

RESCUE POLICY

GREAT PYRENEES RESCUE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

-POLICY-

1. To aid owners of Great Pyrenees who reside within Northern California in the recovery of their animals when lost, strayed or stolen.
2. To keep Great Pyrenees out of the hands of laboratories, animal dealers, puppy mills and similar enterprises. To attempt to keep Great Pyrenees out of pounds and animal shelters .
3. To attempt to place stray or abandoned Pyrenees in homes which will provide a high level of care and where the spirit of the Code of Ethics is observed. To this end, it is to be strongly encouraged that new owners of rescued dogs become members of the Great Pyrenees Club of California.
4. Recognizing that dogs with severe physical and/or temperamental defects are detrimental the welfare and reputation of the breed, to arrange for humane euthanasia of such dogs when they come into the jurisdiction of Rescue.
5. All dogs coming into the jurisdiction of rescue shall be surgically neutered before being placed in new homes, unless the GPRNC Board of Directors decides to make an exception in an individual case. Each case requiring euthanasia or exception from sterilization shall be considered individually by the committee and a written report filed with the Rescue Chair's file
6. Rescue operations shall be self-supporting via donations and adoption fees .
7. All decisions regarding a rescued dog, including terms of transfer, sterilization or euthanasia are the responsibility of the GPRNC Board of Directors.
8. While it is not the purpose of the *GPRNC* to find placements for animals that are simply unwanted by their owners, these animals may be provided for under a separate Placement Policy.
9. In all matters not covered by these guidelines, the welfare of the breed shall be the prime consideration. Where there is a conflict between the welfare of the breed and the welfare of an individual animal, the welfare of the breed shall take precedence.

IMPLEMENTATION

Rescue Chair: The Rescue Chair of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Northern California, Inc. is elected by the Board of Directors of the GPRNC. In case of a tie vote, the deciding vote shall be cast by the President of the GPCC. The Rescue Chair is charged with organizing the Rescue System in accordance with Rescue Policy as set forth in these guidelines and the Code of Ethics and with insuring that an effective, coherent service is provided at all times. The Rescue Chair shall be selected from among those with previous service within the Rescue program. The office of Rescue Chair will be considered vacant upon the written resignation from that position of the Rescue chair, or upon removal from that position by a majority vote of the GPRNC Board of Directors.

GPRNC Board of Directors: The GPRNC Board of Directors hereinafter called the Board, shall consist of five (5) members, including the Chair.. They shall be appointed by the Rescue Chair from among those volunteering an interest in such service. At least one of these shall be an officer or director of the GPCC. The Rescue Chair shall designate one member of the board as Vice Chair. The Vice Chair will serve as Chair in the absence of the Chair or in cases where the Chair is temporarily unable to serve A quorum of three members shall be required for decisions, to include the Rescue Chair or Vice Chair. It is recognized that most of the business of the Board will be conducted by telephone and/or e-mail or other electronic means of communication..

GPRNC Rescue Policy

The Rescue Chair's first duty following appointment, and thereafter annually, is to confirm that existing Rescue Representatives are willing to continue in service and to appoint representatives to fill vacancies.

The GPRNC Board of Directors is to be named by the Rescue Chair within one month of taking office, and thereafter annually, and their names published in the newsletter of the GPCC.

The Pyr News & Notes, official newsletter of the Great Pyrenees Club of California, shall be considered the official print publication of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Northern California, Inc. Other publications may be so designated by the Board.

The website, <http://www.gprnc.org> shall carry information and pictures of adoptable dogs, the organization's Policy and Procedures and copies of all necessary forms. Control of the website shall rest with the GPRNC Board of Directors, however day to day operation may be assigned to a webmaster appointed by the GPRNC Chair.

Duties of the Board of Directors: The GPRNC Board of Directors shall oversee and approve funds spent for Rescue purposes, including veterinary care in excess of \$100, board for a Rescued dog, advertising and other expenses. Recognizing that there are honest differences of opinion regarding the placeability of some dogs, the GPRNC Board shall make such decisions on the basis of the best information available. In cases where agreement among the Rescue Chair and the Rescue Representative responsible for the dog is not forthcoming, or where a dog has incurred more than a 30-day board bill or has incurred unusual medical expenses, the GPRNC Board of Directors shall decide the matter by majority vote.

