



Saving Grace Animals for Adoption

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<http://www.savinggracenc.org/>

Weekend Host Guidelines and Important Information

Thank you so much for your willingness and interest in hosting a dog for the weekend! The goals of the program are to give dogs a break from the hustle and bustle of the farm, receive more individualized attention and gain community awareness. Based on your received input concerning your home/family/lifestyle, we will do our absolute best to fit your needs and send a host dog we feel could most benefit from a weekend under your care. Guarantees for specific requested dogs may not be granted for a variety of reasons. This program has never been intended to be an adoption trial, however if you are interested in adopting, we will be happy to connect you with our adoption team and explore the many great available dogs.

Please remember your host dog has recently been through a lot of changes prior to becoming a part of Saving Grace: they have been in an animal control facility, many have lost their families, and some may have never known family life. Set the dog and yourself up for a successful experience by being prepared and pay attention to their signals, behaviors and needs:

- Dogs who have not had positive experiences in public places and may be overwhelmed.
- Some dogs thrive on a lot of attention and will enjoy busy outings.
- Other dogs enjoy a lot of physical contact, while some have not had positive human/physical contact and need space to decompress and gain confidence in the kindness of humans.
- Some may need lots of exercise to burn off excess energy, while others need uninterrupted sleep.

Each dog is different since he/she has been exposed to different things and will react in different ways. Always put them in comfortable situations. Even though you have a loving home to offer them, you are still a stranger and your home is new and your expectations are unknown to them.

Goals for the dogs:

- Please remember giving dogs the skills to help make them succeed long term is better than spoiling them for a weekend. Just being with you for the weekend is great for them!
- Helping the dogs with basic manners such as leash walking and simple commands makes them more adoptable. Always keep in mind, our long-term goal is to help get them get adopted and being in your home greatly increases their chance.
- Take lots of pictures of your host dog! Our social media outlets do a fantastic job in promoting our dogs. Any information and pictures or videos you can provide is a fantastic boost to their profile. The plain, brown generic dogs, large adult dogs and dogs with special needs can especially benefit. Pictures or videos of them meeting new people, going places and being part of your family will help the promotion of their positive attributes.
- Make note of specific things they like or don't like, such as how they do in the car, crate, bath, on walks, with neighbors, cats, other dogs, and kids. Also, do they enjoy toys, playing fetch, swimming? Are they good listeners or follow commands? Are there things they need to work on? Email this information to us as it really does make a difference in finding them the right person or family!

Pick up and Drop off for your host dog:

- We generally offer weekend hosting every weekend. Pick up time is usually Friday around 7:30pm and drop off time is usually Sunday around 7:00pm or Monday at 1:00pm. Specific pick up and drop off times will be emailed to you after you confirm for the host weekend or special event. (Subject to change depending on holidays or extended special needs hosting). Please check our website calendar or Facebook page events for dates offered as this is subject to change. Pick up and drop off options are not flexible outside of our scheduled times.
- Saving Grace is a PRIVATE residence. You may NOT drop in at any time. You must arrange with our weekend host coordinators for drop off other than our normal scheduled times if there is an emergency. All visits to Saving Grace must be scheduled as we do not always have volunteers on site.

Caring for your foster:

- We can provide you with a crate, food, and/or leash if you need it for the weekend.
- If there are other pets in the home, you MUST feed your host dog in their crate or in a separate closed off area. Take up and dispose of any uneaten food before allowing dogs in the same area. Please also give treats and bones or chews in separate areas as well. Even the most well-mannered/well socialized dogs will guard food from other dogs. Please remember to set your dog up for success and prevent any potential unsafe situations before they arise.
- Always use a harness and DO NOT use a retractable leash, only use a straight leash.
- DO NOT take your host dog to a dog park. If our dog gets in a fight or bites someone because they are not used to dog parks, the dog's future will likely be in jeopardy. We cannot adopt out dogs with a bite history.
- If you take your host dog out in public on outings, PLEASE be very careful. New environments may scare or agitate your host dog and potentially provoke an opportunity to run or be agitated. Make sure their collar is snug around their neck and you have a strong hold on their leash. Some dogs have not had positive experiences in public places and will be overwhelmed. Some dogs thrive on a lot of attention and will enjoy busy outings. Each dog is different, has been exposed to different things and will react in different ways. It is important to pay attention to their signs and behaviors and only put them in comfortable situations.
- Saving Grace provides ALL veterinary care for their animals and will only be responsible for care directly provided through those veterinarians. Do not take your host dog to your veterinarian. If you feel your host dog has a life or death emergency and needs emergency veterinary care, PLEASE contact us. We will determine if the dog needs to come back to us and see our veterinarian. Again, do not just show up to Saving Grace with your host dog.
- You MUST keep your host dog in your care. You may not pass responsibility to a friend or family member outside of your home. If they are interested in adopting, they can visit the dog at your house and submit an application to adopt from our website. Let the host team know so we can let the adoption team know.
- Do not take the dog out of town on vacation with you unless prior approval is given by the host team.

We sincerely appreciate you taking time to host our dogs and opening your home to a dog in need. Your time and efforts are invaluable. A shelter environment and group housing are very stressful for dogs but a necessary process in their adoption journey. One on one time in a comfortable, cozy space is so important to any dog, especially those who have found themselves homeless and without a consistent home and family. We do our very best to adopt the dogs into permanent homes as quickly as possible but for some, the wait is longer than others. Thank you for giving them a weekend home until they find their forever family. THANK YOU!!

Contact:

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