



Thank you for caring for a GPA MN foster hound! Please take a moment to prepare for your fostering responsibilities by reviewing a few simple reminders that will make your hound's transition as smooth as possible from track, to foster, to adoption.

VETTING: Please schedule a vetting appointment as soon as possible and contact the vetting coordinator (vetcare@gpa-mn.org) with the date and location of the vetting appointment once it has been scheduled. Our participating vets should be familiar with the 'package' but at the haul we will provide a Foster Vetting Checklist found in your hounds envelope that details the specific services we require.

How to Schedule your vetting appointment:

1. Call to schedule with one of our GPA participating vets listed below. Please be sure to tell them that you are bringing in a GPA MN Foster Hound.
2. If your appointment is OVER 7 days AFTER the haul, you will need to drop off a stool sample at your vet so they can run the fecal test immediately. You will need to bring in a stool sample that is less than 24 hours old. The fecal test is part of the package and should not be an additional charge.
3. If your participating vet does not allow for a fecal to be run early, reach out to the vetting coordinator (vetcare@gpa-mn.org)
4. SCHEDULE ONE APPOINTMENT to complete all routine spay/neuter, dental, and vaccines (if applicable). All other vetting needs should be communicated to the vetting coordinator for approval.

Important: Consistently pick up your foster's fecals to prevent resident hounds from picking up worms!

Authorized GPA MN Participating Vets: (visit [GPA-MN.org/ABOUT/PARTICIPATING VETS](http://GPA-MN.org/ABOUT/PARTICIPATING_VETS) for contact info and directions)

Please consider costs when scheduling an appointment! A few extra miles can save the group a lot of money that can be used to help more hounds!

\$ - \$\$\$\$ = typical average cost for vetting at that clinic

Blaine Area Pet Hospital ***Will not run fecal prior to first appointment	11844 Aberdeen St. NE, Blaine, MN 55449	763-754-2131	\$\$
Brookdale Animal Hospital	3000 Brookdale Drive, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444	763-560-6906	\$\$
Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic	440 West 79th Street, Chanhassen, MN 55317-4510	952-934-8862	\$\$\$
Cottage Grove Animal Hospital	8136 E. Point Douglas Road, Cottage Grove, MN 55016	651-768-0200	\$
Croix Valley Veterinary Hospital	655 O'Neil Road Hudson WI 54016	715-386-9052	\$\$
Foley Boulevard Animal Hospital <u>Note:</u> Schedule with Dr. Barr. Two appointments are required.	11247 Foley Blvd, NW Coon Rapids, MN 55448 ***Only schedule w/Foley for special situations, no routine appointments	763-755-3595	\$\$\$\$

HappyTails Animal Hospital	1327 Banks Avenue, Superior, WI 54880	715-718-2130	\$\$-\$\$\$
Superior Animal Hospital	36 East Second Street, Superior, WI 54880	715-392-6211	\$\$-\$\$\$
Waconia Veterinary Clinic	113 E. Highway 5, Waconia, MN 55387	952-442-2119	\$\$-\$\$\$

VETTING RECORDS: When you pick up your hound from their vetting appointment, please confirm that you receive and retain the following. These items must be brought to the adoption showing for the adopter.

1) *Results of heartworm test* 2) *Results of fecal test* 3) *Written proof of any vaccinations provided*

KENNELING: Kenneling your foster is a very important part of the transition process. If you need to borrow a kennel, please let us know and we can find a loaner for you. Since the adoptive family may want to kennel the hound, we need you to help with this by using a kennel in your home to help them become acclimated to being in it. This means confining your hound to the kennel whenever you leave, as well as closing them in the kennel at short (15-30 min), random intervals while you are home. You can also kennel them overnight if you do not have the opportunity to kennel them during the day.

Please try to keep them on good terms with their crate. Feeding the dog in their crate, both regular meals and treats, with the door shut, will help keep them accustomed to the crate. With a soft blanket to lie on inside, their crate will become their own little place where they will go to snooze, even with the door open. This will help the hound get accustomed to being in the kennel without it being a place that they feel is a punishment, or just a place they go when the humans leave.

Even if your personal hounds are not kenneled, please be sure to kennel your foster. Kenneling your foster is not cruel, but allows them to learn that they can be contained without being concerned. They may initially show some anxiety, but in most cases they will quiet down relatively quickly, without incident, especially if you provide them with a special treat they get when they go into the kennel. If you are concerned about your foster hound's tolerance of the kennel or if you have any questions about how to go about successfully kenneling your foster hound, please contact us for assistance.

CHILDREN: Interactions between the foster greyhound and child(ren) must be carefully supervised. Never leave a child alone or unsupervised with the foster greyhound, and make sure the child(ren) know how to be respectful of the dog. Never let child(ren) tackle, pounce upon, hug/kiss, grab, or rush towards a foster hound. Foster hounds have no experience with children and may not understand their smaller stature and more energetic nature. Without careful supervision, the hound may interpret unexpected advances as a threat.

