



Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. (CARE) 2010 Ferret Foster Application & Contract

President: Tara Haltiwanger 803.622.9813 or caretoadopt1@gmail.com
Exotics Director: Alicia DeBoe 803.979.0640 or caretoadopt8@gmail.com
www.caretoadopt.org



Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ Other: (____) _____
Fax: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____
Best time to call you: _____ Occupation: _____ (optional)

Have you read CARE's Code of Ethics, Policies, and Rescue & Adoption Program? Yes ___ or No ___

Do you have any questions regarding any of them? Yes ___ or No ___

What type of home do you live in? _____ (house, trailer, apartment, duplex, etc.)

Own ___ or Rent ___ If you rent, does your landlord allow pets and is pet deposit paid? Yes ___ or No ___

How many ferrets are you willing to foster at one time? _____

Are you willing to foster a sick or special needs pet (willing to give medications)? Yes ___ or No ___

What age range are you willing to foster? _____

Are you able to potty train or will your foster need to come already trained? Yes ___ or No ___

Approximately how many hours will your foster pet be alone each day? _____

Is there someone home during the day? Yes ___ or No ___ At night? Yes ___ or No ___

If you take on too much, are you able to say so and allow us time to fix the situation? Yes ___ or No ___

Are you willing to have a CARE representative visit you in your home prior to fostering? Yes ___ or No ___

Are there children living in the home (or visit often)? Yes ___ or No ___ Ages _____

Do you have other pets? Yes ___ or No ___ How many animals do you have? _____

If yes, please describe them below:

1) Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Neutered? Yes ___ or No ___

Species _____ Breed _____ Personality _____

2) Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Neutered? Yes ___ or No ___

Species _____ Breed _____ Personality _____

3) Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Neutered? Yes ___ or No ___

Species _____ Breed _____ Personality _____

4) Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Neutered? Yes ___ or No ___

Species _____ Breed _____ Personality _____

Are your pets current on vaccines, heartworm and flea/tick prevention (if it applies)? Yes ___ No ___

If you have pets, have they lived with ferrets before? Yes ___ No ___

Do you feel the ferret will be safe around your pets? Yes ___ No ___

Do you plan to supervise them when they are around each other? Yes ___ No ___

What other animals have you had in the past? Please give the animal's name, breed, length of time you had them, and the reason you no longer have them:

Do you understand the importance of yearly exams and vaccinations? Yes ___ No ___

Are you familiar with common ferret diseases? Yes ___ No ___

If not answered above, have had a ferret before? Yes ___ No ___

If so, how many? _____

If you don't have your ferret(s) now what happened to them?

Have your ferret(s) been exposed to the corona virus (ECE) or Aleutians disease (ADV)? Yes ___ No ___

If so, when? _____

How was it treated? _____

Do you know how to clip a ferret's nails? Yes ___ No ___

Have you read up or researched about having a ferret(s)? Yes ___ or No ___

Do you have a cage already for fostering? Yes ___ No ___ Type and Size: _____

What room of the house will the cage be kept? _____

How much time do you have to play with the ferret(s)? _____

Are you willing to ferret proof your house? Yes ___ No ___

Do you breed or sell? _____ If so, average number of litters bred per year: _____

Have you worked (formally or informally) in animal rescue before? If so, please describe your experience here:

For which organization did you volunteer & where? _____ How long? _____

Do you currently work with them? If not, why not? _____

Have you ever fostered any animals before? _____ How long and for who? _____

Were you able to foster the pet until a permanent home was found? Yes ____ or No ____

If not, why not? _____

Required references we may contact: **(if possible, please list one relative and one non-relative)**

Name: _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Relationship to you: _____ Best time to call: _____

Name: _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Relationship to you: _____ Best time to call: _____

Current Veterinarian* (please give Dr. and clinic's name):

Name _____ Pet(s) seen there: _____

Street _____ Client for how long? _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax Phone (_____) _____

* Please notify your Vet's office that an application has been submitted for fostering pets with CARE. Give them permission to release general information about you and your pet care history to a CARE representative. In addition, your signature below will also serve as giving your permission to release the aforementioned information (required by some Vets). This is only used for verification purposes.

Emergency Veterinarian*:

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax Phone (_____) _____

* If you do not know who handles emergencies in your city, please research and list them here. Be sure to know in case an emergency ever arises. Most vets will not see their client's emergencies. Usually, you must go to a separate Emergency Clinic. We would like to make sure you are prepared. Please keep this information on your refrigerator or close to the phone.

Do we have your permission to contact your veterinarian and references? Yes ____ or No ____

In a few words, please tell us why you wish to become a Foster Home for CARE. Please include your knowledge and experiences with animals.

