Foster Care is critical to saving lives. Dogs must be pulled from shelters where the time limit can be as little as three days before euthanization. Foster homes can be short-term (a few days to a couple of weeks) or long-term (several weeks or months). Ideally, the dog should stay in the same foster home until adopted. As a foster you will be asked to sign a foster contract (Foster Transmittal Form) that outlines your responsibilities as a foster and our responsibilities as a rescue so everyone understands their role and obligations.

Dogs can come from any of the states NGPR serves east of the Mississippi but a large number come out of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and Alabama.

The majority of the dogs needing foster care come out of kill shelters, although some may be owner surrenders. NGPR will not pull dogs with known aggression toward humans out of shelters. We also ask shelter or nearby volunteers to evaluate the dog with other dogs and cats whenever possible to determine if there is any aggression and to determine the nature of the aggression.

Most of our foster homes and adopters have other animals so we try not to take dogs that are generally not good with other animals. However, same-sex aggression is fairly common and we can usually work with those dogs.

When a foster is ready for a new dog, we place the next dog in line who is an appropriate match with the open foster. Foster placement is more of an art than a science, so if a dog is not a good fit in the home, we will do our best to move the dog elsewhere.

Two Ways to Foster

**Foster**

Gets monthly flea/tick and heartworm meds from rescue but dog's adoption status is shown as "available" for adoption. A standard foster contract is issued. Foster must be willing to call applicants back and answer questions about the dog and fully participate in the adoption process.

**Foster-To-Adopt (Adoption Trial)**

Foster supplies monthly meds, dog's adoption status is listed as "pending" (not available to other adopters). Foster contract has an adoption date specified where the foster must agree to adoption or not. Foster should be able to supply receipts and record of monthly meds given if requested at the time of adoption. FTA (Adoption Trial) is not an available option for puppies and is at the discretion of rescue.
Preparation

● Your dogs should be up-to-date on their vaccinations before you agree to foster. This includes Bordetella vaccinations, which many owners elect not to give their dogs if their dogs are not placed in boarding or grooming facilities. Shelter dogs can bring upper respiratory viruses from the shelter to your home, so please completely vaccinate your dogs.

● Your state foster coordinator will ask about pets, fencing, children and other information in order to determine which dog would work best in your home. If your foster dog is coming straight from a shelter, please understand your foster coordinator may not have all the information on the dog and you must be prepared to handle any unwanted behavior at least in the short-term. If the dog is being transferred from another foster home, you may certainly feel free to contact that foster home via email or phone and discuss the dog.

● Understand that rescue groups cannot always account for how a dog will act in a new situation. Fosters should be ready to deal with barking, growling, marking or other undesirable behaviors. An extra crate is considered an essential piece of equipment in a foster home, as is a belly band for male dogs.

● Before your dog arrives, please take the time to carefully review in their entirety our Your New Rescue Dog booklet; the Quickstart Guide; Nothing in Life is Free Training; Calming Signals; Pyr Problem Solving; and How to Break Up A Fight Between Pyrs.

● Prepare to feed dogs separately. Many of our dogs come into rescue in an emaciated state and may guard their food. All dogs should feel secure while eating. This will lessen any food guarding.

Arrival

● Please understand that we seldom know the dog’s back story. Therefore we depend on you to get to know the dog and the dog’s quirks, which all dogs, like people, have. Always remember that few foster dogs have been raised in a loving home like you are providing and they may not behave or be as well adjusted as your own dog(s) are as a result.

● Take time to introduce the dogs. This can take up to a few days. The last thing you want to do is to walk in the door with a new dog and have that dog face-to-face with your dogs! Some suggestions for introducing the dogs includes:
  o Introduce the new dog to your dogs away from your home, and never nose-to-nose.
  o Arrange to meet the new dog in a park or on a nearby street.
  o Walk the dogs together so they can start to feel that the new dog is part of the pack before you bring the new dog home with you.
  o After the dogs meet on neutral territory outside, the human should enter the house first, NEW dog should enter the house next, with the resident dog a safe distance behind.
  o Try to arrange a separate area for the new dog in your house so you can introduce the dogs gradually and monitor their behavior.
  o Do not leave dog bones or ANY toys lying around in the first few weeks.
  o When possible, use a baby gate to keep the new dog in a separate space where he can see and smell the other dogs and you can observe his reaction to cats.
  o It’s a good idea to leave a leash on the new dog for the first few days, even when not with the other dog, and have leashes on both dogs if they are all together and you have another person to handle the resident dog.
  o Dogs should be watched closely around tight spaces and should NEVER be allowed to try to go out or come in through a doorway at the same time. Doorways are a very common spot for starting altercations.

