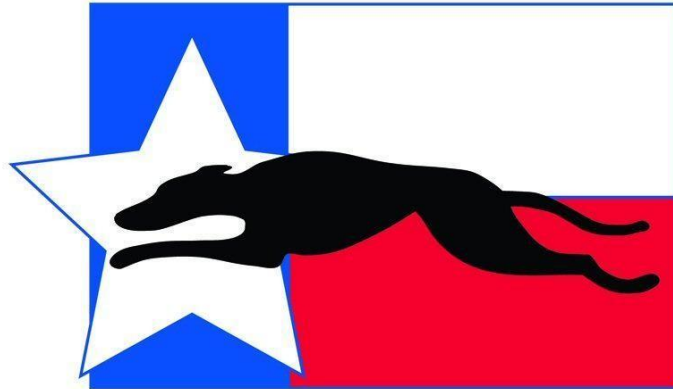


Foster Manual

Greyhound Adoption League *of* Texas incorporated



Greyt Athletes
Companions

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Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to read our fostering manual. This manual and program are a work in progress, and we would love to hear your suggestions on how to make things work better for everyone.

We hope that you enjoy teaching your foster how to retire to a life as a loving, well behaved family pet. A foster greyhound may enter your life for a few days, a few weeks, or even several months. Remember, "the gift is in the goodbye" - you are the bridge to your foster's new life. You sacrifice a bit of your heart and home to help these dogs, and while it can cause some tears, it creates joy as well.

There is a [contact list](#) included in this manual (you may want to print this page). This list will help you get in touch with key GALT representatives: the foster coordinators, the medical coordinators, and the adoption coordinators.

As foster parents, your main GALT contacts are the foster coordinators. They are always willing to answer questions or put you in touch with the person who can answer them. The only stupid questions are the ones that you fail to ask! You will also be in contact with the adoption coordinators during the process of finding a forever home for your foster dog. Any medical care your foster dog needs will go through the medical coordinators.

For ease of writing, all greyhounds will be referred to as "he" "his" or "him" throughout the rest of this manual.

There are three types of foster dogs, you may have one or more of these types based on your availability to foster:

- Regular foster dogs stay with you until they are adopted – they will be available for adoption when they have completed their medical procedures and have been in a home long enough for their personalities to be clear
- Injured Reserve (IR) foster dogs are not yet available for adoption since they are going through medical treatment - they cannot attend events
- Temporary/Vacation fosters are with you for a short while and may or may not be available



Fostering Guidelines

The Foster In Your Home

Before your foster arrives, dog-proof your home. Take food off the countertops, hide the trash can, close the toilet lids, put away treats and toys belonging to your own pets that might be high value to the new foster.

Your foster dog has arrived! Before anything else happens, take them into the yard or out for a short walk to give them a chance to eliminate. This will start them off on the right foot and prevent any immediate accidents inside the home. If your foster is male, put a belly band on him upon entering your house.

If you have other pets, introductions are important. Remember - if you have cats, your foster may have passed a cat test, though has not lived long term with cats yet. Please refer to the Behavior/Training section for directions on introducing your foster to your other pets. Keep in mind that introductions to dogs, cats, and children need to be always supervised by an adult.

After the introductions, introduce your foster to your home - walk him around while on leash. Show him the water bowl. See the [Inside the House](#) section below for more suggestions.

The first day (and night) might be a little rough. Your foster may be panting, pacing, and generally anxious about being in a new place. Be patient with them and try to create a quiet environment for them to relax in - the crate or a dog bed in a quiet corner. Keep them in a crate or confined to the bedroom the first few nights - no nocturnal wanderings means no surprises to step in when you get up.

Please use the name that GALT gave your foster dog. Calling a foster dog by a different name can cause confusion with other GALT volunteers, the GALT vets, and potential adopters. With the help of a few treats, it is easy to teach a foster dog to respond to the name that GALT has given them if they don't already know it. A nickname or two is probably inevitable, however, they should know their official name.

Inside the House

It is quite possible that your new foster dog has never been inside a home before. Stairs, mirrors, glass doors, ceiling fans, TV – it's all new to him! Show him around on leash at first, correcting any inclinations to get up on the furniture or surf the counters. You may

want to crate your new foster for an hour so they can observe the household in action. Encouragement may be needed to go up and down stairways.

When you unleash your foster, monitor them. This is easier if they only have access to a few rooms at first; close doors to bedrooms and bathrooms. If your foster is a boy, have him wear a belly band and watch for signs of marking. Take him to his potty area outside regularly and fairly frequently at first. See the [Behavior/Training](#) section for tips on housebreaking. From puppyhood, to training, to track life, they have had a set schedule for turnouts, feedings, and exercise. Your dog will do best when kept on a regular schedule.

Your foster dog must be kept indoors as a house pet. Greyhounds do not have enough hair or body fat to shield them from extreme temperatures. If you are uncomfortable outside whether it's hot or cold, then they are most likely uncomfortable as well. They should live indoors with you in a temperature-controlled environment. For these reasons, dog doors should be shutoff in extreme temperatures.

Outside the House

If you have a yard, the gates should be locked. Never let your dog off leash unless you know for certain that the area is completely fenced in and the gates are securely closed. The last thing any of us ever want is a loose greyhound!

When your foster dog is on leash, make sure it is looped around your wrist – hand strength is not enough if a greyhound decides to take off after an impudent squirrel or rabbit. For this same reason, children should not walk a foster dog.