I agree to abide by the Program and Policies set forth by the Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. (CARE) Board of Directors. I understand that any foster animal in my care may be removed from my home at any time with or without reason by or on the authority of CARE's Board. I understand that CARE foster animals do not belong to my family or me. I understand that should I want to adopt a CARE foster animal, it will be at the sole discretion of the Board. I understand that I may have an influence in who shall adopt my foster animal, but the Board has the final word on said adoption. I understand that I am expected to follow up on all of my adoptions as needed and assist adopters through the adjustment period, but I am not to force the adopters to remain connected to me or CARE beyond that ("no strings" policy).

I am aware there is no guarantee, warranty or full knowledge of any rescued pet's health and temperament. I volunteer to accept the rescued animal in my charge as a humanitarian act and agree to release and hold harmless Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. along with CARE volunteers and Board members, from any and all liability or responsibility in connection with any pet(s) I agree to foster.

I hereby agree that any money (adoption or general donations) that I collect or receive on behalf of CARE will be turned over to CARE's President, Tara Haltiwanger, in a timely fashion. Additionally, I hereby certify that I am in good standing with the local rescue groups and veterinarians. I agree to uphold a professional relationship with every contact I have through CARE, including, but not limited to vet clinics, pet stores, donors, potential adopters, other volunteers of CARE, and other rescues. Furthermore, I promise that I will not conduct myself in any manner, which could reflect badly on CARE or any of CARE's volunteers. Last, I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and a legal US citizen. I agree to include a photocopy of my current driver's license for verification purposes. I understand that this will be kept confidential and not given out to any other parties.

Applicant's Signature

Submission Date

CARE Rep Signature

Approval Date

Thank you for your interest in fostering for CARE. The Board of Directors will consider your application and contact you shortly to set up a home visit. Please return a signed copy of this application and a copy of your driver's license to the following address for final review. Thank you!

Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. (CARE)
C/O Foster Homes
P. O. Box 90060
Columbia, SC 29290

Email: caretoadopt7@gmail.com

Enc: CARE Code of Ethics
CARE Policies
CARE Rescue and Adoption Program

CARE CODE OF ETHICS

GOAL

The Code of Ethics was established and approved by the Board Members of Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. (CARE) as a standard for volunteers, also known as CARE Reps. The goal of this code of ethics is to protect and preserve CARE, animal rescue, volunteers, and individual animals. All CARE Reps have an obligation to put the welfare of the animals above personal gain and refrain from activities that would be detrimental to these animals or CARE. These guidelines are presented with the realization that ethics are difficult to regulate and that most individuals desire and intend to do what is right. Education and communication are the preferred methods of obtaining compliance to these practices.

GENERAL CONDUCT

CARE Reps shall provide all animals (or fosters) in their care with the highest possible standards of nutrition, shelter, cleanliness, exercise, training, socialization and individual attention so that these animals may become well-adjusted companions.

CARE Reps shall NOT engage in false or misleading advertising or other misrepresentation of his/her rescues. CARE Reps shall NOT malign other CARE Reps, veterinarians, or rescue organizations. CARE Reps are encouraged to provide pertinent information about their own rescues or those of others, providing such information is accurate and verifiable.

CARE Reps should seek the best possible environment for each foster. NO CARE Rep shall sell, consign, or donate animals to such places as commercial/USDA breeders, pet stores, pet brokers, or catalog houses. Animals may not be offered to events such as raffles, auctions, drawings, lotteries, contests, or laboratories. CARE Reps should not knowingly deal with unethical persons. All rescues must be kept for at least 10 days prior to placement for quarantine.

CARE Reps must comply with all record keeping requirements as set forth by CARE's Board Members.

HEALTH ISSUES

ANY and ALL health issues, concerns, and/or obvious veterinary needs MUST be reported to Tara Haltiwanger immediately who will then decide what steps to take. DO NOT take any of these issues into your own hands unless it is a life or death emergency. Keep in mind funds are limited at ALL times. If an emergency arises, go to nearest emergency clinic or vet and call Tara Haltiwanger immediately. ALWAYS get an estimate, what the estimate includes, diagnosis and prognosis. If you do not get an answer, leave a message stating how to contact you, which animal is having the emergency, what that emergency is, where you have taken the animal, and what is being done to handle the emergency.

Information CARE MUST provide Adopters:

CARE Rep should always provide the new Guardian (adopters) with the following:

1. An electronic copy and/or printed copy of medical records showing proof of vaccine(s) and neuter if applicable.
2. A small supply of food for transitioning over to the adopters chosen food.
3. Written info concerning proper care, veterinary care, adjustment period, socialization, and accident prevention.

