GEAUGA MAMA DOGS AND PUPPIES
GUIDELINES FOR FOSTERING PUPPIES

Thank you for being part of our fostering program. As you know, Geauga Mama Dogs and Puppies is a care and rescue group providing a safe and healthy environment for pregnant dogs and their puppies. Our goal is to ensure that both mother and puppies are healthy and well socialized when they leave us so that they can be adopted by a loving family. Puppies are placed in pairs so that they can keep each other company and learn acceptable social behavior. Two puppies show each other now to play nice and that biting hurts. By fostering you are an important part of that socialization process, especially learning to trust and love human contact!

Typically two puppies (occasionally 1 or 3) about 6 or 7 weeks old will be placed with your family. At this age the puppies are eating on their own but have not completed their vaccinations and cannot safely be transferred to an APL shelter. At about 9 weeks old the puppies will be scheduled for transfer to the APL to be spayed or neutered after which they will be put up for adoption.

We generally do not adopt out puppies ourselves because APLs, like Friendship, have a careful screening program and very high adoption rate. This allows GMDAP to do what we do best, rescue more moms and pups. In addition, not all of the puppies in our care may be available for adoption because they may belong to another rescue or owner. Our fosters are currently doing some direct adoptions on a case by case basis. While we don't encourage fosters to adopt (we call it a “failed foster”) if you or your family decides to adopt one of your foster pups, please see the separate instructions for doing so. **You may not adopt one of your foster puppies until you have cared for at least 3 sets of puppies and been a foster for at least 6 months.**

Your personal animals and contagious diseases: While we do our best to spot and treat contagious illnesses, puppies can be carrying something that could spread to your pets. Please make sure to keep your pets up to date on shots as well as flea and tick medication. Our organization is not liable for any illness spread.

BEFORE PICKING UP PUPPIES

When you have been approved to foster for us, you will be contacted by an experienced group foster who will welcome you to the group and answer any questions you may have. This person will be your mentor and your first line of contact for questions or concerns. Unless your puppies are very ill or injured, please direct questions either to your mentor or post them on our group page for other members' advice.

Puppies will be picked up either in Garretsville at the barn in the front of the property, or at the home of the volunteer caring the mom and litter. Sometimes puppies are sent to other locations, such as Friendship APL or to a volunteer's home to make it easier for fosters to pick them up. You will be given the address by text ahead of time. You will be given food, medications, vaccines and instructions at that time. Kirsten Fischer (216-392-9398) in Avon or Deb Sander (216-630-1093) in Parma Heights have supplies for west side fosters. If you need equipment or supplies, like a pen, crate or bed, please go to the GMDAP Supplies page on Facebook and ask to join. Deanne has equipment for sale at very reduced prices and GMDAP receives the proceeds.

Make sure you are a member of the **Geauga mama members** Facebook page. If you are not a member, please ask to join. Check the page often because important information is posted there.

Go through the “files” tab at the top of our member page and read the information pertaining to fostering.

HOUSING YOUR PUPPIES

Each foster has a unique setup for housing their puppies, but some suggestions and guidelines apply. The pups need an area that is safe and comfortable, large enough to play, eat, sleep and poop! Some fosters create a space with baby gates, or a crate for sleeping, connected to an exercise pen. Flooring can be covered with vinyl or linoleum, or 6 ml painter's plastic drop cloths. Most often newspapers are spread on the floor. Some fosters use potty pads. Obviously the space required depends on the size of the puppies, but larger is better than smaller so that puppies can run and play, and have a quiet place to sleep.

Pups will generally pee and poop as far away from where they eat and sleep as they can get. Encouraging this, as well as taking them outside frequently, helps with their eventual housebreaking. Assume your 8-week old puppies need to pee about every 2 hours, as well as just after waking and eating or drinking, so keep this in mind when you want to cuddle them on the couch or have them run around the house with the kids. If your puppy is “mouthy” or a chewer, provide toys and hard bones (no rawhides!) for entertainment. Teach your kids to give a toy or bone when the pup starts to bite.

