

# *Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue*



## *The "Rules of the Road"*



## *Successful Foster Care with GCCR*



# ARE YOU READY FOR A RESCUE DOG?

When I arrive in your home everything is strange to me...  
So I may not feel good.

You got me a beautiful bed and I wont sleep in it...  
Yesterday I slept on the cold ground.

I hurry to gobble my food...  
Yesterday I had to do it to survive.

I pee in your home and mark your furniture...  
Yesterday it's how I lived.

I cower away from your loving touch...  
Yesterday I didn't know love.

Can you be patient with me? Can you Commit to me?

**WHEN I LEARN TO TRUST YOU  
I WILL GIVE YOU GREATEST GIFT I CAN GIVE...**

**MY LOVE**

*See more at <http://gccavalierrescue.org>*





**Welcome to the World of Fostering -- Together we can make a huge difference!!**

Thank you for agreeing to become a foster parent for Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue! Becoming a part of the “world of fostering” can be one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. The cornerstone to successful fostering is based on learning how to be *extra flexible* as a foster parent, understanding what to expect next--and most importantly-- knowing when and who to ask for help.

GCCR has compiled this handout as a “ready guide” to assist you with the fostering process. Whether you are a first time foster parent-- or an experienced volunteer--we hope that you will find this information useful. You can find more detailed information and guidance on the GCCR website at [gccavalierrescue.org](http://gccavalierrescue.org).

In this handout we will cover the following important fostering topics:

- A home preparation checklist for your new GCCR foster – What do you need?
- What are the basic responsibilities of the foster parent(s)?
- Understanding GCCR’s rules for regular / emergency veterinary care
- Advice on what to expect during the first few days with your new foster
- Coordinating the adoption process with GCCR’s rescue Coordinator, Cathy Schadel.
- Where to find additional fostering resources on the main GCCR website

You are making a wonderful contribution by agreeing to be a foster parent for GCCR. Your decision will have a far reaching impact -- not just for you– but for your family, friends, and *most importantly* – for our rescue Cavaliers who depend on all of our GCCR volunteers for their commitment to the breed--and our ongoing love and devotion to these fabulous pups!



**PLEASE READ ON.....**

## Section 1: The Home Preparation Checklist



Your home will provide a whole new world for your foster pup to investigate-- and the adjustment process will take time, patience, and lots of flexibility on your part. In order to be fully prepared, GCCR suggests you have the following items ready and on hand in your home to help welcome your foster pup(s). *All normal preparation items are at the foster parents' expense.*



	Crate (20" high X 18" wide X 20"-24" long)
	Crate Pad
	Collar(s) – adjustable snap style are good!
	Leash or Harness
	Old Rugs (for under/around crate and food areas)
	Old Towels – good for rain, snow, mud, bath clean-up.
	Food/Water Dishes (stainless steel are best)
	Food – See GCCR website for more information on feeding suggestions.
	Toys – (No rawhide chews)
	Grooming Essentials (shampoo, conditioner, comb, brush, etc.)
	Small water squirt bottles (great for quick behavior correction!)
	<b>Optional</b> – Pet bed or something to curl up in near you or the family
	<b>Optional</b> -- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
	<b>Optional</b> – Coat & Boots

## Section 2: The Responsibilities of the Foster Home



- ☑ **Basic Training** -- to include house training, walking on a leash, sit, down, etc.
- ☑ **Foster families must follow all GCCR directions regarding recovery from medical procedures--including the coordination of follow-up vet visits, physical therapy appointments, and/or the dispensing of prescribed medications and/or supplements.**
- ☑ Regular and/or emergency medical care where necessary **within the confines of GCCR regulations (see Section 3 for more details).**
- ☑ **Behavior modification** – Focus on challenges like potty training, excessive barking, jumping up on people, dashing through doors, crate fear, walking on grass, unfamiliarity with a collar or leash, going up/down stairs, etc.)
- ☑ **Socialization** - Overcoming cases of extreme timidity and separation anxiety (including fear of storms, loud noises, etc). At the appropriate time, introduction to other dogs and/or pets.
- ☑ **Basic Grooming** – Regular bathing, brushing, and maintenance of coat, teeth, ears, and nails.
- ☑ **Working with the GCCR Rescue Coordinator**, Cathy Schadel, to facilitate the adoption process (includes attending some GCCR events as requested).



