



# Volunteer Handbook

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## About Us:

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RRR is a private 501c3 non-profit, no kill, in home animal fostering program. Our priority is to improve the quality of life of all companion animals through Advocacy, Education and our Animal programs. We are committed to change these animals' lives for the better.



## Advocacy and Education

- 🐾 Advocating and lobbying for improved parish and state animal protection laws
- 🐾 Partnering with local schools to teach children important lessons about animals
- 🐾 Speaking at neighborhood meetings and appearing on local television and radio to discuss animal issues affecting our parish
- 🐾 Offering programs that promote the human/animal bond

## Animal Programs

- 🐾 In home foster care program: Fostering of ALL homeless animals, regardless of age or health status
- 🐾 Rehabilitation and rehoming of sick and/or injured animals
- 🐾 Rehoming owner surrendered and abandoned animals
- 🐾 Rescuing animals from kill shelters throughout South Louisiana.
- 🐾 Adoption:
  - 🐾 Public adoption events held at frequent and regular intervals
  - 🐾 Detailed application and follow-up process

## Welcome

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Thank you for your commitment to the cause of helping homeless animals in Southeast Louisiana and for choosing Rescue Rehome Repeat of South LA. ("RRR") to be your platform.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the RRR volunteer program clearly and concisely in order to make your time here as productive, rewarding and enjoyable as possible.

The reason for our success is simple; we have a hardworking group of officers and a passionate, hardworking base of volunteers! We are seeking equally passionate individuals who will dream the big picture, but who are also willing to do the nitty gritty work to get there. As a volunteer of RRR, you are extremely important to us. Because of volunteers like you, dogs are rescued almost daily. These neglected animals are then loved and cared for in foster homes until they find their forever home through our adoption program. If you would rather volunteer for tasks that do not directly involve fostering animals, we always need help with adoption days, fund raising, special events and special projects. No task is too small!

We would like to thank you for choosing to participate with RRR. As a volunteer/foster, you are a valuable asset to our organization and to the many animals in our care. We hope that the time you spend with RRR will be as rewarding to you as it is to them.

Sincerely,

Terri Dunlap, President



# Volunteer Waiver

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*Thank you for volunteering with RRR In order to protect our organization and our rescued animals, we ask that you sign this waiver.*

Although every attempt will be made to ensure your safety, animals (particularly rescued animals) are sometimes unpredictable in behavior. Accordingly, we ask that you, as a volunteer agree to the following conditions:

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree to hold RRR, its officers, directors, employees and volunteers, as well as any public adoption location/business forever harmless for any injury whatsoever that I may suffer as a result of my volunteer activities with RRR This includes, but is not limited to, dog bites, scratches, communicable illnesses or pests contracted from any animal.
2. I agree to hold RRR, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and any public adoption location/business, forever harmless for any and all personal injuries sustained on the premises of ANY outdoor/indoor, public adoption event, regardless of cause or negligence on the part of RRR its officers or the owner of the any property while volunteering for RRR
3. I agree to hold RRR, its officers, directors, employees, and volunteers forever harmless for any and all damage to any personal property by any fosters in my care.
4. I agree that any photographs or likenesses taken during any RRR event or meant for RRR promotional purposes are property of RRR and give permission to RRR to use said photographs as deemed necessary for fund raising and promotions.
- 5... I am aware that as a volunteer of RRR I am acting as a representative of the organization and agree to act responsibly at all times by maintaining a professional demeanor and protecting the organization's rescued animals from any harm by practicing common sense while they are in my possession.
4. I agree that any animal rescued by RRR is owned solely by and is the property of RRR, and as a volunteer of this organization, I will not withhold, sell, or give away any animal entrusted to me by the organization.
5. I will not rescue any animal as a stray or a shelter in the name of RRR without prior authorization from a director, officer or employee of the organization.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission Statement

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Rescue Rehome Repeat of South Louisiana is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of RRR is to raise awareness of the plight of animals in southeastern Louisiana, to teach and foster good pet parenting practices as well as to promote spay and neuter programs to help alleviate the need to destroy healthy and adoptable pets. We believe we can accomplish this mission through our community outreach and education programs.