If you have a pool, be aware that while most dogs are natural swimmers, some greyhounds are not very good swimmers and should never be left unattended. Leash walk your foster dog around the pool to familiarize him with it before you let him loose in the yard. Watch him closely around the pool.

Greyhounds can work up fairly good speed, even in a small yard. Look for small stumps or pipes that could break or dislocate a toe. Metal landscape edging can slice between toes. Bushes with sharp, broken branches at the greyhound eye level can cause injury too. Check for poisonous plants - some of the more deadly plants and landscaping elements are:

Yew	English holly berries	Jerusalem cherry
Water hemlock	Rattlebox	Jimson weed
Rhododendron	Foxglove	Cocoa Mulch
Mistletoe	Philodendron	Azaleas
Milkweed	Corn Cockle	Carolina Jasmine
Oleander	Castor bean	Cyclamen

It is GALT policy that foster dogs may not be taken to a dog park at any time. Although greyhounds enjoy exercise, running is not a necessity. Walks and/or playing in the

backyard can provide the same type of entertainment and fun. Problems can develop in an instant, and it is almost certain that you will not be able to control your foster dog by voice commands at a dog park. GALT cannot afford to be liable for an incident caused by or to a foster dog. Dog parks are also fertile ground for picking up intestinal parasites, fleas and ticks.

In the Car

If you have an SUV, don't load and unload your foster from the back lift door unless you have attached the leash to a secure point in the vehicle and to a dog's harness (never tether to the collar). While the door is going up or down, the foster dog can get out!

Some dogs get car sick – please notify a medical coordinator if your foster dog constantly gets car sick so they can suggest potential solutions.

Make sure your dog has a chance to potty before getting in the car, especially if you have been at an indoor location for a while.

Teach your dog how to ride politely in the car. Encourage them to lay down. Do not let them ride with the windows all the way down in the back – they might try to jump out.

Supplies

GALT Provided

- Martingale collar and 4 ft leash
- Muzzle
- Belly band (for male dogs)
- Monthly preventive medications (see the [Medical Section](#))
- Crate, if needed)

Foster Family Provided

- Good quality dog food
- Fresh water
- Food & water bowls (preferably elevated)
- Treats and toys
- Soft and comfy beds, blankets, and pillows
- Lots of love and affection!

General Care

Food and Water

Provide access to fresh, clean water. Rinse out food & water bowls at least once a day.

Feed a high-quality, high-protein kibble (dry food). Chicken and rice or lamb and rice formulas are recommended. Look at the ingredients – the first two to four ingredients

should be an identified meat or meat meal. The food should not contain corn, wheat or by-products. Brands that are commonly used by other greyhound owners and foster families are:

- Natural Balance
- Nutro-Lamb & Rice
- Wellness
- Kirkland (available at Costco)
- Nature's Domain (available at Costco)
- Purina Pro Plan
- California Natural
- Innova

You may choose to mix canned food with dry kibble to add moisture. You can also add some water to help with digestion. We recommend feeding two meals a day. This will let you monitor your foster's intake and makes for more scheduled 'output.' Keep an eye on your foster dog's weight and eating habits and adjust the amount as necessary.

A typical greyhound eats about 3 to 4 cups of kibble daily depending on the food, the dog, and his activity level. A smaller female might be fine with 3 cups, while a larger male might need more than 4 cups. Free feeding in a multi-dog home is not advisable and can result in over/under feeding as well as injury to the GALT dog and/or your dogs. If you plan to free-feed your foster in a multi-dog home, please consult a foster coordinator beforehand.

Do not overfeed your greyhound! Extra weight puts unnecessary and dangerous pressure on their joints and long legs. You should be able to see their last 2-3 ribs and the points of their hip bones.

Adding a small spoonful of plain yogurt can help reduce greyhound gas. Adding a small spoonful of canned 100% pure pumpkin can help with loose stools.

Do not feed your greyhound within an hour before or after strenuous exercise– it could lead to bloat, which is life-threatening. If he is panting heavily then he should not be eating until he is breathing normally.

Raised food bowls are highly recommended (10-14"). A plant stand with a lip can make an inexpensive bowl stand.

Do not feed your foster dog close to your own dog(s). They may be protective of their food bowls or not respectful of the bowls of others. Feed your foster in a separate area, or in his crate. Always supervise mealtimes. It is best to let him outside to relieve himself as soon as he's done eating.

Never give your dog these foods or drinks:

- Anything with Xylitol (sometimes called birch sugar), an artificial sugar. Read the labels closely, some peanut butter and supplements contain this deadly chemical
- Chocolate – contains theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs
- Alcohol – thirsty dogs can drink fatal amounts quickly
- Bones – they can splinter or be swallowed whole and sharp ends can pierce the stomach or intestines – cooked chicken, pork, and fish bones are dangerous
- Food that could be spoiled
- Supplements – unless prescribed by the veterinarian or recommended/supplied by GALT
- Cat food – too high in protein and fats
- Caffeinated beverages
- Raisins, grapes, onions

Treats

When selecting treats, choose good quality basics and natural biscuits. Avoid treats that contain lots of dye and sugar. Bully sticks (American made), CET Chews, and dog biscuits are examples of good treats for a foster dog. Kongs stuffed with goodies such as kibble mixed with canned food or with a topper of peanut butter are a good long-lasting treat in the crate. Treats are an excellent positive reinforcement. Always supervise or give long lasting treats/chews in a crate to make sure there are no issues between dogs.

