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**Commuter Foster Care - Dogs in Training**

Commuter Dogs are being patterned to live & work w/ a blind or vision-impaired person. Please Read Chapter 13, *the Active Program Foster Dog*)

**Please adhere to the following expectations:**

* Commuter Foster Care occurs Mon – Fri excluding weekends and major holidays when training staff are off.
* Please **drop off** dogs at GDB, Mon-Fri, between **7:30 & 8:30a** in the training office at their designated spot. (Relieve prior).
* Please **pick up** your foster dog **beginning at 3:30 and by 4p at latest**.
* **If unable pick up by 4p**, as a courtesy, **please notify your contact ASAP**. The dog may be put on tie down in kennel office for pick up, or returned to a kennel.
* Contact numbers for both the instructor assigned to your foster dog and the supervisor overseeing their training are on the treatment sheet. Our goal is to have direct communication between foster care providers and training staff, regarding pick up and drop off times as well as behavior patterns observed in your home. Report on behavior can be done upon drop-off the next morning.

**NOTE**: Instructors are off duty at 4p and return to on-duty at 7:30a the following day. If it can’t wait until the next day, direct any contact during after-hours to the supervisor.

* At home, pattern the foster dog to good habits (no “accidents” or destruction) in your home: Confine the foster dog (crate, tie down, or ex pen) for the 1st week or so when not in direct observation. Foster dogs are not allowed on the furniture.
* During feeding, ensure the foster dog is under control with four paws on the floor. If not, ask the dog to ‘sit’ before placing the bowl down.
* During YOUR meal, do NOT give the foster dog any food from the table. If the dog is at your feet and stares at you, use a crate or tie down away from the table.
* There is no need to spend time socializing your foster dog. These dogs are already well socialized and get plenty of exposure to the world during training. The primary reason we want the dog with you is to be in a home environment.
* Leash-relieve PRIORto and AFTER any neighborhood walks (“*do your business*”). Do not allow the dog an opportunity to relieve during a walk. However, if they indicate a need to relieve, silently move off the sidewalk to an appropriate area such as the gutter curb edge or parkway to allow relief. *Please report relief on walks to the assigned instructor or supervisor to discuss a plan.*
* It is mandatory to walk all dogs in a head collar (Gentle Leader® or EZ®); do not allow excessive pulling. The desired position for a dog when walking is on the handler’s left side. Keep the walk purposeful and do not allow the foster dog to visit with other dogs, sniff bushes or scavenge (pick items off the ground).
* GDB program dogs are NOT allowed in community dog parks or dog run areas such as beaches frequented by other dogs. Also, avoid walking the GDB program dog in areas with a high number of off-leash dogs.
* Please discuss with your contact if the training dog is allowed to play with the resident dog. There may be reasons to not allow this activity. Please read Chapter 8 for more play info.

*Please discuss with training staff any of the following issues: barking, fearful reactions, distractions, relieving issues, poor house manners, and aggression or growling, health issues, or anything else you may have questions about.*

**Please fill out the behavior record**

***Thank you for your help and cooperation!***