# Foster Agreement

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- ❗ I understand there is always an adjustment period for any foster coming into my home. There is no specific time limit for an animal to be in foster care and I will work to make this foster a member of my family during his/her stay. I understand that many of these animals have survived tremendous odds, need lots of TLC and that RRR cannot be held responsible for the, behaviors and/or medical conditions of all the animals in its rescue. I therefore agree to assume the risks implicit in working with animals who may have been abandoned, abused or who may suffer from illness or disease. RRR cannot guarantee the temperament of any of the animals since most of their histories are unknown.
- ❗ I understand that I will receive a volunteer/foster packet that outlines the volunteer and foster policies of RRR I agree to read through this packet in its entirety and abide by all of the policies set forth.
- ❗ I understand that my foster animal(s) is to live indoors and while temporarily outside, is to be on a leash or in an enclosed yard.
- ❗ I understand that no foster animal under 12 weeks of age or without a complete set of vaccinations can potty/play or stand for any amount of time in any soil or grassy area.
- ❗ I understand that RRR reserves the right to check on the welfare of any foster animal in my care and to reclaim the animal back into the care of RRR. At any time I can be asked to return the animal to RRR and I must comply. I understand that at no time during foster care do I own the animal; that I am a temporary caregiver with the intent of providing the animal with all of his physical, emotional and mental needs.
- ❗ I understand that, although RRR will be happy to receive adoption recommendations and referrals from me, RRR must approve all adoption applications. Therefore I will not promise anyone they can adopt my foster animal. I understand that all adoptions MUST take place through RRR, with no exceptions.
- ❗ I understand that I will not list my foster animal as available for adoption on any web site or social media page other than my own personal Facebook page or the RRR Facebook page.
- ❗ I understand that if veterinary care is necessary for my foster animal, I will contact Terri Dunlap or the Foster Coordinator as soon as possible. I understand that RRR will NOT be responsible for any medical expenses that occur while the animal is in my care without approval prior to treatment. I am to treat the veterinarian and staff with respect and if any issue arises, I am to contact the Foster Coordinator immediately to handle the situation.
- ❗ I understand that all necessary supplies (food, toys, kennels, etc.) will be supplied by RRR. Any supplies purchased by me will not be reimbursed without prior approval of purchase. Certain items are considered a luxury and will be supplied if available, for example puppy pads.
- ❗ I agree that if at any time I need a temporary caregiver for my foster animal, I will only place the animal with a caregiver who has been approved by RRR. This may be another RRR foster or you can place your foster animal at an approved kennel at your own expense.
- ❗ I understand and I agree that if at any time, I cannot continue to foster an animal in my care; I will not give away, sell or euthanize the foster animal. I must contact the foster coordinator immediately and give a 14 day notice of my desire to move the foster out of my care.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this RRR foster agreement; I have thoroughly read it and understand all of my obligations to RRR and the animal(s) that I am fostering. I declare that this completed foster application is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that if any of the information is discovered to be inaccurate, I may be required to immediately return any foster animal(s) to the care of RRR



Foster's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Foster's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Volunteer/Foster Acknowledgment of Rules and Ethical Behavior

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I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Volunteer/Foster handbook ("handbook") outlining rules, regulations, ethical behavior and dress code. I fully agree to abide by these guidelines and should I have questions regarding the handbook, will direct questions to an RRR officer.

I understand that I must act in a professional manner and maintain confidentiality not only of adopter's information, but of communication between members of the organization. I agree that I will not speak to the press or on a public forum as a representative of RRR without prior permission to represent myself as such.

I understand that any inflammatory statements or postings I may make that may harm the organization or cause unnecessary publicity must be immediately rescinded or removed. I agree to get prior permission before using any title with the name "Rescue Rehome Repeat of South Louisiana", or any variation of the name, attached.

If I have issues with any member of RRR, I will always calmly and professionally, discuss the issue privately with the person involved if possible. If not possible or if it may cause undue stress to do so, I agree that I will go directly to the volunteer coordinator with my concerns. If the volunteer coordinator is the person I have an issue with, I am to go to the Vice President of the organization with my concerns.

I understand that the Rescue Information Room on Facebook is a private, closed forum and that all information received or posted in the room in written or visual form is confidential. I agree not to relay, share, copy or discuss said content at any time. In addition, I understand that any comments I may post can be deleted at any time if an administrator deem them inflammatory or unnecessary.

I understand and agree that the Board of RRR assigns event personnel and at any event I may be told that my services will not be needed. I will adhere to this policy and if I am a foster, will deliver my foster to the event and leave if asked to. Additionally, I will pick my foster up from the event as directed to do so. If I'm a volunteer only, I agree to work in the capacity I am assigned. I agree that if there is any discord at an event for which I am responsible, I will be asked to leave and will do so immediately.

I understand that any violation of the written and/or implied policies will be discussed with me by an officer and may possibly result in my being asked to leave the organization.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Volunteer Expectations

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## Commitment

Volunteers are expected to be committed to the mission and philosophies of RRR and to conduct themselves appropriately while attending events. If you have questions regarding our programs or activities, please ask before participating. In whatever capacity you commit to participate as a volunteer, you are expected to adhere to that commitment.

## Treatment of Animals

Animals are to be treated kindly, gently and professionally at all times.

## Confidentiality

All volunteers are expected to maintain confidentiality of all proprietary or privileged information to which they are exposed while in service as a volunteer. This includes information that may involve board members, other volunteers, clients, sponsors and/or the overall business of RRR

## Conduct

As a volunteer, you are a representative of RRR. When involved in our events or otherwise interacting with the public or other organizations, you are expected to present a good image of the organization at all times. This includes appropriate language, maintaining a positive attitude and not speaking negatively about another person, volunteer or organization. Please be respectful of our attendees as well as your fellow volunteers. If you disagree with another volunteer, potential adopter, event attendee, or sponsor; please refer the matter to the event coordinator or other available officer. It is unacceptable to act unprofessionally at any time while representing RRR

## Frequently Asked Questions

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Please be aware that this is fully a volunteer program. The officers who supply needed information, arrange vet visits, handle supplies, address rescue needs, answer correspondence, etc. have families and jobs outside of their volunteer positions with RRR. Please be considerate when making requests. Give plenty of notice, be patient and keep communication open.