If you need to take a treat or toy away from a foster, always trade up for a higher value treat or teach them “drop it” or “give it.”

Once your foster has learned to take a treat gently, you can have children give them treats. Please make sure the child does not ever try to take a treat or a toy away from a dog who is not trained to “drop it” or “give it.”

Grooming

Check your foster dog frequently for cuts, scrapes, fleas, and ticks. Do NOT use flea collars – they are not safe for greyhounds.

It is not unusual to have increased shedding and/or dandruff as well as increased water intake when dogs feel anxious and stressed. Remember increased water intake means increased urination. If your foster is having accidents at night, take away water access an hour before bedtime.

Keep your foster well groomed – bathe them, brush their teeth, clean their ears, and clip nails as needed. Foster checkpoint appointments are available on certain Saturdays each month for you to take your foster for a bath and nail trim. If you need further assistance with nail trimming, please contact a foster or medical coordinator.

Brush often with a grooming mitt, glove, or Zoom Groom. Do not use wire-bristle brushes – these are too harsh for a greyhound's thin skin. Most dogs will enjoy the attention, and their coats will look much shinier and healthy.

Play

Teach your foster greyhound to play! This is something he may have never done. Greyhounds love soft stuffed animals, especially if they squeak.

Be sure to monitor play with other pets – do not leave them alone with toys or treats. Some dogs do not share toys well; you may discover your own dog or the foster displaying possessive behavior. Play between dogs should be stopped before it gets too rough, or if one dog is being a bully. Don't let fun escalate into a dog fight.

Inform a foster or medical coordinator if you observe any extreme possessive or destructive behavior. Or if your foster has eaten part of a toy.

Ingesting toys or other foreign objects can be life-threatening. If your foster is rough on soft toys, please try the more durable ones like rope toys or rubber Kong or something along those lines. If your foster shreds and eats toys, it may be best to only allow play time with toys when you can monitor.

Help foster dogs learn the difference between children's toys and dog toys. Do not allow them to play with shoes, socks, towels, clothing, etc.

Sleeping

If you crate your dog during the day, try not to crate your foster at night. Allow him to sleep on a dog bed in an adult's bedroom. A new greyhound takes great comfort in being close to his foster parents. This gives him security and enhances bonding. Use a baby gate at your door if you do not close it. This will prevent him from wandering off and if he needs to go out you will know it.

"Let sleeping dogs lie" is a golden rule to follow for everyone. At the kennel or racetrack, the only time a person could touch a sleeping greyhound was after he had made noise opening the crate or kennel door. They are not accustomed to being touched without warning when they are sleeping. Some greyhounds sleep with their eyes open – always say the dog's name to wake them before touching them. Make sure any children are aware that they should leave a sleeping dog alone, and never let a child enter a dog's crate.

Your foster dog should sleep or lounge on a dog bed or in their crate. Do not let him up on furniture or beds as this limits their adoptability or can create problems when they go to their adoptive homes.

Administrative Details

Ownership

All foster dogs are the sole property of the Greyhound Adoption League of Texas, Inc. and shall be returned to GALT upon request.

ID Tags

Make sure your foster dog always wears his GALT-provided Martingale collar and GALT tag. If your foster can with a tracking collar, it is because they are considered a flight risk and the tracker must be worn at all times.

LOST FOSTERS

Should your foster dog get loose, contact Suzanne Burke at 940-230-4798 immediately! In New Mexico, call Diane Howell at 405-213-7948 or Todd Howell at 505-604-1198. We will gather a group of people to help search for your foster.

The Racing Industry

As a foster family, you are a representative of GALT. Our focus is on greyhounds as pets. It is a GALT policy to remain neutral on the greyhound racing industry – we do not take a stand one way or the other. Remember many of the dogs we receive in our program come from the racing industry and we do not tolerate negative comments. You are entitled to your own opinion; however, when representing GALT, please keep your comments neutral. Remember this when you introduce your foster dog to the public. It helps to guide the conversation towards what we are currently doing to help the greyhounds and away from the racing question.

Insurance

If your foster inflicts injury to another dog or person on your property, the liability portion of your homeowner's insurance policy may cover you. You may want to check with your insurance company to find out how and when such protection is extended. Contact a GALT representative immediately if you have a problem. We encourage you to enjoy your foster dog and socialize him as you would your own dog.

GALT carries liability insurance for events such as Meet and Greets or community festivals.

As a foster family, it is your responsibility to keep ALL animals in your home safe, including your foster dog. Also, please remember that GALT is not responsible for:

- Damages to your home or possessions
- Illnesses contracted by your own pets while you are fostering a GALT greyhound

With a few common-sense precautions, you should be able to prevent any damage and illnesses. If your foster grey has a medical condition that requires some diligence on your part to keep your other pets healthy, you will be instructed accordingly.

Checking In

The foster and adoption coordinators need to be aware of how your foster dog is adjusting to life in a home. The foster coordinators will try to check in with you from time to time. If you have issues or questions, please contact them rather than waiting to hear from them. Don't assume that they know you're having problems – open communication is important.

In the DFW area, Foster Checkpoint appointments are available each month on select Saturdays for foster baths and nail trims. These appointments help the medical coordinators keep an eye out for potential problems as well as helping you with grooming. We ask for you to take your foster in every other month for a checkpoint. If you live farther than 45 minutes from the vet, there is an online checkpoint form that we ask you to fill out and send in with a current picture of your foster.

