to do this the first day. If the dog does not have a collar, GGRLC tag and leash, call your Foster Coordinator. You might also attach a temporary ID tag with your own name and telephone number. It can prove helpful if, despite your best efforts, the foster dog is found exploring your neighbor's property.

Second, write the name and telephone number of the nearest Rescue approved veterinarian and local animal emergency clinic (found in Appendix A) on the cover of this manual and on any emergency telephone list you keep posted. Having that information at hand will save precious time if a medical emergency arises. (See the Contact Listing for names and numbers of approved veterinarians).

NOTE: Your Foster belongs to GGRLC. The organization maintains the right to reclaim, at any time and for any reason, the rescued Golden Retrievers that have been placed in foster care.

Where should the foster dog stay?

Foster dogs need to live in your home, but they don't need the run of the place. The ideal solution: crating.

Even an immaculate, vetted, well trained, housebroken Golden needs a place of his own, where he can acclimate to strange surroundings and schedules, recuperate from surgery, or just get away from things. (Besides, you'll appreciate a little respite from the work of keeping the foster dog out of trouble). Nothing is better for that purpose than a sturdy crate of the appropriate size.

The typical foster dog soon regards the crate as his private den, where he can go when he needs a safe and secure place to rest. An excellent discussion of the value of crating in housebreaking and problem prevention is in **The Second-Hand Dog** by Carol Lea Benjamin, pp. 37-40, a copy of which is found in Appendix D.

Chewing

A couple of chew toys or tennis balls (not ones that belong to your own pets) will keep him happy. Vinyl and sponge toys can disappear in minutes so hard rubber toys like Kong® and Booda® toys will last longer and are safer. Plastic bones (e.g. Nylabones®) are safer, but some dogs aren't fond of them. Don't offer shoes, even ones you don't want any more; they're full of toxic chemicals, and few dogs can distinguish discarded foster home "play toy" shoes from the adoptive family's good ones. Children's stuffed toys should also be kept away from the dog.

⚠ WARNING! NEVER GIVE YOUR FOSTER THE FOLLOWING:

- Real bones of any kind
- Rawhide
- Pig ears
- Rope toys

Besides being relished by dogs, they can be a source of many problems. They are often prized treasures that cause fighting. They can harbor bacteria and make your dog sick, break teeth, but more importantly, they can cause intestinal blockages if large pieces are swallowed. Strings from rope toys can become entangled in the intestines if ingested. If this happens, and the pieces do not pass through, they must be surgically removed placing the dog's life at risk and a financial burden on the rescue.

Water

A foster Golden, like any pet, needs free access to fresh water. During his first few hours with you, however, you should give water sparingly, to minimize chances he'll drink too much because he's anxious and have an accident. Should he continue to appear overly thirsty after a few days, contact your Foster Coordinator.

A sturdy, wide-mouthed crock or stainless steel bowl is ideal, as they are not apt to be accidentally spilled. Place the bowl where spills won't matter, since not all Golden retrievers are dainty drinkers. Please remember, dogs like children, should never be permitted to drink from the toilet bowl.

Feeding

A good dry dog food from a specialty feed or pet store is recommended. Your foster dog may arrive with a supply of his usual food. If you need to convert him to the food you use, bear in mind that a sudden change from one food to another often causes diarrhea. So, make the change gradually, mixing in increased portions of the new food each day for a week or so.

Limit the dog's exercise one hour before and two hours after meals, to help prevent bloat or upset stomach. We recommend several small meals per day initially, even if the dog seems healthy and hungry. Within a week, the dog should be fed twice daily. The dog should not be allowed to free feed.

Sometimes, the foster dog just won't eat for a day or two. If that happens, first eliminate possible distractions – toys, children and pets. Leave the food for 20 minutes, then pick it up and wait two hours before offering it again. If he doesn't eat for 24 hours, add a small amount of canned dog food or warm broth. Once he is accustomed to his surroundings and has regular exercise, he will probably eat better, and you can eliminate the canned food or broth. Don't feed table scraps or people food, since this unbalances a balanced canine diet and encourages begging.

Vomiting and Diarrhea

If your foster dog has diarrhea or vomits, withhold food for 24 hours and offer small amounts of water or ice frequently. Then, resume feeding with a bland diet, e.g., one part boiled hamburger or chicken with two parts boiled rice. If the diarrhea or vomiting persists, or if blood is visible, fever or apparent pain, call your Foster Coordinator and ask about seeing a veterinarian. Take a stool sample and make note of its color, consistency, odor and frequency to help the doctor narrow the search for a cause.

Note: Be sure to transition from the dog's prior food to a new food to avoid diarrhea or stomach upset.

Weight Management

Excess weight is a common problem for Golden Retrievers, often because their pleading eyes win extra food or table scraps from misguided humans.

DO YOUR FOSTER DOG A FAVOR THAT WILL PROLONG HIS HEALTHY LIFE: DON'T OVERFEED OR GIVE TABLE SCRAPS!

If you're not sure whether the dog is overweight, here's how to tell: run your hands over his chest, you should be able to feel his backbone as you run your hand along his spine without having to press in. In addition, a trim dog should have no "love handles" around his waist; there should be a definite narrowing at the waistline.

If your foster needs to lose weight (as many do) start his weight-loss diet right away. Show your love not with extra treats, but with an extra kiss, hug or pat.

An excellent weight loss program for Golden Retrievers is the "green bean diet", where half the dry dog food is replaced with unsalted green beans. We have had great results with many dogs on this diet.