### How do I get supplies for my foster animal?

Supplies will be given to you when you pick up your foster. Additional supplies can be picked up during center hours unless it is an emergency

#### **Adoption Center Hours**

Monday 6 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday – CLOSED

Wednesday 11 am – 1 pm, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Thursday 5 – 7 pm

Friday – CLOSED

Saturday – DURING ADOPTION EVENTS

Sunday 12 – 2 pm

### Can I feed my foster the same food as I feed my current pet?

We do realize it is easier to feed all animals the same diet at the same time. Please notify us as to what food you are feeding your pet so we can make an informed decision. Some foods are not used by RRR and we prefer all dogs be on dry food only. Medical needs must also be taken into consideration, so, if you have an adult dog and a puppy foster or vice versa, they'll need different diets. We will not supply food to your household pets; if you choose to put your foster on the same food, you do so at your own expense.

### Can I put pictures of my foster on my Facebook page and ask for adopters?

Yes, you can! Facebook is a great tool for networking the animals and you know them best. Keep in mind though, that applications for adoptions are not accepted on any animal until the animal is listed for adoption. So, if someone submits an app before that time (to be first), the application will be discarded.

### Can I change the name my foster was given?

Often a foster parent is able to name a puppy because they are the first to interact with them. However, if an animal already has a name when you receive them, we prefer that the name stays with that animal

due to foster and shot records. It gets confusing and causes errors if changes are made and the original name is forgotten. It's also confusing for the animals since usually their names are changed again upon adoption.



### **What does “securing my foster” mean?**

We require all foster animals to be secured at all times! Period! No Exceptions!

This means being kept indoors, leash walks outside unless being MONITORED by you in your fenced yard. You should never leave your foster outside unattended! We encourage kennel training for when you must leave your house for periods of time, at night to sleep or during times of illness. Kennels must only be used for these purposes – NEVER for punishment and NEVER for 24/7 containment (unless small or newborn). Playpens are available for puppies to be able to run and play. Never leave your door open for animal to come and go at will. Even if your foster animal “stays” in your yard, most of the time it is not truly secured unless on a leash or inside a fence with you monitoring.

## Approved Vets

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The following vets are the only vets to be used for any foster animals in your care, and only with prior approval from the foster coordinator or other officer.



**Aimee P. Graham DVM**  
**Hometown Veterinary Services**  
(833) 396-7446

**Animal Care Center of Gonzales**  
14076 Highway 44  
Gonzales, LA 70737  
225-644-4411

**AVS – Associated Vet Services**  
7807 Greenwell Springs Rd  
Baton Rouge, LA 70814  
(225) 928-4417

**Dodge City Veterinary Hosp.**  
102 Hatchell Lane  
Denham Springs, LA 70726  
225-664-6441

**Eunice Animal Hospital**  
1420 Laurel Street  
Eunice, La 70535  
(337) 457-2560

**Galvez Veterinary Clinic**  
40195 Highway 42  
Prairieville, LA 70769  
(225) 622-6443

**HOPE Veterinary Clinic**  
9792 Florida Blvd.  
Walker, LA 70785  
(225) 271-8051

**O'Neal Lane Pet Hospital**  
650 O'Neal Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(225) 273-0579

**Sherwood Forest South Animal Hospital**  
3803 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
(225) 293-6440

**Siegen Lane Animal Clinic**  
9140 Siegen Lane  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
(225) 769-4892

**The Spay Spa**  
12480 Highway 190 W  
Erwinville, LA 70767  
(225) 627-5772

**Walker Animal Hospital**  
29084 Walker South Road  
Walker, LA 707785  
(225) 665-7277

## Signs of Veterinary Emergencies

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- 🐾 Seizures
- 🐾 Temp above 105F or below 97F
- 🐾 Open mouthed breathing or labored breathing
- 🐾 Coughing
- 🐾 Altered consciousness, such as severe lethargy
- 🐾 Blue, very pale, jaundiced (yellow) or brick red gums
- 🐾 History or witness of recent hit by car or other serious trauma
- 🐾 Bleeding or extensive, easy bruising
- 🐾 Suddenly swollen abdomen
- 🐾 "Blocked"— unable or straining to urinate, howling around litter box or in general, licking genitals, bladder is hard like a baseball
- 🐾 Pregnant female having trouble giving birth
- 🐾 Acute severe lameness or broken bone exposed
- 🐾 Major wounds or any fresh wound requiring sutures
- 🐾 Extreme dehydration (lack of fluids)
- 🐾 Extreme emaciation (extreme thinness)
- 🐾 Evidence of physical Abuse

## Quarantine Protocol for Foster Homes

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An RRR officer will inform you if your incoming pet needs to be quarantined when you receive them. If so, all new incoming pets must be quarantined a minimum of 10 days to 2 weeks before being integrated into your household. Please consult Common Ailments section of handbook regarding why a foster may need to be quarantined. Protocol:

New fosters must be in a separate area of the house. NO contact with other pets.