Rescue Representatives: Rescue Representatives should be appointed so that all major population centers of Great Pyrenees are represented. The Rescue Chair shall submit to the GPRNC Board of Directors a list containing the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of all Rescue Representatives by September 1st of each year. The list will then be published in the next issue of the GPCC bulletin.

All Rescue Representatives must complete and sign the **Volunteer Release Form** at the time of their appointment and thereafter annually. The Rescue Chairman has the responsibility for seeing that this is done.

The Rescue Chair shall apprise all Rescue Representatives of their duties when first appointed. A meeting of the GPRNC Board of Directors and Rescue Representatives should be held annually, and at a time and place to be announced in advance in the bulletin.

Since much of the business in Rescue is conducted by telephone, a telephone network should be set up to minimize toll charges, and to facilitate exchange of information. Directors and representatives who use e-mail to communicate agree to check their e-mail daily to be certain messages are received in a timely manner.

DEFINITION

"Rescue Dog": Lost dog; dog found with or without identification; dog in pound or animal shelter; badly abused or neglected dog; injured dog, owner not immediately known.

"Placement Dog": Dog not fitting above description.

ADMINISTRATION

Any owner of a Great Pyrenees is encouraged to use the services of the GPRNC to locate a lost dog or find the owner of a found dog. The owner who has lost a dog should immediately contact the nearest Rescue Representative, who will advise the owner about ways to look for and advertise for the missing dog in its immediate area. The Rescue Representative shall then advise

the Rescue Chair. The Rescue Chair will spread the word of the lost dog. Telephone, e-mail and Internet communication may be used as appropriate.

Any person who finds a Great Pyrenees should contact the Local Rescue Representative, who will attempt to identify the dog (check for ID tags, tattoo, consult dog list, scan for microchip etc.) If immediate identification is not possible, the Rescue Representative shall contact the Rescue Chair directly for further instructions. The unidentified dog shall be given a preliminary examination by a veterinarian, and receive DHL and Parvo shots and fecal and heartworm examination. It may be kenneled in an approved facility, or placed in a foster home only upon assurance by the veterinarian that the dog is apparently free of communicable disease. A sick or badly injured animal may be temporarily boarded with a veterinarian pending action by the GPRNC Board of Directors.

In all cases of found dogs, where the owner is not immediately identifiable, the dog will, wherever possible, be kenneled in the vicinity where found, preferably with a volunteer. Rescue Representatives are authorized to incur up to \$100.00 in veterinary expenses for a "found" dog. Further expenses must be authorized by the Rescue Chair.

If the Great Pyrenees is found in a pound or animal shelter, where deemed advisable, the Rescue Representative will redeem the dog pending placement. **(See Problem Potential Profile, page 7).** Where not practical, or if shelter rules prohibit this, the Rescue Representative shall personally maintain contact with the pound or shelter until the mandatory impounding period is up. If the dog is redeemable, the Rescue Representative shall make a serious effort to redeem it; if it is sold or given away by the pound or shelter, the Rescue Representative shall make every effort to contact the person to whom the dog was sold or given and offer them the information about the GPRNC and the breed.

If a Rescue Representative hears about a Pyrenees which is in extremely poor condition physically or mentally and/or is being severely neglected or abused, presenting a danger to the dog, the breed or to the public, the Rescue Representative shall contact the Rescue Chair. The Rescue Representative and GPRNC Board of Directors will explore all possibilities of obtaining the dog for Rescue care.

Pregnant Bitches: Should a pregnant bitch be rescued, she is the immediate responsibility of the GPRNC Board of Directors. The Board shall decide the fate of the litter.

Euthanasia Guide: A veterinarian's written recommendation to euthanize a dog under Rescue's control shall not be overruled when that recommendation is made to prevent the spread of a communicable disease. Recommendations made on other grounds are subject to review by the GPRNC Board of Directors. Cases in which euthanasia may be approved include but are not limited to: Chronic debilitating physical conditions, such as pancreatitis, severe weight loss due to disease and severe skin disorders. Temperamental problems, such as unprovoked attacks or repeated attempts to bite, and/or seizure activity are valid causes for euthanasia.

A written report, including veterinary findings where applicable, shall be filed with the Rescue Chair on all dogs euthanized within one month of euthanasia. The Rescue Chair shall maintain such reports in a permanent file.

The responsibility for physically taking a dog to be euthanized will be determined by the following order:

- 1) The GPRNC Board of Directors member geographically closest to the dog, not to include the person caring for the dog.

