



Fostering can be a huge commitment, and not something we would expect anyone to take on based only on the information in this leaflet. If you are considering fostering, please get in touch, and we will be more than happy to discuss it in detail. We know from experience that it is one of the most rewarding commitments that you can make!



June McPhillips

Volunteer Recruitment Manager

What sort of person can be a foster carer?

Any experienced owner, who has appropriate home circumstances, can be a foster carer. Although people with Springer experience are ideal, those with experience of similar breeds are very welcome. Every dog is different, and matching a dog with the right foster home is as important as matching them with the right forever home. Some of the things you may want to consider are

- Have you got the time to devote to a foster dog, not just company, but regular exercise every day?
- What sort of dogs would you be happy with in your household? How sure of their temperament would you need to be?
- If you have dog/s yourself, will that affect the type of dog you are comfortable fostering? Remember that foster dogs may not initially be up to date with their vaccinations, and may have infections and infestations that we are not aware of. Are your dogs protected? Do they need to be?
- Do you have children? Are they comfortable with strange dogs? Because we cannot be sure of a dog's temperament when it comes in to foster care, we will not place foster dogs in homes with small children, except in very exceptional circumstances.
- Are you happy to take a dog that has medical problems that need to be dealt with before they are rehomed? Are you happy to take a dog that has behavioural problems that need to be dealt with before they are rehomed?

Remember, you will never be asked to foster a dog that you are uncomfortable with.



Fostering



Why do we need foster carers for dogs?

Very occasionally, Springer Rescue for Scotland will keep a dog with its original owner until it can be re-homed. Normally we will take dogs into our care to allow for assessment, and any necessary medical treatment. Usually we will arrange this in advance with the original owner, but sometimes we have to act urgently, if an owner has died or become ill suddenly, or if the dog is being mistreated.

What are the benefits of foster care for the dog

Foster care, rather than kennels, has huge benefits for the dog – human contact, and perhaps the company of other dogs; good and appropriate feeding and exercise; the security of a warm, loving home.

The day to day assessment of a dog that a foster carer can do will also give us a huge amount of useful information when we come to find the right forever home for a dog. Some dogs come in to our care with ongoing medical problems – it is very beneficial to the dog to be able to have these dealt with in a supportive home environment rather than kennels.

We will occasionally have to assess a dog with behavioural issues – this is ideally done by someone with the appropriate experience seeing the dog in a range of situations. Remember, we will never ask you to foster a dog with behavioural issues unless you have the skills and experience to do so.

What will You Gain from Fostering?

- The main benefit of fostering is knowing that you are making a huge difference to a dog's life, and that you are giving love and attention to a dog that would otherwise not be having that experience. There are other benefits, however, that are not always so obvious

- The fun and variety of having different canine personalities living with you.
- Developing your skills and experience as a dog owner. Sometimes, an experienced owner will find themselves in a situation where they feel it would be unfair to have their own dog – shift working, occasional postings abroad, unsettled future plans. This can be the ideal opportunity to offer the benefit of your skills and experience to a rescue Springer – even a day or two in a loving and understanding home can be the start that a bewildered dog needs in their new life.

What support will SRS provide?

The simple answer to this is, as much as you need!

- Your requirements such as children, pets or holidays, are always taken into account
 - We will pay for the dog's feeding, health and social needs. You would be expected to know when to call the vet, and ensure the dog's socialisation and training were maintained, but we would pay all veterinary bills, and for any necessary and agreed training classes.
 - You would always have access to the support and skills of one of our Co-ordinators.
 - We will provide or pay for any equipment that you need.
- If you are ever uncomfortable with having a particular foster spaniel in your home, you can let us know and we will make alternative arrangements.

How do the expenses work?

We will provide all the equipment that you need. Day to day bills such as food you simply pay for, and send the receipts to the Treasurer with an expenses claim form – this does not need to be agreed in advance. If this would cause hardship,

then we can organise to supply food for the dog, or a small budget for food – this should be discussed with your Area Co-ordinator.

Springer Rescue for Scotland makes sure that all dogs are rehomed with up to date vaccinations, microchipping, tick, flea, and worm treatment, and we sometimes need to organise neutering. This often takes place during time in foster, and should be organised in agreement with your Area Co-ordinator. SRS will obviously pay for all of this. If a foster dog needs other veterinary treatment, this will be organised and paid for by SRS. We will take into consideration what is convenient for you when we arrange it, or may ask you if you are happy to arrange it and agree a fee with your own vet, which we will pay for.

In an emergency, we of course expect you to look after a foster dog as you would your own, including emergency veterinary care. We will pay for this.

How do you get started?

Foster carers are homechecked, just as we would if you wished to adopt a Springer. We would send one of our most experienced assessors, so that not only can we do your homecheck, but you have someone who will be able to answer a lot of your questions about fostering. If at all possible, we will send your Area Co-ordinator to do your homecheck, so that you have a chance to meet the person who you will be able to call on for support.

Being a foster carer can seem quite daunting, but it is an incredibly rewarding, fulfilling, and interesting way to contribute to the welfare of Springers in Scotland. If you are interested in fostering, would like the chance to discuss it with an experienced foster carer, or would simply like more information, please get in touch on 07950 141074 or email us volunteers@springerrescuescotland.org.