CARE RESCUE POLICIES

1. ALL rescued animals MUST be spayed or neutered BEFORE placement, if applicable for their species.
2. Appointments should be added to the appointment calendar (Google Doc). This is a request, which will be approved by Tara Haltiwanger and scheduled by Lil Bridgeman, CARE's Appointment Coordinator. Please check this calendar for the date or email Lil for additional info. DO NOT be late for any appointments. ALWAYS ask Lil what the NPO policy is before a surgery. This often means you need to pick up food/water by a specific time the night before surgery. You MUST have records in hand showing proof of vaccines for any appointment.
3. Expenses are not authorized by anyone in CARE except Tara Haltiwanger. You must communicate with her to fulfill the animal's medical needs. Expenses that have not received proper approval may be considered to be the responsibility of the rescue representative or foster home.

4. Approved reimbursement - Itemized bills must be submitted to the President, Tara Haltiwanger, for reimbursement. Bills must include the animal's name, ID number and be printed on veterinary letterhead.
5. A signed Adoption Agreement must be sent to the Records Custodian and adoption fee (see animal's profile for fee) payable to *Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. or CARE* must be sent to the President within one (1) week of the adoption.
6. Rescued animals remain the property of CARE at all times prior to adoption and upon return should the adoption fall through. CARE's Board has the authority to place the animal in any home they deem acceptable. Foster homes are encouraged to have input with each of their potential adoptions. In most cases, once trained, the foster parent will decide who is qualified to adopt their foster animal unless they are not comfortable doing so.
7. CARE's President and/or Vice President shall have final determination on the disposition of an animal should expenses be over \$300 or quality of life is determined to be severely and negatively affected. **Euthanasia will only be authorized by Tara Haltiwanger, President/Vet Tech, or Lara Truesdale, Vice President/Vet Tech.**

CARE RESCUE AND ADOPTION PROGRAM

CARE's goal is to help as many needy animals as possible while limiting ourselves enough to provide and maintain a high level of care to each animal already within our care. We **MUST ALWAYS** keep an eye on ourselves and guide each other to prevent us from stretching ourselves too thin and possibly burning out. Always keep in mind what you can truly handle and strive to keep yourself within reasonable limits.

ACQUISITION OF ANIMALS

The Exotics Director, Alicia DeBoe and/or Tara Haltiwanger only will approve exotics brought into CARE. CARE's main focus is to pull animals from kill shelters, puppy mills and local streets. Owner surrenders are limited but do occur. If you would like to get an animal approved to come into CARE, submit the animal's information, records and picture (if available) to Tara Haltiwanger and/or Alicia DeBoe for review and possible approval.

HOUSING OF ANIMALS

ALL animals must be held at least 10 days for quarantine prior to placement. CARE mainly utilizes one type of housing method, which is fostering in approved private foster homes. Cages, food, water, toys and bedding should be kept clean on a routine basis.

ADOPTIONS

The first step in finding a new home for any animal is listing them with a picture on CARE's website. This site automatically posts each animal on PetFinder, Pets911, 1-800-SAVE-A-PET as well. The second step is networking through people we know. The third is Adoption Days. At times CARE will advertise in The State classified ad section, Free Times, various magazines, and/or other internet avenues, like Craig's List.

Once you have found some prospective adopters, screen them well (see next section) and send all of the information to a Board member for final approval. Once you are comfortable with screening and adoptions, you will be able to conduct your own adoptions. **It is MANDATORY that all animals are spayed/neutered and current on vaccines prior to placement if old enough, and depending on species. If not, a spay/neuter contract and refundable deposit is required. Fees vary.**

A monetary adoption fee is requested of the new owners, which will be set on an individual basis according to the animal's breed, disposition, age, medical bills, etc. We accept personal checks with proper ID, Cashier's Checks, Money Orders, and PayPal. Adoption fees should be made payable to **Cullen's Archangel RescuE, Inc. or CARE** and should go directly to Tara Haltiwanger for deposit. **DO NOT** pay their fee for them! A reduced adoption fee may be allowed on an individual basis, depending upon the reason why. If a situation arises like this and you are not sure what to do, refer to Tara Haltiwanger or Kelly Whittington. Adoption fees are NOT tax deductible, only donations are.

Original SIGNED Adoption contracts and all records need to be uploaded to the animal's profile and sent to Stacey Gardner to CARE's PO Box within 2 weeks of medical care and adoption. If you cannot upload, let CARE Records Clerk, Stacey Gardner, know and mail them on to her. Be sure to keep an adopter's copy of medical records in your foster file box.

With proper evaluation and placement, the chance of an adoption not working out is lessened considerably. But should an animal not work out for any reason, you must impress on the new owners that the animal must be returned to CARE ONLY. This eliminates the problem of having to bail the animal out of a shelter or having him/her end up in an unsuitable home. If a return is necessary, go pick up the animal IMMEDIATELY! This should be done within days - the adopter will become impatient very quickly. IF YOU CANNOT GET THERE WITHIN TWO DAYS, CALL ANOTHER VOLUNTEER FOR HELP! The application says one week, but rarely will adopters returning an animal be patient.

