

National English Shepherd Rescue

"...we are a circle, a line that never ends. And in the center there is you protected by new friends. And all around you are the ones that check the pounds and shelters, and those that share their home after you've been found. And all the other folk are searching near and far, to find the perfect home for you where you can be a star...there is a family waiting patiently and pretty soon we'll find them...and then they'll join our circle and they'll help to make it grow, so there'll be room for more like you who have no place to go."

-Arlene Pace, in honor of her foster dog "Patchie"

The Foster Family Experience

Foster families are a key part of National English Shepherd Rescue's "circle". Without them, NESR could not function. We rely on the generous hearts of our foster families across the U.S. to provide in-home foster care for English Shepherds and their English Shepherd-y cousins in need.

NESR asks foster families to provide:

• Appropriate shelter	• Medical Care	• Proper Nutrition
• Basic foundation in obedience	• Periodic updates to NESR, including digital photos	• Opportunities for socialization

And yet thru these basics, foster families end up giving so much more to dogs in need:

• A loving, firm leader	• An sense of trust	• A world that includes play and adventure
• A bridge between what was and what can be		

In partnership with the foster home, NESR provides:

• Prompt reimbursement of medical and transportation costs	• Behavior consultations	• Nutrition and training advice
• A team of individuals actively pursuing an adoptive home for your foster dog		

And now, the "fine print":

- NESR cannot guarantee the length of time it will take to place the dog in its forever home. BUT, we vigorously work to place every dog within our circle and will actively work with the foster family if the dog's presence in the home becomes an issue.
- NESR cannot guarantee that the dog will be without behavior and/or medical issues. BUT, we will strive to identify any such issues prior to placing the dog with a foster family to ensure that your experience is a positive one; we pledge to provide our foster families with the material and emotional tools to deal with such issues.
- NESR cannot guarantee that saying farewell to your foster dog won't be an emotional issue. BUT, we can (sadly) guarantee that there will be more dogs in need of foster families.

We sincerely hope you'll consider providing the gift of a foster home to the dogs that NESR serves. Please complete the attached Foster Home Questionnaire and return to. Upon receipt, a Foster Home Coordinator will be in contact with you to discuss the process further.

With gratitude,
National English Shepherd Rescue
www.nesr.info

National English Shepherd Rescue Volunteer Recruitment

Tell us about yourself....

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Cell/Alt Phone: _____
 E-Mail _____

Tell us about your interest in NESR...

Adoption _____
 Foster Home Care _____
 Transportation _____
 Evaluation of dogs _____
 Financial Support _____
 Moral Support Network _____
 Other (please describe) _____

Preferred Contact Method

Mail	Phone	Cell/Alt	E-mail

Tell us about your household...

How many adults? Children under 16?
 Ages?

Who will have primary responsibility for seeing to the dog's training and general welfare?

Describe your home environment and tell us about other animals in your care (e.g. "live in the 'burbs with a fenced yard" or "40 acres and mule, no fence")

** National English Shepherd Rescue strongly recommends that all resident dogs have current bordatella (kennel cough) vaccines before taking in a foster dog.

Tell us how you envision the foster home experience...

What age dog are you interested in fostering.....

Puppy (8 wks-12 mos)	___
Adolescent (12 mos - 2yrs)	___
Adult (2 yrs - 8 yrs)	___
Senior (8 yrs +)	___

Are you interested in providing **short term** foster care (less than 1 month)? _____

Are you interested in providing **long term** foster care (more than 1 month)? _____

Do you have other time constraints (e.g. moving, vacations, relatives moving in, etc.)? _____

Are you able to provide routine vet care for which you will be reimbursed by NESR? _____

How many hrs/day will the dog be **without** human interaction? _____

Where will the dog sleep at night (indoors, outdoors, crate, kennel, couch, on my pillow)? _____

Dogs that come through rescue may have none, some, or all of the following behaviors and temperament issues. Please honestly assess your abilities to deal with these issues, enabling NESR to place the right dog in the right foster home.

