



Foster Program Contract

First, thank you for wanting to join the rescue ranks! In America alone, we euthanize ten thousand dogs per day. These are dogs who have come into shelters where they have very limited time- and these are the dogs we prioritize helping.

How does Peace Ridge operate its rescue to foster program?

Our organization takes in dogs who have run out of time at high-kill shelters and local dogs who need a place to go after being surrendered by their guardians, seized through animal welfare authorities, or found stray. When a dog first arrives, we have to do a mandated quarantine hold (two days for adults and 5 days for puppies younger than 6 months) on site here at the main facility. During this time they are medically evaluated (fecal tested, blood tested, checked for general health etc.). After they are given a bit more time to "decompress" and acclimate to our environment, our director Daniella gives a behavior and personality evaluation. This evaluation starts with the basics- a SAFER exam: a stare test which is meant to give clues regarding the dominance and submission of an animal- but it's not the only thing we do to gauge a dog in this way, the sensitivity test which assesses social skills, sensitivity levels and level of fear, the tag test which may help to determine dominance aggression and fear aggression, the pinch (and pull) test which can help determine sensitivity and lack of bite inhibition, the food aggression and dog on dog aggression tests. We also test for high value treat reactivity, cat aggression and general prey drive, farmed animal compatibility, the reality of the dog being an "off leash" candidate (with training), car riding manners, house manners, reactivity to basic child-oriented noise and behavior. We also evaluate where the dog might be with basic obedience, potty training, and recall.

PRS gives our foster care team support whenever needed. Foster families have the director's personal cell phone number which can be used at any time. PRS sets the foster family up with information on our preferred training methodologies and shares strategies with the family for reach a dog's goals toward adoptability.

PRS can supply all supportive foster material; food, crate, leashes, all veterinary, training time, dog on dog introduction care if needed, and babysitting if you need to go out of town. We do ask foster parents to handle taking the dog to veterinary appointments when and if the dog needs veterinary care (our vet is in Ellsworth).

Things to consider when wanting to foster for Peace Ridge:

1. We do not want our dogs to be loose at any time. Although fencing is not required to participate in our foster program, having a fence makes the daily care associated with fostering easier. If a fence is not available and you are not willing to put one up, daily walks, sometimes multiple walks are required- to keep the dog mentally and physically healthy.

2. We do not want our dogs tied or tethered to objects in or outdoors at any time. It is our position that it is psychologically damaging for a dog to be tied, accidents (neck and spinal injuries, leg injuries from being wrapped in cords or ropes, hanging) and fatalities can also occur (dog not being able to get away from stray or wandering dogs, wildlife etc.) All of these unfortunate events have happened to dogs outside of our program in our local community and we want to avoid having such experiences.
3. There are different levels of fostering. Most of our dogs are "easier dogs" which we describe as being dogs who are without medical or major training issues (but all foster homes should expect to have to participate in basic training and establishing good house manners). These are sometimes good 'starter dogs' for people who want to test the fostering waters. But there are also other types of dogs who need us. These are:
 - a. Medical, elderly or hospice: dogs who may have semi-major medical protocols to be processed through prior to being put up for adoption, dogs who are elderly (some people choose to specialize in old dog fostering), and hospice dogs- who potentially need a place to be to receive supportive care and love while they move through the process of dying from ailments that we cannot cure.
 - b. Basic behavioral rehab: dogs who have never lived in a house, have been kept as "outdoor dogs" or have been kenneled for long periods of time, or have lived in situations where they did not establish the "ground rules" of being a good companion. Some of the dogs we rescue just need a family to teach them basic house manners, to continue working on basic obedience and proper leash walking. Some dogs simply need a foster to provide them with continued exposure to 'being a community dog'- giving them the guidance to be able to maneuver social settings, outings, and family living successfully.
 - c. The "only" dog; a dog who cannot successfully be around other dogs without major management. These dogs have often proven that they can be absolutely wonderful companions to their humans, and maybe even cats, but cannot be around other dogs without being snarky or anti-social. Simply having a place to stay while they wait for an adoptive home that understands them is a huge service. Just because they are "dog selective" doesn't mean they don't deserve a place to call their own.
4. Communication is key: Being a foster home for Peace Ridge means that you have support from our staff at all times. Daniella runs the program and will be available for your every need- but we cannot help if we don't know what is going on, so weekly check ins are a part of fostering- even if it's just to say "things are great!"
5. We ask for some flexibility in placing a dog in foster care. We cannot find a dog that is always exactly what you've asked for- we need our foster team to be realistic about their expectations. We will make our best effort to place you with a category of dog (like we've talked about