● Be knowledgeable about the veterinary care the dog has received and keep all records. If the dog is coming from a shelter, he may or may not have had any veterinary care. You should restrict the places where a dog coming directly from a shelter goes for several days and his/her exposure to your pets in case the dog has any communicable diseases. This includes careful clean-up of any feces. PLEASE CHECK THE PAPERWORK THAT CAME WITH THE DOG. If any of the items below are missing, please notify your state coordinator. All NGPR dogs who are at least 4 months old are required to have:
  o DH2PP (5-in-1 shot)
  o Rabies vaccination and certification

Bordetella vaccination
Microchip (These chips are always secondarily registered to the rescue and can always be traced back to NGPR)
Neutered or spayed (unless medically unfeasible)
Tested for heartworms, lyme, ehrlichia, and anaplasmosis with a snap 4 or other comparable tests. Many shelters only do a snap for heartworms so the test will have to be repeated with a snap 4.
For puppies younger than 4 months, please refer to the puppy protocol

Try brushing the dog after a couple of days to see how he/she reacts to grooming.
If any medical or reimbursable costs are required during the foster period, you will need advance approval. Contact information is provided on the Foster Transmittal Form you will receive before getting the dog. If approval is not received before a veterinary visit, you may be liable for these costs unless it is an emergency situation. Heartworm or flea medication should be obtained from Sandy Clary sandyspyrnewf60@hotmail.com by filling out the attached form. And because everyone forgets, it’s a good idea to keep track of when medications are administered on the Medication Log.

In the Home
Feed the dogs in separate places. Each dog should have his/her own feeding station and water bowl, at least ten feet apart. Pick up all bowls after each dog has had a period of time for eating. Do not allow dogs to graze. Most fights occur over food.
Do not feed or give treats to the foster when in close proximity to your dog to avoid resource guarding issues. Do not leave dog bones or other high-value items lying around.
Do not leave dogs unsupervised in your home until you are confident there will not be any problem. Monitor the playing and avoid rough play so dogs are not hurt.
There will be some squabbling, but as the ultimate alpha you should be able to control this. If a fight occurs, separate the dogs by grabbing each dogs’ tail, not their head and neck. Use a broom to ‘shoo’ them apart or use a spray bottle to squirt water on them.

Communication
The primary means of communication is through email so please check your email daily. This allows us to communicate with multiple people at once. When replying to a group email, please hit “reply all” so we can all get your response, if appropriate.

Listing the Dog
All NGPR dogs are listed on Petfinder, Adopt-A-Pet and nationalpyr.org. Petfinder requires a specific template to be completed on each dog which your state coordinator can provide. This template and accompanying photos should be sent to your state coordinator within a week of a foster dog being placed in your home. The sooner this is done the sooner the dog can find a forever home.
Petfinder allows 3 photos or 2 photos and 1 video on the listing. PHOTOS SELL THE DOG and should not be blurry or too far away or contain too much to distract the eye from the dog. If you do not have a camera or a phone capable of taking a decent photo, please call your state coordinator to see if there is someone in your area who can take photos. Photos should include:
- A good head shot
- Body shots
- Action shots
- Cute photos of the dog with toys or in cute poses

Facebook
NGPR has a Facebook page, National Great Pyrenees Rescue, which is open to the public. This is a very active page and the volunteer who maintains the page is always looking for new photos and/or stories to engage the interest of the viewing public. Please don’t hesitate to send photos, videos or stories directly to Michelle Dines at pyrmom40@gmail.com.
NGPR also has a closed Facebook page for volunteers only, NGPR’s Foster Family page. Please have your state coordinator invite you to join. Photos, stories and videos can also be posted by a member on this page. Michelle Dines frequently pulls photos from this page to post on the public page. This site contains a wealth of information in the file link under the cover photo and members are encouraged and
frequently do post updates and questions about their foster dog. No one has all the answers but collectively we know a lot and are happy to share our knowledge.