- 2) The GPRNC Rescue Representative geographically closest to the dog, not to include the person caring for the dog.
- 3) Any other GPRNC Rescue Representative within reasonable driving time.
- 4) Any other person so designated by the Rescue Chair.
- 5). Mileage at \$0.30/mile, round trip, may be reimbursed for this purpose.

EXPENSES

Foster families are encouraged to donate their time and feed for the dog they are temporarily sheltering. Foster families caring for multiple rescue dogs, or who care for more than two dogs in a six month period, may request reimbursement for the rescued dogs' feed, subject to approval by the Board. Except for emergencies and preliminary veterinary examinations (to include DHL and Parvo shots, heartworm test and fecal exam), veterinary care must be approved by the GPRNC Board. The rescue Fund shall bear net liability of no more than \$400.00 for the care of an individual animal, except when this limit is extended by the Board in a specific case. This does not prevent the acceptance of funds for the further care of a particular dog, nor does it prevent the volunteer sheltering the dog from caring for it at personal expense, if they so desire. Before a dog is placed, it should be implanted with an Avid microchip, the number registered to GPRNC . The chip number should be added to the dog's computer record with the Dog List.

Expenses incurred by a volunteer for the care of a Rescue dog shall be submitted on a GPRNC form to the Rescue Chair who shall forward a copy to the GPRNC Treasurer. This expense form should be submitted even in cases where the volunteer wishes to donate back the expenses incurred. All bills submitted for telephone calls must be approved by the Rescue Chair and itemized by the dog involved. Toll calls made by Board members should be placed on the GPRNC calling card wherever possible. All monies accruing from the transfer of a dog shall go into the GPRNC fund.

FORMS

The following forms are a part of this rescue packet. When filled out, they should be sent to the Rescue Chair who will make it a permanent part of the file of the dog involved.

1. Release Forms
2. Bill of Transfer (for acquisition of owned Pyr)
3. Bill of Transfer (from finder to GPRNC representative)
4. Evaluation of Dog
5. Initial Health Inspection
6. Transfer Agreement (to new owner)
7. Expense Sheet
8. Request for listing of a Placement Dog
9. Home Evaluation Form
10. Lost Dog Form
11. Notification to Breeder of Rescued Dog (this form is sent by the Rescue Chair only.)

The Expense Sheet shall be kept by the Rescue Representative for each Rescue animal with which she/he is involved, and shall show all monies expended for a particular animal and any donation given when the animal is placed. This expense sheet is to be maintained whether or not the Rescue Representative is asking for reimbursement of such expenses.

Originals of the above forms are to be sent to the Rescue Chair when completed and shall then be made a part of the GPRNC's permanent file.

The Rescue Chair shall maintain a file of all Pyrenees handled by Rescue and shall turn such records over to the new Rescue Chair at the end of their tenure in office. This file is to be made available to the GPRNC Board upon request. A list of tattoo and microchip numbers should be maintained with the file also. Rescue Representatives shall supply the Rescue Chair with full information on placements with which they are involved. It is the responsibility of the Chair to keep the Dog List Coordinator informed of all changes in ownership, address changes, etc. In turn, the Dog List will be available to Rescue for assistance in identifying found dogs.

BREEDER RESPONSIBILITY

All breeders of Great Pyrenees are required by the Code of Ethics to take lifetime responsibility for the care and re-homing of dogs of their breeding.

Where the breeding of a Rescue dog is known, the breeder and/or owner of the sire shall be contacted and asked for support in the matter. Recognizing that it is of great importance to know the whereabouts of all Great Pyrenees in our area of responsibility, GPCC members are asked to furnish the dog list chair with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all their puppy buyers, along with the sex, date of birth and breeding of each pup within six weeks of the sale of the litter.

GPCC CODE OF ETHICS:

ARTICLE IV - Section 2

A breeder shall be available to buyers for whatever advice, reasonable aid and assistance they may need for the lifetime of their dog. GPCC members shall help and support their fellow members in fulfilling this obligation. Recognizing this lifetime responsibility to the dog they have allowed to be produced, breeders and stud owners shall also aid the Rescue committee when a dog of their breeding comes to its attention.

PLACEMENT DOGS

Placement Dogs: In the case of "Placement" dogs, the breeder and/or owner of the dog is obliged to furnish the Rescue Chair, in writing, a full description of the dog, including health condition, defects and problems, if any.