Checkpoint form: <http://galtx.org/help/foster-checkpoint.shtml>

Your foster's personality will slowly develop and bloom as they relax and grow accustomed to your home. Please notice his developing personality, likes and dislikes, and quirks. Remember, it could take several weeks for a greyhound to show his true personality. This is also when he may begin to show behaviors you will want to correct (see the [Behavior/Training](#) section).

The foster profile is a crucial link between the adopter and the dog. Foster parents should submit a profile on their foster dog after he settles in, and you get a feel for his personality. Updates to the profile are encouraged if anything major changes. The adoption coordinators use these profiles to try to match applicants with dogs, the profile includes a question for a write-up that will go on the foster dog's webpage – this is a great way to connect with potential adopters.

Profile form: <http://galtx.org/help/foster-profile.shtml>

Out of Town

If you are going to be away from home, notify a foster coordinator of the dates. They will find an alternate foster home for your foster dog while you are away. Please give at least 3-4 weeks' notice to give them adequate time to place your foster. Placing your foster in an alternate foster home while you are away ensures that they are available to potential adopters and are being cared for by someone familiar with GALT guidelines.

Do not leave town with your foster dog or leave your dog with a friend, neighbor, or dog-sitter without permission from a GALT representative. We need to know where the foster dogs are – they may need follow-up medical procedures or might need to meet a potential adopter on short notice. If a foster dog is left with someone who does not have a foster agreement with us, it exposes GALT to liability issues.



Meet & Greets/Adoptions

Meet & Greets

We rely on our foster parents to take pictures and videos of their foster dog doing what they do best – zooming, roaching, playing, sitting (if you're lucky), sleeping and just being adorable. Please send pictures and videos to events@galtx.org. Additionally, be sure to write a bio for their webpage. To do so either complete a foster profile or send an email to fostering@galtx.org.

When we have events, it is essential that foster families attend the Meet and Greet with their foster dogs. This is the primary place where people can meet greyhounds and get information on them. Having your foster at these events gives prospective families the opportunity to start picturing them as part of their lives. Dogs that are seen at events are usually adopted out faster than those who do not attend.

The events coordinator is in charge of scheduling and tracking the meet & greet attendance. They in turn inform the adoption coordinators so they can direct potential adopters to the correct events. The event schedule sign-up will be emailed out monthly - please respond promptly. If you sign up for an event and are unable to attend, notify a foster coordinator as soon as possible.

If a potential adopter requests to see your foster dog, we will try to find an event you can both attend as soon as possible. If you cannot make it, we will try to get someone else to transport your foster, or we will try to find a time and place mutually agreeable to introduce your foster to the potential adopter(s). If you have feedback after a potential adopter, please share it with an adoption coordinator

Appearance

- Arrive on time
- Dress neatly, preferably with a GALT shirt
- Store bags or purses out of sight
- Keep the space neat and clean
- Don't block the aisles, walkways, or doorways
- Try to remain standing – it looks more approachable to people. If you need to sit for medical reasons, bring a chair instead of sitting on the floor.

Talking Points

- Smile and greet people
- Make sure someone is answering questions for each interested person

- If you are unsure how to answer a question, ask another GALT volunteer – don't guess
- Try to learn the names and ages of the other dogs at the event, and a few other facts if possible
- Always offer a card to interested visitors
- GALT is neutral on the subject of greyhound racing – please remember that you are representing GALT at an event and do not express a personal opinion on racing
- Over-selling your foster dog or greyhounds in general is pushy and can scare off a potential adopter
- Please do not recommend the products or services of a competitor while attending an event in one of our sponsor locations
- Please do not recommend GALT dogs who are not yet available for adoption such as IR dogs
- Please do not promise a particular greyhound to an adopter - there are always several applications in progress and you won't know which dogs may already be pending adoption to someone else
- Please do encourage people to submit an online application
- Be upbeat and positive about your foster dog and greyhounds – unfavorable comments made in a joking manner may not be taken in that light

Foster Dogs

- Only available dogs who have been altered and are not on injured reserve may attend events
- Make sure your foster dog is well groomed for the event
- Keep your foster on a short leash and try not to let them get tangled up with people or other dogs
- Monitor behavior very closely when children or small animals are around
- Monitor your foster's behavior with the other GALT greyhounds
- Watch for signs that indicate a potty break is needed and take your foster outside
- Clean up after your foster's potty breaks
- If you need a short break, get another GALT volunteer to hold your foster dog
- If you are standing close to pet store animals like kittens, ferrets, or birds and your foster is showing aggressive behavior, move away from that area - you may find it funny, though it can be alarming to other people

Adoptions

Pre-Adoption

A successful adoption begins with a well-trained foster dog! Teaching your foster good house and leash manners will set him up for an easy transition to his forever home. Some of the most common reasons dogs are returned after adoption are house-training problems, separation anxiety, and inappropriate behaviors. Set your foster up for success by teaching them good habits and working on eliminating bad habits.

The GALT adoption coordinators work with each adoption applicant to match them with a greyhound that fits their household and lifestyle. It is important for you to keep the adoption and foster coordinators informed about the personality, behaviors, and health of your foster dog.

If someone inquires about your foster dog directly, encourage them to fill out an online application or to contact the adoption coordinator handling their application. You have no way of knowing if there are applications from people interested in your foster that might take precedence. Please do not assume your dog remains available. The adoption coordinators are the only ones who really know what's going on with adoptions!