Preferably dogs should be walked on a concrete surface where solid waste can be picked up and then the spot disinfected with bleach. Otherwise walk them in an area of the yard where other pets don't have access.

Everything in the room with the new foster should STAY in that room. That includes EVERYTHING: bowls, bedding, food, supplies, etc. If things cannot be bleached or disinfected, they must be thrown away after use. (Double bag to carry through your house or yard)

Handle quarantined animals LAST, after your other pets.

Protective gown, gloves, etc. should be worn when handling animals in quarantine. An alternative is doing these animals last and then changing clothing, placing them IMMEDIATELY into laundry and washing hands thoroughly with anti-bacterial soap before contact with any other pets.

What to clean with: Bleach OR ammonia BUT NEVER TOGETHER!

Shoes that are worn in quarantine areas should NOT be worn in other pet care areas.

Do NOT borrow crates, bowls, etc. from another foster unless you are sure that the last pet that was in it was healthy and completed quarantine.

Be considerate of exposing other pets in your neighborhood. There could be a considerable financial liability if your foster spreads disease to other dogs in your neighborhood.

## Bringing Your Foster to an Event

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Your foster pet should arrive clean, healthy and parasite free. Also, please bring a completed cage card or write up with your foster's information. Information should include name, age, type of food they are on (brand, puppy or adult, grain free, etc.), likes and dislikes, bad habits we need to know about (digging, chewing, etc.), housebroken, kennel trained, good with kids and/or pets.....etc. **INCLUDE AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FOSTER AS YOU CAN.** If you don't have a cage card or can't print one out, bring the information on a piece of paper and fill out a card when you drop off your foster.

How NOT to arrive at any event: **Drop and Run – Don't put your foster in a kennel and leave. Make sure you provide a completed cage card and attach it to kennel.**

**Missing paperwork** – If you have your foster pet's medical records or vet paperwork and forget it at home, you must go home and get it. No exceptions. Every pet in attendance must have current medical history and vaccination records.

**Sick** – coughing, sneezing with or without eye or nasal discharge.

**Parasites** – fleas, ticks or intestinal worms – please examine your babies; don't just assume they are flea and tick free. Also, examine feces for signs of worms.

**Mites or yeast infections (ears)** – symptoms are shaking head digging at ears, smelly ears, and dirty ear canals. Please look – don't assume!

**Skin sores of any kind** – such as healing or active ringworm scabs and lesions.

**Hair loss of any kind** – such as healing mange or dermatitis of any kind

**Overgrown nails** – Contact us well in advance of the event so we can arrange to get them cut prior to event

**DIRTY** – this is self-explanatory! We expect clean – no strong odors (feces, urine, and cigarette smoke)

If a foster arrives in need of a bath – they will have to go home, get a bath and return or we will see them at the next event.

We know that sometimes your foster will have an accident during transport – we will have supplies available to help clean up your foster in case of such an accident.



## Dress Code Policy

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Attire Worn for RRR public events:

- 🐾 RRR t-shirt which has been provided (wrinkle and stain free)
- 🐾 Jeans, slacks or shorts (no more than 2 inches above the knee) Capri or crop pants (wrinkle and stain free)
- 🐾 Tennis shoes, sandals or flats (footwear that does not have a large heel.)  
No slippers.
- 🐾 Neat and presentable grooming, good hygiene.
- 🐾 Hair and facial hair neatly groomed and clean.
- 🐾 No strong perfumes or colognes, many people and animals have scent allergies.
- 🐾 Ladies, Bras must be worn at all times - this includes dropping off and or picking up animals. We are all adults. No excuses. Attire that should NOT be worn for RRR events include but are not limited to:
- 🐾 Clothing that is misfitting, too tight, loose or revealing.
- 🐾 Clothing that is faded, stained, discolored, torn, patched, ripped or frayed. Even if bought that way.
- 🐾 Clothing with missing buttons.
- 🐾 Shorts more than 4 inches above the knee, halter or spaghetti strap tops. Cropped tops, tank tops.
- 🐾 Athletic or sweat clothing.
- 🐾 Pajama bottoms or tops.
- 🐾 Clothing with offensive slogans or pictures: profanity, nude, offensive gestures, suggestive cartoons, political slogans, derogatory words.
- 🐾 No "sagging" pants revealing underwear or back sides, even if shirt covers it.
- 🐾 Any Tattoos with racial, sexual, political, or controversial themes should be covered. Other Tattoos are fine if not in these categories.
- 🐾 Excessive body piercings should be removed.
- 🐾 No real fur products.

