



Weimaraner Rescue Of Texas



RESCUE | REHABILITATE | RE-HOME



Photo by Susanne McLeod

VOLUNTEER MANUAL

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WEIMARANER RESCUE OF TEXAS, INC. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3), non-profit charitable organization.

HISTORY OF WRT

Since 1989, our small group of volunteers has saved over 2,700 Weimaraners from suffering and death. We exist solely on donations and fundraising efforts. Every penny of our proceeds pays for veterinary care, food, boarding, and essential expenses. WRT began as the Rescue Committee of the Lone Star Weimaraner Club, Inc. (formerly North Texas Weimaraner Club).

In 1997, WRT incorporated and was granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS, enabling tax deductible donations to our rescue fund.

MISSION STATEMENT

The rescue, rehabilitation, and placement of Weimaraners from animal shelters, found stray, abandoned, neglected and abused. We educate the public on responsible pet ownership and promote spay/neuter. We are dedicated to end the tragedy of pet over-population by opposing puppy mills, pet stores selling live animals, and irresponsible over-breeding of companion animals.

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Why Volunteer? Weimaraner Rescue of Texas is an all-volunteer organization. Weimaraners across the state of Texas rely on volunteers to drive them to meet-n-greets, vet appointments, potential new homes, and foster families. They also rely on volunteers to take care of them until their forever family decides it is time to adopt them. Taking care of them can include playing with and socializing them, providing medical care, holding their paws while they recover from heartworm treatment, and giving them a soft bed to sleep on each night. Volunteering your time and resources helps ensure that each Weim in the organization knows and understands love. Every one of us has one thing in common – we love these dogs! Past that, we are all individuals that have unique talents and ideas that come together to make this organization work. Texas is a big place and WRT needs each and every one of you. Our organization is always in need of people who want to help, from assisting on transports, to fostering, and serving on the board of directors. There is a place for everyone to fit in.

How Do I Get Involved?

Transporting A Dog – New Weimaraners entering rescue are frequently coming from shelters across the state of Texas. Transport requests are sent out through our Google Group email list. These are called “Freedom Rides”. Experience the joy of seeing a Weimaraner leave a shelter and start his rescue journey. To be effective in this volunteer position you will always want to carry a collar, leash, water bowl & water, and maybe some treats in your vehicle to help you get to know the dog you will be transporting. You may also consider having a crate or some other water-proof seat cover or bedding to protect your vehicle in the event the dog would have an accident. Sometimes incoming dogs from the shelter are dirty, smell and could be sick. Your love and gentle care is the first step as they enter rescue to help them learn to trust humans.

Attending Meet-n-Greet Events – Meet-n-Greet events are a fun way to educate the public about the Weimaraner breed. Some potential adopters come in hopes of meeting their next loving companion who might be there. It is time to spend with other WRT volunteers and feel part of the rescue organization. Items are also sold for WRT such as koozies and calendars during the event. The few hours spent representing WRT at these events is well worth it. Come join us and bring your well-behaved foster or other Weimaraners that will be good “Ambassadors”.

Exercise and Love on Dogs at the Vet or in Boarding – We typically have a few dogs that don’t have a foster home and are either at the vet’s office or in a boarding facility. These dogs especially need our attention. Healthy dogs can be taken for walks or played with outside to get them some exercise and attention. Sick dogs may just need a good petting session to let them know we are here for them. All new volunteers desiring to help in this capacity must be trained by a seasoned volunteer to ensure that the rules of each facility are being followed.

Fostering A Dog – This is the most rewarding part of what we do. There is no greater joy in taking in a skinny and affection starved Weimaraner and seeing them transform into the wonderful family members they were meant to be. Foster homes are the backbone of our organization. WRT is a foster-based program. We cannot save Weimaraners without the help of our dedicated foster homes. Boarding is no place for a Weimaraner. They need foster homes to help them adjust and learn how to be loved. Dogs in foster homes are adopted so much quicker than dogs in boarding. Foster families learn about the dogs and can better help us match them with potential families. The adoption success rate is significantly higher as well. WRT has many experienced foster homes and foster coordinators in all the major cities where we have volunteers. There is always someone to help answer your questions. We encourage everyone to give it a try. It is so much easier than you think, we promise, and by volunteering to be a foster family, you get the unique opportunity to give the Weimaraner his new rescue name but submitting your choices for approval to the foster home coordinator in your city area. Some names are very popular and are duplicated, so for accounting purposes, we try to give names that are not duplicated in a 2-year period.

Use Your Purchases and Walks to Raise Money for the Rescue – Several organizations allow you to use your purchases or your walks for your dogs to raise money for the Weimaraner Rescue. Please check out and enroll in the following to use your dollars spent to benefit the dogs.

Amazon Smile – Use the following website to make all your Amazon purchases and a portion of your spending will benefit the rescue. Only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support the charity you have chosen.
www.smile.amazon.com

Kroger Community Rewards – Log in to the Kroger website and create an account. Every time you use your Plus Card number to make purchases at any Kroger store a portion will be donated to your chosen charity. To choose Weimaraner Rescue of Texas as your charity, click on the community rewards section of your account and either search for our name or enter our organization number – FH292.
www.kroger.com

Walk for A Dog App – Download the Walk for a Dog app on your Apple or Android phone. Each time you walk your dog (or just go for a walk for a dog) take your phone with you and start the app. Any walk over ½ mile will benefit the Weimaraner Rescue if you set up the rescue as the dog charity of your choice within the app. If you walk your dog (or just go for a walk for a dog) at least once a week, you will be considered an “active walker”.

ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEER ROLES

Bark Volunteer – Responsibilities for this role include checking the rescue’s email (bark@weimrescuetexas.org) and forwarding or replying to the emails as needed. This volunteer must have access to the internet and the ability to check the email during work and evening hours.

Incoming Volunteer – Responsibilities for this role include checking and answering voicemail messages, working with shelters on dogs who need rescue, and working with people that call about dogs that are stray or want to be owner surrendered. This job is done mostly during the daytime hours when the shelters are open.

Application Processor Volunteer – Responsibilities for this role include calling the applicants’ vet reference, personal references, verifying their homeownership with county records or their lease agreement if they are renters. This volunteer will be responsible to follow up with applicants on all this needed information and then forward all the gathered information on to the Adoption Coordinator. This volunteer will need to have access to email and the ability to make short phone calls to vet offices during work hours. Any applications that come in for volunteers will be processed and then forwarded to the Volunteer Director. This is a great position to get started in helping with the adoption process.

Adoption Coordinator – Responsibilities for this role include the phone interview process to approve/deny applications. The phone interview is a critical part of our adoption process. This discussion which applicants really helps us see what kind of dog will fit in a new family. The Adoption Coordinator will review the application, talk about Weimaraners, discuss food, crating, bloat, and other important issues related to adopting. This is the main person who is “in charge” for the week, so you may also be asked to respond to emails sent to our organization email. At the end of the week, you are responsible for sending out the Adoption Coordinator Report to the Google Group. This job is done mostly in the evening when applicants are home from work or can schedule a phone call.

Foster Home Coordinator – Foster Home Coordinators are responsible for matching dogs who need a foster home to any available foster home. There are four foster home coordinators: one each for Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. This position will be responsible for checking with the foster homes to make sure they have all the supplies they need, make sure the dogs are doing well, answering any questions or concerns the foster homes may have. If a dog is not adjusting well to its foster home, it will be the responsibility of the foster home coordinator to put out a plea to the group to enlist another foster home or contact a new foster home directly to re-home the dog.

THE RESCUE COMMUNITY – Weimaraner Rescue of Texas works to promote good will in the rescue community and for this reason we do not accept gossip talk or “bad mouthing” about other rescue groups in public. Some of us have different ways of working, but we are all working very hard. If an occasion arises to join forces with another rescue group in meet-n-greets, events, fundraising, etc., be excited and let the Adoption Coordinator in your area know that another rescue group needs our help.

TREATMENT OF OTHER VOLUNTEERS – Remember that we all have “regular” lives but also volunteer with WRT because we love the breed. All people have personal stresses in their lives, so please show grace with one another. No emails should be sent that attack, use profanity, or can be perceived as disruptive to the volunteer base.

INFORMATION THAT ALL VOLUNTEERS NEED TO KNOW –

Bite Policy – WRT considers a situation where a bite occurs to be a serious matter. A bite is classified as the dog biting a human in an unprovoked and aggressive manner and breaking the skin. It is each volunteer’s duty to help ensure that a dog is kept from any situation that could lead to a bite. Each bite case is reviewed individually by the Board of Directors and a decision is made in the best interest of all parties involved.

Dogs in Boarding – The dogs that are in boarding, whether at the vet’s office or a boarding facility, need our time and attention more than dogs in a foster home. These dogs need to be visited by our volunteers as much as possible so that they can be exercised and shown the attention that they crave. No dog is to go from boarding to an event without prior approval from the Foster Home Coordinator in that area.

Board of Directors – Currently there are 4 officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. WRT bylaws state that there must be a minimum of 3 directors. Each year the offices will be filled by the new Board, either by these members stepping up to volunteer or by election if more than one person is willing to serve as an officer. The Board is representative of the major areas of Texas where we have the greatest number of volunteers, foster homes, and fundraising opportunities. There are a limited number of Board positions and it is possible that everyone who has an interest may not be selected to serve on the Board. The Board is required in the bylaws to meet once yearly, however, typically they meet once a month and attendance is required. Because the organization includes Board representation from multiple cities in Texas, board meetings are usually conducted by conference call, but there are on-occasion face-to-face meetings scheduled. Meetings are held in the evening and the next meeting will be scheduled after the current month’s meeting has concluded to accommodate everyone’s schedules.

Expectations for all board members includes ACTIVE PARTICIPATION in Weimaraner Rescue. This means serving as an Incoming Volunteer, Adoption Coordinator (Primary), Volunteer Coordinator, Foster Home Coordinator, Events Coordinator or

Fundraising Coordinator. Each board member will have his/her team of people that volunteer alongside them. These activities can require more than 20 hours per week. Some weeks are busier than others but serving on the Board means that you are committing to the time and work needed by the organization. Additionally, all board members are required to be involved in the planning and development of fundraising and awareness functions such as Meet-n-Greets, golf tournaments, poker tournaments, volunteer meetings, holiday parties, raffles, calendar promotions and sales, silent auctions, etc.

The Board is faced with many difficult and challenging issues, including very serious decisions about the well-being of the Weimaraners that may come in to our program, such as euthanasia. The Board also must deal with confidential issues related to volunteers and foster homes. Each director must be able to handle these decisions in a professional manner and respect confidentiality. There is a fiduciary responsibility for this Board as with all non-profit Boards. This means that the Board oversees financial decisions and the accountability of funds.

There are decisions made in the best interest of the organization, as determined by the Board. The board members must be committed to carrying out decisions and the mission of the organization.

FOSTERING

As a foster family, you sacrifice a bit of your heart and your home to the Weimaraner. The dogs bond quickly. You may be the first person who has been kind to them. It is hard to give them up when they are adopted, but remember, "The gift is in the goodbye." Fostering is a lesson in unselfish love. --GALT, Inc.

