



Fostering Guidelines

Thank you for considering becoming a foster home for Shiba Inu Rescue Association. Foster homes are the backbone of our group. As a foster home you will care for a needy Shiba in your home until it is adopted out to its forever home. You will find that fostering is the most rewarding volunteer opportunity in dog rescue. There is nothing better than to see a dog, who has been neglected and/or abused its entire life go to the loving home it should have been with all along.

Getting and Caring for Your First Foster Shiba

Fostering is generally a 4-8 week commitment, depending on the dog. Some are adopted out quicker, some are in foster care longer. There are dogs who were in foster care for as short of time as a week, and others (generally shy puppy millers that need a bit more TLC, or dogs on medical hold) for 2-6 months.

SIRA pays for all vetting and we try to have it completed at the Glen Ellyn Animal Hospital before the dogs go to their foster homes. This clinic works with SIRA to provide vetting at an extremely discounted rate. With our organization being solely dependent on adoption fees and donations, you can see where this is very important. If a medical need arises while the dog is in their foster home, we ask that you take the dog to a clinic that will provide SIRA with lower cost, (NOT lower quality), vet care. Sometimes this is possible other times it is not, but it is something we strive for. Again SIRA covers ALL medical costs.

We do ask that our foster homes provide food, toys, treats, collars and leashes for their foster dogs at this time. We are unable to do large scale fundraising at this point until we obtain our 501c3 non profit status. We hope to be able to reimburse these fostering costs once we are recognized as a non-profit organization.

Evaluating and Listing Your Foster Shiba

When the dog comes into your home you will need to make sure that you allow the foster and your dog(s) to have a slow introduction. This can be done by letting them meet outside on neutral territory, on opposite sides of a baby gate or crating the foster dog. We do evaluate each dog for temperament if possible, but you always want to be cautious when introducing dogs. This is a good guideline to follow when bringing your foster to meet applicants that already have dogs.

After the dogs has settled into your home you will need to further evaluate its temperament on how it does with other dogs of all kinds (big/small/male/female/friendly/not so friendly), small pets if possible, adults (both men and women) and children. This can usually be achieved with a trip to PetSmart/Petco. It is very important to have a good grasp on how the foster does in all kinds of situations, as that will determine what type of home the dog gets placed in. Once you feel you know what type of environment the foster will fit best in you will need to write a bio (you can see examples on the SIRA website) and take some *CUTE* pictures.

We ask that all foster bios are submitted to the website no more that 2

weeks after entering their foster home, with exception of dogs on medical hold. This must be cleared by the adoption/intake coordinator. Even more shy dogs should be posted ASAP. It is best if they have the maximum amount of exposure quickly. Otherwise they will sit in foster care longer. Pictures and bio text should be emailed to adoption@savingshibas.com.

Meeting and Evaluating PRHs

While fostering for SIRA you will have access to the applications that are submitted by PRHs ("Possible Rescue Homes" aka applicants). Home visit coordinators will post for home visit volunteers, and if you think the PRH would be a good fit for your foster, or they expressed interest in the dog then you are more than welcome to volunteer to do the home visit. In fact **most PRHs end up adopting the first dog they meet** so it is a good idea to take your foster on as many home visits as you can. PRHs will also be able to contact you directly using email links provided on the bios. Sometimes you will get an inquiry from a person who has not filled out an application. You will need to direct them to our website and ask them to fill it out. Here a standard letter:

(Name),

Thank you for your interest. Please go to our website www.SavingShibas.com and fill out our adoption application. Once we receive and review your application we will have a volunteer contact you to complete a home visit. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us!

**Aimee Winkler
Shiba Inu Rescue Association
www.SavingShibas.com**

After a home visit is completed you will need to fill out a home visit report which can be provided to you by the adoption or home visit coordinators. It is easiest to fill out the report while asking the questions during the home visit rather than try to do it from memory later. If you are uncomfortable doing a home visit by yourself the first time, we can pair you up with an experienced home visit volunteer who can mentor you and walk you through the process.

Adoption Date

After you have found a PRH that you know will provide the perfect loving forever home for your foster and they in turn want to adopt him/her, you will need to let the web team know to list your dog as adoption pending on the website and also arrange an adoption date. Please note, we only adopt in or near areas where we have volunteers. Currently this includes Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, southern IL, Madison, WI, Detroit/Toledo, MI, St. Louis, MO and Phoenix, AZ.

