

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc

RESCUE PROTOCOLS

The following practices are recommended by the GSPCA and can be used as a guideline for startup groups.

I. INTAKE

- For all owner-surrendered dogs accepted into Rescue, the Rescue shall ask the surrendering owner for the breeder name and contact information and will attempt to locate and contact the breeder and/or notify the stud dog owner to inquire if they will accept the dog back.
- Rescues will report, to their GSPCA regional director, the breeders who do and do not accept their dogs back.
- For all owner-surrendered dogs accepted into Rescue, the Rescue will receive written release from the owner of the dog relinquishing ownership.
- All dogs entering Rescue will be scanned for a microchip. For dogs with a microchip, the Rescue will attempt to locate the owner of the dog.
- Rescues shall place a priority on accepting dogs in their geographical area. If Rescues are able to cover all the intake needs of their geographical area and still have available foster and adoptive homes, that Rescue may pull from out of their geographical region, but must first contact the local rescue and receive their permission.

II. VETTING

- All dogs will be spayed or neutered before placement. In the event that a dog is too young to be spayed or neutered in the opinion of the rescue or a treating veterinarian, the dog may be placed under contract to have the spay or neuter done following placement.
- All dogs will be up to date on veterinary care before placement. Appropriate veterinary care will be determined by the rescue in conjunction with the treating veterinarian and should include, but is not limited to: rabies shot, distemper/parvo/lepto shot, bordatella, heartworm test and heartworm preventative (as is geographically appropriate).
- As much as possible, all dogs will be microchipped before placement.

- Dogs that cannot be safely placed or pose a significant liability risk if they were to be placed should not be placed by the Rescue.

III. PLACEMENT

- All dogs adopted through Rescue will be placed through an adoption process. The adoption process should contain a vet reference check, if applicable and a home visit, if possible.
- All dogs adopted through Rescue will be adopted under an Adoption Contract that requires the adopter to return the dog to the Rescue if at any time they need to re-home the dog.
- Individual Rescues should establish their own Adoption Placement Protocols to include instruction on these placement issues, including but not limited to, the following:
 - Containment systems, chain link, or short fences;
 - Crating;
 - Apartments or homes without available yards;
 - Dogs are adopted as companion animals and the dog's ability to hunt is not guaranteed;
 - Sufficient exercise;
 - Cats or small dogs; and
 - Children.
- With very limited exceptions, dogs shall be placed in homes where they are not outdoor pets.
- Rescues shall serve as educators to help inform the public and their adopters on how to practice responsible dog ownership, as it relates to dogs generally as well as how it relates to GSPs specifically.
- Dogs shall be placed by Rescues locally. A Rescue shall have an out-of-state policy for any adoptions that take place out of their geographical region that is in compliance with these protocols.
 - To place a dog out of its geographical region, a Rescue must first require that an adopter work with and be approved by its local rescue. If there is no local rescue, this requirement is met through the closest rescue.
 - Once approved with the local Rescue, an adopter must work with that local Rescue for a reasonable amount of time to find a good match. If the adopter is unable to find a good match after a reasonable amount of time, the local Rescue may give its permission, in writing, to the non-local rescue to place a dog in that home. The adopter should make arrangements for transport and is financially responsible for travel.