*Fostering for Tri-State Poodle Club Outreach, Inc.*

**Suggestions for the First 72 Hours**

Thank you for opening your heart and home to a Tri-State Poodle Club rescue!

These guidelines are suggestions for you to implement at your discretion in the first days.

* Please document as much as you can; someone will contact you regularly looking for insights both on the Poodle’s normal and abnormal Poodle behavior.
* Only feed food and treats delivered with the Poodle; if a health problem develops, it will be helpful to eliminate food upset as a factor. After a few days, you may begin (slowly) trying new treats and (slowly) transitioning to new food if directed.
* Consider hand feeding the Poodle; this is a great way to allow the Poodles to bond with its foster and provides an ideal time to teach the Poodle their name or a basic command.
* When the Poodle is not crated, have 6 foot leash attaching the Poodle to you at all times.
* When Poodle is indoors, take Poodle outside every half hour. Remember, the absolute best “trick” for teaching housebreaking is to never let an accident happen.
* When Poodle is outdoors, praise and treat-reward Poodle every time it potties.
* When Poodle is outdoors, do not call the Poodle to come unless you have a treat to give them.
* Take Poodle in and out of crate regularly, give Poodle treats every time it is placed in crate; occasionally lead Poodle into crate, reward, and immediately allow Poodle to leave.
* Leave a crate open to the Poodle at all times; permit them to escape to it whenever they wish. Allow other dogs to hang out in foster’s crate only if another crate is also available to the foster.
* Especially when Poodle is in the same area as other animals and/or children, keep muzzled. Often limited background is available and little know of a rescue Poodle’s triggers; we do not want to heal one only at the risk of hurting another.
* If the Poodle shows excessive stress regarding muzzle: only permit Poodle interactions with Poodles of similar size and with both trailing (not restrained by) a six-foot leash.
* Please do not permit unmuzzled, first introductions with children without a board-appointed party present until given permission to do so by a board-appointed party.
* If the Poodle ever growls, say something upbeat like “It’s OK!” (growling/communicating is a good thing but the Poodle staying afraid of whatever caused it to growl is usually not) and take the Poodle to its crate for a few minutes.
* If growling was possession based, put foster Poodle in its crate. If the item of controversy is safe for the Poodle, allow the Poodle to bring it into its crate or give the item to the foster Poodle as soon as the Poodle is crated.
* The crate is not meant as a punishment but to give the Poodle both the opportunity and message that their crate is their safe place.

Thanks again for fostering!

PLEASE contact us at ANY time with ANY questions or concerns:

 **Tri-State Poodle Club—563-581-1821**

 **Dr. Mary Skog (Emergency Vet)—608-482-0156**