WHEN PICKING UP PUPPIES

Bring a sanitized crate and a cooler when you pick up your puppies.

Please do not ask to be given particular puppies! It will help our group if you are flexible and accept the pups as we get them.....big and small, cute and cuter. We want to give them all the the best care possible so that they can be adopted and have great lives!

Make sure you have the following supplies before leaving with your puppies:

- Meds: Fenben, Baycox, Tylan, Probiotics, flea meds, and vaccines. Diatomacious earth is optional.
- Syringes
- Paper collars to put on puppies when they go to Friendship
- Intake and care sheets
- Food
- If you get your puppies at the farm, make sure you take a picture of the instruction sheet. If you pick them up elsewhere, Karen will text your instructions.

CARING FOR PUPPIES

Give puppies water and a light meal as soon as you get home. If they arrived on the transport, they have not eaten since the night before.

After puppies have had a chance to eat, drink and relieve themselves, bathe them in Blue Dawn and then rewash with a milder tearless shampoo so you can wash their faces well. Apply flea meds if instructed. Clip their nails with human nail clippers, just taking off the tips. Be careful not to cut the quick. Clean ears by wiping out debris with a damp cotton ball. (There are videos available on YouTube.)

Dry and canned food will be provided by the rescue. PUPPIES MUST HAVE WATER AND DRY FOOD AVAILABLE TO THEM AT ALL TIMES. Supplement the dry food with canned food and/or pumpkin and homemade puppy food. Puppies love canned dog food, cooked chicken, beef or goat's milk mixed with their dry food for their regular feedings.

Administer medication according to the instructions you receive. Fenben and Baycox should not be given at the same time. If instructions say to give them on the same day, give one in the morning and one in evening. Wormers should be given with a syringe, not in food, to make sure the puppies consume the correct dosage. Probiotics should be sprinkled on the food twice a day. Tylan is given by dipping a finger in honey then the Tylan powder and wiping on the roof of the puppy's mouth. If you have diatomaceous earth, sprinkle it on food and mix in.

Our current protocol utilizes the following medications:
Fenbendazole (Safe-guard or Panacur). - kills round, hook, whip, and giardia. 1ml/4lb once a day for 5 days. Repeat every 2 weeks
Toltrazuiil (Baycox) – kills coccidia. .15 (point 15) ml per lb. Once a day for 3 days. Repeat every 2 weeks.
Pyrantel (Strongid) – kills round and hook worms. .5ml (½ ml)/10 lb. For puppies. 1ml/10 lb. for adults. Repeat every 2 weeks.
Praziquantel for tapeworms – each capsule is 34 mg. Give one time. For pups up to 5 lbs – ½ capsule. 5-10 lb. 1 capsule,11-15 lb – 1.5 capsules. 16-30 lbs – 2 capsules.
Occasionally you may be instructed to give these medications at a different dosage or frequency.
Tylan powder – for bacterial infections. 1/64 tsp. (pinch) 2x per day for 14 days. **To be effective, you must give puppies the medication for the full 14 days.** START RIGHT AWAY IF PUPS HAVE DIARRHEA.

VACCINATIONS: Puppies require several rounds of vaccinations. You will be given the appropriate vaccines when you pick up your puppies and the vaccines MUST be kept cool, so make sure you bring a cooler when you pick up your puppies and they must be kept in the fridge at home. Do not freeze. If vaccines get warm, please let us know so that they can be replaced. We will connect you with a volunteer near you who can teach you to vaccinate your puppies. There are good videos on YouTube to teach you as well. Neopar vaccine is a single vial containing pink liquid. 5-way vaccine comes in two vials, one has a silver top and contains liquid and the other has a bronze top and contains powder. Draw the liquid into a syringe, inject it into the vial of powder, mix well, then draw the resulting solution into the syringe for injection. When preparing vaccines, tighten the needle on the syringe as soon as you remove it from the packaging. It will not be tight and the vaccine will leak out if you don't.