Adopters must wait at least 24 hours after meeting the dog before they may bring him/her home. During this time they will have the chance to think over if they are ready to bring a dog into their home and care for it for the remainder of its life. Adopting a dog is a tremendous decision, as you well know, and is not something that should be done on a whim.

Sight unseen adoptions often result in a "bounced" placement, which is very hard on the foster dog. This waiting time also gives them time purchase any necessary equipment and prepare their home for the dog. The adopting family will sign our adoption contract and you will give them copies of all records that came with the dog. They will pay the adoption fee, which varies depending on the age of the dog:

- **Under 1 year \$400**
- **1-3 years \$350**
- **4-6 years \$300**
- **7-9 years \$250**
- **10+ years \$200**

The adoption fee includes all shots (Rabies, DHLPP, Bordatella), a heart worm test, microchip (which stays registered to SIRA after adoption), spaying/neutering, exam of the dog's knees, hips and eyes, in addition to addressing all known health problems. Dogs with ongoing medical issues (heart murmur, luxating patellas, glaucoma, etc.) that are not in need of immediate medical attention but may require surgery and/or medication in the future are adopted out on a "pre-existing conditions" contract. All dogs, including puppies, must be spayed or neutered prior to adoption. At this time SIRA does not adopt out on "spay/neuter" contracts.

If the family is purchasing any SIRA equipment (collars, leash, etc.) they can include the price in the same check. You will just need to indicate on the contract what the extra money is for. All checks need to be made out to "Shiba Inu Rescue Association" or "SIRA".

Getting the Foster Shiba to Its Forever Home

If the home is not in your area we can arrange a transport to get the dog to its forever home. To request a transport please send an email to admin@savingshibas.com. We have found though that most dogs adapt faster if they are taken by their foster family to their new home. When you get ready to leave have one of the adopting family members take the dog out for a walk or into another room and then quickly and quietly leave while the dog is gone. When he/she comes back you simply won't be there and 9 times out of 10 the dog doesn't even realize it. You are more than welcome to visit with the dog after the adoption takes place. We do recommend waiting at least one month, because if you come back too soon the dog will think it is going home with you, and you want him/her to know they are finally home to stay.

Finalizing the Adoption

After the adoption date, you will need to fill out the adoption report, again this form will be provided to you by the adoption coordinator. This will give us all the necessary info on the new adopters. You will also need to send an email to adoption@savingshibas.com to have the dog's bio removed from the website. You may also send us a picture of the new family to post on our successful adoption page. Finally you will need to mail in the signed contract, copies of all records and the check to:

Shiba Inu Rescue Association
608 E. Emerson Ave.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Fostering Checklist

1. Pick up/receive foster dog.
2. Evaluate for temperament: how does your foster dog react in different situations, particularly around adults, children, dogs, cats and other small pets.
3. Submit bio and pictures to adoption@savingshibas.com within 2 weeks of getting your foster. Medical holds must be approved by the adoption/intake coordinator.
4. Review inquiries, applications and your take foster dog on home visits where you think they would be a good match.
5. Choose the best PRH for your foster dog and have a meeting with all family members to be sure this is the best possible match. New adopters must wait 24 hours before bringing the dog home. This is to ensure that they are positive that they are prepared to bring the dog into their lives, and also so they can purchase any necessary equipment for the dog.
6. Send an email to adoption@savingshibas.com to have your foster listed as "adoption pending."
7. Send the adopters shopping. A shopping list is available on the SIRA website.
8. Set up an adoption day or send an email to admin@savingshibas.com to ask that a transport be arranged if the PRH is far from where you live.
9. Make copies of all vet records and print a copy of the adoption contract. Give the adopter a copy of the vet records and have them sign the adoption contract. Adoption fee may be paid by checks made out to "SIRA". Don't forget to invite the adopting family to become active members of SIRA!
10. Send an email to adoption@savingshibas.com to have your foster's bio removed from the website. Please include a picture of the dog with their new family to be posted on SIRA's successful adoption page.
11. Send signed contract, check and a copy of the vet records to:
Shiba Inu Rescue Association
608 E. Emerson Ave.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
12. Fill out the adoption report which will be provided to you by the adoption coordinator.

Congratulations! You have successfully placed your foster dog! Thank you so much for helping one more dog find its loving forever home!