Placement dogs will not be accepted for listing if this written information is not provided. Nothing in this Rescue Policy shall prevent individuals from accepting unwanted dogs for private placement. Dogs who do not meet the criteria for "Rescue" dogs, as determined by the GPRNC Board of Directors, shall be termed "Placement" dogs. The following guidelines are suggested:

1. The dog involved should be legally signed over to the volunteer with a written bill of transfer/sale and complete AKC registration forms where applicable. Use GPRNC "Bill of Transfer". No payment should be made for these dogs.
2. The dog's former owner should be encouraged to pay something toward the dog's upkeep where possible. (\$100.00 is suggested).
3. The breeder and owner of the sire should be notified if practical and asked to take responsibility for care and placement.
4. No promises should be made to the former owners about the dogs' eventual placement. This can be likened to the policies of an adoption agency.
5. GPRNC Board members must familiarize themselves with AKC rules regarding transfer of registration and keeping of necessary records

6. Placement dogs may be listed on the GPRNC website.

7. *All dogs listed as "Placement" must be neutered and updated on shots before acceptance .*

8. This "Placement" policy recognizes that, in cases where a Great Pyrenees is unwanted by its owner, it may eventually be sent by its owner to a pound or shelter, where it will become a Rescue responsibility. It is also in danger of being sold to a home where the Code of Ethics is not respected and an unsuitable animal may be used for breeding. It may also be placed in a situation which presents a danger to the dog, the breed or the public. In these cases, it is recognized that it is better for all concerned that the dog come into the jurisdiction of Rescue, either as a "rescue" or "placement" dog, before substantial harm has occurred to the dog, the breed or the public.

9. On a case by case basis, the GPRNC Board of Directors may financially and/or physically assist owners in voluntary euthanasia of old, sick or injured dogs.

10. All applicable provisions of the Code of Ethics shall be observed in the care and placement of dogs handled either as "rescue" or "placement" dogs.

RESCUE - FOSTER CARE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

RESCUE REPRESENTATIVES

1. Make an appointment with the Director of your local Animal Shelter or SPCA. Take the Shelter Brochure with you and a copy of the GPRNC Rescue Policy. Introduce yourself as the local GPRNC Rescue Representative and explain that we would like to exchange updated information to aid in returning lost Pyrs and placing found/surrendered Pyrs. Leave a copy of the Rescue policy and the current list of Rescue Representatives. Explain that, if you, as the local representative cannot be reached by phone, the GPRNC Chair will accept a collect call from the shelter and will either act on the call or pass the information on to someone who will.

WHEN A PYR IS REPORTED TO BE IN A SHELTER

1. Check, personally or through another Pyr owner, to be certain the dog in question actually is a Pyr. If there is question about its being purebred, or possibly even another breed, call the Rescue Chair or Vice-Chair for consultation. In any case, alert the Rescue Chair.

2. Attempt to find out where the dog came from. If surrendered, do they have any information on the dog - age, whether or not neutered, area he came from. If found - what area of the town/county was he found in? Has it been scanned for a microchip? Explain that we have a computerized listing of all known Pyrs in Northern California and may be able to help locate the owner of the dog. Relay this information to the Rescue Chair or Vice-Chair.

3. When will the dog be available for adoption? Will they release it to Rescue? If so, will they assist us in filling out a preliminary evaluation form?

4. **DOES THE DOG FIT THE "PROBLEM-POTENTIAL PROFILE"?** (See below.)

The Rescue Chair, Vice-Chair or member of the GPRNC Board of Directors can help you make this determination. If it does, the GPRNC Board of Directors will take responsibility for decisions regarding this dog. Your assistance and feedback, as the Rescue Representative on the scene, are needed to help make a well-informed decision. In NO CASE is the dog fitting this profile to be taken from the shelter or accepted into Rescue care until further evaluation has taken place.

PROBLEM POTENTIAL PROFILE

Experience has shown that some dogs are more likely than others to have problems that make them difficult or dangerous to place. If a dog fits **ANY** of the following criteria, the Rescue Chair, Vice Chair or GPRNC Board of Directors is to be notified *before the dog is accepted into GPRNC care.* .

- A. Male, un-neutered, between 12 and 25 months of age.
- B. Either sex, seven years of age or older.
- C. Sibling or close relative of a dog that is known to have serious health or temperament problems.
- D. Dog that itself exhibits health or temperament problems.