The label from the vaccination goes on the Intake and Medical Information sheet. We try to do the first vaccination at 5 weeks of age. It is a “Parvo only” vaccination (Neopar). At 7 weeks we do a 2nd Parvo and at 9 weeks we a DAPPv (5-way). Record vaccinations and affix labels to your information sheet immediately. Don't wait thinking you'll remember because you may not. This information is critical for the shelters.

WORMING: All puppies are born with worms. Roundworms are present in the digestive tract at birth. Tapeworms, which are passed to dogs through fleas, are also very common, so watch for them in the puppy's poop. They look like grains of rice and need to be treated with a specific medication. In order to effectively control worms, puppies must be given medications at specific intervals. Worming medication is very expensive (up to $400 per gallon) so be careful not to cross contaminate and return or save unused medication. Use a clean syringe to give the wormer orally. Wash and bleach the syringe between uses.

After worming it is important to reestablish the good flora in the puppies' intestines, and provide excellent nutrition. We supplement daily with a probiotic called Bene-bac (provided), as well as ½ tsp each of local honey and coconut oil which are anti-viral and anti-bacterial. In addition, please add 1 teaspoon of diatomaceous earth (provided) mixed with food each day to control internal parasites and fleas. Diatomaceous earth is silica made from food grade algae. It can also be sprinkled on bedding to control fleas.

PUPPIES SHOULD GAIN WEIGHT. Weigh your puppies when you get home. If they are very young, weigh them every few days to make sure they are gaining weight. Larger puppies can be weighed once a week. If they are not gaining weight and you are feeding them as much as they will eat, then you need to contact your mentor and let them know. Puppies must have food and fresh water available at all times.

MEDICAL RECORDS

You will be given the puppies' medical records listing what medication and vaccines your puppies have had and when, as well as a list indicating what they are to have in the future. Please complete the Intake and Medical Care form attached to these instructions (or printed from the GMDAP member's page under the “files” tab). Record what and when your puppies have had (vaccines, worming medications, and flea treatments) so far and then record the additional vaccines and worming medications as you give them. Do not wait and think you'll remember to do it later. This paper will go with your puppies when it is time to transfer them to the APL, so it is very important to keep accurate records.

IF YOUR PUPPIES ARE ILL

Almost every puppy will have soft or runny poop at some point while you have them. Parasites and some medicines can affect their stool. You may see worms, sometimes lots of worms, even after you have finished worming meds. This is normal. Puppies may throw up worms as well. Make sure you give probiotics and Tylan with their food. Worms in poop, along with abnormal stool, is a good thing, it means the medicines are working.

If your puppies are not feeling well, throw up multiple times in the same day, if you see blood, or they have diarrhea that smells terrible, TEXT Karen (440-840-5226), Audrey (330-569-8212), Cindy (440-341-8992), or Trish (440-537-9022). Take pictures and send with text. Take the pup's temperature with a rectal thermometer. Normal temp is 102°. What color are the puppy's gums? Pink is good! If they are eating mostly soft foods, normal poops may be soft. Other signs of illness include loss of appetite and listlessness. Don't hesitate to contact someone right away. Do not take puppies to a veterinarian without permission. **You may be given advice or asked to bring it to the farm as soon as possible so that it can receive the best possible care.**

If your puppies are losing hair, they may have mange. If they are itching uncontrollably, they may have sarcoptic mange, and that is contagious so keep them away from other dogs. Contact your mentor for meds and treatment instructions.

WHEN YOUR PUPPIES ARE READY TO LEAVE YOU

You will be notified in advance when your pups are scheduled to transfer to the APL. After their foster period is up, your puppies should be healthy. If there are any signs of illness such as runny poop, diarrhea or vomiting, or if they are still missing hair, they are probably not ready to leave yet. If your puppies have not gained weight or if you can see or feel their ribs, they cannot go to the shelter. Notify your mentor or Karen. If you don't think they are ready for adoption, you can keep them longer.