- You are also welcome to post your foster dog on your personal Facebook page. Please make sure you state the dog is with NGPR. Many foster dogs have found homes through Facebook networking.

**Moving On**

- Never be in a hurry to place the dog...better to move the dog to another foster home if the dog cannot be accommodated any longer.
- Help us screen potential adopters carefully and observe their interactions with the dog. In most cases, the adopters will be visiting you to meet the dog. People are not “doing us a favor” by taking the dog. They are getting a special forever friend and it is an honor to share life with a Pyr.
- It is important to determine if the dog will be a good fit in the adopter’s home and you as the foster parent should be prepared to make the decision. If the answer is no, please be able to say why you think so.
- We usually do not adopt to homes with short fences, working dogs, multiple dogs with no fence, more than one female in the home, puppies in pairs, service dogs, underground fencing.
- All adoption applications are assigned to an adoption coordinator. The coordinator should be in contact with you about any applications on the dog. Please be honest in assessing the adoption application with your foster dog.
- Be prepared to give and get a lot of love and keep in mind it is difficult to say good-bye but necessary for your foster to move on to their forever home.
- **The dog is not allowed to go to an adopter until Sue DeBili sends a confirming email that the contract has been signed and received by NGPR and the adoption fee has been received.**
- Arrangements for transport can be made when all three involved parties (the foster, the adopter and the adoption coordinator) are in agreement that we’ve found the right home for the dog and the director in charge, Catherine, agrees. The adoption coordinator should then let the state coordinators for both the state the dog is in and the state the dog is going to and Sue DeBili know that the dog is moving.
- The dog will be added to the Dogs Needing Transport List and the transport team will try to get him/her out on the next transport leaving the area. Sometimes a Transport Request form is completed but usually only if it is a longer volunteer transport that requires several legs. The adoption coordinator is responsible for letting the foster and adopter know that the arrangements have been made and where they need to go to drop off/pick up the dog. If assistance is needed to move the dog from to or from the pick up or drop-off points, the state coordinators where the dog is coming from or going to should assist.
- **When your dog is ready to move, whether to another foster or a forever home, you will receive an email asking questions about health and behavior, dates preventatives were given, and possibly other questions. Please answer those questions in a timely manner as this will help ease the transition for your foster dog, prepare the next home for what to expect, and sometimes get needed supplies to the next home.**

**Transport**
Foster dogs are transported all the time; from the shelter to the local foster home, to a northern foster home, to an adopter. There really is no easy, simple or exceptionally convenient transport although we do try to arrange transports to be no more than an hour away from a foster or adopter. Transports may be all or partially done by volunteers or by a paid transport.

A copy of the dog’s vaccinations should travel with him/her and the record of your foster dog’s vaccinations should be uploaded to our online data base, Rescue Groups, in case the hard copy is lost. Your state foster coordinator should be able to do this for you or you may be asked for this information by an administrator at the time of transport so they can complete the Foster Transmittal Form. See Attachment C for the Medical Requirements for Rescue Dogs. If your dog is missing required paperwork, please let your foster coordinator know as soon as possible. The interstate transport of all animals requires a health certificate issued by a vet showing all vaccinations. This is federal law. The health certificate requires a sending party which can be the foster home’s information. The receiving party should be the northern foster home or adopter’s information. However, if the information is not known, you can use as the receiving party:
In addition, some states such as Massachusetts put additional burdens on rescues by requiring the dog to go directly into quarantine for 2 days. If your foster dog is going to Massachusetts, please contact Sue DeBili goldie99@optonline.net as the quarantine’s facility’s information must be written on the Health Certificate as the receiving party.

If your foster dog is traveling to Maine, he or she will need a Lepto vaccination. When included with parvo/distemper shots, it is referred to as the “7-way” vaccine.

