



FOSTERING – Getting Ready for Adoption

Most of the greyhounds in our care have never been in a house before. There's so much to learn about being a pet rather than a supreme athlete! As a foster carer you will be providing invaluable support to a dog to learn about home-life and about the world outside of racing kennels.

There may be, however, other dogs who have been in a home before and have sadly been returned due to a variety of circumstances. These dogs often struggle in kennels and would do better in another home.

There may be instances when a dog may have a medical need that would be better dealt within a home environment.

Fostering not only helps the dog it helps us learn about the dog's personality, needs, and quirks to help us find the right match for their forever family.

Fostering can be challenging but it is also very rewarding to see an ex-racing greyhound gain confidence in a home environment, learn to be a family pet and go on to be successfully adopted.

Home Run Hounds have two types of fostering:

1. Fostering until a forever home is found – this could be a few days, weeks or even a few months.
2. Weekend Fostering –picking up the hound on Friday and returning him or her on Sunday. Weekend fostering can provide a valuable introduction to home life. Every little bit helps although we would hope that weekend fosterers do more than just a “one off” to provide consistency for the hound.

All of our dogs are eligible to be fostered and will benefit from it as long as foster carers undertake the tasks needed to prepare that dog for a forever home and provide us with feedback to help us find a suitable adopter. These tasks are outlined in the fostering agreement.

We particularly welcome applications from people willing to give dogs who may wait longer for a forever home, the extra help they need. These dogs may be anxious or fearful, find other breeds of dogs a challenge, are strong on the lead, have a health need, etc which means it may be harder to find them a forever family.

The key is fitting the right dog into the right foster family.

Some Q and A's about Home Run Hounds Fostering Programme

Q: What am I expected to do as a foster carer?

A: Things to do in the house such toilet training, being exposed to the things like TV's, hoovers, washing machines, washing on the line, learning food manners (no counter surfing allowed!), and generally being around people. Foster dogs are NOT allowed on furniture or upstairs as future adopters may not want this and it's hard for a dog to unlearn a behaviour.

Things that will help the dog outside the house: the big wide world in general! Other breeds of dogs are often a complete mystery. Fostering helps socialise them at a pace the dog is comfortable with. Exposure to traffic, bicycles, pushchairs, children, parks etc will all be new. It is important not to overwhelm the foster dog and take things slowly.

Q. Will I need a homecheck even if I'm fostering for the weekend?

A. Yes, all our new foster carers will need our usual, full homecheck. The exception may be if you've had a recent homecheck done by HRH prior to adopting one of our hounds

Q. Do I need to live near Home Run Hound's Kennels in order to foster?

A: You will need to be within reasonable travelling distance in order to bring your foster dog to viewings, awareness events, and to our vets as needed. Weekend foster carers need to be fairly local to minimise travelling for the dogs.

Q: Can I foster if I have children?

A: Yes, you can if you have children over the age of 5 years old and we have assessed that they are able to understand and respect the needs of a dog who is learning about home life for the first time. However, some dogs may be more suited to adult only homes or homes with older children.

Q: Do I need to have experience of greyhounds in order to foster?

A: Whilst not strictly required as support will be given, it would be preferable as greyhounds are quite different to other breeds of dogs. Some dogs would require an experienced greyhound/sighthound foster carer due to their needs. It is preferable for weekend foster cares to have hound experience to "hit the ground running".

Q: Can I foster if I'm out at work?

A: For weekend foster care we would expect you to be home full time, though part of the role would be to leave the dog for very short periods to get used to being on their own. For other fostering arrangements, we would expect that the dog would not be left for more than 4 hours without someone coming in to be with them. This would need to be built up so you would need to make arrangements to be around to settle the dog at the start.

Q. Can I foster if I have other pets?

A: Greyhounds generally get on with other greyhounds and having another dog can help the new dogs settle and "learn the ropes". Other greyhounds need to be an only dog. Some, but not all, greyhounds could live with other breeds. Again, matching you with the right dog is essential. If you have other animals, we would need to look at your individual circumstances as part of the home check/assessment.

Q: What happens when I go on holiday?

A: We would expect that foster carers will not go on holiday in the early days of fostering as that would unsettle the dog. If a dog is fostered for a longer period of time we would need to look at alternative care while you are away. For Weekend Fosters, you can pick up again when you get back.

Q: What can I expect from Home Run Hounds?

A: We will provide you with food, equipment (including an "I Need a Home Coat" to be worn out and about), and support. Vet care will be paid for providing the foster carer adheres to the terms of the fostering agreement. Out of pocket expenses will be paid with agreement in advance by HRH. After signing the fostering agreement, you will be covered by HRH's public liability insurance.

Q: Can I adopt my foster dog?

A: Yes you can. Though there is no expectation to do so.

If you would like to be considered for fostering with Home Run Hounds, complete the application form and one of our team will get back to you for further discussion.