Families who open their homes to a rescued Weimaraner provide training and love and are the heartbeat of our organization. We will provide support in making your foster experience a rewarding one. You are the backbone in getting our rescued Weimaraners adopted.

As a foster parent, you are responsible for the following:

- Housetraining, if necessary
- Teach walking on a leash
- Teaching response to name
- Teaching appropriate behavior indoors and outdoors (in a fenced in area only)
- Proper interaction with other pets
- Playing with children and adults **(You must be present always when your foster dog is around children)**
- Giving medication, if needed
- Sending updated photos and bio/personality updates to the Facebook Administrator, Website Administrator and the Foster Home Coordinator in your area. The most current photos of your foster Weimaraner being a Weimaraner are what captures a future adopter's attention, as well as, up to date information about your Weimaraner's personality.
- Work to attend public events (Meet-n-Greets, etc.) as often as possible. The best way to help your foster get adopted is exposure, which is why attending these events is so important.
- Your foster dog may NEVER be off leash outside of a fenced area.

HOW FOSTERING WORKS

Matching the dog to the foster – Our goal is to make your fostering experience joyful and rewarding. Your foster home coordinator will talk with you about your own dogs and lifestyle and try to match you with a foster dog that will work well in your home.

What you will get when you pick up a dog –

- Foster/Adoption packet with Adoption Agreement, Foster Care Agreement, Dog Profile, Care Instructions and any vet records for the dog
- A Foster Care Agreement must be on file as soon as a dog is in your care. This Agreement will be good for 1 year and will cover any dog that you foster. This Agreement will be sent to you by the Records Manager and will need to be filled out and returned to records@weimrescuetexas.org
- Heartworm pill if foster is not undergoing other treatment preventing him from being on heartworm preventative
- If you need help with food, we will provide some for you or you can go buy some and send the receipt for reimbursement to treasurer@weimrescuetexas.org
- Collar with rabies tag and WRT tag
- The name and phone number of your Foster Home Coordinator
- Collar and leash provided

Foster/Adoption Packets – Your foster Weimaraner should come with a folder with his/her vet records, intake paperwork, adoption agreement, foster agreement, dog profile and adoption checklist. If you do not get one, contact your Foster Home Coordinator in your area as soon as possible and request one be sent to you. Your foster Weimaraner's packet should stay with him/her always. If they go to the vet for an appointment or for boarding when you go out of town, their packet should go with them. If you make an appointment with a potential adopter to bring your foster dog to a neutral location for a meet-n-greet, please bring his/her packet with them. Their packet should stay with them, so they can be adopted from wherever they are. *Please write on your foster dog's packet the date you have given him/her their heartworm preventative and inform your Foster Home Coordinator.*

Foster Home Reimbursements

- Up to \$1.75 per pound for dry dog food. Suggested dog foods: Taste of the Wild, Nutro Natural, Nature's Recipe, Costco Kirkland's, Blue Buffalo, and Innova. Dry dog food shown on the website www.dogfoodadvisor.com, rate #3-#5 are acceptable foods, bearing in mind the reimbursable price per pound. There are websites that may offer dog food at a lower price also (www.amazon.com or www.chewy.com).
- Up to \$10-15 for incidentals such as toys, chew treats, etc. per dog
- Up to \$20 a leash – 1 per foster home. Must have prior approval from the Foster Home Coordinator in your area. Leash is to stay with you and to be used on all your foster dogs.
- Up to \$15 for a collar. Must have prior approval from the Foster Home Coordinator in your area. Most dogs will be provided a collar upon being welcomed into WRT.
- Up to \$30 for a dog bed – 1 per foster home. Must have prior approval from the Foster Home Coordinator in your area.
- Crates – fosters can borrow from WRT.

- Medications will come from vet offices or with vet prescription to retail store at reduced cost (i.e. Walmart). Also check on GoodRx.com for coupon rates.
- Supplements – when deemed necessary and approved by the Foster Home Coordinator in your area.

Receipts are required for all reimbursements and must be mailed to WRT's address (4347 W Northwest Highway, Suite 120, Box 184, Dallas, TX 75220) or emailed to the Treasurer at treasurer@weimrescuetexas.org. All items not listed here will need prior approval from the Foster Home Coordinator in your area.

Introducing Your Foster Dog to Your Dogs – The introduction of a new foster Weimaraner to your home can often cause stress and sometimes fear. Although we sometimes have information on a dog regarding whether or not they are dog friendly, it is never really known how the initial introduction will go with another dog. Keep in mind you are introducing a new dog into an existing “pack order”, and it will be normal for the dogs to take a little while to adjust to having a new dog present. All the dogs need to know where the new dog fits into the pack order. For this reason, introductions should occur with another adult present and with the foster dog and your own dog on leash. Backyards or a neutral area are typically preferable to inside the house for introductions. Introducing in a neutral, open area keeps everyone feeling comfortable and unconfined, and will prevent territorial behavior. Dogs should be introduced one at a time, don't overwhelm the new dog with multiple dogs at a time.

The introduction needs to be monitored and executed very carefully. Both handlers must have as loose of a leash as possible and remain calm and relaxed during the introduction. Do not let the dogs meet head on, introduce them from the side or at an angle. The initial meeting should be allowed for about 3 seconds, then walk the dogs away from each other. Do this a few times until you see that the dogs are relaxed and accepting. Monitor body language and ensure that everyone is comfortable. If the dogs appear uncomfortable, try taking them for a walk together, this will establish you in a leadership role over the dogs, and help the dogs get used to one another without meeting face to face. Once the foster dog has been introduced into the pack, the leash can be removed. Dogs often have better initial greetings off leash, but we do encourage the use of leashes to ensure that the dogs can be controlled during the greeting. Even after the initial greeting, you must remain vigilant to potential signs of aggression in all the dogs. The foster Weimaraner, most importantly, must also know right from the start that you are the leader of the overall pack.