Exercise

All Golden Retrievers benefit from frequent walks each day, even short ones of 10-15 minutes. Don't be surprised if your foster dog is unfamiliar with the concept of walking with a human. He may have been "on the road" for much of his life, and may not know what to make of a leash and the idea of staying along side you. Nevertheless, with a little practice, even the most confirmed "Golden-A-Bout town" will turn into a contented stroller. Here are some helpful reminders:

- **Never walk a foster dog off lead.** Even if he seems content never to leave your side and comes every time he is called, off-lead exercise is so risky that GGRLC policy prohibits it.
- Use a strong, short leash made of leather or cotton webbing. Nylon leashes are not recommended, as they can be uncomfortable to hold if the dog pulls.
- A training collar, properly used, is a must (unless you enjoy being pulled around like a caboose on a runaway train). The training collar is designed to snug and release instantly – allowing you to signal the dog with a sharp yank and an instant release. With it, you can teach the dog many things, one of the most important being heeling – staying close by your side when you go for a walk.
- It's very important to put the training collar on correctly, because if put on incorrectly it will not release properly. Here's how to get it right: Before putting the collar on, make sure it forms a "P"

when you are facing the dog. After you put the collar on, and have the dog standing on your left side, snug the collar upward and release, it should release instantly. If it doesn't it won't work for training and it could choke the dog, so remove it and start again. The training collar must be removed after the training session ends. Never leave a training collar (popularly known as a "choke collar", although if used properly, this is a misnomer) on an unsupervised dog as the risk of choking is high. **NEVER** leave a training collar on while crating your fostered Golden.

- A fenced area where the dog can roam free is a great advantage, but always keep a new foster dog under surveillance. Golden Retrievers can jump very high, dig very fast, climb quite skillfully, and squeeze through remarkably small spaces. Don't assume that just because your own dog(s) don't get out that the foster dog won't; some have survived on their wits for so long that they may try to escape just for practice.

Many Golden Retrievers will play and exercise in a kennel run, but some just sit and wait for human playmates. Observe the dog carefully; a Golden that has been confined or tied from puppyhood will need to be walked to increase his stamina and agility gradually. A 15-minute walk with you is often better than 30 minutes alone in the yard.



III. Grooming

Although quality food and regular exercise are important to the health of the Golden's skin and coat, and some Golden retrievers appear to be nearly self-cleaning, regular grooming is essential to maintain their health, comfort and handsome appearance.

Grooming

Regular weekly brushings and more often if needed, helps prevent mats and reduces the amount of shed hair you'll otherwise find whenever a Golden has come to rest. A steel bristle brush, a slicker brush, a heavy comb and a fine comb are useful. The inexpensive, two-sided brushes are handy, but not very durable. A shedding blade is useful on dogs that have a lot of loose hair or haven't been groomed recently.

Before brushing, rub the dog's whole body briskly with your fingers to loosen dead skin and hair, locate any mats and spot lumps, bumps, scratches, fleas and ticks. Brush in the direction of the hair growth. If there are mats, pick them apart from the end of the hair toward the skin, using your fingers or a comb. Knots form quickly in the thick hair under a Golden's ears and can be avoided by weekly combing and brushing.

Ears

Golden retrievers' ears require occasional cleaning. Brush the flaps gently, and examine them for thickened areas or black "gunk", which may signal an infection. Remove visible dirt with cotton or a cloth-covered finger. Use a non-medicated commercial ear cleaner. Most are used as a flush; drip a small portion into the ear canal, massage gently around the base of the ear, and allow the dog to shake his head. Clean the ear with a cloth covered finger. Do not insert cotton-tipped swabs, such as Q-Tips® into the ear canal, as they can push debris deeper into the canal and may damage the eardrum.

Bathing

A healthy, normal Golden retriever need not be bathed often, because even a mild shampoo removes necessary natural oils and may cause dry, irritated skin. When a bath is necessary, make it enjoyable; Golden retrievers love water!! First rub him with your fingers and find and remove any mats. Brush out dead hair. Place a cotton ball in each ear to protect the canal.

Choose a good quality, mild dog shampoo and keep it from getting in his eyes, scrub with a sponge, fingers or a brush. Be methodical about covering the whole dog, including the pads of his feet. Rinse repeatedly with a spray hose or many buckets of water. It is essential to remove all traces of shampoo.

Excess water can be stripped off with the flat side of a shedding blade. At this point, your dog will probably attempt to shake and get you as wet as he is. Towel dry. A just-washed dog will usually choose to roll – so have him on a leash. If you use a blow dryer, set the temperature to low or cool and brush the hair in the direction of growth to avoid too much fluff.

Teeth

Although few dogs suffer from tooth decay, many have gum disease, causing inflammation, bad breath, loose and infected teeth, and eventual tooth loss. In severe cases, periodontal disease can lead to serious infections elsewhere in the body.

Chew toys and biscuits help prevent the accumulation of tartar, but many veterinarians recommend daily or every-other-day teeth cleaning with specially formulated and dog-palatable products you can buy from wholesale catalogs or pet stores.

If you decide to brush the foster dog's teeth (to reduce bad breath, for example) follow this procedure:

Purchase a good pet toothpaste; they come in poultry, beef, malt and mint flavors and contain fluoride and enzymes specific to the dog's mouth chemistry. **NOTE: Human toothpaste is not recommended because they're ineffective, foam too much and cause stomach upset when pets ingest them.**

Moisten an ordinary soft toothbrush with warm water and apply pet toothpaste to the brush. Gently brush the cheek surfaces of the incisors, the front-most teeth. Gradually over the next few sessions, extend the toothbrush further back in the mouth, so that eventually all teeth are brushed. The cheek surfaces of the teeth build up the most plaque. Since the tongue removes much of the plaque from the inside surfaces of the teeth, focus brushing on the outside cheek surfaces.

IV. Healthy Care

This section summarizes general health issues that may arise while you are fostering. The first part pertains to keeping your own dog(s) healthy despite exposure to a number of foster dogs, some of who may have had less than adequate care prior to their rescue. The second part covers health precautions for you and your human family, and the last part addresses medical problems sometimes encountered by foster dogs.