Monitoring and enforcing of this policy will be administered in the following manner:

- 🐾 If attire or hygiene at an event is deemed unacceptable, an RRR officer will counsel the volunteer privately regarding the issue.
- 🐾 If attire or hygiene at an event is deemed unacceptable a second time after counseling, an RRR officer will hold a private discussion with the volunteer giving the volunteer the option of leaving or going home to correct the issue immediately.
- 🐾 Repeated policy violations will result in the RRR asking the volunteer to leave the organization.

## Common Ailments

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### Ringworm infection:

Ringworm is a fungal infection that affects the skin, hair and nails. It is highly contagious to other animals and humans, thus quarantine is required. Symptoms include dandruff, poor hair coat, reddened skin, darkened skin, itchiness, hair loss (patchy or circular), and inflammation of claw folds. These lesions can cause patchy, crusted circular “bald spots” that sometimes look red in the center. In mild cases of ringworm, there may be just a few broken hairs, while bad cases of ringworm can spread over most of a dog’s body. The fungus can live on hard and soft surfaces, so keep good hygiene and wash hands and dog’s bedding and environment well and often. According to ASPCA experts, the best disinfectant is 1 part bleach diluted with 10 parts water. Since ringworm can survive on hair and skin that your pet sheds, frequent vacuuming can help prevent transmission of the infection-but don’t forget to change vacuum bag. Treatment typically includes antifungal shampoo with miconazole as active ingredient while severe cases may require oral medication as well as clipping the hair. You should notice healing within a week or two of beginning treatment.

### Hookworms:

Hookworms are microscopic worms that infect their host via ingestion through mouth or penetration of the skin. Quarantine is required for any dog infected. Do not allow infected animals to defecate on grass/dirt, only on non-porous surfaces. Pick up and dispose of feces immediately. Humans can be infected with hookworms from unwashed vegetables or walking barefoot on contaminated soil. This parasite is common in puppies because they can acquire them through their mother’s milk. Common signs are poor appetite, “unhealthy look”, pale colored linings of nostrils, lips and ears, dark tarry stool, diarrhea, and constipation. Hookworms can be fatal, especially in puppies. If a female has puppies, the mother and puppies (over 2 weeks old) should be treated with worm medication until weaned followed by monthly treatments.

### Tapeworms:

Tapeworms infect the small intestines and are transmittable to humans (especially small children). As the tapeworm grows inside the host, pieces of it break off into segments and are passed through the dog’s feces. The segments will appear as small pieces of rice in the stool or in the fur around the anus. You may even see a white worm moving in the stool. The dog may lick or scoot on their hind end as a response to the itching. Tapeworms are acquired by ingesting the immediate host containing larvae which is typically adult fleas. The infection is treated with oral medication (i.e. epsiprantel, fenbendazole, or praziquantel) or injection. Best protection against tapeworms is controlling flea infestation and keeping the dog away from dead animals and garbage.

## Roundworms:

Roundworms infect the intestines via ingestion of roundworm eggs. Quarantine is required; do not allow dog to defecate in soil or grass, only on non-porous surfaces. Pick up and dispose of feces immediately... Adult dogs can be infected if they eat infected food, water, vomit or feces while puppies contract them in utero or from the mother's milk. After your dog swallows the eggs, they hatch and turn into larvae. The larvae then spread through your dog's liver and up to his windpipe. Next, he coughs and then swallows the larvae. That's how they get into his intestine, where they can grow into adult worms. Then, they lay their own eggs which continue the cycle. They can grow inside the intestines up to 12 centimeters long. The worms can even migrate to the lungs. Some signs may include: lethargy, anemia, vomiting, dull coat, abdominal swelling, abnormal feces, weight loss, and worms in feces. Treatment is a worm medication (i.e. fenbendazole, milbemycin, moxidectin, nitroscanate, piperazine, and pyrantel). Keep good hygiene by washing hands after handling dog because humans can be infected even though it's rare



## Heartworms:

A heartworm is a parasitic worm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) that lives in the heart and pulmonary arteries of an infected animal. The worms travel through the bloodstream—harming arteries and vital organs as they go—ultimately completing their journey to the vessels of the lung and the heart chamber about six months after the initial infection. Heartworms are transmitted from animal to animal by mosquitoes. Symptoms may include: labored breathing, coughing, vomiting, weight loss, and/or fatigue after moderate exercise. To prevent infestation, monthly heartworm prevention medication should be administered. Once a dog is infected, treatments range from “fast kill” to “slow kill”. Slow kill method is most preferred because it's less strain on the dog's organs. While being treated for the heartworm infection, the dog should be under exercise restrictions to minimize the stress on its heart.

## Whipworms:

Whipworms live in the intestines and suck the blood of the host. Dogs can become infected via ingesting contaminated food, water or soil. The eggs are swallowed, hatch, and in three months, the larvae mature into adults in the large intestine. Adult worms in a dog's cecum produce eggs that are passed in the feces. The eggs must remain in the soil for 9-21 days to mature and be capable of causing infection. Quarantine is required; do not allow dog to defecate in grass or soil, only on non-porous surfaces. Pick up and dispose of feces immediately. Symptoms are lethargy, weight loss, dull coat, swollen belly, anemia, diarrhea and/or worm in feces. Treatment is worm medication (i.e. fenbendazole, milbemycin).