If you have cats in your household, it is important to properly introduce your foster dog to your cats properly. Since Weimaraners have strong hunting instinct and often want to chase and or attack smaller animals, we need to protect the cats in the home and set the foster dog up for success. Please contact your Foster Home Coordinator prior to bringing your foster home and they will get you information regarding proper home setup and introductions with cats and dogs in the household.

If the initial greeting goes poorly, or you feel that the dogs are not adjusting well to each other, reach out to your Foster Home Coordinator right away. The WRT Trainer

can be contacted, and they can assist you with helping integrate your foster or assisting and determining whether we need to reevaluate the placement of the foster.

Dog Proofing Your Residence – As a dog owner, you are aware of the items in your house that are of great interest to your dogs. Such items can include children’s stuffed toys, cardboard boxes, leather items, etc., and of course, food items go without saying. These items usually require safe storage away from your dogs to both protect them as well as the items themselves. When the foster Weimaraner is introduced into this mix, the list of items expands greatly. The foster Weimaraner will find just about everything they have not been exposed to interesting. Therefore, you must dog proof your home. If you have small children, this will be just like child proofing your home. All items of interest should be removed and placed in a safe location. Anything that could become a choking hazard must be removed. Your foster Weimaraner will most likely not be familiar with playing with dog toys and will tend to focus on items that may be food, have a good odor to them or be “chewable”. The best bet is to find some bones, Kongs, or rawhide and encourage the Weimaraner to play/chew with them. Weimaraners are known to be “very efficient” kitchen countertop cruisers. They are tall enough to check out all the good and bad food items that you have left on your kitchen counters. Remove food from the counter. All poisons, cleaning supplies, dish detergents, soaps, razors, etc., must be kept in a secure location so that all dogs do not have access. Antifreeze is a significant dog and cat killer. Antifreeze is sweet smelling and tastes good to all dogs and cats. As a result, antifreeze must always be kept away from all dogs and cats. Products such as fire ant bait/killer, pesticides, fertilizers and most lawn and garden products also pose a hazard to pets. These items must be kept out of reach from all pets in your home.

Housetraining – The new foster dog may not have been in a home or been taught the house training basics. The key to successful housetraining is to prevent mistakes at all cost. Teach the foster dog the appropriate place to eliminate by giving a treat and lots of praise for doing so. Never leave your foster dog unattended until the housetraining is complete. If you are having trouble with housetraining, please contact your Foster Home Coordinator for advice or send an email to the Google group for WRT volunteers wrnt@googlegroups.com. The Foster Home Coordinator can get you in touch with the WRT Trainer for additional information regarding house training. Some medications may increase the need for the foster dog to eliminate. Please take extra precaution if the foster dog is on one of those medications.

Sleeping Arrangements – It is recommended that the new foster dog sleeps either in the crate provided or on a dog bed in an area that you designate. Using the crate initially will allow you time to better determine their housebreaking habits. It is preferable to not allow your foster Weimaraner to sleep in a human bed. Once you allow this to happen two issues come to mind. First, this confuses the foster dog into thinking they are on par with you in the ultimate pack order. Secondly, once you allow this to happen this may become an issue when the dog is adopted into their forever home. Let the new owner determine if the dog can sleep in human beds.

Feeding Fosters – If ever there is a time to be very careful with all your dogs, it is when feeding time occurs. The “fight” for adequate food is real. This can be especially true when a new foster dog is introduced into the pack. First off, feed your own dogs as you always do. They know the feeding routine and any modification to this routine will cause stress and potential problems. When feeding the foster dog, always feed in a neutral location. Do not feed the foster dog near or in the same location as your other dogs. Good neutral locations include outside in your enclosed backyard, in their crate, a garage or a neutral corner where your dogs are not fed. The opposite also holds true. Do not let your foster dog approach your dogs when they are eating. Even the savviest individual can run into problems at feeding time. If you have children in the home, NEVER let them approach the new foster Weimaraner when it is eating. The Weimaraner may take the approaching child as a sign of aggression by the child and will guard their food. This may include growling, barking, or biting.

It is recommended, but not required, to soak the foster Weimaraner’s food in water for 20-30 minutes before feeding and feed only the amounts and kind of food recommended to help avoid a condition called bloat. Please limit table food for foster dogs, please.

Dog Walking – All foster Weimaraner “parents” need to be aware of several important issues when walking their foster. First, the foster dog is in a new location unfamiliar to them. They may fear things your own dogs do not even react to. For example, a passing car, children on bicycles, lawn mowers, etc. Be prepared for the Weimaraner to do the following: pull very hard against the leash, try to back out of their collar, show signs of aggression towards the item scaring them, or show aggression to other dogs or people around them. The normal distractions that drive your dog crazy such as cats, small dogs, squirrels, etc., will also stimulate similar responses from the foster Weimaraner. If you have the time, try walking the foster Weimaraner separately until both of you adjust to the new routine. This gives you the opportunity to devote full time and attention to your foster and observe and learn what to expect. You can also begin to work with the foster on basic commands and walking guidelines. Your foster dog may not want to “go” on a leash. Some rescued Weimaraners have never been on leash or are afraid because they were tied up in their former life. Start by introducing the lead very slowly. Let them sniff it, lay it next to them and when they feel comfortable put it on them and take small walks around your backyard and progress from that point to going on a walk. They will need your patience and encouragement. There are many types of collars available to assist you in teaching your foster dog good leash manners. Please contact your Foster Home Coordinator and they can put you in contact with the WRT Trainer for assistance with selecting an appropriate collar or providing support and information on how to teach proper leash manners.

