**FOSTER CARE PROVIDER AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hereby apply to initiate / renew my volunteer status with the Foster Care Program.

It is agreed that:

I agree to abide by all instructions, expectations, policies and procedures presented to me by Guide Dogs for the Blind staff, supervisory volunteers, written documents and other means for dogs in my care. Most notably, I agree to be readily available (cell phone, pager or access messages) to Guide Dogs (GDB) when I have a foster dog in my care, and return my assigned foster dog to GDB with a minimum 24 hour notice. I agree to carry out the prescribed initial restrictions for the foster dog inside my home, and keep the foster dog under control AND on a leash when away from my home. I agree to do all in my power to protect and advance the interest of my assigned dog and GDB through conscientious care and handling.

I will further promote the objectives of GDB by agreeing to abide by the Foster Care Manual and its requirements and stipulations therein.

I acknowledge and agree that I cannot hold GDB liable for any damages to person or property that a Foster Dog may cause.

**Ownership:** GDB shall retain title and ownership rights of the Foster Dog, including the right to take possession of the Foster Dog if, in the sole opinion of GDB, the Foster Care Provider does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined below. This release may or may not affect the Foster Care Provider’s volunteer status in other departments.

**Terms and Conditions of the Contract:**

The Foster Care Provider will:

* Properly feed, shelter, and care for the Foster Dog in a kind and humane manner. The Foster Care Provider will not allow the Foster Dog to run off leash, unless in a fenced in area.
* Maintain the Foster Dog in good physical condition, keeping it at a reasonable weight, providing all reasonable and necessary veterinary care, and providing the Guide Dog with regular veterinary examinations. The diet recommended on the care sheet should be followed unless otherwise specified. Deviations must be approved.
* Not lend or give the Foster Dog to any other Foster Care Provider unless pre-arranged through GDB staff.
* Not use or handle the Foster Dog in any manner that would put the health or safety of the Foster Care Provider, the Foster Dog, or the public, at risk.
* Not use the Foster Dog in any manner which would reflect poorly on the Foster Care Provider, the Foster Dog or GDB.
* When specific equipment is specified on the care sheet the Foster Care Provider is required to use the equipment for the care and safety of the dog.
* The Foster Care Provider will not allow the Foster Dog to be used as a guide by any person, nor allow the Foster Dog to guide or lead a blind person. While in Foster Care the Foster Dog does not have ADA access privileges, despite its current status. In rare instances GDB can loan a GDB vest for pre-approved dogs to wear to assist handler with access.
* Travel Policy: In the event that the Foster Care Provider requests to travel with the Foster Dog (out of the 50 miles radius of a Guide Dogs Campus), a “Foster Care Travel Agreement” must be completed and returned to the Guide Dogs Foster Care staff.
* Fencing Policy: The Foster Care Provider must maintain a 5’ – 6’ fence. The fence may be solid or chain link, but there must not be any gaps. If a Foster Dog is on a deck, it must be on leash or on tie down if the deck railing is less than 5’ or there are gaps more than 12” high. While on leash or tie down the Foster Dog should not be able to reach closer than 6” to the edge of the deck. The Foster Dog should not be left unattended on the deck.

**Notify Guide Dogs immediately of any of the following**:

* Change in Foster Care Provider’s contact information
* Any serious injury, serious illness, loss, straying, or death of the dog
* Any incident resulting in serious damage or injury to any person or animal.
* The need to return the Foster Dog.

I hereby agree to save and hold Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc. harmless from all cost, injury and damage incurred by a Foster Care Dog and from any other injury or damage to any person or property whatsoever, arising under this Agreement.

This Contract shall be interpreted to reflect that the intent of both parties is to provide for the

safety and well-being of the Foster Care Provider, the Foster Dog, and the general public.

Signature of the Foster Care Provider: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of the Foster Care Provider: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: |  | Signed: |  |
|  |  |
|  | Title: | Foster Care Coordinator |