The rescue dog will be examined by a veterinarian, brought up-to-date on vaccinations and spayed or neutered. You may also be given medication to deworm your foster if it has not been done prior to him coming to your home. He will also be started on treatment for any other problems identified during the veterinarian's examination. Your Foster Coordinator will let you know if any further veterinary care is required while the dog is living with you.

Please monitor the dog's behavior, gum color (pink is normal), endurance, gait, skin and coat quality and eating and drinking habits. If an appointment is needed, call your Foster Coordinator for the **REQUIRED** pre-authorization.

For more information regarding general health care, speak with your veterinarian or refer to the **Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook** by Dilbert G. Carlson, D.V.M. and James M. Giffin, MN.D. The Veterinary Handbook is a valuable reference for any home that has little four-legged loved ones, and your Foster Coordinator should have a copy.

Emergencies

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN OR LOCAL EMERGENCY CLINIC IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT WAITING FOR AUTHORIZATION. GGRLC authorizes necessary diagnostic and stabilization procedures in emergency situations. However, if surgery is recommended, prior authorization from your Foster Coordinator is required.

Keeping Your Own Dog Healthy

External Parasites

Every attempt is made to have the foster dog come to you free of fleas, ticks, and other external parasites. However, these little beasts are tricky and on occasion one may slip through.

Fleas: To prevent the occasional flea from setting up housekeeping in your home, vacuum carpets at least weekly during flea season (late summer and fall).

Ticks: The most common ticks are the American Dog Tick and the Deer Tick. Both can transmit diseases (such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease) to pets and people.

To remove a tick, grasp the entire tick (including the mouth) with tweezers or between gloved fingers, and pull gently without squeezing the tick so hard that it regurgitates its contents back into the Golden. Try to remove the tick completely, and then clean the area with an antiseptic or soap and water. Wash your own hands well since some disease-causing organisms can penetrate intact skin.

Other External Parasites make their presence known by causing the dog to itch or to lose hair. Itchiness is manifested by excessive licking, chewing or scratching. Since the itchiness has a number of causes other than skin parasites, you should see your veterinarian to determine the cause of your own dog's itchiness, or talk with your Foster Coordinator if you have questions about a foster dog's itchiness.

Internal Parasites: Rescued goldens are routinely dewormed when they enter rescue.

If the foster dog is found to have intestinal parasites, you should pick up his stools to prevent the worms they harbor from infesting your property.

While most worms can be detected only with the aid of a microscope, the presence of two types of worms may be determined by the naked eye. Roundworms resemble spaghetti strands and may be found in vomited material or the stool. The tapeworm egg packets look like rice grains and may be attached to the surface of the stool or to the hair near the anus or tail.

Dogs should not be permitted to drink from toilet bowls or streams, as they can be sources of Giardia, a cause of diarrhea.

Kennel Cough: Every effort is made to ensure that foster dogs do not have diseases transmissible to other dogs. It is nonetheless possible for a dog, particularly one that has been kenneled in a shelter, to be harboring kennel cough. If the foster dog has a cough, you will probably notice it during the first day or two, while he's isolated from the rest of your family. Ask your veterinarian about whether you should vaccinate your dog for kennel cough.

Other Diseases: Your dog should, of course, have an annual physical examination and be kept current on distemper/parvo and rabies vaccinations.

Keeping Your Human Family Healthy

Because small children like to put things in their mouths, they are at risk of ingesting dog and cat's fecal parasites. To decrease this risk, follow the recommendations in the "Internal Parasites" section above, and keep cats from defecating in flower pots and children's sandboxes.

Some skin problems, such as ringworm (a fungal infection), and scabies (caused by a mite) may be shared by pets and people. While every effort is made to ensure that the foster dog is free of contagious skin diseases, it is nevertheless possible for such a problem to become evident while the dog is with you. See the "Itchy Skin and Hair Loss" section below for information on dogs. If people in your household develop a skin problem that is diagnosed by your physician as ringworm or scabies, please contact the Foster Coordinator.

People with suppressed immune systems (such as those undergoing cancer chemotherapy, taking drugs to suppress infection or organ transplants, or infected with HIV) are more susceptible to diseases carried by pets and other people. If anyone in your household has a suppressed immune system ask your physician about steps to minimize your risk.

Medical Problems That May Arise With Your Foster Golden

Itchy Skin & Hair Loss: The most common cause of itchiness and hair loss in the Golden is allergies to inhalants (such as pollen, house dust, or molds), specific food ingredients and/or fleas. During the short period of foster care, there is very little you can do to diagnose or treat the specific problem. However, you can minimize the dog's discomfort by keeping your house flea-free, bathing the dog with an anti-itch shampoo (such as oatmeal dog shampoo), and **ONLY** with the approval of the veterinarian, giving an antihistamine such as Benadryl® (sold generically as diphenhydramine) at about 1 mg per pound of body weight three (3) times daily, or Chlor-Trimeton® (sold generically as Chlorpheniramine) at a dose of a 4mg. tablet three (3) times daily.

Other causes of itchy skin and hair loss include ringworm (a fungal infection which is diagnosed through a fungal culture), mites (identified by examining a skin scrape with a microscope) or endocrine disorders such as hypothyroidism or Cushing's disease.

Ear Scratching and Head Shaking: If the dog's ear canals have a foul odor, or if he is shaking his head or scratching his ears excessively, he may have an ear infection. The most common underlying cause in Golden Retrievers is allergies to inhalants (pollens, molds, house dust) or specific food ingredients. Other factors that may play a role are water entering the ear during swimming or bathing, lack of air circulation due to debris matted onto the hair at the entrance of the ear canal, ear mites, or a foreign object in the ear canal.

