

# Foster Family Homes

## Program & Guidelines



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# Fostering for Second Chance Dog Rescue

## The Second Chance Story

Second Chance Dog Rescue is one of San Diego's largest and most successful non-profit 501c3 organizations dedicated to saving homeless dogs. We rescue, rehabilitate and rehome dogs from local shelters, as well as dogs surrendered by their owners for various reasons, and dogs from Baja California, Mexico. Once we receive a dog we provide medical care, including spay and neuter, and any necessary rehabilitation.

Second Chance Dog Rescue was founded in the fall of 2008 by Sandra D. Simpson, Jason Cordoba and Maria Blake who recognized the urgent need in our community. We pride ourselves on being a rescue group that is flexible and non-breed-specific. We also have the ability to rescue senior dogs as well as those with health or medical issues.

In just 4 years' time Second Chance Dog Rescue has accomplished a true miracle within our community. We successfully rescued 4,000 dogs from euthanasia, placing them in loving, safe, forever homes. Many asked how this was possible. It was done with a team of very dedicated volunteers who bring a wealth of experience regarding dog behaviors, business sense, and use of modern technology, networking, and our philosophy of keeping the welfare of the dogs our first priority. Every year Second Chance Dog Rescue has continued to average 1,000 dogs into new homes.






***One of the keys to our  
Success is our Network  
of Volunteers and  
Foster Family Homes***

Our key to success is our network of volunteers and foster family homes. Because we do not operate out of a shelter or have a facility in which to house our adoptable dogs, we rely on volunteers who lovingly open their hearts and their homes, offering temporary accommodations. Once integrated into one of our foster families, a dog that may have come to us frightened, timid, or otherwise emotionally scarred, will blossom and flourish with the tender loving care it receives there, often within just a few days.






Additionally, Second Chance Dog Rescue has an "open door" policy, which means we continue to welcome the County of San Diego Department of Animal Control to perform routine inspections of our dogs, daily operations, visit our foster family homes, adoption events, and online database of medical records, veterinarian invoices and so forth. With the support of so many we hope to set a fine example, and maintain higher standards of excellence in the dog rescue community.

Second Chance Dog Rescue has volunteers and foster families throughout Southern California and Baja California, Mexico. Won't you consider joining our team? The more foster families we have on board, the more dogs can be saved!

# Fostering for Second Chance Dog Rescue

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| <p><b>Need Supplies?</b></p>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please remind us if we need to bring dog food along with your dog.</li> <li>• Let us know if you need a crate, bed, bowls, a leash, toys, etc.</li> <li>• Should your foster need a harness and a second leash to walk safely, do not hesitate to ask.</li> <li>• When your dog is adopted, please return the re-usable supplies to Second Chance. If they are still in good shape we'll use them for the next foster dog!</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Safety First!</b></p>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When you get your dog, check the dog's collar for a snug fit, confirm the collar has an ID Tag, and that the leash is in good condition, (i.e. no fraying).</li> <li>• Put your address and phone # on the back of the tag - a return address label works well.</li> <li>• Ask if your foster dog takes medications, and if so be sure you receive the meds and understand the dosage requirements.</li> <li>• Please don't take your foster dog "off leash" as they may not come when called.</li> <li>• <b>SECURE YOUR FENCE.</b> Little dogs can't get through the smallest places and they have become lost, please don't let this happen to you.</li> <li>• <b>DO NOT</b> let your foster off leash even in your yard for at least five days. They aren't connected to you and will run away.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Get To Know Your Foster Dog</b></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out all you can about the dog's history from the person delivering your foster, and ask for any paperwork you may need.</li> <li>• Taking your foster for a walk around the block will help it get to know the sights, sound and scents of your neighborhood and will help it relax.</li> <li>• Put down water for your foster.</li> <li>• A blanket in a box or crate makes a great dog bed.</li> <li>• Offer appropriate toys to puppies who are teething or to toy-driven dogs.</li> <li>• Unless your foster is filthy, wait to give a bath until you know each other better.</li> <li>• Do not give a bath if a dog has been spayed or neutered recently.</li> <li>• Let the foster relax...she/he has had a very stressful day.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Help Your Dog Get Adopted!</b></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs in need of rescue are not always perfect.</li> <li>• Help your foster dog remember social graces so they can find a home quicker.</li> <li>• Regular walks and interactions with other dogs help with socialization.</li> <li>• Ask for advice on any physical, social or behavioral issues.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Keep Your Dog's Profile Up to Date</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the attached "Tell Us About Your Foster!" form to give us as much information as possible about your dog.</li> <li>• Take some cute pictures of your foster and email them with your write-up to your Foster Lead.</li> <li>• Check online to see that your foster dog's photo &amp; information has been posted and that its information correct and up-to-date.</li> <li>• Send us updates whenever you like!</li> </ul>  |