Karen will post on our group page asking who is returning puppies on a certain date. If you plan to return puppies that day, post in the comments how many are going and whether you are taking them to the farm or Friendship. **If you do not post a comment, you cannot take your puppies.** Karen will then notify you if there is room. You MUST get permission from Karen before you take your puppies to a shelter.

Your puppies must be at least 9 weeks old before going to Friendship.

Puppies must have had a 5-way vaccine at least 3 days prior to leaving.

Two days before your puppies go to Friendship, take their pictures and send in an email to Shelby@friendshipapl.org along with a copy of the completed Transfer Sheet. The picture should be a closeup without people or other animals. If possible, write the puppy's name on the picture. Put the puppies' names and date they are going in the subject line of the email. You may also write a short bio to let the shelter staff know a bit about their personalities.

Make sure you have completed your Transfer Sheet. We cannot stress enough how important this sheet is to the shelter. Double check all the dates. All meds should be noted, along with the dates given. This includes everything given to your puppy before you got them. Any medical concerns such as an umbilical hernia, if they have dewclaws on their back legs, or if the pup has a limp (which should have already been discussed with the rescue) should be written on the sheet. The first time, take a picture of your completed sheet and ask your mentor or another experienced foster to double check it. The Transfer Sheet must accompany the puppy to the shelter or to the farm for transport. If you forget the sheet, you cannot leave your puppy.

Please be on time when meeting the person driving from the farm. At transport all pups from the same litter will be given the same color paper collars. Write the puppy's name and sex on the collar. If you have extra medication, you may return it at this time if you are not planning to foster again immediately. If you have questions regarding these instructions or the health of your pups please email gmdap247@gmail.com. or contact your mentor. Do not feed your puppies breakfast the morning they are to go to the shelter. They will be given food as soon as they are admitted. This will help to prevent car sickness.

BEFORE YOUR NEXT PUPPIES

Sanitize the area where your puppies stayed. Pens must also be sanitized like the floor. This is a critical step. You can make a solution of ½ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water. Surfaces need to be exposed to the solution for at least 10 minutes, then clean with a 10% (1 part ammonia to 10 parts water) solution. It needs to sit on the surface for 45 minutes before rinsing. DO NOT MIX AMMONIA

AND BLEACH. Use bleach, rinse well and allow to dry, then use ammonia solution or “Rescue” which is a cleaning product commonly used to clean kennels at shelters. All bowls, toys and bedding must be sanitized either by washing with bleach or running through the dishwasher.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Remember that the puppies are not allowed to go anywhere where other dogs may have been (stores, parks, friend's houses, etc.) until they are fully immunized. Even walking puppies on sidewalks can expose them to contagious diseases from dogs that have been there before.

Please do not bring friends or potential adopters to the farm. Our mom dogs and pups do not need exposure to outside diseases and viruses. We also do not want to expose visitors to any diseases, which they may take home with them. Thanks for understanding this. Show your friends and family cute pictures instead. This is to keep the moms, puppies and our friends who love them as safe as possible. Diseases spread easily when animals are not fully inoculated. In addition, mother dogs are protective of their young puppies and may be aggressive because they are in a strange environment and frightened. **Do not enter the kennel, the barn or house without permission or an authorized person. If you arrive to drop off or pick up puppies and no one is there to greet you, please text Karen or Audrey from your car and someone will help you.**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Please ask questions if you are unsure about anything. Your mentor is always available or you can also post questions on our member's page and other fosters will be happy to answer and give advice. If your puppy is vomiting repeatedly or has uncontrollable or bloody diarrhea, contact Karen or Trish.
Karen Braun 440-840-5226 **Patricia (Trish) Swaney Carney 440-537-9022**

7/26/23