To clean a dog's ear canals, which are L-shaped internally:

1. Raise the ear flap as far as it will go to straighten out the "L"
2. Pour the ear wash into the canal until it drips out the top
3. Massage the base of the ear for about 10 seconds to loosen debris from the walls of the ear canal
4. Let go of the ear and allow the dog to shake his head, which will move the debris from deep in the canal up onto the ear flap
5. Wipe the ear flap clean with gauze or something very soft

Call the Foster Coordinator if the signs recur within a week. Use only a commercial, non-medicated ear cleaner, not an antibacterial one (the antibacterial agents in some cleaners kill only some bacteria, allowing others to flourish). Avoid hydrogen peroxide (it can damage skin and impair normal healing) and alcohol, which stings already irritated skin, almost ensuring the dog will not tolerate future ear treatment. Do not insert cotton-tipped swabs, such as Q-Tips® into the ear canal, as they can push debris deeper into the canal and may damage the eardrum.

Vomiting, Diarrhea and Bloat: The most common cause of diarrhea in foster dogs is an abrupt dietary change and recent significant life stresses. To minimize diarrhea, make a gradual, week-long transition (if possible) from the food the dog had been eating to the food you are introducing. Some dogs will vomit, although vomiting can also indicate that something is obstructing his gastrointestinal tract, that he's eaten something toxic, or that he has other underlying problems. **If you suspect that the Golden has ingested plastics or other objects, IMMEDIATELY CALL YOUR FOSTER COORDINATOR.**

Most cases of vomiting and diarrhea are self-limiting and respond well to conservative therapy. Withhold food for 24 hours, but offer water or ice chips (small amounts at a time if the dog is vomiting). After 24 hours, feed several small meals of bland food (boiled rice with a small

amount of boiled hamburger or chicken mixed in) daily until vomiting and diarrhea have subsided. Then gradually, over a week, reinstate high quality dog food.

Bloat, also known as gastric dilation/volvulus (GDV) or gastric torsion, is an emergency problem characterized by the stomach filling with gas, often because the stomach has twisted on its axis closing off the entrance and exit. Clinical signs are discomfort, uneasiness (pacing, etc.), retching without producing vomitus, foaming at the mouth, and eventually enlargement of the abdomen. **TAKE THIS DOG TO THE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!!!**

To minimize gastrointestinal distress like vomiting, diarrhea, and bloat, feed high quality dog food twice daily. Do not allow the dog to free feed. Don't exercise him less than an hour before or two hours after meals. Provide plenty of fresh water at all times. If a dietary change is necessary, make a gradual transition from the old diet to the new.

Coughing: Frequent dry coughing (when the dog is not pulling so hard on his leash that his collar is pushing on his trachea!) may indicate that the dog has kennel cough, which may be transmitted to your own dog. Isolate the foster dog and talk with your Foster Coordinator about a possible referral to a veterinarian.

Change in Water Consumption and Urination: If your foster dog drinks and urinates excessive amounts, or urinates small amounts frequently, he may have a urinary tract infection or an endocrine disorder such as diabetes or Cushing's Disease. Please call your Foster Coordinator to discuss.

Seizures: A seizure is a period of abnormal electrical activity in the brain and is characterized by unconsciousness and often, convulsions or trembling rigid limbs, jaw snapping or a tightly clenched jaw, vocalization and loss of urinary and/or bowel control. If your foster dog has a seizure, protect him from hurting himself (e.g. if he is banging his head on the floor, put a pillow under his head) and focus on observing all possible details.

Bear in mind that a dog in the midst of a seizure is out of control. He may snap and bite involuntarily and may be unable to relax his clenched jaws. Be very careful!

Once the seizure ends, call the Foster Coordinator and describe the seizure:

- How soon after eating it occurred
- What the dog was doing prior to its onset (whether he was roughhousing, sleeping, etc.)
- Whether he acted differently shortly before the seizure
- Whether a part of the body, such as one leg, started trembling first or if the entire body started shaking
- Whether the dog responded to your voice during the seizure
- How fast the heart was beating (place your hand on his chest during the seizure if you judge it safe to do so)
- How many minutes the seizure lasted
- If the dog behaved strangely after the seizure and how long this phase lasted

V. Training and Behavior

GGRLC does not expect you to formally “train” your foster, but you are certainly going to begin (or renew) his education, proving that while dogs will be dogs, that does not mean they cannot learn new or better manners at any age. He should learn to walk fairly quietly on a leash, to sit and to lie down on command, to tolerate confinement and grooming without hysterics, to be housebroken, and to come when called – at least from the end of the leash!

Most rescue Golden retrievers know the basics required to fit comfortably into foster homes; the rest will surprise you with how quickly they learn as you work with them and they begin to pay attention to you.

Do not hesitate to seek help from members of GGRLC. Behavior changes can sometimes be very difficult but usually it can be worked out. If your foster dog’s behavior or training problems persist, call your Foster Coordinator to discuss next steps. The Foster Coordinator will take note of the information in selecting an adoptive home.

Training: Do not be permissive with the dog even if you feel sorry for him. Some behaviors you may allow or even enjoy in your own dog may make your foster dog harder to place. For instance, he should not be allowed on your furniture and he should not be allowed on your bed. He may sit or lie near your dinner table, but he should never be given anything from the table. In addition, he should not be permitted to jump on anyone. If your foster is a jumper, see the section on behavior problems for help in ending this bad habit.

You are, of course, free to make your own house rules, but the foster dog will fit more easily into the adoptive family’s home if you establish consistent and fairly conservative behavioral limits. For the first several days, supervise him strictly – don’t just open the door, take off his lead and let him roam the house. At first, give him free range of only one or two rooms, letting him drag his leash so that you can take it and keep him from wandering. Baby gates are great for confining the average Golden, and of course, the crate is invaluable. You can give him access to more rooms as he earns it with good behavior.