	Will not foster	Will foster but no experience with this issue	Will foster but may need training advice	Will foster and have experience with this issue
▪ Dog not housebroken	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Dominant behaviors	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Shy behaviors	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Dog not crate-trained	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Food guarding	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Other resource guarding	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Excessive barking	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Chewing	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Dog-Dog aggression	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Fear aggression	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ No recall	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ No obedience training	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Counter-surfing	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Escape artist	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Separation anxiety	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Dog not leash trained	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Mouthiness	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Submissiveness	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Dog not cat-friendly	_____	_____	_____	_____
▪ Other health issues	_____	_____	_____	_____

REFERENCES: As we most times do not have the ability to meet face to face we request 3 references

	Name	Address	Relationship
1.			
2.			
3.			

Foster Agreement Contract

This agreement is entered into on this _____ day of _____, by and between National English Shepherd Rescue (NESR) and _____, hereafter referred to as Foster Home. A Foster Home is defined as a temporary home for the dog to live in while it awaits a permanent adoption through NESR. The purpose of this contract is to ensure that this dog gets the highest level of care and treatment until it is adopted.

Foster Home understands and agrees to abide by the following terms:

Terms of ownership and liability

- NESR dogs will remain the property of NESR while in foster care. This includes dogs released from shelters to a foster home acting as an NESR representative, and dogs surrendered to NESR from owners.
- The NESR dog will be surrendered immediately upon the request of the Foster Coordinator (FC), any NESR Board of Directors member or an agent of any NESR Board member. Should legal action be necessary to reclaim a NESR dog, the foster home will be responsible for all legal fees incurred by NESR.
- No foster dog is to be transferred from the foster home to any other party without prior approval by the FC or a member of the board of directors. The foster family accepts liability for any and all damages that occur in connection with the fostering of NESR dog(s). The foster family agrees to release NESR from any and all claims, known and unknown, now or hereafter, arising in connection with the animal(s) while under the direct care of the foster family.

Condition of Foster Dogs upon Arrival at Foster Home

- NESR makes no explicit or implicit guarantees in reference to health and/or temperament of the foster dog. NESR will provide funds for the basic vaccines, heartworm test, fecal examination, spay/neuter, heartworm and flea/tick preventative and any other required medications. While NESR makes every effort to place only healthy animals in foster care, they cannot guarantee the health of any animal and shall not be held responsible for any expenses other than direct care for the foster dog that may be incurred as a result of housing the foster dog. NESR does not make any warranties regarding health, temperament or whether the animal is housebroken.

Treatment of Foster Dogs while in Foster Care

- The NESR foster dog shall reside indoors, in the foster's home and live as a family member and companion. The dog will not be kept outdoors during the foster's working hours, nor at any time be left alone outdoors while the foster family is not present without proper, safe containment. (a fenced yare or dog run of at least 5 feet) It is our **STRONG** recommendation that foster homes in suburban or urban areas contain the foster dog inside when family members are not at home.
- The foster dog(s) will be kept in the home as a family pet and may not be crated or isolated for excessive periods of time. When outside, dogs should be confined to a fenced-in yard or kennel, or kept on-leash. While in the home, dogs will get appropriate supervised house time and will never be left alone with children. The foster dog(s) must be on-leash and accompanied by an adult at all times when leaving the property; the dog's rabies tag must always accompany the dog when leaving the property.
- The foster dog(s) will be fed, watered, exercised, and socialized appropriately. The foster home will not be compensated for expenses incurred in the normal daily care of the animal(s) (i.e. food, toys, grooming, etc).
- While the NESR foster dog(s) is/are in foster care they should receive training in basic obedience, house training and house manners. Prong or shock collars are to be used only with prior approval from the NESR Foster Coordinator or a Board of Directors Member. Training collars will only be used when walking the dog on a leash or during obedience classes.
- The NESR foster dog(s) must always wear a nylon or leather buckle or modified slip (martingale) collar with the rabies tag and a name tag with NESR information until a microchip can be injected. The collar must be checked regularly to ensure proper fit. It is not necessary that the dog wear the collar at night.