**Medical**

The health of your foster dog is one of our top concerns. Please be attentive and help monitor this.

- Medical Issues: Call or email the medical director listed on the FTF. **Please do not wait for the weekend if you have any medical concerns** regarding the dog in your foster care. Medical care in an emergency facility costs 2-3X as much than a routine visit.
- If you are approved for a medical expense, please ask your foster coordinator for the vet letter to submit to your veterinarian so he understands how we work.
- Reimbursement: If you have incurred a medical expense or any other expense and need reimbursement, **write your name and address** on the invoice and mail to Colleen Diller, 17233 State Route 117, Waynesfield, OH 45896. Checks are cut on the 1st and 15th of the month.

**Foster Resources**

You will receive a Foster Transmittal Form (FTF) at the time you receive your dog. It has contact information and information about the dog’s medical status. **Please read this document very carefully as it states your responsibilities and ours in the event of a medical emergency.** If at any time you have any concerns, please contact the following:

- Transport Arrival: Consult your FTF or call 877-372-3273 or e-mail info@nationalpyr.org
- Behavioral Concerns: Call or e-mail the sending foster (you are the receiving foster) on the FTF to see if they have experienced something similar or email or e-mail info@nationalpyr.org. No question is too trivial to answer. NGPR has volunteers experienced in dealing with the behavior issues of Great Pyrenees who are happy to help, and can give advice on training to help work with undesired behaviors. Remember, with behavioral concerns/issues, the earlier advice is sought, the better.
- General Questions: Email info@nationalpyr.org. Don’t be shy, we are all here to help.
- Read the “Your New Rescue Dog” manual you receive so you will be prepared to welcome your foster dog.
- Great photos and videos can help dogs get adopted more quickly. If digital photography isn’t your thing, enlist friends or family to help with photo shoots or consult this list [http://www.heartsspeak.org/artist_directory](http://www.heartsspeak.org/artist_directory) for professional photographers in your area who will take photos free of charge.
- Additional forms and tutorials can be found on Facebook at NGPR’s Foster Family page under Files and at www.nationalpyr.org/volunteer-docs. Your foster coordinator can give you the PW.

**FAQ**

**What are my responsibilities as a foster?**

- Provide food and love. If you have experience with basic training anything you can teach your foster is appreciated
- Ensure your foster dog has been fully vaccinated, chipped, spayed or neutered.

Talk to prospective adopters about your foster to tell them about the dog. Keep notes whenever possible of the dog's quirks, reactions to other animals and children, what he enjoys playing with, what food you have transitioned him to, etc.

Write or update the bio for the website as you learn more about your foster and provide new photos. This can be emailed to your state coordinator or to Debi Freedman at debi@nationalpyr.org.

Make sure your foster Pyr receives monthly heartworm preventative and flea/tick meds from Sandy Clary sandyspyrnewf60@hotmail.com and be sure to give her the current weight of the dog.

Bathe and groom your foster dog. Many foster homes use the hose outside during warmer months and DIY bathing facilities at pet supply stores. If a dog comes to you that you are unable to groom him/her, please contact your state coordinator. NGPR will pay for grooming costs under those circumstances. Many groomers will offer rescue discounts, so please ask first. No dog should leave your home dirty and matted.

Socialize your foster dog. Many foster Pyrs have been used as livestock guardian dogs or farm dogs and have never been in a car, in a store, on a street or around a lot of people. Some adjust well but others really need socialization work. The more you can expand your foster dog's horizons, the more well-adjusted the dog will be and the more adoptable.

Get your foster dog used to a collar and leash and teach your dog to sit for everything, before eating, before getting attention and before having a leash put on. NGPR believes in the “Nothing in Life is Free” method of training and we encourage all of our adopters and foster homes to utilize this method. Pyrs can be trained!

How do I get assigned a foster Pyr?

We match fosters based on their temperaments and your situation; for example: whether you have cats, birds or other pets, the disposition and age of your own dog(s), the age of your children (when applicable), the height of your fence and your experience with Pyrs.