You Are the Pack Leader: All canines live in and need a structured pack order. The pack leader (YOU) will be constantly challenged by the lower members (the dogs). If the pack leader fails to exercise leadership, a behavioral vacuum occurs and must be filled. Thus aggression, food guarding, etc. results.

Keep in mind that dogs want to be led and are comforted by the fact that you are the pack leader. Become the leader by taking control and exerting your authority. Most of all let the dog know you mean business.

Time On His Paws: Every Good Dog’s Downfall: A bored dog may exhibit signs of frustration by barking, whining, chewing on himself or on your drapes, etc. Burn up the excess energy wisely by having the dog chase balls or jog (on a leash) with you, health permitting. Once the superfluous energy is consumed, the boredom-based behavior usually abates.

Do not encourage mischief or endanger the dog’s safety by leaving things he should not have within reach. Put shoes, socks and underwear away (such things are common causes of life-threatening intestinal obstructions in dogs). Fence off flowerbeds and expensive plants. In short, dog-proof your home. Moreover, crate the dog when you are not at home.

The Art of Command: The foundation of all dog training is willing obedience. The dog must obey commands promptly, definitely and with enthusiasm. Begin your system of training early on, the day your dog joins the household. Maintain it day after day, act after act. Put the emphasis on positive reinforcement for every positive act – gentle pat or a kindly spoken word. This is not only the kinder way to approach the dog, it is also more effective than punishment, because it satisfies the dog’s drive to earn the approval of the pack leader (you).

Standard commands include **Come, Stay, Sit, Down, Off**. Telling the dog to “Sit Down” will only confuse him. If he jumps on you say “Off” not “Down” (which means to lie down), again, to avoid confusing him. Do not lose your temper or give too many commands at one time. Control yourself if you wish to control your dog.

If your foster doesn’t respond to oral commands, put him in a position using firm but gentle hand pressure while saying the command, e.g., “Sit”.

When he does what you command, praise him warmly, e.g., “Good Sit”. He will learn quickly to do what you ask if you provide positive feedback.

Commands should be spoken in the same, consistent tone each time. Because repetition brings understanding, a given command must mean the same thing every time. Dogs hear far better than we do, so there is no need for (and no point in) shouting. Give the command in exactly the same tone every time, making it clear that you expect every command to be obeyed and you will soon have a dog that responds to even a mere whispered request. Your friends will consider you to be positively masterful.

Remember that a dog that has been tied out all his life is unlikely to be impressed by a little pressure on a buckle collar. Yanking him around during a walk will only convince him that it is not much fun being tied to you. If you are not an experienced trainer, resort to common sense. Get him a little tired from play, let him settle down from the excitement and then, using a training collar, do some leash work. When he pulls ahead, stop and turn in the other direction suddenly so he is not ahead but behind you. Eventually he will realize that it’s your walk and he has to follow your lead.

Disciplining the Errant Golden: When the dog does something that must be corrected (e.g., removing the turkey from the Thanksgiving table), a nonviolent admonition must be administered or not at all. If the turkey’s absence is not discovered for several hours, the dog will not connect his misdeed with your reprimand. He may conclude that you have lost your mind and he need never listen to anything you say, or he may become frightened of you because of your incomprehensible and unpredictable yelling.

Never, never, never, correct a dog’s error by striking him. Instead, use a low, gruff voice of disapproval – for instance, a low, guttural, “oh, what a baaaaad, baaaaad dog”. To him, it will sound like his mother’s scolding. As we all know, that is more effective than any physical punishment.

A correction technique used by many trainers is to take the loose flesh just behind the dog’s jaws in both hands and, while shaking it back and forth and staring him straight in the eye, saying, “Bad dog! Bad dog!” in a low, guttural voice. The idea is not to cause pain, but to fill him with certainty that he has disappointed the pack leader. The technique was adapted from careful observation of what mother dogs do when puppies disappoint them.

A dog that received plenty of attention and exercise is seldom destructive and less likely to be noisy. Make a practice of taking him for walks and playing games with him. Even the dog whose owners are away during the day can be happy, if he receives plenty of attention while they are home.

Behavior Problems and How to Solve Them

Barking: It is natural for dogs to bark in play or excitement, but no dog has to bark all the time. The message of a bark is “There is something strange happening. Be alert!” The barking does not tell you whether the arriving person is a friend or a stranger, but once the person has been identified as a friend, the barking should be replaced by a greeting ritual.

A correction is indicated every time the dog barks without cause. Tell him firmly “Quiet” or “No barking” and be ready to enforce the command with a correction (e.g. shaking a shaker can, which can be made by putting a few pennies or pebbles into an empty soda can and taping the opening securely).

Another way to stop excessive barking is to teach the dog to bark on command. In any case do not get into a yelling contest with your dog. He will likely think it is a game: “I bark, she barks. I bark, she barks”.

Begging: A dog that begs is extremely annoying. In addition, if you give him what he asks for, he will soon be obnoxious, obese and badly nourished as well. Moreover, he will learn to be demanding at other times, which leads to bullying and aggressiveness.

The cure is consistency: The dog is never to be fed from the table. Insist that all members of your family (and guests) respect this rule, and the dog will soon learn that begging is unprofitable. Remember: Consistency is vital.

If you take in a foster dog that is a devout beggar, you can reform him. Here’s how: place a leash and training collar on him just before mealtime. The first instant he cozies up to his chosen human patsy, give a quick snap of the lead to one side and say “no” in a firm tone of voice. Ignore any further signs of begging. In a few days, if you are perfectly consistent, the dog will realize that your mealtime is not his snack time and he will give you peace.

Chewing: Chewing is natural for dogs and not just when they are teething. They do it for fun, because they are bored or anxious or they have more energy than they know what to do with. When you catch the dog chewing something “illegal”, rattle a shaker can and say “No” or “No chewing” in a firm voice. Remove the object that was being chewed and replace it with a toy.