An experienced Pyr owner may be assigned to assist in the evaluation of a dog that fits the above profile. Input may be requested of the Shelter, a veterinarian, former owner or others having knowledge of the dog's background. Responsibility for the decision as to whether or not the dog will be redeemed from the shelter and/or accepted by Rescue rests with the GPRNC Board of Directors.

If, at any time in the Rescue process - from initial contact to final placement in a permanent home - any responsible person has reason to feel that the dog involved presents a danger to himself, the breed or to any human or domestic animal, the Rescue Chair is to be notified at once. If the Rescue Chair is not available, the Vice-Chair is to be notified. The GPRNC Board of Directors will then decide the fate of the dog. It is understood that time is of the essence in this case and, if there is a conflict between the welfare of a dog and the welfare of a human, the welfare of the human shall take precedence. If there is a conflict between the welfare of the dog and the welfare of the breed, the welfare of the breed shall take precedence.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE BY RESCUE

1. A dog coming from a pound or shelter should be first taken to a veterinarian familiar with Great Pyrenees. The GPRNC Board of Directors will maintain a list of vets who show special cooperation to Rescue and will make this list available to Rescue Representatives. The dog should have the following:

- a.) Physical exam
- b.) DHLPP and rabies shots if current shot status is unknown
- c.) Fecal examination (for worms) and treatment if necessary
- d.) Blood test for heartworm. If positive, notify Rescue Chair.
- e.) Scan for microchip; if dog does not have one, get a chip from the GPRNC Chair.

The examining vet should be asked to fill out the veterinary evaluation form as completely as possible and return it to the Rescue Representative handling the dog.

2. If the dog is found to be in good health, the dog may be taken to a temporary approved foster home for further evaluation

THE FOSTER HOME

1. Each Rescue Representative and person acting as a foster home must sign the general Release Form (Volunteer). When a dog is accepted into a foster home, the family must also sign a Release Form naming the specific dog being accepted.

2. If a volunteer wishes to take a modular pen, owned by the GPRNC, the volunteer (and spouse, if any) shall sign an agreement stating their willingness to use the pen to house at least two Rescued dog a year, if requested, and acknowledging that the pen will be

returned to the GPRNC if they are no longer able or willing to house a Rescued dog or they move from the area.

3. Each foster home is expected to furnish the feed and supplements (if needed) for the dog they are temporarily housing. If a foster home is housing more than one foster dog, or houses more than two foster dogs in a six month period , provisions may be made for reimbursement of feed costs. The Board may make other arrangements for reimbursement at its discretion. Veterinary care will be paid for by the Rescue fund only as detailed in the GPRNC Rescue Policy,. (See page 5)

ADOPTION

Persons expressing an interest in adopting a Rescue dog should be referred to a member of the GPRNC Board of Directors for a preliminary (telephone) interview. If they are still interested after the initial interview, they will be referred to the GPRNC web site where they can fill out a Home Evaluation form. In general, persons interested in adopting must return a completed questionnaire in order to be considered for an available dog. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by case basis by the Rescue Chair or GPRNC Board of Directors.

It is always assumed that those who dedicate themselves to Rescue will act in good faith, conscious of their responsibility to the dogs entrusted to their care. Rescue activities are not undertaken without a serious commitment to the breed as a whole. To paraphrase the GPCC Code of Ethics:

"Novices are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced (rescue personnel), and the more experienced shall graciously assist the novice and share, for the good of the breed, the benefits of that knowledge.

" In all questions of ethics, covered or not covered by the (Rescue Policy), the individual ... shall act solely in the best interests of the breed and the membership as a whole shall willingly aid any Great Pyrenees owner in upholding these interests."

PLACING RESCUES AS LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS

Placing a rescued dog as a Livestock Guardian Dog has special requirements and hazards. It is essential that all concerned - representatives of Rescue, Foster home, and potential new owner - understand the requirements of both the dog and the adoptive home.

DEFINITIONS:

Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD): a dog that spends the majority of its time with livestock and is expected to prevent predation by coyotes, dogs or other predators.

Range Dog: A LGD that works with large bands of livestock, usually sheep, on unfenced range, with or without the presence of a human shepherd. Because of the very special needs of range operators, and the lack of daily supervision, Rescue will not as a rule place dogs where they are intended to be range dogs.

Family Farm Dog: A LGD that lives in a rural setting with any of a variety of livestock and/or poultry, that is expected to interact appropriately with humans while protecting the livestock from predators.