Does the dog come to me straight from the shelter?

It depends. If you receive a dog directly from a shelter, it is good practice to quarantine the new dog from your other dogs and restrict their access within your home and on your property for a few days.

What should I feed her/him?

There are suggestions in the ‘Your New Rescue Dog’ handbook, but whatever you are feeding your own dogs is should be fine. When possible, please ask your rescue contact what the foster is being fed. Getting a small bag and transitioning gradually will reduce stomach upset. If you are fostering two or more dogs, please contact your foster coordinator about help with food costs. Requests must be in writing and sent within 30 days of the second dog’s arrival in your home. If you’re approved, mail copies of your receipts to Colleen Diller, 17233 State Route 117, Waynesfield, OH 45896. Total the amount you are requesting and write your name and address on them.

Do I need to crate?

Crating is highly recommended as it gives the new foster dog a safe place to retreat to, be fed inside of or be restricted to in the event it is chasing cats or needs to be crated during family mealtimes. It is also extremely useful help resolve chewing or housebreaking issues. Do not use the crate as place of punishment for your dog and be sure you have the correct size crate. An adult Pyrenees requires a **48 to 54”** inch crate which can be pricey. If you need assistance obtaining one, we ask that you look for a used one to help with the expense. They can usually be found on Craigs List, Ebay and other recycling resources. You can also check with your local SPCA.

Can I use my vet?

Yes, but you do need authorization to see a veterinarian—except in emergency situations. The FTF will outline specific situations. It is preferable that we call in a credit card to the vet for payment, it is much easier for the
rescue and you will not have to wait for reimbursement. If you are authorized to use a local vet, we do request that you look for low cost options in your area. Some local shelters and SPCA’s offer discount veterinary services. We have a **veterinary authorization letter** that explains how we work that we will send you or fax to your vet in advance. Please ask your vet if they will give a rescue discount, we can provide proof of non-profit status if necessary. **Do not purchase medications from your vet without prior authorization.** In some cases, medications can be sent to you in lieu of a vet visit, so **remember to get advance approval for non-emergency vetting.**

**What expenses are tax deductible?**

Anything that you purchase for your foster is deductible as a charitable expense. If you are willing to donate towards a medical or other expense that totals $250 or more (single expense not cumulative), the IRS requires a receipt from the organization. The charitable deduction for travel is 19 cents/mile. For more information see IRS pub 526.

**What is the adoption process?**

Applications are reviewed by an adoption coordinator who does the initial interview and vet check. A home visit is required to evaluate the potential adopters and the living area. This may be done before, after or in conjunction with making selection of a dog. If your dog is selected, you will be asked to contact the applicant to tell them more about your foster dog. The adopter may or may not choose to meet the dog depending on whether they are local to you. If they would like to meet the dog prior to adoption, this can be done wherever is convenient for both of you. When all the steps to adoption are completed (application, interview, vet check and home visit) if everyone is in agreement (foster home, adoption coordinator and applicant) that the dog is a good match, the adoption coordinator will request that a contract be drawn up. Once the contract is signed and payment is made, arrangements can then be made to transfer the dog to the new family. Foster dogs should not be turned over to the new owners until you have received confirmation that the contract is signed and payment has been completed.

**What if I need to travel and can’t take my foster dog?**

Please let your state foster coordinator know to discuss options.
Meds Request
Submit form to: Sandy Clary
sandyspyrnewf60@hotmail.com

Please request at least 7 days prior to due date

Your Information
Name ________________________________
Street Address __________________________
City, State & Zip _______________________
Phone # ________________________________

Your Foster's Information
NGPR # _______________________________
Name _________________________________
Current Weight _______________________ 
Age ________________________________

I need the following meds for __________________

[ ] Heartworm [ ] Flea & Tick
[ ] Dewormer [ ] Microchip
[ ] ID tag [ ] Other

Return Meds to: Sandy Clary - 3204 Slaterville Road - Brooktondale, NY - 14817
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Dog Name</th>
<th>Dog ID</th>
<th>Fosters Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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If you are a **front line foster**, you are responsible for seeing that your dog has met all of the requirements below BEFORE travel and that **copies*** of the medical records have been faxed to the number above or scanned and sent to goldie99@optonline.net. Vetting costs should not exceed the adoption fee of $300 and should be less. Always request an estimate on any costs other than standard procedures below or exceeding $300 in total and fax to 888-505-6985.