# Fostering for Second Chance Dog Rescue

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>If Your Dog Is Sick</p>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should your foster dog become ill or is symptomatic, email <a href="mailto:medical@secondchancedogrescue.org">medical@secondchancedogrescue.org</a>, and cc <a href="mailto:fosters@secondchancedogrescue.org">fosters@secondchancedogrescue.org</a></li> <li>• This email address is regularly checked by multiple SCDR volunteers, so someone will respond very quickly.</li> <li>• Second Chance will provide all medical care for your foster.</li> <li>• If you take your dog to your regular vet, Second Chance will not reimburse you for that expense. You must contact Second Chance and we will take to our vet.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>What to do if a foster dog escapes</p>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>A collar and ID tag is your foster's BEST chance of being found and returned if your dog gets lost.</u></li> <li>• The number one rule is to make sure the collar is secure and has its ID tag attached at all times, and please never take your dog "off leash".</li> <li>• When looking for a lost dog take a leash and special treats or a favorite toy.</li> <li>• If you have another dog that is its buddy, consider taking the buddy with you.</li> <li>• Feed your second dog the treats if you get close to a skittish loose dog...dogs can't stand not getting their fair share of treats!</li> <li>• If the dog can't be found, call (619) 721-3647 ASAP for help in posting a "lost dog" ad on Craigslist, and registering with local shelters.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Not the right dog?</p>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell your Foster Lead ASAP if a foster dog is not working out in your home.</li> <li>• Because we are an all-volunteer organization, please give us four days to find another foster home.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>When someone wants to adopt your dog!</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know in advance what the adoption fee is for your foster dog - your Foster Lead can tell you, or email <a href="mailto:Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.com">Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.com</a> and be sure to include your dog's name in the email.</li> <li>• Direct interested adopters to the Second Chance website to fill out the <a href="#">Foster-To-Adopt Application</a>, and email Second Chance to connect then with the potential adopter.<br/><a href="http://www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org">http://www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org</a></li> </ul>   |
| <p>After your dog leaves for its new home</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let your Foster Lead know how things went with the adoption.</li> <li>• Arrange to get paperwork and adoption fee to the appropriate person.</li> <li>• Let your Foster Lead know when you would like to foster again!</li> </ul>   |

*My Foster Contact is: [Fosters@SecondChanceDogRescue.com](mailto:Fosters@SecondChanceDogRescue.com)*

# Tell Us About Your Dog

Second Chance Dog Rescue

([www.secondchancedogrescue.org](http://www.secondchancedogrescue.org))

|  |                               |                                 |                                      |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dog's name                                   |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Energy Level?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> High | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium | <input type="checkbox"/> Low         |
| <b>Gets along with....</b>                   | Yes                           | No                              | Comments (the more info the better!) |
| Prefers women                                |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Prefers men                                  |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Good with young kids (0-10)                  |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Good with older kids (10-20)                 |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Good with other dogs                         |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Good with cats                               |                               |                                 |                                      |
| <b>Favorite activities....</b>               | Yes                           | No                              | Comments                             |
| Running / Walking                            |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Fetching a ball, stick, etc.                 |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Going to the dog park or beach               |                               |                                 |                                      |
| <b>Training....</b>                          | Yes                           | No                              | Comments                             |
| House broken                                 |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Responds to 'Sit' or 'Stay'                  |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Other comments                               |                               |                                 |                                      |
| <b>Bad habits....</b>                        | Yes                           | No                              | Comments                             |
| Barks, Growls or Bites                       |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Aggressive toward...                         |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Marks territory indoors                      |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Fearful (on scale of 1-10)                   |                               |                                 |                                      |
| Separation anxiety                           |                               |                                 |                                      |
| <b>Unique Traits and General Personality</b> |                               |                                 |                                      |

# How Dogs Get Adopted

## Second Chance Dog Rescue

([www.secondchancedogrescue.org](http://www.secondchancedogrescue.org))

There are three ways potential adopters might see your foster dog and ask about adoption. Most dogs are adopted within two to three weeks. If you take your dog to an adoption event every weekend, your dog will be adopted more quickly. Or if you prefer to wait for the adoption event closest to your home, you may have your foster dog a little longer.

Regardless of how your dog finds their forever home, SCDR always uses a two week “Foster-To-Adopt” process to help make sure the dog is a good fit for their new home. The Foster-To-Adopt (FTA) period is the two weeks between the FTA contract and the Adoption contract, and is the period during which an adopter decides if they are going to keep their dog.



### 1. Event Adoptions

Many foster dogs are adopted at a SCDR Saturday adoption event.

- If someone spends time with your foster dog at an Adoption Event and would like to see if the dog works with their family and home, they will complete a [Foster-to-Adopt Application](#) while at the event.
- Once their application has been approved by SCDR, the adopter may take the dog home from the event, and you'll receive a phone call from an SCDR volunteer letting you know your dog was adopted.
- Because of this, please bring all paperwork, leashes, collars, toys, medications, etc., to the Adoption Event so they can be returned to Second Chance for the next rescue dog.
- If you prefer, you can require a Home Visit prior to an adopter being able to take your foster dog home - be sure to let the SCDR volunteers at the event know that you're requesting a Home Visit.
- Or if you choose to, you can schedule a Home Visit for a convenient day and time during the two week Foster-To-Adopt period.
- If during the Home Visit you feel the dog is not in a safe and loving environment, please call your Foster Lead and/or email [Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.org](mailto:Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.org), and explain your concerns.



### 2. Website Adoptions

Adoptions from dogs' pictures and bios on the SCDR website are another way dogs find their forever homes.

- When someone sees a dog they'd like to meet on the SCDR website, the adopter begins by filling out the online [Foster-to-Adopt Application](#) regarding their home, other pets, children, etc.
- Once SCDR has reviewed and approved the application, the potential adopter will be given your contact information so you can arrange a 'meet and greet' with the dog.
- A potential adopter should bring all family members and other dogs with them to that initial introduction, to help with your evaluation and the dog's entry into their new home.
- If the meet and greet goes well, the adopter completes the [Foster-to-Adopt Application](#) contract at the appointment and can take the dog home then.



### 3. Private Adoptions

You may meet (or know) someone who is interested in adopting your foster dog.

- If you meet someone who is interested in adopting your dog, ask the potential adopter to fill out both the online [Adoption Questionnaire](#) and the [Foster-to-Adopt Application](#) at SCDR's website ([www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org](http://www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org)).
- Email [Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.org](mailto:Info@SecondChanceDogRescue.org) with the name of your dog, and let us know who will be submitting an adoption application.
- Once the application has been reviewed and approved, a SCDR volunteer will instruct you in how to complete the adoption process.