GEAUGA MAMA DOGS AND PUPS
ADOPTION INFORMATION
FOR FOSTERS

Adoption Options

There are three options for the adoption of your puppies when they are ready for their permanent homes; Direct Adoption, Designated Adoption through Friendship APL, and adoption through one of our partner APL's. Each is outlined below. As a foster, you are not obligated to find an adopter for your puppies. It is completely up to you if you wish to become involved in the adoption process.

You can offer the adopter the following options.

DESIGNATED ADOPTION: We send the puppy to Friendship for adoption with an adopter already waiting. The adopter submits an adoption application to Friendship APL and the adoption is completed through the shelter. The puppy will be sterilized and microchipped before adoption. Our responsibility for the puppy ends when we leave them at Friendship.

Designated Adoption Procedures

Once the adopter has met the puppy and decided to adopt it, and you think that they would be a good home, they should fill out the adoption application on Friendship's website. It is located at the bottom of the page that lists their adoptable dogs. Make sure the adopter knows the following information, because it must go on their application: name of our rescue, your name, and the puppy's name that will be on the transfer sheet. There is a box to check if the pup is in a foster home. Remind them to check it. It usually takes at *least* two days for the application to be approved by Friendship, so encourage your adopters to submit it as soon as possible. They will be notified by email when the application is approved. The adoption fee is $250 and includes spay/neuter surgery and microchipping. The fee is payable at pickup.

As soon as you know the date the puppy is going to Friendship, send an email to shelby@friendshipapl.org. Include a picture of the pup with "adopted" written right on the picture. Include the adopter's name and phone number and when the puppy is coming into the shelter, if you know.

You must receive permission to take puppies to Friendship or arrange for them to be transported from the farm. Let Karen know that your pup has an adopter and wait until she tells you when to take it or drop it off. Watch for Karen's post asking who has puppies ready to transfer out and comment on it. Be sure to note that the puppy has an adopter in your comment.

You may be instructed to take your puppy to Friendship the day before surgery or the day of surgery. If it is the day of surgery, make sure you do not feed it before dropping it off. You MUST take the transfer sheet with the puppy. If you forget to take it, the shelter will not accept the pup. Write "ADOPTED" in big red letters at the top of the sheet, with the adopter's name and phone number. Make sure your name is on the sheet in the appropriate box. You should have a paper collar to put on your pup. Write the pup's name, sex, and the word ADOPTED on it. Instead of dropping the pup at the shelter,

there is sometimes transport available from the farm. Prepare the puppy for transport the same way as if you are taking it to the shelter. Do not feed before transport.

Friendship will contact the adopter by email to give them pickup instructions. Pickup time is usually between 3:30 and 4:30, but the exact time will be given to them by the FAPL staff, so make sure the adopter knows that. If the adopter is unable to pick up the puppy at the designated time, the foster may pick up the puppy for them, and the adoption paperwork and payment can be arranged by email and a cash app or credit card. This MUST be arranged in advance and written on the email sent to Shelby if the adopter knows they can't make it. If you have already sent an email to Shelby, reply to your original email and let her know that you will be picking up the puppy for the adopter so she can make arrangements to do the adoption by phone and email. Verify the phone number with the adopter and make sure they can answer on the day of surgery.

DIRECT ADOPTION: The puppy is adopted directly from our rescue. The adopter completes the GMDAP adoption application and emails it to our adoption committee. When approved, they will pick the puppy up from you. If, for some reason, the adoption doesn't work, we (you) get the puppy back. This does not happen very often, and we will help you find a new home for the puppy or arrange for it to go to one of our partner APLs. Puppies must be 8 weeks old and have completed the vaccinations on the medical care sheet before they can go to their new home.

Direct Adoption Procedures
When you and the adopter have decided that the family is a good match for your puppy, give them a paper copy or email them the GMDAP Adoption Application which can be found in the "files" section on the members group Facebook page. The form must be printed and completed by the adopter. The completed application or a picture of each page should be emailed to GMDAPadoption@gmail.com. The non-refundable adoption fee is $175. The spaying or neutering of the puppy is the responsibility of the adopter and must occur within 5 months of adoption or at a specified date recommended by their veterinarian. The spay and neuter contract is part of the application and requires a refundable $100 deposit. A list of low cost spay/neuter clinics is attached to the application. The deposit will be refunded by Venmo or PayPal or check within 10 days after confirmation of the surgery is received.