## Demodectic mange:

Demodectic mange is the overgrowth of mites, *Demodex* species, which are normally found in small numbers in a dog's skin when their immune system is compromised but are not contagious. Quarantine is required.

There are three types of demodectic mange that affect canines. *Localized* cases occur when these mites proliferate in one or two small, confined areas. This results in isolated scaly bald patches-usually on the dog's face-creating a polka-dot appearance. Localized demodicosis is considered a common ailment of puppyhood, and approximately 90% of cases resolve with no treatment of any kind. *Generalized* demodectic mange, in contrast, affects larger areas of skin or a dog's entire body. Secondary bacterial infections make this a very itchy and often smelly skin disease. This form of mange could also be a sign of a compromised immune system, hereditary problem, endocrine problem or other underlying health issue. Treatment could require antibiotics or ointments but will depend on the age at which the dog developed the disease. One of the most resistant forms of mange, *demodectic pododermatitis* is confined to the foot and accompanied by bacterial infections. Deep biopsies are often required to locate these mites and make a proper diagnosis.



## Sarcoptic mange:

Sarcoptic mange is an infection of the skin with the microscopic, parasitic mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Quarantine is required. Sarcoptic mange is contagious, and most dogs catch the disease via direct contact with an infected individual. People and cats can also be transiently infected. Symptoms may include: extreme itchiness with hair loss and red scaly skin that typically start in sparsely-haired areas like the ear flaps, elbows, and abdomen, but can spread to the entire body without effective treatment. Treatment options may include: dips, injections, oral drugs, and spot-on treatments. Determining which option is best depends on a dog's breed, health, and other considerations. Keep bedding and kennel disinfected with diluted bleach.

## Starvation:

Emaciated starved dogs will be very weak and many times shy. Start slow introducing yourself and provide a warm safe place for him to rest. Feed the dog small amounts at a time throughout the day. He will want to eat an entire bag of dog food. This a normal response that any creature would go through when used to limited or no nutrition. High protein diets and healthy fats will help boost his/her condition (i.e. boiled or scrambled eggs as supplement). Keep tabs on a chart of how much he/she is eating, temperature and weight. Check for eye and ear infections, under tail for tapeworm segments, bottom of paws for abrasions. Check the gums and tongue for color. Pale or grayish color may indicate anemia. Signs of hemorrhage in the gums or eyes will require emergency visit to vet, contact RRR foster coordinator. Check for dehydration by grasping a fold of skin at base of the neck and pulling upward, away from the dog. If the skin does not snap back into place when you release it, the dog is likely dehydrated.

## Kennel cough:

Kennel cough is a term loosely used to describe a complex of infections—both viral and bacterial—that causes inflammation of a dog's voice box and windpipe. It's a form of bronchitis and is similar to a chest cold in humans. Though it usually clears up on its own, kennel cough is highly contagious to other dogs. Quarantine is required. It can spread through aerosols in the air, directly from dog to dog (i.e. greeting another dog), or through germs on contaminated objects (i.e. water bowl, clothing, even you). Two main causes of kennel cough are parainfluenza and bordetella, thus vaccinations are key to protecting your dog. In most cases, signs of kennel cough gradually dissipate over three weeks, but puppies and elderly dogs may take longer. There are a few things you can do to help him feel better: allow him in bathroom while you shower, administer cough suppressant, use antimicrobial, use harness instead of collar when walking, no cigarette smoking or irritating fumes. If you do not see improvement or cough gets worse, contact RRR foster coordinator.



## Coccidia:

These microscopic parasites spend part of their life cycle in the lining cells of the intestine. A coccidiosis flare up is typically caused by stress, but can also be from eating infected feces or soil or from contact with infected surfaces. Most dogs and cats that are infected with coccidia do not have any clinical signs. When the coccidial oocysts are found in the stool of a dog without diarrhea, they are generally considered an insignificant finding. However, in puppies and debilitated adult dogs, coccidiosis may cause severe, watery diarrhea with mucus or blood, dehydration, abdominal distress, and vomiting. The most common drug used to eliminate coccidia is a sulfa-type antibiotic given over ten to fourteen days. Marquis paste is another commonly used drug. In severe infections, it may be necessary to repeat the treatment. Re-infection of susceptible dogs is common so environmental disinfection is of the utmost importance. Good hygiene and proper disposal of dog feces are required to minimize the risk of transmission to other dogs. Ammonia is commonly used as a disinfectant.