Proper confinement can also play an important role in solving chewing problems. When you cannot watch your foster dog, a crate will help tremendously.

House Soiling: Foster dogs most often are reliably housebroken. Most are adults and therefore have certain advantages over puppies: greater learning capacity, more appreciation of praise, greater bladder and bowel control and less frequent need to relieve themselves.

Nevertheless, not all fosters are adults and even adults make mistakes. If a problem occurs, the keys to successful housebreaking are, once again, consistency and positive reinforcement.

Even if your foster dog was perfectly trained in his previous home, nervous reaction to a strange situation or scents, such as that of another dog, may cause a lapse in manners. In addition, he may not know how to tell you that he needs to go out if he had a special signal for his previous owners that they neglected to mention. As you and he begin to communicate, the housebreaking will progress rapidly.

There will be fewer problems if the dog has a crate to call his own while you are gone. He will be reluctant to soil his "den" and if you take him out two to four times a day to a specific place he will quickly learn to "Go" there. It may help to use a specific word to describe it (everyone has his favorite). Eventually, the dog will "go" on command. In addition, do not forget to praise him when he does.

Accidents happen and unless interrupted, they may become habits. The key here is to show the dog what to do rather than punishing him (for this or any misdeed). Nor is it smart to call him to you for punishment; he'll soon stop coming to you.

What works is catching him in the act, taking him to the area you want him to use, and then praising him – repeatedly.

Some dogs trickle urine because of nervousness. This is an involuntary action, usually triggered by excitement or fear. Punishment only heightens the apprehension and makes things worse. When you come home, speak quietly, act calm and do not make a fuss or tower over the dog. As he gains confidence in you, himself, and surroundings, he'll get over it.

Urine mistakes will mar floors and carpets unless cleaned quickly. The recently introduced products containing active enzymes, such as Nature's Miracle®, do a good job on the stains and the odors as well. Alternatively, soaking with vinegar helps dilute and neutralize the urine; then use towels to blot it up.

Jumping: Dogs jump on people as a way of greeting them, but uninvited jumping is the mark of an unmannered dog. It has to be managed because it can be dangerous and is particularly annoying to visitors. Solving this problem is not difficult, but it requires time and effort. The key is to be ready when you think the dog will jump.

You may choose the leash and training collar. Have them on the dog when he jumps on someone. Using both hands on the leash, give it a quick snap and say, "No, No jumping" or "Off" in a firm voice.

A particularly effective technique on larger dogs like Golden Retrievers is to use your knee to nudge (not kick) them off balance when they jump. Be ready to get your knee up first to push him down. Command "Off" as you push him away. It is more effective if the dog is caught by surprise. Then, call him to you, have him sit in front of you, and praise him. He will appreciate your "good dog" even more when he stays on all fours.

Whining: Dogs whine when they are under stress, as when they feel abandoned (separation anxiety) or when they are frustrated. The worst thing you can do is to reward such behavior. Saying "Oh, you poor boy, what is wrong?" only encourages them. Ignore whining; give him things to do to take his mind off the cause of his anxiety (practicing sits or downs as an example).

Sometimes, simply saying, “Enough” will let the dog know you hear him, and he’ll stop. Remember, continuous shouting is seldom helpful and can make things worse by increasing his anxiety.

In any case, most dogs simply stop whining eventually. As they develop confidence in themselves and in the effectiveness of other techniques (like looking at you dolefully as only a Golden can do) the whining almost always ceases.

Thunderstorm anxiety: Many dogs become anxious during thunderstorms. Do not inadvertently reinforce the unwanted behavior. You may feel the urge to reassure your nervous dog during a thunderstorm with soothing words such as “don’t worry. You’re safe. It’s okay.” Your dog will think that you are praising him for feeling the way he does. Say nothing to your dog during thunderstorms. Try to act as calmly and unfazed by the storm as possible. You can try to insulate the dog from the noise of the storm by pulling down window shades or closing blinds. Put on music to muffle the sound of the thunder. Use of a ThunderShirt may be helpful to your dog. You can also consider crating the dog. You can place a sheet over the top and three sides of the crate so that the dog feels snug and safe in his “den.”

Fireworks/Loud Noises: Many dogs are scared of fireworks and loud noises. The majority of lost pets takes place on July 4th. To protect your foster dog and your personal dogs, it is best to follow the following tips:

- Don’t bring them outdoors—keep them safe at home.
- Something as simple as turning on some soft music and moving your pet into an interior room with no windows can be helpful.
- An anxiety vest may work in some cases—if you don’t have one, try a snugly fitting t-shirt.
- If you and your veterinarian do decide that anti-anxiety medication is your pet’s best bet, there are a few things to remember. First and foremost, give a practice dose of the medication before the big night to see how your pet responds to the medication. Second, never share the medication with another pet or give more than the recommended amount. If you do, you may end up spending the holiday at your local veterinary emergency clinic.

VI. The Inevitable, Essential Paperwork

Paperwork is a very important part of the foster home's responsibility. It is essential to the documentation of each dog's history with GGRLC.

The forms you will need while fostering are described below. Model completed forms are provided in Appendix C. If you encounter problems with the forms, please contact your Foster Coordinator for assistance.

GGRLC Dog Tag: Your dog should receive a GGRLC dog tag and it should be placed immediately on their collar. If you haven't received one, contact your Foster Coordinator and one will be sent to you. Please note that the rabies tag is a secondary form of identification should your dog get away and is found by someone.

Rabies Certificate: You will be given a copy of the dog's rabies certificate as well as the dog's rabies tag. You may be required to show the rabies certificate if the dog requires emergency veterinary care at a non-rescue veterinarian, or in other instances (doggie day care, beach access, etc).