If you are interested in adopting your foster, please let an adoption or foster coordinator know as soon as you start thinking about that decision. Otherwise, the foster will be considered available for adoption by someone else.

The Adoption Process

When your foster dog is a potential match with an adopter, you will be contacted by an adoption coordinator. You might be asked to introduce your foster dog to an adopter at a meet & greet, at their home, in your home, in another suitable location, or even virtually for out-of-state adopters. If you do not feel comfortable with any of the arrangements, please let us know so we can make adjustments to the plans. Do not make arrangements to meet a potential adopter with your foster dog unless an adoption coordinator is involved and aware.

Approved applicants have gone through a screening process, including reference checks, a vet check, and a home check. We do not take placing your foster dog in an adoptive home lightly; foster parents are included in the decision making process.

Introduce your foster to the prospective adopters and help them interact in a positive fashion. If there are other pets involved, make sure you know how to properly introduce a dog to a cat, small animal, or other dog before the meeting. Emphasize your foster dog's virtues and be truthful about their idiosyncrasies. If the prospective adopter visits your home, please put your own pets in another area so they can focus on your foster dog.

Your foster profile can be used to help share your foster's schedule and personality with his new family - please update it before the adoption if anything has changed since the last time you filled it out.

Post-Adoption

You are encouraged to stay in contact with the family who adopts your foster and assist them with any transition problems that might occur. Inform a foster or adoption coordinator of any problems the new family may be experiencing. Also encourage the new family to become part of our volunteer group. Invite them to functions and encourage them to participate in GALT activities.



Behavior / Training

Philosophy

- GALT advocates positive reinforcement-based training methods. Clicker training is an excellent positive way to train your foster dog.
- Muzzles and crates are useful training tools – they are not cruel. They can be used to protect the dog or prevent unacceptable behavior until good habits are instilled.
- GALT does not tolerate the use of physical discipline or choke/pinch collars; use of other negative tactics like loud verbal commands and squirt bottles of water are also highly discouraged.
- If you need any advice or assistance with training or behavior issues, contact a foster coordinator. They can offer help or put you in touch with a behavior specialist.

Housetraining

Greyhounds come from the track crate-trained, and the transition to housetraining is usually accomplished in a short time period.

- Never verbally correct a dog unless you catch him in the act of peeing or pooping; a dog is not able to connect your correction with a prior action, even if it's only a few minutes later. This may be the most important component of housetraining.
- When the dog "takes care of business" outside, praise profusely and/or offer treats.
- Keep your new foster on his leash initially so that close monitoring is easier. Let him outside each time he gets up. This is an easy way to monitor your foster if you are sitting still at a table or on the couch. If you are moving around the house and unable to watch closely, it might be better to keep your foster in his crate.
- Take the dog outside often at first (every two hours at least) to prevent indoor accidents.
- If you catch the dog in the act of peeing or pooping inside, correct the dog with a firm "no" and take him outside immediately. Wait outside for a little while to see if he finishes going – he may not go at all if he was nearly done or was marking.
- When you are not at home, confine the dog in a crate or to a familiar room where he feels comfortable.
- Supervise! Do not allow the grey to have free run of the house until you are sure that he is housetrained and non-destructive.
- If you have a dog door, train your foster dog to go outside to potty before allowing him to use the dog door freely. His adopter may not have a dog door.

- We provide washable belly bands for boy dogs – these can help eliminate indoor marking behavior with less risk to your furniture.

Dog Introductions

If you have other dogs in your home, you will need to manage the introduction of your new foster dog to your personal dog(s).

Dogs need to have the ability to move their bodies in order to use calming signals and proper body language to communicate with other dogs. When the dogs are held on a tight, restrictive leash, they are unable to move and use their own language with each other; this can cause aggression. If one dog is leashed, then all dogs need to be leashed and vice versa. Dog to dog introductions should be done on long, loosely-held leashes so that the dogs feel no leash pressure from their handler. It is best to muzzle all the dogs during the initial meeting.

Walk the dogs side by side until they're settled. Take the dogs to a neutral fenced in area. Walk the dogs past each other several times with a loose leash, then drop the leashes at the same time and continue moving with the dogs toward each other. Let the leashes drag, in case you do need to pick them up quickly.

If you believe either of the dogs is showing signs of aggression, pick up the leash and quietly, with no correction, take them away from each other. Walk them around separately a bit more and try again in a few minutes. Sometimes it takes two to three meetings before the dogs begin to accept each other. Some dogs just don't like each other and it's not a good match, no matter how hard we try.

Signs of aggression or dominance:

- Head and tail held high and stiff
- Tail held high and wagging stiffly
- Raised hair along the spine
- Lip licking, yawning, or staring
- Growling or snapping of the teeth
- Attempting to mount another dog

We strongly suggest that you do not leave the dogs alone unattended until they have earned that trust. Use your muzzles outside and inside as necessary.

If your foster is over-excited with the new house and new dogs, it might be best to crate them for a little while to give them a chance to settle down and observe the household.

Never allow your foster dog to run and play with small dogs unsupervised – play can turn to hunt in a flash and no small dog is fast enough to escape a determined greyhound.

Cat Introductions

If you have cats, we will give you a foster dog who has been tested with cats and found to be cat-trainable. That does not mean that they have lived with cats before, and they should not be considered fully cat safe until they have earned it. Some dogs have a good initial test, then change their minds.

