



Merlin's Hope Chow/Pei Rescue Program Foster Application

After you have read the description of our Foster Home Program, please complete the questions below, sign, and return to Merlin's Hope, (hereinafter known as M.H.), using one of the methods at the end of the form. Thank you for helping us with this greatest of rescue needs.

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Primary Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

Secondary Phone Number (ie. Work, Home...)

Please enter a valid phone number.

Email *

example@example.com

Occupation *

1. Have you ever worked with Chow Chows or Shar Peis before? *

Yes, Chow Chows
No

Yes, Shar Peis

Yes, both

If yes, please give us a brief description of your experience. If no, type N/A.

2. Type of dwelling you live in? *

House

Apartment

Condominium

Other

3. Do you rent or own? *

If you rent, please answer the following questions:

If you own, please skip to #4

3a. Do you have your landlord's permission to keep a dog?

3b. Do you understand that the dog must be exercised on a leash in a safe place?

4a. Do you have a yard? *

4b. Is it fenced? *

4c. What type of material is the fence made of? *

5a. Is someone home during the day? *

5b. Please explain. *

6. What provisions will be made for your foster dog if nobody is home during the day? I.e. Will they be loose in the house? Crated? [our rescues/fosters must be kept indoors] *

7. Where will the dog sleep? *

8. Do you have children at home? If yes, please tell us how many, and their age(s). If no, please type N/A. *

M.H. trusts that your children are experienced with and are kind to animals. Please note: Because we cannot know all the personalities and behaviors of the children, M.H. will not place our dogs in homes that have a babysitting / daycare home business.

9a. Do you have pets at home? If yes, please list what pets you have and their ages, and if they are spayed/neutered. If you currently have no pets, type N/A and continue to question 10. *

Due to the many health benefits accruing from spaying and neutering, as well as to prevent accidental litters, we require that all resident pets must be neutered/spayed. However, we do welcome knowledgeable, professional breeders, and their local breed clubs, who would like to work with our program to help our Chows and Shar Peis.

9b. Are your pets up to date on vaccines and heartworm preventatives?

9c. Do your pets get along with with dogs?

10. M.H. will provide all medical care, heartworm and parasite preventative. Are you prepared to assume the responsibilities of feeding, bathing, grooming, and caring for your rescue /Foster, including emotional rehabilitation for a traumatized dog and crating for a dog going through heartworm treatment? *

11. Will you follow all veterinarian instructions provided and administer all prescription medications and heartworm preventatives to your foster? *

12. Are you prepared to keep your foster crated if going through Heartworm treatment? (Medication would be paid for and supplied) *

13. Are you prepared to assume the responsibilities of contacting M.H. officials for any medical emergencies? (For example, if a dog is going through heartworm treatment and begins throwing up and becomes listless, this may be an emergency). *

14. Do you agree that M.H. Coordinators make all medical and adoption decisions for our program dogs? *

15. Will you let M.H. officials know if you are planning to take your foster out of town or province/state for family visits or recreation? *

16. Though M.H. does not accept vicious dogs into our program, we do not know the histories of many of our rescues. Are you prepared to contact M.H. immediately if your foster dog bites anyone or injures another pet? *

17. Will you keep the dog confined in a fenced yard when let outdoors, walk/exercise the dog regularly, and allow the dog indoors? *

18. Do you understand that Chow Chows/Shar Peis are known for being "stubborn"? *

19. Do you understand that Chow Chows/Shar Peis can be shy and aloof with new people? *

20. Do you understand that only M.H officials may place your foster dog in an adoptive home? *

21. Foster parents are encouraged to maintain an 'aunt' or 'uncle' relationship with the dog in their care; but it does occasionally happen that the foster parent and dog bond so completely that adoption into this home is best for the dog and family, which we would be happy to work with. Do you understand that if you wish to adopt your foster , you must complete the adoption papers and pay the \$300.00 adoption fee? *

22. Are you willing to allow a Merlin's Hope representative to visit your home by appointment? *

VETERINARIAN INFORMATION

I hereby authorize the veterinarian named herein to release information about me or my pet(s)

Name of primary Veterinarian *

Name of Clinic

Address *

Street Address

City

State / Province

Phone Number *

Please enter a valid phone number.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

What To Do in a Medical Emergency

We will try to place HEALTHY, and 'easy' dogs in new foster homes and will not place a seriously ill dog in a foster home until the family has gained experience. But if you do feel you have an emergency, and you cannot reach Merlins Hope and/or the Owner of the Animal, you should take the injured or ill dog to the nearest vet who can stabilize the animal up to a maximum of \$300.00, until Merlins Hope or the Owner of the Animal can authorize further treatment. Because we are responsible to our donors, dogs, and program welfare, Merlins Hope and/or the Owner of the Animal, are the only persons who make major medical decisions for program dogs. You don't want that responsibility, and we have years of experience in making those decisions with the clinics and have veterinarians who work with our rescue. Please note however, in the case of accidental illness, ie; dog gets loose and hit by car, direct trauma from accidental negligence, accidental poisoning, etc., you are responsible for all medical costs .

