



## ADOPTION PROCESS – INFO & OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in adoption!

The following is offered as a general explanation of the process which the Golden Retriever Rescue of Houston (GRRH) currently follows in regard to the adoption process. Please realize that GRRH's overriding intent is the well-being of our dogs in need of a forever home and to find the perfect match with the new owner(s). Please also understand that all individuals associated with GRRH are 100% volunteers who many also have regular careers, and while we strive to be timely in our responses, there may be delays from time to time. While GRRH does its best to evaluate the dogs and acclimate them to a "normal pet life" during the fostering process, please realize that many of these special pets have unknown backgrounds (many abused) and may be slow to adjust to new people or their new surroundings, so extra care and caution is required.

- The first step in the process is for the potential adopter to complete a GRRH Adoption Application on the GRRH website. Please complete it with as much detail as possible. Incomplete Adoptions Applications receive a follow-up e-mail or phone call from GRRH for clarifications. It is helpful if you can provide an idea of what your preference would be; for example, a young female Golden, 3 to 4 years old, good with children, good with other dogs, etc.
- Once the Application is received, GRRH will do the necessary Vet Checks and/or personal references check. GRRH will make an objective and unbiased evaluation and determine whether the potential adopter is approved or declined based on GRRH's guidelines. The potential adopter may be requested to attend a GRRH Meet & Greet, a visit by a GRRH representative to the potential adopters' home, or other to allow GRRH a better opportunity to meet the potential adopter and their suitability for adopting a GRRH Golden.
- GRRH will notify the potential adopter of the decision; whether approved or denied. If denied, the reason for the denial will be provided.
- If approved, the GRRH Adoption Coordinator becomes the main contact for GRRH.
- Again, **the overriding intent is the well-being of our dogs in need of a forever home and to find the perfect match with the new owner(s).**
- While new adopters are encouraged to go on-line, view the available dogs, and express their interest in a certain dog, please realize that approved adopters do not have the right to claim a certain dog.
- Once a potential match is identified, it's extremely important that the dog and potential adopter, and family and pets, meet to insure compatibility. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways such as a Meet & Greet; visit by potential adopter to the foster home, The GRRH Adoption Coordinator will assist you on this.
- (An important note, the Foster family maintains the first right to adopt their foster Golden)
- Ideally, the potential adopter will be forwarded a copy of the GRRH Adoption and Foster to Adopt Contracts for their review. Please feel free to request this if it is not forwarded by GRRH in a timely manner.



- Assuming good compatibility and an excellent match, as well as the condition of the dog, either a “Foster-to-Adopt Contract” or “Adoption Contract” will be drafted up and executed by both parties.

- If the dog is heart-worm negative (or has successfully completed heart-worm treatment), and if the dog has been spayed/neutered, and is in good health, and all agree it’s a great match, then an “Adoption Contract” is the norm. - If the dog still has to be treated for heart-worm, or if the dog still needs to be spayed/neutered, or if the integration into the home is in question, then a “Foster-to-

Adopt Contract” is used. Then at a later date once all items are addressed, the Adoption Contract is executed.

- Adoption Fees, due at the time of executing the Contract and taking the dog, are \$300 and \$175 for dogs 10 years and older. Any additional donation is encouraged, welcomed and greatly appreciated! Please realize that 100% of all donations go directly to the care of our rescue dogs. The average vet care costs that GRRH is now expending with a heart worm positive dog is in excess of \$800 per dog! Please realize that no Golden is available to go with the adopter unless a Contract and adoption fee are in hand. Additionally, no Golden can be released unless it has a collar and a proper identification tag securely in place.

- Once the perfect match is made, it’s time for the real satisfaction and enjoyment to begin!! As anyone who has had a special, beloved pet knows the special bond that quickly forms between the owner(s) and their 4-legged best friend. And that bond and love continues to grow stronger and deeper throughout the partnership. This is the true sense of pet adoption !!

NOTE:

1) The average time frame of the average adoption process, from start to completion, varies greatly depending on individual situations. For general guidelines, the Adoption Application is typically evaluated within a week provided all the information is provided and readily verifiable. Finding the perfect match varies from “almost instantaneous” to several weeks. At certain times GRRH has fewer available dogs than at other times.

It is stressed though that a decision of this importance should not and cannot be taken lightly and should not be rushed. ***The key is to match the right Golden with the right family to insure a happy forever bond!***

2) GRRH reserves the right to either accept or decline potential adopters based on its objective and unbiased evaluation and criteria.

3) While GRRH does its best to evaluate the dogs and acclimate them to a “normal pet life” during the fostering process, please realize that many of these special pets have unknown backgrounds (many abused) and may be slow to adjust to new people or their new surroundings, so extra care and caution is required. See next section on Taking Home and Integrating Your New Pet.