Furniture Rules – It is recommended but not required that foster Weimaraners are kept off furniture in the foster home. This includes beds, chairs, sofas, pillows, etc. If the foster does get on the furniture, corrective action is required. In most cases, teaching your foster dog the command “off” will assist in having boundaries regarding access to furniture. When the Weimaraner is adopted into the forever home, their owner can make the decision on whether the dog can get on furniture. It is a lot

easier to allow a new Weimaraner access to furniture than to break one from getting on furniture.

Separation Anxiety – Weimaraners are very social canines and the new surroundings place the Weimaraner under a great deal of stress. The reaction is often separation anxiety. Weimaraners often display symptoms of separation anxiety by panting heavily, barking/howling, drooling, circling and are generally anxious. If they are in a confined area such as a crate or small room, they may scratch or paw at the door to get out. The dog does not know that you will return and that they have not been permanently left. There are several techniques that can be used to assist your foster through separation anxiety. First, you can leave a radio on with soothing music, so the dog hears this activity and does not feel left alone. If you have other dogs, they may be kept in the same area, so the foster dog can always see them. One final technique involves you leaving the dog alone for very short periods of time, and then gradually extending the time you are away. The foster will quickly learn that you will return. For more information about crate training, or if you think your foster dog is exhibiting signs of separation anxiety, please contact your Foster Home Coordinator and they can get you in touch with the WRT Trainer.

Barking – As you are aware, Weimaraners can be active barkers, especially when left outdoors. Barking should be discouraged within a foster home setting. A simple “no” usually stops the barking. A spray bottle with plain water is also a great deterrent when dogs are barking. As soon as the dog stops, make sure to praise so that they know that they have made the right choice. However, the dog may be trying to tell you something like “I need to go outside to pee” or “someone’s at the door”, or “there is a squirrel in the backyard, can I go out and play”! You need to investigate why the dog is barking before assuming they are just barking for the sake of barking. Just like your own dogs, you will quickly be able to interpret why the foster is barking and can respond appropriately.

Keep a Schedule – It is asking a lot, but if you can put your foster on a regular schedule, both you and the dog will be rewarded. They quickly learn when they eat, sleep, play, walk, etc. I’m sure you have noticed with your own dogs what happens if you are late feeding them. They will usually come and find you and tell you that dinner is late or at a minimum be under foot until you feed them.

Setting Your Foster Up for Success – Please remember that your foster dog may come into rescue with a lack of socialization, fear of certain items or types of people, or fear of new places. It is your job as the foster to keep your foster dog safe, and carefully introduce them to new things during their time with you. Please ensure that you think very carefully about appropriate activities for your dog, and that you are educated on the right way to expose and socialize them to various things. For example, a dog that has demonstrated fear or aggression towards other dogs should not go to the dog park. A dog that has demonstrated fear or aggression towards people needs to be introduced very methodically and carefully to give them a positive association with what they are afraid of. Please consult your Foster Home Coordinator and they can get you in contact with the WRT Trainer to assist with any socialization challenge that you are feeling uncomfortable with or need support with.

Please Note: Any aggressive behavior or bite incident must be reported to your Foster Home Coordinator immediately. This includes growling, snapping, or biting other dogs or people in the foster home. These types of behaviors must be addressed immediately.

Boarding – If you need to go out of town or otherwise need a break from your foster dog, contact the Foster Home Coordinator in your area to plan for an alternative foster home or to board the dog at one of our boarding facilities during your absence. Please contact your Foster Home Coordinator with plenty of advanced notice to secure these plans for your foster. You will be expected to transport your foster to the boarding facility unless other arrangements are made.

Veterinary Care – Weimaraner Rescue of Texas, Inc. works with several veterinarians around the state for extreme discounts. We expect our foster families to keep appointments, arrive on time and be kind to those at the veterinarian hospital or clinic. Make sure you take your foster's packet and get copies of any vet care given so it can be placed in his/her packet. Vet care will be scheduled for your convenience and the convenience of the veterinarian by the Foster Home Coordinator in your area. She will be the liaison between the vet and the foster home when it comes to determining what care is done and the follow-up care needed.

Medications – Sometimes our beloved Weimaraners need medications prescribed by veterinarians. A regular schedule for administration of these medications will help you remember to dispense them as well and your foster will be receiving the medication on schedule. Just as a doctor prescribes medication for humans, the medications for your foster should be dispensed as directed by the veterinarian and/or the directions on the prescription. The total prescription should be taken unless otherwise directed by the veterinarian.

It is imperative that your foster receive his/her heartworm preventative pill each month if the foster is not undergoing treatment preventing him/her from being on heartworm preventative. WRT will provide a HW pill for your foster unless you choose to donate one of your own. Please give your Foster Home Coordinator at least two weeks advanced notice to ensure new pills can be mailed to you on time.

Training Your Foster – One of the responsibilities of fostering a Weimaraner is to begin the important transformation of the dog from an abandoned or unsocialized dog into a kind and loving companion. This includes teaching the dog how to live with humans. They must be taught basic commands such as stay, come, no, down, heal, etc. They must also learn their name. Weimaraners are smart animals and learn very quickly. Training sessions should not last more than 15 minutes per day. The dog should be rewarded for successful completion of a command as opposed to being punished for not accomplishing a command. Repetition and rewards are key components to teaching new commands to your foster dog. WRT has a Trainer that volunteers time to assist fosters in training their foster Weimaraners. There are multiple resources, including handouts and web links to assist you with teaching various commands and curbing various behaviors. If you are struggling with your foster dog's behavior, or

having a training challenge, please reach out to your Foster Home Coordinator ASAP. Do not allow a behavior or training problem to go unaddressed, this may cause potential issues when the dog goes to a new home. You have support for your foster's training, no matter what city you live in, make sure you take advantage of this resource if you need it!

