

## ANNA'S ADOPTION NOTES

Once the Adoption Coordinator ([sparkadoptions@gmail.com](mailto:sparkadoptions@gmail.com)) sends an email to the potential adopter and copies me letting them know they are approved for a M & G, I usually wait for the adopter to contact me.

Once we connect, I usually give them a rundown of the pup's personality and maybe even send them some pictures. I set up a time when all family members (2 and 4 legged) can be home. I like to take the pup to their home; I feel you get a better sense of compatibility in their territory. Because I am COVID conscious I also ask them to wear a mask even though we will be outdoors in their yard. Once the M & G is set up, I email Mica to let her know the date and time.

When we get to the M & G, I observe how the pup reacts to everyone. If the pup is interested in exploring, but isn't really engaging in the people, that is a red flag to me. I have found that when a pup meets their humans, they never look back at me! They are excited to interact with the potentials. I also take a look around the environment for any potential dangers....i.e. holes in the fencing, gaps underneath where the pup can get out, unsecured pools/ponds, debris). I am also upfront with the adopter so there are proper expectations. I tell them what I am looking for in the interactions and if I see any potential problems. I also explain the next steps.

I then respond to the email from the Adoption Coordinator and let her know if they want to move forward, she will send the contract and payment info. After that is done, we can reconnect to set up the transfer. We never leave the pup with them at that time. I always advise that they take the time to talk it over as a family once we leave. I want to make sure there isn't any pressure to decide. If I feel they are a good fit, I will usually take a family photo before I leave, just in case they want to move forward.

Once I leave the M & G, I will send my assessment to the Adoption Coordinator letting her know of any concerns, or if I feel they are a good fit. As a foster, our job is to make sure the pup will live their best life. If you have any doubts, or if the pup isn't into the humans, their children are too rough, or their animals aren't accepting of the pup, don't take a chance that things may change, because generally don't. Let the Adoption Coordinator know that this is not the right fit (but that the applicant would make a great parent for another dog) and you would like to wait for the next app. We can always make a recommendation for a different pup from Spark.

If they move forward, once everything is approved and we have set up a time to meet, I send them the following list. They may not need the list, but it's just a helpful reminder of what a pup may need.

1. Food- Explain the feeding schedule and type of food here:

2. SAMPLE: (we give (pup name, and food brand name) puppy kibble, a few days a few days we mix in sweet potato and at night we mix in rice and veggies made with chicken broth.
3. We usually give a cup of kibble 3 x per day, but you can implement your own feeding schedule.)
4. Food and water dish
5. leash
6. collar
7. harness
8. Bed
9. crate – (pup name) is currently in a Med crate, -when I put them to bed at night I fully cover the crate with a blanket
10. Toys
11. Squeaky toys
12. Chews/bully sticks
13. balls
14. Choose the crate size to send:
15. Small crate
16. 16" tall x 13" wide x 22" long
17. Medium crate
18. 23.5" long x 19" tall x 17" wide
19. X-Large crate
20. 36.5" long x 27" tall x 24" wide
21. Large crate
22. 21.5" tall x 29" long x 19" wide

When we do the transfer, I give them the pups most favorite toy at my house, and his crate blanket (I buy \$3-\$5 throw blankest from Walmart/Target. When a pup comes to my house, I give them a blanket for their crate), and 2 days worth of kibble so they can get started or transition the pup to a new food.

I always let them know that I will check in in a day or so to see how the pup is doing. I also let them know that they can contact me anytime if they have any questions, concerns, or would just like to send an update and photos. I usually check in again after a few weeks just to make sure everyone is adjusting smoothly. I love updates; it makes all the hard work of fostering (sleepless nights, poop clean up, being tethered to my home) worth it when I see the pup living their best life and getting the love they deserve!