Introduce the foster dog to your cat indoors with the greyhound muzzled and leashed. Make sure you have a firm hold on the leash. Leave the cat on the floor. Walk toward the cat slowly. If the dog pulls or lunges, give a sharp tug on the leash and a firm "NO!" Correct the dog every time it shows interest in the cat.

The second phase is removing the muzzle and keeping the dog on leash. If the dog is still behaving appropriately with the cats without the muzzle, you can put the muzzle back on and remove the leash while supervising closely.

Do not allow your foster dog to mingle freely and unsupervised with cats until you have observed consistent good behavior and interactions with the cats over several days. We strongly recommend continuing to keep the dog and cats separate while alone in the house using a crate or a baby gate.

Your foster might be comfortable with your cat inside, yet seeing one outside is a different matter entirely. Never let your dog and cat share pet door access. Your foster dog and cat should never be outside together. No cat is fast enough to escape a determined greyhound. Just because your foster dog is comfortable with your cat does not mean he will automatically be safe with another cat indoors. Introduce him carefully to any new cat.

If you see any of the following signs in your foster dog while around your cats, separate the dog from the cats **immediately** and contact a foster coordinator:

- Teeth snapping or clicking with alert ears
- Fixed gaze or stare that cannot be broken
- Trembling or lunging

Leash Training

Take your foster dog for walks and teach him to stroll calmly on a leash. The exercise is good for both of you!

For dogs that pull excessively, shorten the leash or try a head halter (like Gentle Leader) or a no-pull training harness. If you have a question about what halters or harnesses are acceptable, please contact a foster coordinator. We may have a GALT halter or harness that you can borrow.

A harness can also be helpful with a skittish dog who might back out of his collar. Be patient with shy or skittish dogs. Give them a little time if they freeze up and then encourage them to continue without dragging them down the block.

Crate Training

Dogs coming from the track are already crate trained. The crate is a valuable tool to use when slowly introducing your foster dog to life in a house. Many dogs consider their crate a safe place they can go if they're feeling overwhelmed. The crate should be a happy place for your dog where treats and food appear.

We strongly recommend that you crate your foster dog when you leave the house. Or confine him to one room with baby gates. Once your foster dog is accustomed to your household, the rules, and has been observed behaving appropriately with your other pets, then you could start to give them a little more freedom around the house. Start with short periods of time and work up to longer absences. We encourage you to not completely abandon the use of the crate – your dog's adoptive home may want to utilize a crate.

If your dog barks excessively in the crate, or repeatedly tries to escape the crate, or you see any damage to the dog or crate, cease use and contact your foster coordinator.

Undesirable Behaviors

You should train your foster dog to be a good house guest. They should not jump up on people, get on furniture, counter surf, chew on inappropriate material, or exhibit possessive behavior with food or toys.

Good behavior should be rewarded with praise and/or a treat. Rewarding good behavior is much easier for your foster dog to understand than negative words for bad behavior.

Storms

Most dogs react to thunder if it's loud enough. Some dogs are unsettled by any thunder. Monitor your foster dog's behavior for signs of anxiety (pacing, excessive panting, trembling). A foster or medical coordinator can provide suggestions to reduce anxiety during a storm. If they exhibit severe anxiety, we may need to work with the vet or a behavior specialist.

Behavior Help

If you need advice on behavior issues, a foster coordinator can provide advice or put you in touch with a behavior specialist.



Medical

A foster parent is the only GALT representative that has daily contact with their foster dog. You are the primary line of defense when it comes to his safety and health. When it comes to any medical issues, we have knowledgeable medical coordinators to advise you and schedule any necessary vet visits – this helps us keep costs down so we can help as many greyhounds as possible. Of course, in a life-threatening emergency, seek help for your foster dog immediately and contact GALT as soon as you can.

Primary GALT Veterinarians in Dallas

VCA Preston Park Animal Hospital
18770 Preston Rd
Dallas TX 75252
972-985-0081

Primary GALT New Mexico Veterinarian: Our primary provider is open Thursday through Monday at noon:

Kokopelli Animal Clinic
3301 Coors Blvd NW suite c, Albuquerque, NM 87120
Phone: (505) 315-2715 (Diane Howell 405-213-7948 will schedule the appointment)

Routine Medical Attention

If you think your foster dog needs medical attention, call a medical coordinator. They schedule visits to the primary GALT veterinarians and other authorized vets.

With prior approval, GALT may approve medical care provided by the foster's personal vets if our authorized veterinarians are not available. In those circumstances, GALT will reimburse the foster parent.

If you are uncertain if your dog may need medical attention, please ask a medical coordinator!

Examples of medical conditions that may need veterinary attention:

- Broken tooth
- Minor lacerations
- Difficulty defecating or urinating
- Diarrhea or vomiting (more than one or two episodes)
- Lethargy
- Consistent limping

- Prolonged, excessive panting with no physical exertion
- Long episodes of coughing
- Not eating or drinking for 24 hours
- Sudden changes in behavior
- Signs of pain (crying, standing with an arched back, listlessness)
- Persistent scratching or chewing at spots on the body
- Skin rash
- Abnormal lumps or bumps that are painful, red or hot to the touch

Emergency Medical Attention

In the event of an **emergency**, contact a Medical Coordinator and seek veterinary care immediately. The dog's health and safety are first and foremost. If the dog can be transported to VCA Preston Park Animal Hospital or designated vet in NM without endangering his life or health, please do so. If this is not possible, obtain care by the best means available.