Chewing – Weimaraners can be avid chewers. They like to chew almost anything they can sink their teeth into. The way to solve this problem is to give them toys, bones, etc. that they can chew. They should be encouraged to chew on the appropriate chew and not your furniture, shoes, kid's toys, etc. Keep in mind that it will take some work on your part to get the dog to chew on their toys. Some rescued Weimaraners have not had toys before and need to learn how to play with them. Once they learn that chewing their toys is okay, they will usually stop chewing other items. *TIP – One great way to keep them occupied in their crate is to place peanut butter in a Kong, freeze it overnight and then place it in the crate when you leave. (Julie Roller)*

“Foster Failure” – One of the occupational risks of fostering a Weimaraner is falling in love with the dog and adopting your foster. You would not be fostering if you weren't already dedicated to the breed. Often, we get more back from our foster dogs than what we gave them, including the reward of seeing them grow and change into wonderful companions and lovely pets. Hence, it is very easy to want to adopt your foster as a permanent member of your family. If you are struggling with this decision, contact your Foster Home Coordinator and she will be able to discuss with you the steps you need to take to make the dog your own.

Communication – Communication is the most critical part of fostering a dog for WRT. It is critical that you follow all guidelines set forth by WRT while fostering a dog, including having a watchful eye for any undesirable behaviors. Any aggression to cats, other dogs, children needs to be brought to the attention of the Foster Home Coordinator immediately so that training can begin to change those behaviors. The Foster Home Coordinator may reach out to you to see how things are progressing. Please return their phone call, text, or email promptly to provide an update on your foster as well as relay any questions you may have.

APPROVED ADOPTERS

You will be contacted by approved prospective adopters who are interested in your foster dog. Ask questions as you know your foster best of all. Please follow the following guidelines when working with prospective adopters who are interested in your foster dog.

- Make appointments at YOUR convenience, but as quickly as possible.
- Keep appointments as scheduled with adoptive families (as some families drive distances to meet your foster).
- Communicate with the Adoption Coordinator who sent the family to you as to your feelings about the adoptive family, any concerns or issues and any feedback you receive from them about whether they wish to pursue adoption.
- Do whatever necessary, including exercise of the foster before appointments, to make sure that your foster dog shows as well as possible and give a showing that is representative of how they really are and typically behave.
- Show your foster dog without your other dogs present and with as few distractions as possible.
- Discuss realistically any issues that the foster dog still needs help with and the progress with training that the foster has made while in your care.
- Fill out all paperwork in the adoption packet and collect the appropriate adoption fee. **(See sample pages of completed forms after Page 18)**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Foster Home Coordinator or the Adoption Coordinator that referred the adopter to you. All adoptions must have the following forms completed and sent to the WRT Records Manager at records@weimrescuetexas.org.
 - Adoption Agreement
 - Foster Care Agreement
 - Dog Profile
 - Care Instructions
 - Adoption Fee (Money Order or check made payable to WRT or payment can be made online at our website using a credit card <http://www.weimrescuetexas.org/pay-adoption-fee>)
- Make sure you get a photo of the new family and ask them to “Like” us on Facebook. Also, ask permission to post the family picture on our Facebook page.
- **Your foster dog is NOT ALLOWED to leave your care with an adopter without the adoption paperwork completed and the adoption fee in hand.**

INFORMATION & EXAMPLES FOR COMPLETING ADOPTION FORMS

The foster Weimaraner's packet contains everything that the new adoptive family will need. It also contains handouts for information purposes and forms that will need to be completed at the time of adoption. The forms that need to be completed and sent to the Records Manager @ records@weimrescuetexas.org are listed below with a brief explanation and example of how to fill out that form. Also included are examples of shelter paperwork and vet records that should also be in your packet for the adopter.

Adoption Agreement – The top section should be filled out by the Foster Home Coordinator. If it is not, please contact your Foster Home Coordinator for assistance in completing it. The obedience class section requires that you fill in a date for the adopters to complete training. The typical time is 3 months. Please note: The “Foster to Adopt” date is the day the adopters take the dog home. The “Adoption” date is the date in which the 2-week Foster to Adopt date ends.

Foster Care Agreement – This document needs to be completed by the foster family prior to taking the dog with them. The document is the agreement they will follow in the Foster to Adopt 2-week period.

Dog Profile – The veterinary information should be filled in by the Foster Home Coordinator in your area. If it is not, please contact your Foster Home Coordinator for assistance in completing it. The foster home should check the information on the dog's behaviors in the middle and complete as necessary with any new information or vet work that has been done since the dog came into the foster's care.

Care Instructions – This form allows foster homes to have a place to write down the specifics on the dog, like what food to feed, and how many times a day, what toys they like, what is their potty signal, etc.

Example of Completed Adoption Forms – These documents show actual filled out examples of the adoption forms, example of shelter paperwork, and examples of vet records. This document should be used to help foster homes understand how to fill out the forms in the packet. The shelter paperwork and vet records have been included to help the foster homes know where the information on the forms comes from. Most of the information on these forms should be filled out by the Foster Home Coordinator in your area.