The payment of $275, either by Venmo, PayPal or check, should not be made until the application is approved.

The application process includes a consultation with their veterinarian by our adoption committee. There will be questions about current and past pets. All pets must be neutered (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and up to date on vaccination. Indoor cats may be excluded from this requirement.

If the adopter has no current pets, they must select a veterinarian and make a well-puppy appointment before adopting.

Applications should be emailed at least one week before the adoption is to occur to allow time for processing the application.

An email will be sent to both the foster and the adopter acknowledging the approval of the application.

Adoption committee members:
Pam Hill - 440-474-2541 – Committee Chair
Lori Ransom - 216-402-9732
Joyce Studen - 440-478-1501

ADOPTION THROUGH FRIENDSHIP OR OTHER PARTNER APLS:

If you have not found an adopter for your puppies, they will go to Friendship or another APL or humane society. They will be available for adoption after they are spayed or neutered, on a first come first served basis, no holds. The current adoption fee at Friendship is $250. The amount varies at other shelters. When puppies are ready to leave your care, watch for Karen's post on Facebook asking who has puppies ready to transfer. Comment on that post that you have puppies, and how many. If your puppies have a designated adopter, note that in your comment as well. Karen will text you with instructions on when and where to take your puppy. Text pictures and a short bio to Joyce at 440-478-1501. Note when and where your puppies are going so that she can post them on our public page. This helps to get the puppies adopted.

SCREENING ADOPTERS

WHICHEVER ADOPTION METHOD YOU CHOOSE, PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY.

If you have chosen to find an adopter for your puppies, below are some tips and suggestions for choosing the perfect home. If you would like your puppies posted on our main page, text 2 pictures of your puppies and a short bio to Joyce at 440-478-1501.

When you have the name and number of prospective adopters, interview them by phone. If Joyce has posted your puppies on our public page, she will forward the names and phone numbers of interested people. When you interview them by phone, you might want to ask them questions like:

How long will the puppy be crated every day?
Where will the puppy sleep?
How will the puppy get exercise; fenced yard, leash walks, etc.?
Are there other pets in the household and are they all up to date on vaccines?

A good way to end the conversation is to tell them that the pup has a meet and greet scheduled, but if it is still available afterwards, you will contact them. Interview as many people by phone as you like. Then you can choose ONE person/family and arrange a meeting.

Only meet one family at a time. If they are not a good fit, tell them there are other meet

and greets scheduled and you will contact them when an adopter is chosen. Then schedule another meet and greet. The puppy should go to the first prospective adopter that you think will provide a good home. Whenever possible, insist that the entire family meets the pup, including spouse and kids. Adoption is a decision that affects the entire family. Use your discretion about meeting family dogs. If you choose to take the puppy to a potential adopter's home, the puppy must be over 8 weeks old and have had at least 2 vaccinations. Make sure that their dogs are up to date on vaccines.

Once your chosen adopters have met the puppy and decided to adopt, do not interview more people. If you have rejected someone who wants to adopt the puppy, you can tell them that the adoption committee had the final say, and that they chose another adopter. If you have interviewed other prospective adopters by phone but did not choose them to meet your puppy, you can tell them there is an adoption pending, and you will reach out to them if the adoption falls through. You can also offer to help them find a puppy, but that is up to you.

Feel free to give the adopters an application to take home if they are going to direct adopt but encourage them to go home after the meet and greet, talk about it, and sleep on it. Contact them in the morning to see if they would still like to proceed. If so, make sure they submit the application to our adoption committee or to Friendship, depending on the type of adoption they have chosen.

Don't be afraid to bounce a prospective adopter off another foster/board member, or someone else in your family. Sometimes another pair of eyes and ears helps.

If you still have questions, rather than posting them on our page, contact Pam, Lori or Joyce if it concerns direct adoption. Any other adoption questions can be directed to Deb Sander 216-630-1093.