INTRODUCING A FOSTER TO YOUR DOGS: Have them meet on "neutral territory," for example, on the sidewalk in front of your home or down the block. Muzzles on ALL hounds - yours and the foster - are appropriate here. While you have the foster dog on a short leash close to your side, bring out your dog's one at a time. Do not let them rush the new dog. Observe the reaction of the new dog as well as that of your dogs and immediately correct any show of aggression or dominance with a firm "No." With leashes on, let them greet each other and then take them around your property (leashes still on) and then into the house.

PREY DRIVE: If you have small animals in your home (cats, rabbits, small dogs) it is VERY important to carefully supervise their interactions and use the muzzle on your foster hound any time the hound and the small animals are together while they are in your care. Better to be safe than sorry! Even a hound that is tested as “cat trainable” when they arrive on the haul can revert and that small animal could become lunch. Please also watch their behavior while they interact (muzzled) with the small animal so we know whether or not they can be placed in a home that has a cat or other small animal.

FURNITURE: Please do not allow your foster on your furniture, even if your hounds are allowed to be on it. This includes couches, chairs, human beds and any other similar types of furniture. This is a VERY difficult habit to break if the adoptive family does not want them on their furniture, so please do not encourage this habit! A squirt bottle set to stream along with a strong “OFF!” is a great deterrent if they try to push their boundaries.

HOUSETRAINING: Work on housetraining the foster hound from the very beginning. Generally this is not difficult, since your dog has been trained not to soil his crate. You need to teach him that your house is basically a huge crate. Watch him closely during the first several days, take him out at regular intervals, and praise him when he relieves himself outside.

STAIRS: Please work with your hound to help them to master stairs while they are in your home. This is something the hounds have probably never been exposed to, so they’ll likely need a little encouragement to become efficient at doing both up and down. But once they get it, they are great!

ALONE TRAINING: Please work with your hound to help them adjust to being an only/solo hound and/or left alone. Some good tips and tricks here: <https://greyhoundwelfare.org/alone-training/>

PERSONALITY PROFILE: As your greyhound adjusts to his new surroundings, their personality will begin to emerge. Take note of this so that you can help the GPA matching coordinator to develop a profile of his personality for prospective adopters. We have set up two convenient online Personality Profiles for you to provide your observations. **The Initial Profile should be completed within 10-14 days** of your hound’s arrival and you can complete the shorter Profile Update after 2-3 weeks of the hound being in your home.

Please communicate your observations honestly, being objective and fair to the dog, but don’t sugarcoat any problems that you have observed. Take for example a dog that has growled at a child but is going to a home without children. It’s still important for the adoption reps to know about the dog’s behavior towards children as children may come in contact with the dog in the future, and we’ll still want to communicate this to the adopting family. One of the reasons we have such a low return rate for our hounds is that we are very careful about how we place the dogs. We can only do this if we get accurate information from our foster families.

POTENTIAL ADOPTERS: Because there are many moving parts in the adoption and matching process, you may not know immediately when a match has been made for your hound. Please avoid conversations about whether the hound is available and have potential adopters contact GPA-MN directly (info@gpa-mn.org) with any questions they have about a hound’s availability.

Adoption matching is both an art and a science. It’s about matching the energy level and needs of each dog and each family to make a lifelong match. Despite “love at first sight” we have a rigorous adoption matching process that ensures every hound is matched with the best family for them and we consider many aspects before making a match. We ask that you help us with this process by letting

potential adopters know that, although they may have fallen in love with your foster hound, it does not necessarily mean that the hound is available for them to adopt.

Please also note that hounds are usually not placed in a foster home with the idea that the foster family will adopt the hound. If you, as a foster family, wish to adopt a greyhound we ask that you go through the regular adoption application and approval process.

EMERGENCIES: If the foster greyhound is injured, the greyhound will need to be brought into an authorized GPA MN veterinarian for treatment. If the injury occurs “after hours” and requires emergency vet services, contact the Vetting Coordinator or, in the event they are not available, the Foster Coordinator, President or Treasurer should be contacted for notification and treatment approval.

LOST HOUND: Email losthound@gpa-mn.org. Call Tae 651-329-2035 AND leave a detailed message on the GPA phone line: 763.785.4000.

FOOD: If your foster needs additional food, please contact Hanna Diamond. It is helpful if you can give us 5+ days notice so if a switch is needed the dog can be transitioned. Typically we have donated high quality food that we give to fosters. If your dog needs food for a health condition/allergy that must be purchased, contact Kristina Brindley for ordering.

If you have any questions about the fostering or vetting process, or any concerns after you take the hound home, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Contacts:

Andi Nelson	Vetting Coordinator	vetcare@gpa-mn.org	612-805-0954
Hanna Diamond	Foster Coordinator Foster Food Supplier	fostering@gpa-mn.org	612-345-1753
Kristina Brindley	GPA Treasurer Foster Food Supplier	treasurer@gpa-mn.org	213-399-1623

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