Responsibilities of NESR

- NESR will fund routine veterinary care. This includes vaccinations, heartworm testing and preventative, spay/neuters, fecal exams and any prescription medications necessary for the health of the foster dog(s). All veterinary appointments must be pre-approved by the Foster Coordinator or a NESR Board Member. Expenditures incurred by the foster family, other than emergency care, without prior approval by NESR, will be the sole responsibility of the foster family. All original veterinary paper work should be mailed to the Foster Coordinator for the dog's file. Bills for reimbursement must be sent to the NESR Treasurer.

National English Shepherd Rescue
c/o Melinda King
10602 Brittney La S. E.
Olalla, WA 98359

If the foster home is unable to pay for these expenses and then apply for reimbursement from NESR please let the NESR coordinator know and we will arrange to make these payments.

- If there is a need for the foster to remove the dog(s) from their home, arrangements will be made to have the dog removed as soon as possible. It may take up to several weeks to find an replacement foster home, so please give your foster coordinator as much notice as possible. Please direct questions or problems to the NESR Foster Coordinator.

Responsibilities of Foster Home

- The foster family will continually evaluate the foster dog(s) and make a weekly report to the FC. The foster family should report changes in behavior that may require re-evaluation of the foster dog(s) to the FC or a member of the board of directors.
- The foster family will be responsible for providing photos of the foster dog for the NESR web page and updating them regularly.
- The foster dog(s) is/are never to be left alone with children at any time. An adult is to be with the dog whenever there are any children around. The foster dog should be on leash and handled by an adult in the company of children other than those residing in the foster home.
- The foster family shall not use physical abuse of the foster dog(s) or otherwise treating the dog(s) in an inhumane manner. This includes, but is not limited to non-physical abuse, such as verbal abuse.
- Questions or problems with the foster dog(s) should be directed to the NESR Foster Coordinator. If there is a need to remove the dog(s) from the foster home, arrangements will be made to have the dog removed as soon as possible.
- The foster home must notify the FC or a board member if they will be away and care of the dog(s) is being left to someone other than another foster home.

Adoption Procedures

- The foster coordinators will approve the adoptive families. Adoptive families maybe directed to contact the foster family to inquire about the dogs(s) temperament or other intimate details about the dog(s). Once an adoptive home is approved by NESR, the coordinator will work with the foster and adoptive homes to facilitate the transfer. Foster homes may need to buy a crate, and transport the dog to the airport if air shipping is needed. NESR will pay for the crate, veterinary health certificate and shipping costs.
- If the foster home is unable to pay for these and then apply for reimbursement from NESR please let the NESR coordinator know and we will arrange to make these payments.
- The foster dog(s) will be adopted to a permanent home only with the approval of the NESR Adoption and Foster Coordinators, and only applicants pre-approved by NESR may visit the foster dog(s) in the foster home.

- Adoption Coordinators will approve the potential adoptive family. If the foster family would like to adopt the foster dog, Foster Coordinator should be notified before arrangements are made to show the dog to applicants.

I understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in this contract

Foster Name *Please print* _____ Date _____

Foster Name *Please print* _____ Date _____

Address _____

NESR Representative: _____ Date _____

NESR Contact Information

Coordinators	
Jenn Wiegand North Eastern States (203) 248-8099 irmasfinnallie@sbcglobal.net	Martha Connolly Dreste 6800 Gillis Road Victor, NY 14564 585-242-4915 mac@ed-llp.com
Judy Hase Western States 1755 W. Duke Rd Sutherland, OR. 97479 (541) 459-2413 jphase@charter.net	Irith Bloom 12222 Wilshire Boulevard, Unit #303 Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-826-0789 irith@irith.com
	Anne Gilson – Southern States 12025 Hidden Nest Court Midlothian, VA 23112 (804) 739-7924 agilson99@comcast.net
Nancy Houtkooper – Midwestern States 17316 Ipswich Way Lakeville, MN 55044 (952) 435-3515 sciteacher74@yahoo.com	Erin McKee – Midwestern States 549 E. Third St. New Richmond, WI 54017 (715) 222-9167 erin.mckee@GMAIL.COM
Board of Directors	
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