SCREENING POTENTIAL ADOPTERS

Screening potential adopters is an integral part of the rescue process. A successful adoption begins with the initial contact. It is the foster parent's responsibility to conduct all interviews rationally and fairly. Use the adoption process to help educate the public not only on the particular animal they wish to adopt, but also on responsible pet care and training. Rescuers have to be careful – be able to say “no” politely to a prospective adopter if the home is not suitable for an animal.

Some questions are useful for uncovering the true attitude of a prospective adopter:

Do you have children? What are their ages and interests? Will the children be expected to be responsible for the care of the animal?

Have you had this species/breed before? What attracted you to it? Why do you want this animal?

Do you currently have any pets? What are they (species/breed/age/sex)? Are they altered?

How many animals have you had in the last 10 years? What happened to them?

Do you have a fenced yard? Where will the foster stay during the day? At night? How many hours will it routinely stay alone?

Who is your veterinarian?

If the animal makes a mistake, what kind of correction will you make? What is your definition of disciplining an animal?

An adoption contract finalizes the qualifications previously discussed with the adopter. In addition, it absolves CARE and its volunteers of liability for further actions of the animal. The contract spells out the rights and responsibilities of all sides and must be taken seriously as part of the final placement.

An important part of the adoption contract is the adopter's signature. Be sure they understand what they are agreeing to. They will receive a copy of the contract with their adoption kit. It is a good idea to schedule follow-up calls or visits to see how things are working out and head off problems quickly.

Sometimes, everything seems right for an adoption, yet you just do not feel right about it. As long as you are being realistic – GO WITH YOUR GUT!!! The final decision to place an animal often comes down to instinct. Your gut is rarely wrong. Adoptions should be a solid operation to ensure that the animal will be a part of the adopter's life forever.

Sometimes, no matter what potential problems you try to head off in the adoption process, it simply does not work out. Adoption returns can happen for various reasons. Do not blame yourself or feel guilty. As much as we want to keep returns to a minimum, we do not want an animal to be in a home where he/she does not fit in or is no longer wanted. Many foster parents worry that the return or “bouncing” is detrimental to the animal's physical and mental health, but in actuality, this is not always true. While this can be true, for some animals, it can be a blessing in disguise for others.

For one, we learn more about what that particular animal needs in a permanent home or in preparation for a permanent home. Some issues will not come up until an actual adoption occurs because each home environment is different. Second, an insecure animal will sometimes become more confident after being moved around a little (it forces them to be more outgoing). The same is true for animals with behavior problems because many of these problems can be attributed to insecurity as well. This is not to say that this is true in EVERY situation, but sometimes we simply do not give animals the credit they deserve for their superior resilience.

Note: Even for the animals that seem to be hurt by “bouncing”, it will open up areas that need work and strengthen them. This is not to say that returns are desirable because sometimes bouncing will cause damage that cannot easily be reversed. This is simply to say, if it cannot be avoided, look for the positive and help the animal to benefit from the situation.

THE LEGAL ANGLE OF RESCUE

When a private person or rescue operation takes possession of an animal and is intending to keep it or place it in a home, that rescuer and organization becomes legally responsible for the animal. The organization and rescuers are viewed as having the same responsibility as any other animal owner in terms of liability. By keeping the animal, the rescuer voluntarily assumes the duty to ensure that the animal does not violate any laws or cause any harm.

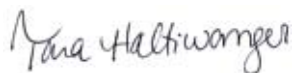
To avoid legal problems, we MUST:

1. Avoid negligence. To defend against a claim of negligence, it must be shown that the caretaker exercised reasonable care under the circumstances.
2. Inspect the potential home. What is necessary for this animal and is it there? The requirements for animals are very different for each depending upon many factors (i.e. disposition, breed, species, size, history, medical/special needs, etc.).
3. Learn about an animal's history. Find out as much as you can about the animal before you get it. Evaluate and learn about the animal while you have it and share everything you know with the prospective new owner.
4. **Adoption Contract** - The most important item (legally) included in the contract is an agreement by the new owners to indemnify and hold the rescuer and CARE harmless from responsibility or liability for the acts of the animal while in the new owner/guardian's possession.

Unfortunately, sometimes the only safe thing to do is euthanize the animal. If an animal is overly aggressive or displays violent tendencies while in your care, you can be charged with actual knowledge of the animal's vicious propensity and you can be held legally responsible should that animal injure someone at a later date.

Rescue can be extremely gratifying, but do not forget to protect yourself and CARE while protecting the animals. Give yourself time when needed and be forthcoming with us when/if you need a break. We look forward to many successful years of working together!

Thank you again,



Tara Haltiwanger
Founder/President