Foster Home Report Card: You should fill out the Report Card form and submit it to the Foster Coordinator at the following times:

1. After your foster dog has settled into your home and you are able to evaluate him, so that the your Foster Coordinator can help you with any training or behavioral issues.
2. Once he has completed any necessary medical treatment (spay/neuter, heartworm treatment, etc) making him "adoptable", so that the Foster Coordinator can use the information when screening potential adoptive homes.
3. Just prior to the adoption interview so that the adopting family will have a summary of how the dog did in foster care – his general behavior, personality, eating habits, and any areas needing additional work.

VII. The Adoption Process

The foster parent is the key to successful adoptions. Accordingly, GGRLC's policy gives you the right to veto an adoption. You should be flexible enough to admit there are different acceptable ways to do things, but you should not relinquish the foster dog if you have any reservations about his safety and happiness in the home being offered – even if it is no more than a “gut” reaction. Discuss with the Foster Coordinator any concerns or reservations you may have. The adoptive family may be offered another dog at another time, provided their expectations are reasonable.

The Foster Coordinator will call you to discuss the prospective adoptive families for your foster based on an initial screening process.

NOTE: The Foster Coordinator has sole discretion in selecting the prospective adoptive families to provide the foster home to interview.

As you evaluate your foster, you should describe your foster dog's temperament and the kind of family with which he would do best. The Foster Coordinator may provide you with the name and phone number of potential adopters so that you can answer any questions they may have, as well as to set up a meeting with the dog if it appears it may be a good fit.

The Adoption Interview

It is now time to contact the prospective adoptive family and schedule an interview. During the initial phone conversation you should thoroughly discuss their background and expectations as well as the personality and needs of your foster Golden.

If after your telephone discussion, a meeting seems appropriate, it should take place at your home, where the dog is comfortable. All members of the adopting family – including children and other pets if any – should attend the meeting. Plan on a minimum of two hours and to put the focus on the foster dog. Arrange in advance for your own pets to be away during the adoption interview.

NOTE: If you have any questions relating to the adoption interview, feel free to discuss your questions/concerns with your Foster Coordinator to ensure that you feel comfortable with the process. The best rule of thumb is to determine if this would be a suitable home for your own Golden or other four legged loved ones.

Additionally, we suggest the following to facilitate a good adoption:

1. Allow adequate time for potential adopters to interact with your foster dog and tell you about their plans, daily schedule, other pets, etc.
2. Explain if using a different food, the importance of making the dog's switch to the new food gradual and of use of any medication or other health needs the dog may have, and provide written instructions on the Foster Home Report Card.
3. Offer to give the adopting family a small amount of the dog's regular food to take home with them.

4. Along with all the good qualities of your foster dog, explain any problems you have discovered. Warn the potential new family that in a new home with a new schedule, no dog can be guaranteed to be housebroken. Let them know if, say, he scavenges, plays in his water, eats the children's teddy bears, is a door shooter, can jump five feet, and has been neutered only a week and is still "interested". In addition, emphasize the fact that it is normal for any dog to need 30 days to acclimate to a new family (and vice versa).
5. Stress the importance of enrolling in obedience training, as recommended in the adoption contract. Emphasize how obedience training helps them get attention and control, promotes bonding and makes everyone who encounters the dog admire him (and his owners).
6. Describe how long it took this particular foster dog to settle in so they know what to expect the first few days.
7. Go over the entire agreement with them. Ensure that they know GGRLC maintains the right to reclaim any dog if the agreement is not honored. In addition, the dog must be turned over to GGRLC if the adoptive family can no longer keep the dog.
- 8. *Your foster dog is not allowed to go to a candidate's home for an "overnight" or "try-out period".***

How to Turn Down a Potential Adopter

You are your foster Golden's most important single advocate. As such, you may find yourself wanting to turn down a prospective adopter. However, you should never turn the applicant down in person. Simply thank them very much for coming and let them know that someone will be in touch with them regarding the decision. Use the facts available and your gut feelings to do what is best for the Golden and communicate your feelings to the Foster Coordinator. The Foster Coordinator has the responsibility of letting the applicants know of a negative decision. Your responsibility is to explain the reason for your discomfort with the adoptive family. Although this family may not be acceptable for your particular foster, they may be for another. We want to avoid any hard feelings.

Follow-up Interview

Your job ends when the Golden has been adopted and all paperwork is submitted. However, it is understandable if the foster family becomes attached to the Golden. You may want to contact the adoptive family to find out how their former foster is doing in his/her new home. Feel free to do so.

VIII. Seven Important Questions

1. **How long does the dog stay in foster care?** Depending on the age and condition of the dog, anywhere from 7 days to several months. Younger dogs usually spend less time in their foster homes, while older dogs tend to have longer stays.
2. **What if I can't keep him any longer?** While it is best for the dog to stay in one home, we realize that plans sometimes change unexpectedly. Talk to your Foster Coordinator. She will know what foster homes are available and which might be suitable.
3. **May I adopt my foster dog?** GGRLC discourages foster home adoptions, but recognizes the realities of fostering – including the fact that foster families often fall in love with their foster dogs. You must let us know your interest before we interview other interested families. Foster homes must go through the same adoption process as others and requests to adopt will be considered on an exceptional, case-by-case basis.
4. **May I choose which dogs I foster?** The application allows you to set limits on the kinds of dogs you foster. If you're asked to foster a dog that does not seem right to you, you can say no. If a foster dog you have accepted proves difficult to handle, he can be placed elsewhere.
5. **How much time does it take?** From an hour a day to however much time you care to spend with the foster dog.
6. **Will I become attached to the dog?** Yes, but when you meet the people who will provide a permanent home for the dog you have helped rescue, you will be satisfied to see him move on to his new and better life.
7. **How much does it cost to foster a dog?** Lack of funds should not prevent you from fostering, but you will have expenses: for good quality dog food; any toys you provide; and if you don't take the advice in this manual, damages the foster dog causes (e.g. replacing your oriental rugs, treating your pets and/or children, etc.). On the other hand, the foster dog's veterinary expenses and medications will be provided by Grateful Golden Rescue.