Please Note: Each packet needs to include complete vet records, shelter paperwork, and microchip information. Please contact your Foster Home Coordinator in your area for these forms if needed or if you have any other questions or concerns.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Weimaraner Rescue of Texas, Inc.
4347 W Northwest Highway
Suite 120, Box 184
Dallas, TX 75220

Voicemail: 972-994-3572 *(Please leave a message, voicemail is checked regularly)*

Email: bark@weimrescuetexas.org

Google Group Email: wrnt@googlegroups.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Julie Roller	jewelintexas78@gmail.com
Vice President	Stephany Bierman	weimloverbierman@gmail.com
Secretary	Abby Shaver	agshaver@gmail.com
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Member	Liz Mulig	oyealiz@yahoo.com
Member	Scott Buehler	wrt.scott@gmail.com

FOSTER HOME COORDINATORS

Austin:	Lizz Hooper	lizzschopp@yahoo.com
Dallas:	Stephany Bierman	weimloverbierman@gmail.com
Houston:	Barbara Wilkinson	bwilkinson47@hotmail.com
San Antonio:	Abby Shaver	agshaver@gmail.com

WRT TRAINER - Julie Roller jewelintexas78@gmail.com 214-288-4413



Adoption Agreement

Weimaraner Rescue of Texas, Inc (the “Charity/WRT”), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and the undersigned (the “Adopter/you”), in consideration of the mutual promises in this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, intending to be legally bound by this Adoption Agreement (the “Agreement”), agree to the following:

We are placing the following described Weimaraner (the “Dog”) with you, the Adopter, for adoption by you as an **indoor** pet:

Dog’s Name: _____ Microchip # _____

Sex: Male Female Color: Gray Blue Age/DOB: _____

Rescue Date: _____ Foster to Adopt Date: _____ Adoption Date: _____

Source: _____ Breeder (*if known*): _____

Vet Care Given: Spay / Neuter Wellness Exam Fecal Test Heartworm Test

Vaccinations Given: Bordetella DHPP Influenza Leptospirosis Rabies
(DHPP = Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvovirus/Parainfluenza)

Heartworm Treatment: This dog DID DID NOT have heartworms and/or heartworm treatment.
Note: All dogs should be re-tested by your veterinarian for heartworms 6 months after adoption to confirm.

Heartworm Preventative: Type/Brand _____ Due _____

_____ You agree to pay an adoption fee of \$_____ to WRT. Donations to WRT help provide for food, boarding fees, and veterinary care for Weimaraners in the care of WRT.

_____ You agree that the Dog will live in the house as a part of your family. You agree to provide the Dog with free run of your house, fresh water, wholesome dog food, adequate outdoor exercise and affection. You will treat the Dog as a household pet, companion and family member and not leave the Dog chained, cooped and/or otherwise confined for long periods of time. You agree never to use the Dog for dog fighting or any other “sport” in which one animal is pitted against another. You will never beat or taunt the Dog to promote aggressive “guard dog” characteristics. You agree to treat the Dog with kindness, never abusing, neglecting, mistreating, or permitting others, including children, to do so. You further agree that the Dog shall not be used for medical or any experimental purposes whatsoever. In addition, you agree not to transport it in the back of an open truck except within a securely anchored dog crate. You agree to keep the Dog in a safely fenced yard with locked gates or on a leash always. You agree that, if a dog crate is used, the Dog will not be kept in its crate longer than 8 hours per 24-hour period. You agree that the Dog will sleep indoors at night.

_____ You agree to have the Dog examined by a licensed veterinarian on an annual basis. In case of illness or injury to the Dog, you agree to seek prompt veterinary care. You agree to keep all required vaccinations current, including but not limited to rabies and distemper, and to ensure that the Dog receives monthly preventative medication to protect against heartworms.

_____ You agree to enroll in a Basic Obedience Class within 6-8 weeks of the adoption date entered above. With the understanding that the Dog you adopt may lack confidence and/or training, you pledge to provide this Dog loving, humane, lifetime care. A Basic Obedience Class is critical so that you can learn how to teach the Dog self-control and self-confidence. Upon completion, a copy of the certificate is required to be emailed to your Adoption Coordinator: _____

Weimaraner Rescue of Texas, Inc.

4347 W. Northwest Hwy, Ste 130, Box 184, Dallas TX 75220 • Voicemail: (972) 994-3572 • Fax: (512) 857-1335 • bark@weimrescuetexas.org



_____ **You agree not to sell or abandon this Dog, place it in another home, or surrender it to an animal shelter.** If ever you are unable to keep the Dog, you agree to contact WRT immediately. At its discretion, WRT will accept previous rescue Weimaraners back into the adoption program. Weimaraners being returned to rescue must be accompanied by all veterinary records. In addition, upon return of the Dog, you agree to pay a minimum surrender fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to cover boarding costs unless you agree to foster the Dog until it can be placed in another home by WRT. If WRT ceases to exist you agree to place the Dog in a home recommended by the Weimaraner Club of America (National Rescue Chairperson, Becky Weimer (618) 236-1466 or National Club (918) 686-6027).

_____ **You agree to surrender the Dog upon demand, in the event that you do not comply with the terms of this Agreement, or if WRT determines that the Dog has been abused or neglected.** Adopter further agrees that the actual damages that might be sustained by WRT due to the breach of this Agreement by the Adopter are uncertain and would be difficult to ascertain, and that, in addition to the injunctive relief agreed to above, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) would be reasonable compensation for such monetary damages and attorney's fees.

_____ **You agree to indemnify and hold harmless WRT, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, and representatives, for all manner of actions and causes of actions, suits, debts, dues, accounts, bonds, covenants, contracts, agreements, judgments, claims, and demands whatsoever arising out of your possession and placement of this Dog.** You also understand that WRT will not be responsible for any veterinary or medical care or costs thereof required after placement of this Dog. In addition, WRT cannot be held responsible for the conduct, behavior or disposition of this Dog after its placement. Unconfirmed and unverified information has been voluntarily provided to you by WRT, but WRT has undertaken no investigation regarding the history or physical condition of the Dog and makes neither warranty nor guaranty, express or implied, regarding the physical condition of the Dog, its background, or its suitability or compatibility.