Notify a medical and foster coordinator of emergencies as soon as possible. GALT will coordinate the treatment and reimburse the foster parent for emergency care.

Examples of emergency conditions:

- Severe difficulty breathing with bluish or white gums or tongue
- Severe trauma (broken bone, heavy bleeding, eye injury, burns)
- Poison/toxin exposure
- Heat stroke
- Bloat
- Uncontrolled vomiting
- Choking
- Severe seizures
- Unconsciousness

At the Vet

Please remember that VCA Preston Park Animal Hospital and other authorized GALT vets provide services at a reduced cost and donate part of the services they provide. We pay less for the routine care, office visits, spay or neuter, dental cleaning, and heartworm testing for the dogs. We are very fortunate that they are so generous with their services.

Please follow these procedures:

- Do not call the vet's office directly unless it is an emergency situation.
- The medical coordinators will schedule all visits.
- When they ask for your foster, they will take him from you and you will likely wait for them or pick them up later that day.
- In some cases you will not receive instructions or medications from the vet or staff. They will communicate any necessary information to a medical

coordinator who will advise you either before you pick up the dog or later that day.

- Be patient and polite to everyone you encounter during a visit to the vet. Please remember that in this situation you are a representative of GALT. What you do or say reflects directly on GALT.
- If you are dissatisfied with any treatment or situation that arises while you are visiting the vet, contact a medical and/or foster coordinator as soon as possible and describe the situation.
- If you ever have questions or concerns, please contact a medical coordinator.

Monthly Preventative Care

GALT mails your foster dog's monthly preventative medications (heartworm and/or flea/tick) near the first of each month. Dogs being treated for hookworms receive their heartworm preventative through this protocol. In this case, you will only receive flea/tick preventative.

It's important to administer these medications on schedule so that there is no lapse in preventative coverage. If you have any questions about the medications you receive or their application, please contact a medical coordinator.

Medication

The foster family will be asked to, when necessary, administer medication and follow veterinary instructions regarding the recovery and care of their foster greyhound.

If you are unclear on the instructions for the medication, please contact a medical coordinator. If you need advice on how to administer a medication, please ask. Some dogs take pills easily; some need more encouragement.

GALT buys the more frequently used medications in bulk. If the vet prescribes any of the following for your foster dog these medications may be supplied by a medical coordinator:

- Cephalexin
- Rimadyl
- Doxycycline
- Panacur Granules
- Clavamox
- Pyrantel Pamoate

Tapeworms

If you see little white segments in your foster dog's *fresh* stool or around his rectum, it is most likely that he has tapeworms. What you are seeing are segments of the tail containing egg sacs. They are not contagious and cannot be passed from one dog to another. They can only be contracted if the dog swallows an infected flea. If you see these signs, your foster dog will need to be treated.

Initial GALT Medical Care

All GALT dogs have their blood tested for heartworms upon intake. We also do a CBC (complete blood count), fecal test, and Protatek tick panel test. In some cases, you may be asked to provide a follow-up fecal sample – a collection container will be provided to you.

Prior to being placed in a foster home, all GALT greyhounds receive routine vaccinations. These include DHPP, Bordetella and Rabies. They also receive initial vaccinations for Leptospirosis and Canine Flu. Strays may receive an initial de-worming treatment.

The initial de-worming does not mean that your foster dog is free of intestinal parasites like hookworms - please assume that your new foster dog has parasites until you hear from a medical coordinator that we have obtained a clean fecal result. This means promptly picking up the poop in the yard.

Your foster may have already had booster vaccinations for lepto/flu (3 weeks after the initial dose). If not, you may need to take them to the vet for their boosters – this will be arranged by a medical coordinator.

We try to do spay/neuter and dental before the greyhounds go to a foster home, and sometimes the circumstances or timing does not work out. If you are asked to care for a foster that has not been spayed or neutered, please do not take them to public events like meet & greets. If an unspayed female foster goes into heat, please inform a medical coordinator. If you also have an unneutered male in your home, we will need to move the female.

Other medical procedures are performed as the dog's health allows and a medical coordinator will advise you of any procedures your foster dog may need as they are scheduled.

Post Spay/Neuter Care

If you receive a foster dog who has just been spayed or neutered, please follow these recovery guidelines:

1. Rest and relaxation are the keys to a speedy recovery. Give your foster a quiet place to rest.
2. No running or jumping for 10-14 days after a spay or 7-10 days after a neuter.
3. Check the incision area daily for swelling, redness, bruising, or bleeding. For males, make sure the scrotal area is flattening. If the sac appears swollen or full, contact a medical coordinator.
4. Do not let the dog chew or lick the incision. Use the provided E-collar or taped up basket muzzle. Stitches are generally removed about 12 days after surgery unless dissolvable stitches are used. Having to be re-sutured is an avoidable painful experience for your foster and GALT is also charged if the dog needs to be re-sutured.

Injured Reserve Dogs

If you are fostering a dog who is on the injured reserve list, they should not go to public events like meet & greets. They are in your care to recover from medical issues such as heartworm, tick borne diseases, broken legs, or other wounds. In many cases they will be on restricted activity levels and will require medication. Please follow all instructions from the medical coordinators to ensure that your foster dog recovers as quickly and comfortably as possible. Injured Reserve dogs may not yet be spayed or neutered and also may not have received all of their vaccinations.

A medical coordinator will provide instructions on specifics of your IR dog's condition and what special needs they have. For instance, dogs being treated for heartworm will have activity restrictions. Dogs that have broken legs may need to go in for bandage changes. Other conditions require medications on a schedule.