How Expenses Are Handled

The foster home is responsible for food in some cases, in other cases, food is supplied and you will be advised of this beforehand. You must save all of your receipts in order to be reimbursed for agreed reimbursements. You are responsible to provide regular grooming, exercise and positive emotional support; Merlins Hope and/or the Owner of the Animal usually transport the dogs for veterinary care and sometimes for home visits (for example, a home-bound family), though foster homes are encouraged to participate in those transports as well because the dog is more comfortable with the foster family. With your permission, we may send prospective adoptive homes to visit your foster dog in the home, but only after we have personally checked out the families. Finally, we will reimburse you for approved emergency veterinary care and medications (again, save all your receipts).

Other Things You Need to Know, Must Agree to and Acknowledge.

- If you have a problem or a question, call Merlin's Hope Coordinators. If the dog bites someone (actually breaks the skin), you must call Merlin's Hope Coordinators immediately, and we will remove our dog from your home. Though some biting is fear biting and can be corrected, no dog will be allowed to remain in the program if he has become aggressive. If the dog escapes the fence, fights with other dogs, won't leave your cat alone, or has other behavior problems, we need to know this and will probably move the dog to another home, giving you a new foster. We may also be able to help with management or training suggestions, and will take these facts into consideration when screening potential adoptive homes for the dog.
- When your foster dog arrives, Merlin's Hope Coordinators will tell you everything they know about the dog and the dog's history. The dog will have a collar and a tag with name, and the phone number on it, which shall remain on the dog at all times (except during bathing). If the foster home picks up the dog at the clinic or from a volunteer, be sure the collar with Merlin's Hope tag and rabies tag are on the dog; if not, put them on immediately. The dog will be vaccinated and neutered; any health problems or behavior issues will be fully discussed. The Coordinators will keep in touch with the foster home through E-mail and by phone; we need occasional updates on the dog's progress for our records and the web site descriptions, so the foster home would need to be available to exchange information with the Coordinators at least every couple of weeks. We also appreciate updated pictures for the web site if you can help with that. Foster homes need to administer prescription medications and HW preventative (provided by Merlin's hope), follow all veterinarian directions, alert Merlin's Hope officials of any medical emergencies or if the dog is being taken out of town or out of state for family visits or recreation. Foster homes also need to observe the dog's behavior and report any concerns, including if the dog seems to be a runner or actually escapes so we can assist in recovery. If the latter happens, the foster family must call us immediately as time is of the essence in capturing our dog.
- Adoptive homes, of course, are free to change their dogs' names, but foster homes must not do so as the name is the one we use for all our medical records, web site, and program statistics.
- If you send a dog home with a prospective adopter who has visited the dog, be sure the collar and tag are secure on the dog, take the check and final agreement (e-mail or call us for a copy of the agreement form and either save it on your computer or make extra copies of it) from the new family and send them immediately to Merlin's Hope. E-mail or call us immediately to tell us the dog has gone home so we can note that in our records and celebrate with you on another happy adoption.
- Merlin's Hope Coordinators are the only persons who can accept a dog into the program. If you learn of a Chow or Shar-pei in need of rescue, please notify us as soon as possible with the information, and we will take steps to work with you to bring the Dog into the program. Additionally, Merlin's Hope Coordinators are the only persons who can approve a permanent home for your foster dog. If you have a family member or friend interested in adoption, or you meet a potential adopter, by all means, encourage him or her to apply and provide him or her with the phone number and/or web site, explaining that in addition to completing the adoption application, the prospective home must arrange for a home check by one of our volunteers and an in-home visit with the dog. Please contact Merlin's Hope and give us that person's phone number. You must not promise or place a dog yourself. Merlin's Hope must screen the applicant through an impartial volunteer and interview all potential homes, and has the paperwork necessary to finalize all adoptions. Foster homes give our dogs the love and renewed trust they need to move on to their new homes with confidence; they know their foster dogs better than anyone else in the program. We appreciate the work our fosters do more than can ever be satisfactorily expressed. In return, we appreciate our foster homes' trust in us as well: the coordinators are extremely careful in our adoption procedures, and though we welcome our foster homes' love for and concerned interest in and suggestions about our dogs, taking them very seriously in our adoption decisions. We deeply appreciate your concern for Chows and Shar-pei and your willingness to become involved with foster care.

Date

Month Day Year

I am in full agreement with the Merlin's Hope Rescue Program. By entering my name below I am attesting to the truthfulness of my answers.

First Name Last Name