_____ **You and WRT agree that this Agreement shall be deemed to have been executed and delivered within the State of Texas.** This Agreement is to be performed in the State of Texas, and the rights and obligations hereunder shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to principles of conflicts of law.

This Agreement is the entire agreement between you and WRT. This Agreement supersedes any prior understandings between you and WRT with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. No modification of this Agreement will be valid unless in writing duly signed by both you and WRT. This Agreement is binding upon you and your heirs, assigns, successors, personal representatives, and executors.

Adopter:

Weimaraner Rescue of Texas, Inc.

Signature

Volunteer Signature

Print Name

Print Name

Address

4347 W Northwest Hwy, Suite 130, Box 184
Dallas, TX 75220
Voice Mail: 972.994.3572
bark@weimrescuetexas.org

Telephone Number

E-mail address

Dated: _____

Dated: _____



Foster Care Agreement

Thank you for caring about our Weimaraners in need and welcome to our foster care family. Being a foster home means giving love, encouragement, and unqualified acceptance. Because of your caring, this dog will now be placed in the loving, responsible home that is deserved from the start. The Weimaraner that you are fostering has been checked by our vets and has received the following care:

- Rabies
- DLPP (*Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza & Parvovirus*)
- Leptospirosis (*Bacterial disease that affects humans and animals*)
- Bordetella (*Kennel Cough Preventative*)
- Influenza H3N2 & H3N8
- Heartworm Test (*and on monthly preventative unless noted otherwise*)
- Fecal Test or Treatment (*for hook, round & whip worms*)
- Spayed/Neutered & Microchipped

By providing your home as a foster home, you can evaluate the dog's personality and disposition around family members and other pets. This will help determine what type of adoptive home is needed. Your evaluation of the dog, and the suitability of the prospective adoptive family, is invaluable to the dog's placement. **DO NOT HESITATE** to voice your observations and concerns about a family that may be interested in adopting.

Rules for Fostering:

1. The Weimaraner you are fostering should never be allowed off leash unless it is in your safely fenced yard with locked gates.
2. Always keep the collar with rabies and rescue tag on the dog. A choke collar (if provided) is for walking your foster dog on a leash. A choke collar may be fatal for the dog if left unattended, as dogs can hang themselves if left unattended in a choke collar.
3. Please feed only the food and amounts recommended (Taste of the Wild, Blue Buffalo, Costco Kirkland's, or Nature's Recipe). No table food, please!
4. If a crate has been provided to you, please be sure to use it when the dog is to be left alone. This will insure the dog's safety as well as the safety of your home.
5. Should the dog you are fostering become ill, **PLEASE NOTIFY RESCUE IMMEDIATELY!** We prefer to take our recues to our vets who know their history. In case of an extreme emergency, such as an accident or bloat, take the doge to the nearest available veterinarian immediately, **AND NOTIFY RESCUE IMMEDIATELY.**
6. **DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO TAKE THE DOG FROM ITS FORSTER HOME!** The potential adopters are welcome to come visit, but they are instructed to call their Adoption Coordinator for the adoption and release process.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless WRT, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents and representatives for all manner of actions and causes of actions, suits, debts, dues, accounts, bonds, covenants, contracts, agreements, judgements, claims, and demands whatsoever arising out of my possession and placement of this dog. Unconfirmed and unverified information has been voluntarily provided to WRT, but no investigation has been undertaken regarding the history or physical condition of the dog, its background, suitability, or compatibility. I also agree to surrender the dog to Weimaraner Rescue of Texas at any time if requested, and I agree to release the dog to WRT only.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Dog's Name

Address

Microchip #

Telephone Number

Rescue Volunteer

E-mail address

Rescue Volunteer Phone Number



Dog Profile

Dog's Name:		Sex:		Age:	
Color:		Condition:			
Rescue Date:		Foster to Adopt Date:		Adoption Final Date:	

Vaccines Received	Date Received	Veterinary Facility Providing Care
DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza & Parvovirus)		
Bordetella		
Rabies		
Leptospirosis		
Influenza H3N2		
Influenza H3N8		

Other Veterinary Care Received	Date Received	Veterinary Facility Providing Care
Wellness Exam		
Bath – Dip – Ear Cleaning		
Heartworm Test		
Heartworm Treatment (30 or 60 day)		
Fecal Test		
Dental		
Spay/Neuter		

Microchip Number: _____ Manufacturer: _____

Heartworm Preventative Brand: _____ Date Last Given: _____

Good with: <i>(Check all that apply)</i> Cats: <input type="checkbox"/> Small Dogs: <input type="checkbox"/> Kids (0-10): <input type="checkbox"/> Large Dogs: <input type="checkbox"/> Kids (10+): <input type="checkbox"/>	Training: <i>(Check all that apply)</i> Sit: <input type="checkbox"/> Stay: <input type="checkbox"/> Come: <input type="checkbox"/> Down: <input type="checkbox"/> House: <input type="checkbox"/> Crate: <input type="checkbox"/> Leash: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
--	---

Medications / Other: _____

Notes: _____



Care Instructions for _____

Daily Schedule

Exercise: _____

Feeding: _____

Time: _____

Amount: _____

Prescription Medications: _____

AM & PM: _____

AM Only: _____

PM Only: _____

Supplements/OTC Medication: _____

Monthly Heartworm Medication: _____

Potty Habits/Signals: _____

Likes & Dislikes

Likes: _____

Dislikes: _____

Behaviors

Other

Weimaraner Rescue of Texas