- Original paperwork travels with the dog. For vet visits, we will call in a credit card number if requested. Fax invoices you have paid personally with your name and address to the 888 number above or send requests for reimbursement to goldie99@optonline.net.
- If you are a **receiving foster** getting a dog from a front line foster, you are responsible for checking all paperwork WHEN you receive the dog to make sure all the requirements below have been met. Please contact your foster coordinator immediately if the dog is missing anything.
- If you are unsure about a procedure or have questions about medications, call the foster hotline 877-574-0056. Medical expenses are the #1 cost in rescue, please help us keep costs down.

### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESCUED DOGS

#### TWO WEEK QUARANTINE
We require a two-week quarantine promising adopters that animals have been out of a shelter for a minimum of 2 weeks at a vet's, a kennel or a foster home.

<table>
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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPAYED/NEUTERED Dogs should be spayed (10 days) or neutered (7 days) prior to transport—paid or volunteer. Written proof of s/n is required. Average Cost (AC) $125 (M) $150 (F)</td>
<td><strong>X</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MICROCHIP Supplied by NGPR to be inserted at the time of the exam for the Interstate Health Certificate or sooner if dog has not been chipped by the shelter. Should be N/C or just a few bucks.</td>
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#### SHOTS - Shots other than rabies can be administered by the foster. Save the vial tags and attach to the dog’s paperwork with the date given. Nasal bordetella can also be administered by foster.

- Rabies for dogs over 14 weeks (AC $15)
- DA2PPv Canine Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus Vaccine (MLV), also called the five-way shot covers an adult dog for a year or more—no additional vaccine needed within the year. Seven-way DA2PPvL with Lepto is only given for transport to ME. AC $15. **A Lyme disease vaccine is NEVER to be given.**
- ***BORDETELLA (KENNEL COUGH VACCINE)*** required for transport **AC $15**

### WORMS AND PARASITES – VERY IMPORTANT – ALL DOGS MUST BE DEWORMED PRIOR TO TRANSPORT (DEWORMER WILL BE SUPPLIED BY NGPR IN MOST CASES). PUPPIES SHOULD BE DEWORMED REGULARLY, AS OFTEN AS EVERY TWO WEEKS.

- Negative fecal flotation for hooks, whips, tapes. AC $15
- Testing for coccidia, giardia if indicated by persistent diarrhea. Contact Sue first.


### EAR CHECK/CLEANING Medication as needed/Supplied by NGPR

### MONTHLY MEDICATIONS These will be supplied by NGPR. Contact your coordinator for other meds in stock including antibiotics, NSAIDS, etc.

- Capstar (eliminates fleas in less than one hour)
- Heartgard Plus
- Advantix
- Advantage Multi if mange or ear mites have been diagnosed
**GROOMING** (if needed) Please avoid shaving down dog except when there is severe matting.

**Please watch all expenditures. Request an estimate so we know about fees prior to treatment.**

**INTERSTATE HEALTH CERTIFICATE** Required for dogs traveling across state lines within ten days of date of arrival. Attach to the outside of the medical paperwork envelope. AC $25

**POSITIVE TEST FOR HEARTWORM:** Start Doxycycline upon diagnosis. Doxycycline will be supplied by the rescue. NGPR can order many medications online and ship them as required.

**Liquid Ivermectin:** Upon consultation administer 0.1ml per 20lbs (.5ml for 100lbs) every week.

**OTHER MEDICATIONS:** Scripts for tramadol and antibiotics can be filled at Walmart or a discount pharmacy or obtain from NGPR. Please check [https://www.goodrx.com](https://www.goodrx.com) for costs on medications before purchasing from the vet and cost compare. Coupons are available and savings can be enormous. Rimadyl and other canine drugs will be supplied by the rescue so only get a small supply from the vet, unless total cost is less than $20.