Your Personal Pets

When you apply to be a foster home, GALT will do a vet check to make sure your personal pets are current on rabies and DHPP vaccinations as well as current on heartworm tests and preventatives. Your personal pets must be medically up to date for you to foster.

We also strongly recommend that your dogs be current on lepto (yearly), k9 flu (yearly), and Bordetella, aka kennel cough. We try our best to ensure that dogs ready for foster homes are not contagious, though sometimes kennel cough shows up unexpectedly. Also, our Injured Reserve fosters may not have received all their vaccinations yet, pending treatment.

If you end up wanting to adopt your foster dog, you must pass a vet check for your personal pets as well.

Quick Reference DOs and DON'Ts

Fostering DOs!

- Do attend Meet & Greets with your non-IR foster greyhound.
- Do keep a close eye on what your foster is doing at Meet & Greets, especially around children and small dogs.
- Be friendly, approachable, and knowledgeable at Meet & Greets.
- Encourage interested parties to apply online
- Give lots of love and affection to your foster.
- Keep your foster well groomed - bathe, clean ears, brush teeth, and clip nails as needed.
- Crate train your foster dog. GALT can lend you a crate if necessary.
- Provide a soft dog bed for your foster.
- Do write up a description of your foster for our web site.
- Make sure your foster puts on weight or loses weight as needed.
- Do teach your foster good house manners so that when he is adopted, he will be well behaved.
- Do use positive reinforcement to train your dog.
- Do housetrain your foster dog.
- Contact GALT immediately if your foster gets loose or has a medical emergency.
- Teach your foster to walk well on a leash.
- Inform the GALT Foster Coordinator of any issues you are having with your foster so that you can get any assistance you need.
- Follow specific instructions for IR fosters; vet visits, meds, leash walk, keep quiet, etc...
- Know your foster's quirks such as - may startle when touched while asleep, may be food, toy, or space possessive, may be thunder phobic, etc.
- Have FUN with your foster dog!

Fostering DON'Ts!

- Don't sit on the floor at Meet & Greets (If you really need to sit at all, bring a chair)
- Don't bring an Injured Reserve or unaltered foster greyhound to a Meet & Greet!
- Don't answer questions unless you are sure of the answer ~ get assistance from another GALT person who can help you!
- Don't be too pushy trying to 'over-sell' your foster at Meet & Greets (you may scare people off)!
- Don't recommend non-available greyhounds to people at Meet & Greets.
- Don't have an opinion about greyhound racing when you are representing GALT. GALT is neutral on the subject.
- Never let your foster off leash in an unenclosed area.
- Don't leave town without notifying a foster coordinator – we need to arrange for a vacation foster home.
- Don't make vet appointments on your own for your foster. All foster medical appointments are set up through a medical coordinator.
- Don't allow your foster on your furniture. The foster dog does not care if your dog is allowed to.
- Never use physical discipline on your foster.
- Don't allow your foster to get over-weight. You should be able to see their last 2-3 ribs and be able to feel the hip bones.
- Don't allow your foster to counter-surf, chew inappropriately, or jump on people.
- Don't unload your foster from the back lift gate of your vehicle unless you have secured them from jumping out. As the door is going up the foster can go OUT.
- Don't assume that GALT knows if you are having any issues with your foster. Contact a Foster Coordinator for assistance.



Greyhounds Frequently Asked Questions can be found at:
[Greyhound FAQs](#)

Fostering Frequently Asked Questions can be found at:
[Fostering FAQs](#)



Contacts

**IF YOUR FOSTER SLIPS OUT OF YOUR HOUSE OR YARD,
DFW Area: CALL Suzanne Burke at 940-230-4798 IMMEDIATELY!
NEW MEXICO area: CALL Diane Howell at 405-213-7948 or Todd Howell
at 505-604-1198**

Foster Coordinators

- Julie Waller ~ 214-762-1736 ~ jwaller@galtx.org
- Diane Howell (New Mexico only) ~ 405-213-7948 ~ dhowell@galtx.org

Contact a foster coordinator if:

- You need to give an update on how your foster is progressing
- You plan on going out of town
- You are having behavior issues with your foster
- You are thinking about adopting your foster
- You have any fostering questions at all!

Meet & Greet/Events Coordinator

- Michelle Kehrwald ~ 915-637-1107 ~ mkehrwald@galtx.org

Contact a meet & greet coordinator if your meet & greet plans change

Adoption Coordinators

- Amy Mech (lead) ~ amech@galtx.org
- Rachel and Chris Hebert ~ rhebert@galtx.org or chebert@galtx.org
- Diane Howell (New Mexico) ~ dhowell@galtx.org
- Michelle Kehrwald ~ mkehrwald@galtx.org
- Joan Laufenberg ~ jlaufenberg@galtx.org

Contact an adoption coordinator if:

- An approved adopter would like to make plans to meet your foster
- You have met with an approved adopter about your foster
- You have any questions about your role in the adoption process!

Medical Coordinators

- Julie Waller ~ 214-762-1736 ~ jwaller@galtx.org
- Diane Howell (New Mexico only) ~ 405-213-7948 ~ dhowell@galtx.org

Contact a medical coordinator if:

- Your foster needs medical attention of any kind
- Your foster has drastic changes to their eating, sleeping, or eliminating habits
- You do not receive the monthly heartworm and flea & tick medication for your foster within the first week of the month