*Please read this important section to ensure that you fully understand all of the medical requirements of the GCCR Foster Program.*

### **Section 3: Medical Requirements for all GCCR Fosters**

- ☑ ***With the exception of a confirmed emergency, all foster medical care must be conducted at **Yorkville Animal Hospital**.***
- ☑ All regular or emergency veterinary care must be **pre-approved** by **Cathy Schadel**.
- ☑ All new medications (including change in suppliers) **must be approved by the GCCR Rescue Coordinator, Cathy Schadel**.
- ☑ Foster parents are expected to follow all post-operative instructions until your pup has been formally cleared by Yorkville Hospital. No exceptions.
- ☑ **No social outings for at least two weeks** after the foster placement unless expressly approved by the GCCR Rescue Coordinator.
- ☑ In addition to a comprehensive medical exam at Yorkville Animal Hospital, all rescues receive emergent dental procedures (extractions and cleaning) at rescue intake.
- ☑ Effective in 2015, GCCR will provide all rescues with a 3-year Rabies vaccine.
- ☑ Any previously undiagnosed medical conditions or symptoms must be reported immediately to the GCCR Rescue Coordinator, **Cathy Schadel**.
- ☑ For other Cavalier health concerns or questions, please refer to the booklet entitled **“Helping Hands”** on the GCCR website.



#### **Section 4: What to Expect the First Few Days**

Remember, “It’s all about the dogs”. GCCR foster Cavaliers come from many different locations and circumstances. Foster homes must be prepared to deal with the quirks, behaviors, and special needs of the rescue pups they welcome into their homes. You may experience some of the following common behaviors during the first weeks of fostering your rescue pup:

The dog may not be housebroken

- The dog will be unfamiliar with grass or eliminating outside of their crate
- The dog may be “hand-shy”, or “flatten” when you approach them
- The dog may be unfamiliar/fearful of the collar or leash
- The dog may be afraid of doorways and may also try to bolt outside
- The dog may not eat for the first couple of days
- The dog may run from you
- The dog may not know his/her name
- The dog may be unfamiliar with stairs and how to navigate them
- The dog may not understand your speech or commands like “stay”, “sit”, etc.
- The dog may be afraid of loud noises, thunder, storms, etc.

Helping to correct any of these behaviors takes patience, perseverance, and consistent behavior on **your part**. You play the critical role in helping your foster along the path to finding their “forever home”. The work can be hard--but the rewards can be inspiring!

Communicate, communicate, and communicate!! Work closely with GCCR’s Rescue Coordinator to facilitate the adoption process by agreeing to attend the different GCCR events throughout the year, along with your foster. Other ideas:

- Take lots of pictures!
- Read and post regularly on the GCCR Facebook page
- Network with other GCCR foster parents online and at GCCR events
- Regularly visit the GCCR website for new postings, articles, our quarterly newsletter and other valuable information.



### **Section 5: Coordinating the adoption process with GCCR**

- ☑ All fostering and adoption activities are coordinated by GCCR's Rescue Coordinator.
- ☑ As time permits, GCCR will post your foster Cavalier(s) on the GCCR website and show current status, including information about the foster home, and the timeline for potential adoption.
- ☑ After your foster pup has settled in, please send an update to the GCCR Yahoo Group page. Include information on the pup's arrival and details on how he/she is doing in your home. Please include photos if you can.
- ☑ From time to time, you will be asked to bring your foster Cavalier(s) to specific GCCR events to connect with potential adopters. Please make every effort to attend these activities when requested.

Any questions or concerns about your foster can be directed to the GCCR Foster Rescue Coordinator. No question is silly! GCCR is blessed with a multitude of talented, knowledgeable, and committed volunteers. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice on how to handle a specific challenge with your new GCCR foster.

### **Section 6: Check the GCCR website for additional resources!**

**[www.gccavalierrescue.org](http://www.gccavalierrescue.org)**





# Notes