above) that fits your fostering criteria, but we are looking for foster families who are open to most any breed of foster dog, and will embrace the opportunity to at least work on some basic obedience with positive reinforcement. You can rest assured that if you say you would be most comfortable fostering a dog who is between 2 and 10 years old and isn't totally hyper- we would never give you a puppy. If you say that you need to take in a dog who is social with other dogs- we will not give you a dog who has been labeled "dog selective" or "dog aggressive". If you have a cat, we will not give you a dog who will chase or hurt cats. But if you have a specific, firm breed preference, cannot tolerate potty accidents at all, and can't commit to exercising the dog- fostering for us may not be for you.

The Agreement that all fosters are required to sign:

The following agreement stipulates a few other basic points- to make sure we are all on the same page and that we are working toward the common goal of making sure the animal is given consistent opportunity to become the most adoptable dog/cat she or he can be (when applicable) and have the best life possible .

- I acknowledge that caretaking for an animal is a daily, long term effort which must be routine and taken as a priority each and every day. By adopting an animal from Peace Ridge Sanctuary I agree to maintain a strict regimen of care for the animal in a way that absolutely provides for the animal's physical, psychological and emotional needs. I also agree that it is the job of the adult in my family (when applicable) to take primary responsibility for this animal- their care will not be fully delegated to a child.
- I will not have the animal caged or crated for more than an average overnight period of 8 hours, and I will not cage or crate the animal for more than ten hours in a 24 hour period. I understand that Peace Ridge is entrusting this animal to me with the expectation that the cage or crate is only used for overnight, or safety, and not to be overused for general confinement during the daytime hours. Cats will be kept indoor only and will not be allowed to go outside.
- I guarantee that I, my family, and those around me, will not be allowed to engage in negative interactions with this animal, or teach the animal behaviors that would potentially put in jeopardy the animal's place in my home and/or in society. If there is a child in the environment, the child will be supervised with the animal and will not be allowed to roughhouse, hurt, tease, taunt, or otherwise put the dog's best interest in jeopardy.
- I will keep up on a set of training techniques and/or behavioral program that will help maintain a positive relationship with the animal and will avoid using punishment techniques that inflict pain or isolation (we will not use electric shock or anti-barking collars etc.). I also will not hire professionals that use pain or isolating techniques. I acknowledge that Peace Ridge Sanctuary has started working with the animal (if canine) using some of the New Skete Methods, and the positive pack leadership model and I agree to educate myself about these and/or other positive approaches prior to taking the animal (canine) home so I (and my family)

can continue with these or other similar techniques. I will also work on the three commands/components that Peace Ridge Sanctuary has detailed in the above introduction.

- I will return the dog/cat promptly to Peace Ridge Sanctuary when necessary or notify the Director of the intent to do so if I am unable to foster any longer. I acknowledge that Peace Ridge Sanctuary is the legal guardian of the animal and I have no right to act as legal guardian, make independent veterinary decisions, or transfer custody/care of the dog to anyone outside of this agreement.
- I will not introduce the foster dog to other animals without using proper protocol. A dog should be leashed when meeting another animal. If our foster dog is to meet another dog it will be done through managed "pack walking" without nose to nose contact that can result in fights or injury.
- I will notify Peace Ridge Sanctuary Director promptly when issues or concerns arise and will follow all protocols mentioned in the introduction of this letter. I will also keep up on a weekly phone contact with Daniella about the status of the foster animal.
- I will notify Peace Ridge Sanctuary within 30 minutes if the animal is lost so that PRS can issue alerts/notifications and help look for the animal.
- I/We attest that I/we understand that Peace Ridge Sanctuary makes no guarantees or statements regarding any dog's age, breed, health, or temperament. While Peace Ridge has made every effort to provide accurate history and assessment of all of the dogs, Peace Ridge is not able to guarantee any dog's age, breed, medical status or history, behavior or disposition. I/We hereby release Peace Ridge Sanctuary and its employees, directors, members and representatives of any and all possible claims arising from injury or damage caused by any dog fostered by me/us to me/us.

If you think you would like to proceed with potentially fostering for Peace Ridge Sanctuary, the rest is easy! We will set up a time to meet with you at your home, meet the other animals and members of your family, and come up with a plan that will make our partnership a success!

Thank you!