

# Shorewood Cocker Rescue, Inc.

## Foster Homes Needed

### Find Out How You Can Help

#### The need:

Everyday we receive requests to “rehome” Cockers. These requests come from families who can no longer keep their Cocker for a wide variety of reasons, from caring individuals who have found a Cocker on a roadside, and overwhelmingly, from shelters throughout the upper Midwest. This means we have a constant, desperate need for foster homes for our dogs to go to until they are ready to be adopted.

Many Cockers coming from a shelter need a great deal of love and attention before they are ready to be adopted into a family. We rely on our foster families to provide that care.

#### What we are doing about it:

We are actively recruiting foster homes, advertising dogs and collecting applications for adoption. We screen applications looking for that perfect match and then do reference checks and placement visits to be sure we know as much as we can about the family and their compatibility with a particular Cocker.

#### What you can do to help:

- **Long-term fostering** (usually 1 to 3 months) is our greatest need.
- **Short-term fostering** (1 day to 2 weeks) is also a great need. Many people find it rewarding to be a ‘quarantine home’ for a new dog or an ‘evaluator’ for dogs we’ve just met.
- **Recruit other foster homes and volunteers** -- this could be something like posting fliers in the pet stores, vet clinics, boarding facilities, etc. in the area that you live in. Contact Deb at [deb\\_k831@yahoo.com](mailto:deb_k831@yahoo.com) for a flier.



#### Your role as a foster parent:

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment for your foster.
- Provide routine care (feeding provided food, bathing, cleaning ears, brushing, etc.) for your foster dog.
- May include things like working with your foster on perfecting their housetraining or some basic obedience training.
- Attend rescue sponsored events with your foster when possible within a reasonable driving distance.
- Communicate with other key volunteers to update how your foster is doing to facilitate a good match with potential adopters and so that his/her online bio can be updated.
- Communicate with potential adopters wanting additional information about your foster.
- Placing your foster in their new home when possible.
- Many foster homes provide treats and toys for their foster dog(s) but those can be provided by the rescue as well.
- The most important role as a foster parent is loving your foster and treating him/her the same as you would one of your own dogs.

### **Support received from SCR:**

- All medical treatment and care for your foster
- Routine flea and heartworm preventative medications.
- Information and support.
- Back-up fostering or boarding for vacation, family emergencies and other situations.
- If there's a problem, we are there to provide help. If a problem with a foster dog can not be resolved, we can try again with another dog or try again at a later date.

### **How to become a foster parent:**

**Sorry but we can not place a foster dog in a home with a child under 10 years of age.**

- Complete the Foster Home Application on the website.
- A SCR volunteer will contact you if your application is approved to arrange for a home visit.
- Once everything is approved, we will immediately begin working to determine a suitable foster for your household.
- When you receive your foster, you will be asked to sign our Foster Care Agreement outlining the foster responsibilities and procedures.

### **Can't bear to give your foster up?**

It is possible that you'll get a dog to foster who ends up stealing your heart and you just can't bear to give them up. In the event that you wish to adopt any or all of the dogs as a household pet(s) for yourself, you must contact the director as soon as you reach this decision to check on the current availability of the dog(s). If the dogs are currently available then you must enter into Adoption Agreement for the dog. If an approved adopter has applied for that dog it's too late for you to decide you now want to adopt it.

### **Do you get to choose your foster dog?**

We will work with you to place a foster suitable to your home and family situation. Please understand that we evaluate the dogs to determine any needs they may have. Different dogs have different needs or need help in different areas. Some of our foster homes excel in these different areas. We place fosters in the available foster home that best meets that dog's particular needs.

### **How long does a foster stay?**

The length of the foster period varies greatly. Some foster dogs stay in foster care only for a week or so before they are ready to be adopted into a family. Some dogs need more time and attention either physically or psychologically or both, and some dogs take longer to 'click' with the perfect adopter. Their typical foster period is 1 to 3 months. You are never required to complete a single foster period, however – if you find that your availability to foster is growing short, we will find another foster home.

**Important note:** Settling even the most equable of dogs into a new home takes time, patience and a structured environment. Our foster homes rely on crate training (kenneling the dog in an indoor kennel, called a crate) to provide the dog with essential 'quiet time' and to make housetraining easier. We have found that our dogs settle into their new homes easier if they have the security of a crate. We therefore require all foster families to have a crate in their homes when their foster arrives. We are happy to provide you with a crate to use for length of time that you foster as well as advice on crate training and housetraining.

**If you have additional questions about fostering, please email Lynne at the following email address:**  
[lynne@cockerrescue.com](mailto:lynne@cockerrescue.com)