

**Chained Dog Rehabilitation & Rehoming New Zealand (CDRRNZ) Fosterers – What you need to know**

Thank you for offering to foster for CDRRNZ

CDRRNZ is based in Auckland and Hamilton – where most of our work is done.

Without our fosterers we would not be able to rescue and re-home as many dogs as we do.

As a CDRRNZ fosterer you may be dealing with dogs that are fearful, anxious and/or reactive. New situations can be scary, and it will take the dog time to adjust to being part of your family, usually between 2 weeks to a month. It’s important that you take things slowly, allow the dog to settle in to your home, and don’t be too eager to get the dog out and about meeting new people and dogs, or going to dog parks etc.

**What we can supply**

CDRRNZ will supply some food at the drop off; we may require you to supply some at times until more food can be delivered to you/picked up.

Bedding/Blankets are also provided as are collars/leads, and crates in some instances. Please note: it is essential that when the dog/pup is alone at home they are not left outside. The dog/pup must live indoors and sleep inside. Please let us know if you have special circumstances.

All dogs are taken to vet before being taken to fosterers and are micro-chipped and given first vaccination, as well as given flea and worm treatment (in severe cases fosterers will be given more treatment and instructions for next dose). In some cases we ask our fosterers to take our dogs (puppies especially) to our vet for their booster vaccinations and our older dogs for de-sexing. CDRRNZ will cover vet fees.

In cases where our dogs are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you do not expose them to other dogs or take them to dog parks or parks etc as they may pick up diseases like Parvo, Kennel cough etc. Taking them for small walks around your street is fine, but please be aware of them sniffing and DO NOT let them eat anything whilst out walking. They must be kept on a leash.

We register our dogs/pups after they have been de-sexed. This usually happens within 2 weeks of getting the dog and prior to them being adopted.

We have copious amounts of information and training tips that have been provided by our fabulous trainer/volunteers. Please let us know if you need any of this. Some information can be found on our Facebook ‘Foster Support’ group page.

**Behavioural Issues**

You may have to deal with dogs that are not toilet trained, so patience is a must! Puppies are generally the ones who take the longest. We have found with our older chained dogs it doesn’t take long to toilet train as they are so used to being chained outside and toileting in the one spot!

You may come across some behavioural issues which we will help you deal with as best we can. We have a trainer who works with them if needed, however we do need you to help with some basic training on your own. Any dogs with noticeable or severe behavioural issues tend to be fostered with our more experienced fosters.

**Commitment**

 It may take up to several months to rehome, so you need to be able to give a full commitment to the time it takes re-homing the pup/dog – which may include people coming to see the dog. We have had issues in the past of people willing to foster and then it being “too hard” and asking us to find another home for the dog. We understand how much work is involved in fostering and we appreciated the effort our fosterers put in to working with and rehabilitating these dogs, but please understand it is extremely frustrating and time consuming for us with our small amount of fosterers available and large number of dogs needing foster homes. It is also unsettling for the dogs being moved around so much

So please take the time to consider if you have the time, energy and determination to help a dog who really needs it. The experience is so rewarding and your foster dog will ALWAYS remember who you are and how much love and care you showed them.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Email: foster@chaineddog.org.nz