## Canine Parvovirus:

Parvovirus (Parvo) is a highly contagious viral disease that attacks the white blood cells and can damage the heart muscle causing death. Quarantine is required. This virus is not contagious to humans but it can be transmitted by any person, animal or object that comes in contact with an infected dog's feces. The virus can survive for months on grass, shoes, clothes, carpet, etc. Symptoms may include: lethargy, severe vomiting, loss of appetite, bloody smelly diarrhea. Disinfect all surfaces and discard all objects if not disinfected. Treatment is aggressive supportive care in a veterinary hospital to control symptoms and boost dog's immune system. Treatment is not always successful. Prevention via vaccinations is of the utmost importance.

## Eye infections:

The dog's eyes should be clear while the area around the eyeball should be white. Symptoms to look out for: discharge, tearing, red or white eyelid linings, closed or squinting eyes, cloudiness or change in eye color, visible third eyelid, unequal pupil sizes. Using a damp cotton ball, wipe any gunk from corner of the eyes but do not touch the eyeball. Trim the hair on nose and around eyes to keep from scratching his eyes. The following eye-related disorders are commonly seen in dogs:



- 🐾 Conjunctivitis: One or both of your dog's eyes will look red and swollen, and there may be discharge
- 🐾 Dry Eye: Diminished tear production can cause corneal inflammation, squinting and discharge
- 🐾 Cherry Eye: An enlarged tear gland forms a cherry-like mass on the dog's eye
- 🐾 Epiphora: An overflow of tears creates stains on the dog's facial fur
- 🐾 Glaucoma: The cornea becomes cloudy and the eye enlarges due to an increased pressure in the eyeball
- 🐾 Ectropion: A turning outward of the upper eyelid causes the lower lid to droop
- 🐾 Entropion: A rolling in of the eyelid causes discharge and tearing
- 🐾 Cataract: An opacity on the lens of the eye can cause impaired vision and possible blindness
- 🐾 Progressive Renal Atrophy: Caused by degeneration of retinal tissue—night blindness is often its first sign

## Fleas & Ticks:

Fleas are wingless parasites that can live from 13 days to 12 months producing many, many offspring along the way. Symptoms of flea infestation may include: irritated skin, persistent scratching, hair loss, tapeworms, pale lips and gums. The best way to get rid of fleas is to treat the entire lifecycle of the flea. Many topical treatments inhibit egg development and kill adults over the course of a few days' time. There are many topical and oral medications to control fleas. Capstar is a pill that will kill adult fleas within 4 hours and will last for up to 24 hours. You must treat your house, yard and all animals if an infestation occurs.

Ticks are arachnids that feed on the blood of the host. Ticks are typically picked up from the outdoors when walking through brush and wooded areas. Ticks can carry Lyme disease which can affect humans and other mammals. You may notice these symptoms if you or your dog has contracted Lyme disease: depression, swelling of lymph nodes, loss of appetite, fever, lameness, and/or painful joints. If you spot a tick, be careful. Any contact with the tick's blood can potentially transmit infection to you or your dog. Start by applying rubbing alcohol on the tick and surrounding area. Then, pluck the tick off with tweezers making sure to get the head of the tick. Some flea preventatives also prevent ticks. Mowing your yard regularly reduces favorable tick environment.

# List of Wormers



The following is a list of wormers we have available, their ingredients, minimum age, weight requirements, and type of worms they treat.

	Ingredients	Large Round-worms	Hook-worms	Tape-worms	Whip-worms	Heart-worms	Need RX	Safe During Pregnancy	M A We
<u>PRO-Wormer-2<sup>®</sup></u>	Pyrantel pamoate	✓	✓						2 v
<u>Nemex<sup>®</sup>-2</u>	Pyrantel pamoate	✓	✓						2 v
<u>Droncit<sup>®</sup></u>	Praziquantel			✓			✓	✓	4 v
<u>Drontal<sup>®</sup> Plus</u>	Praziquantel, Pyrantel pamoate, Fenbendazole	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		3 v & 2
<u>Panacur<sup>®</sup></u>	Fenbendazole	✓	✓	✓**	✓		✓	✓	No
<u>Heartgard<sup>®</sup> Plus</u>	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	6 v
<u>Heartgard<sup>®</sup> Chewables</u>	Ivermectin					✓	✓	✓	6 v
<u>Sentinel<sup>®</sup></u>	Milbemycin oxime	✓	✓+		✓	✓	✓	✓	4 v & 2
<u>Revolution<sup>®</sup>++</u>	Selamectin					✓	✓	✓	6 v
<u>Tri-Heart<sup>®</sup> Plus</u>	Ivermectin, Pyrantel pamoate	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	6 v
<u>Safe-Guard<sup>®</sup> Granules</u>	Fenbendazole	✓	✓	✓**	✓			✓	6 v
<u>Advantage Multi<sup>™</sup>++</u>	Imidacloprid/Moxidectin	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	n/d	wh II
<u>Iverhart Max<sup>®</sup></u>	Ivermectin/Pyrantel /Praziquantel	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	n/d	8 v
<u>Trifexis</u>	Milbemycin oxime /Spinosad	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		wh II
	Ingredients	Large Round-worms	Hook-worms	Tape-worms	Whip-worms	Heart-worms	Need RX	Safe During Pregnancy	M A We

\*\*Not effective against *Dipylidium caninum*, the tapeworm transmitted by fleas.  
 +Not effective against *Uncinaria*, the Northern hookworm.  
 ++Also effective against fleas, flea eggs, ticks, and certain mites. Applied topically.