Fencing: May include normal woven-wire field fencing, 4-feet tall, adequate to restrain a flock of sheep or goats; welded wire fencing, or "no climb", four to six feet tall, used to restrain raptors, cattle or horses. For the purpose of this section, it does not include barbed-wire used exclusively as fencing, "invisible" electronic fencing nor woven netting, with or without electric wires, nor horizontal-board fencing when the space between the boards is inadequate to prevent the entrance or exit of a dog ("dog-tight").

Requirements for the adoptive home that wants a Livestock Guardian Dog

As a minimum, all of the following must apply:

- 1.) All areas where the dog has access must be fenced with the fences in good repair; all gates must be dog-tight. If the dog may have access to a driveway, there must be a dog-tight gate that is kept closed between it and the road.
- 2.) There must be an adult normally present at all times on the property where the dog will usually reside.
- 3.) The adopters must understand that they take the dog from Rescue on a trial basis only; that they are responsible for the welfare and safety of their own animals; that they agree to properly restrain the dog with fencing or leash until they are satisfied that the dog will not itself harm their animals; that the dog will require a significant commitment of time and effort to train. The adoption will become final only upon the adopters being satisfied that the dog meets their needs and Rescue being satisfied that the dog will be properly cared for.

Requirements for a Rescued dog that may be used as a Livestock Guardian Dog

- 1.) If the dog has not lived with livestock in the past, the younger dog shall be preferred over the older one.
- 2.) The dog should have no prey drive - that is, he should be completely disinterested in chasing a ball or cat.
- 3.) The dog must be neutered and fully healed from the surgery before placement.
- 4.) The dog should exhibit a normally calm demeanor; aggressiveness toward other dogs is not to be faulted. Aggressiveness toward humans is not to be tolerated.
- 5.) The dog should be in good health, apparently orthopedically sound (x-rays not required), and not in need of daily medication such as thyroid.

Evaluating the Rescued dog as a potential Livestock Guardian Dog

The farm is not a “dumping ground” for a rescued dog. Rather, it is an opportunity for those of sound temperament and conformation to fulfill a need and to pursue their age-old occupation of caring for the livestock. Not all dogs can do this. Some, by breeding or early experiences, require the constant presence of people to be happy. Some do not have the ability to “think independently” that the job requires. Some simply lack the basic temperament required and look upon the stock as prey rather than property. A dog that has been turned in as a “shape shifter” or escape artist cannot easily be taught to stay behind a four-foot fence.

Check for bodily sensitivity. A dog that does not object strongly to being pinched and poked probably won’t retaliate when prodded by livestock.

Does the dog exhibit the ability to quickly learn new tasks and commands? A working LGD needs to continually learn and to apply what it has learned to new experiences.

Is the dog willing to spend time by itself without constantly trying to get in the house, or pestering people for attention? The LGD will spend all of his time with other animals, and only minimal time with humans.

Is the dog aware of noises and activity outside its immediate area? This trait often results in chronic barkers when kept in town - not a fault on a larger farm - and is needed to alert humans to unusual activity.

Walk the leashed dog in a rural area where there are livestock nearby. Does it display curiosity rather than aggression? If it is possible to visit a farm, where the leashed dog can get closer to the livestock, so much the better.

Inspection of the potential adopter’s farm

Wherever possible, a representative of Rescue should visit the farm of the potential adopter. The representative should have had some experience with normal farm life, in order to better evaluate the dog’s chances for success and fill out the GPRNC Farm Inspection form.

Introductory period

The introductory or trial period should have a specific limit; 30 days is suggested; although it may be shorter, there is little purpose to having it longer. During this time, the adoption may be canceled for any reason by the adopter and for cause by Rescue. “Cause” would be abuse or neglect of the dog, fraudulent statements on the application about how and where the dog would be used, if such statements result in neglect of or hazard to the dog. The adoptive home must sign a waiver at the time they receive the dog, releasing the GPRNC from any liability for damage done by the dog. The adoption fee is paid at the beginning of the trial period. If the adoption is cancelled the adoption fee is non-refundable.

During the introductory period, adopter should stay in regular touch with Rescue or the designated Livestock Guardian Dog advisors, to help correct problems before they become too serious to correct. The LGD advisor may give advice on training and care and may visit the dog to assure it is being trained properly and given adequate care.

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