APPENDIX A

Area Contact Information

Questions?

Call or email your Foster Coordinator,

or

Call GGR's main phone 843-628-4033 or

email us at info@ggrlc.org

APPENDIX B

Routine Vetting Standards

Grateful Golden Rescue provides each dog that comes into rescue with the following:

- Physical exam
- Heartworm test
- Fecal exam
- Update on vaccines if needed to include:
 - DHLPP 1 year
 - Rabies 1 year
 - Bordetella

If a dog tests positive for Heartworm, they will receive the following to accurately stage the disease:

- Chest x-ray
- Blood work
- Urinalysis

Appropriate medical treatment then begins

APPENDIX C

Foster Report Card Form

See next page -->

GRATEFUL GOLDENS RESCUE *of the LOW COUNTRY*

Foster Report Card

| FOSTER PARENT: | DOG NAME: | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| TODAY'S DATE: | GGRLC ID# | | | |
| BEG. FOSTER DATE: | DAYS IN HOME: | | | |
| DESCRIPTION | GOOD | NEEDS/ WORK | NOT OBSERVED | NOT APPLICABLE |
| HOUSE TRAINING | | | | |
| CRATE (GO INTO ON COMMAND) | | | | |
| CRATE (RESTING IN QUIETLY) | | | | |
| FENCE JUMPING | | | | |
| FENCE CLIMBING | | | | |
| DIGGING TO ESCAPE | | | | |
| WALKING ON LOOSE LEASH | | | | |
| INTERACTIONS W/ CHILDREN | | | | |
| INTERACTIONS W/ ELDERLY | | | | |
| INTERACTIONS W/ MALE PEOPLE | | | | |
| INTERACTIONS W/ FEMALE PEOPLE | | | | |
| APPETITE | | | | |
| SETTLES WHEN LEFT ALONE | | | | |
| DIGGING FOR RECREATION | | | | |
| STEALING FOOD FROM COUNTERS | | | | |
| INAPPROPRIATE BARKING | | | | |
| CHEWING ON INAPPROPRIATE OBJECTS | | | | |
| BEGGING | | | | |
| THUNDERSTORM FEARS | | | | |
| LOUD NOISE FEARS | | | | |
| SLEEPING THROUGH THE NIGHT | | | | |
| POSSESSIVE OF TOYS | | | | |
| SIT COMMAND | | | | |
| DOWN COMMAND | | | | |
| STAY COMMAND | | | | |
| COME COMMAND | | | | |
| POSSESSIVE OF FOOD | | | | |
| ACCEPTANCE OF HAND FEEDING (TREATS) | | | | |
| AGGRESSION W/FEMALE INTACT DOGS | | | | |
| AGGRESSION W/FEMALE SPAYED DOGS | | | | |
| AGGRESSION TO SMALL DOGS | | | | |
| INTERACTION W/ CATS | | | | |
| AGGRESSION TOWARDS HUMANS | | | | |
| AGGRESSION W/MALE INTACT DOGS | | | | |
| AGGRESSION W/MALE NEUTERED DOGS | | | | |

1. Have you provided any grooming or had the dog groomed? _____
2. General behavior assessment.

3. Brags or accomplishments (you or dog)

4. What are you working on (manners, obedience commands, socialization, & grooming) to make the dog more adoptable?) _____

(Continue on separate sheet if need more room)

APPENDIX D

Helpful Information

Pet First Aid Kit

It is a good idea to have a first aid kit on hand. Like us, pets need first aid at times and it is good to be ready!

Here is a list of things that you should keep on hand in case of an emergency:

- Benadryl – dose = 1 mg per lb of body weight
- Neosporin
- Gauze pads (3" square)
- Gauze roll (3" wide)
- Ace bandage
- Surgical adhesive tape (masking or duct tape will work in an emergency)
- Cortaid Cream
- Towels/Cloths
- Nylon Leash
- Styptic powder (you can substitute flour in an emergency)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Alcohol
- Ipecac Syrup
- Kaopectate
- Pepcid (for vomiting)
- Immodium (for diarrhea)
- Rectal thermometer
- Latex gloves
- Small scissors
- Material for a splint – sticks or rolled up newspaper will do
- Petroleum jelly
- A list of emergency numbers – rescue vet, poison control, your Foster Coordinator, someone to help in an emergency, etc.
- Blanket
- Ear Wash
- Penlight
- Muzzle
- Cotton balls
- Cotton swabs
- Syringe (plastic) without a needle
- Compressed activated charcoal tablets

Pet First Aid Kit, Continued

- Sterile saline eye wash
- Tweezers
- Grooming clippers
- Needle-nose pliers
- Betadine or similar antiseptic scrub

Poison Listing

Pet Poison Helpline:

<https://petpoisonhelpline.com>

24/7 ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER: (855) 764-7661

The following foods may be dangerous to your pet:

Alcoholic beverages

Apple seeds

Apricot pits

Avocados

Cherry pits

Candy (particularly chocolate—which is toxic to dogs, cats, and ferrets—and any candy containing the toxic sweetener Xylitol)

Chives

Coffee (grounds, beans, and chocolate-covered espresso beans)

Garlic

Grapes

Gum (can cause blockages and sugar-free gums may contain the toxic sweetener Xylitol)

Hops (used in home beer brewing)

Macadamia nuts

Moldy foods

Mushroom plants

Mustard seeds

Onions, onion powder and onion flakes

Peach pits

Potato leaves and stems (green parts)

Raisins

Rhubarb leaves

Salt

Tea (because it contains caffeine)

Tomato leaves and stems (green parts)

Walnuts

Xylitol (artificial sweetener that is toxic to pets)

Yeast dough

List courtesy of The Humane Society of the United States