# Top 10 Human Drugs That Will Poison Your Pet

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Please remember to keep all medications secured and far away from curious cats and dogs.

**NSAIDs** – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen or naproxen are the most common cause of pet poisoning in small animals and can cause serious problems even in minimal doses. Pets are extremely sensitive to their effects and may experience stomach and intestinal ulcers and, in the case of cats, kidney damage.

**Antidepressants** – these can cause vomiting and lethargy. Certain types can lead to serotonin syndrome- a condition marked by agitation, disorientation, vocalization, tremors and seizures as well as elevated body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.

**Acetaminophen** – like Tylenol. Cats are especially sensitive to acetaminophen, which can damage red blood cells and interfere with their ability to transport oxygen. In dogs it can cause liver damage and, at higher doses, red blood cell damage.

**Methylphenidate** – medications used to treat ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) in people act as stimulants in pets and can dangerously elevate heart rates, blood pressure and body temperature as well as cause seizures.

**Fluorouracil** – an anti-cancer drug that is used to treat minor skin cancers and solar keratosis in humans. It has proven to be rapidly fatal to dogs. It causes severe vomiting, seizures and cardiac arrest – even in those who've chewed on discarded cotton swabs used to apply the medication.

**Isoniazid** – Often the first line of defense against tuberculosis, isoniazid is particularly toxic for dogs because they don't metabolize it as well as other species. It can cause rapid onset of severe seizures that may ultimately result in death.

**Pseudo ephedrine** – A popular decongestant in many cold and sinus products, it acts like a stimulant if ingested by pets. In cats and dogs it causes elevated heart rates, blood pressure and body temperature as well as seizures.

**Anti-diabetics** – Many oral diabetes treatments – including glipizide and glyburide – can cause a major drop in blood sugar levels of pets. Clinical signs of ingestion include disorientation, lack of coordination and seizures.

**Vitamin D derivatives** – Even small exposures to Vitamin D analogues like calcipotriene and calcitriol can cause life threatening spikes in blood calcium levels in pets. Clinical signs of exposure – including vomiting, loss of appetite, increased urination and increased thirst due to kidney failure – often don't occur for more than 24 hours after ingestion.

**Baclofen** – a muscle relaxer than can impair the central nervous system of cats and dogs. Some symptoms of ingestion include significant depression, disorientation, vocalization, seizures and coma.



# **Hurricane/Emergency Preparedness Guidelines for Fosters and Volunteers**

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Pursuant to all impending storms, RRR Officers will be monitoring the situation. The following serves as a resource for hurricanes or other emergencies in which evacuation or shelter in place is needed, roads may be impassable and communication devices may be temporarily unusable

## **At least 48 hours prior to storm fall if possible:**

A complete list of all current fosters, foster animals and relevant contact information will be made immediately available to all officers. This will include any animals currently being boarded or at veterinary clinics.

All fosters will be contacted at this time to ensure adequate food and supplies are available to every foster. Kennels for possible travel and a copy of medical records will be given to each foster as needed.

All fosters will be given list of evacuation centers and lodging within 100 miles that will accept animals with evacuees.\*

All fosters will be given a complete and accurate list of RRR Officer emergency contact information.\*

If a foster needs to evacuate, they should, as soon as is practicable, notify RRR Officers of their need to evacuate and where they are planning to go. Fosters are expected to evacuate with foster animals. If this is not an option, an officer of RRR must be notified as far in advance of storm or event as possible so alternate arrangements can be made.

Animals are to be transported with collars and leashes, in secure travel kennels and with adequate food water and medication as applicable. Copies of all records, photographs and documentation are to accompany the foster animal during evacuation.

In the event of Shelter in Place, a "to go" bag including all documentation is to be kept at ready and foster animal is to be secured in kennel or collar and leash at all times.. Should emergency evacuation become necessary, above procedures will be adhered to.

## **Following the emergency:**

Officers will attempt to contact fosters to determine status of fosters and their foster animal. Fosters likewise should try to contact RRR regarding said status. If local contact cannot be made, an out of town contact is available (see contact #s page) for fosters to contact regarding status. If fosters do have electronic access, also post status on RRR Information Page.

The President of RRR or appointed officer will, in advance, plan for alternate housing of animals in the event of damage to an established foster home. If foster takes in animal(s) during a storm, they are still charged with their RRR foster animals' care and all care and proper isolation procedures are to be followed if at all possible.

Fosters must notify Foster Coordinator or officer of exposure to other animals of uncertain health as soon as possible.

An officer of RRR will work to reconcile the foster list and inventory following the event and notify local authorities, shelters, and disaster rescues of any animals not accounted for.

Lastly, following an event any and all persons available are asked to offer assistance for any foster in need and search and rescue if needed.

