

## SAMMY SITTERS

SRSC has been rescuing all types of Samoyeds for more than 30 years with amazing help from volunteers and supporters. These beautiful dogs come from shelters and owners who can no longer care for them.

We need more volunteers for our *Sammy Sitters* program, who will open their home to a shelter rescue dog for 3 weeks. This short period can mean the difference between euthanasia and a happy future in a forever home. A *Sammy Sitter* helps the dog acclimate to a post-shelter life. Needs may include, but not limited to, socialization, basic training (leash, housebreaking, etc) and care during medical rehabilitation. Food and medical expenses are covered by SRSC, and our foster guru is on call to provide advice and assistance as needed.

During the foster stay and with feedback from the *Sammy Sitter*, other volunteers will be working on sharing the dog's information with our extensive waitlist. Since every dog is different, we focus on matching the right adopter with the right dog.

Potential *Sammy Sitters* must have prior dog experience; this isn't an opportunity to learn about dogs. Your home must be 'dog ready' and suitable (sturdy fenced yard, room to be free, etc). It's preferable for a sitter to be home the majority of the day to provide guidance and support. Some of our Rescues may have never lived in a home and will require daily, consistent training and patience to teach them what is expected to be a happy dog 😊

Yes, *Sammy Sitters* are fosters, but the 3-week sitter time commitment is much shorter than most foster commitments. *Sammy Sitting* is such a rewarding experience. Saving and watching a dog blossom into a confident, healthy family member is amazing. With your help, a homeless dog can learn to be the perfect addition to a family.

If you'd like to join our *Sammy Sitter* team, please complete our foster application:

<https://www.socalsamoyedrescue.org/foster-application-form>



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How long will I be expected to foster this dog?

*The foster visit is scheduled for 3 weeks. If you would like to foster the dog longer, just let us know.*

2. What happens if I can no longer care for the dog?

*Call us, and we will take the dog.*

3. Who pays for medical bills if they arise?

*All medical needs must be pre-approved by SRSC, and we will pay for all necessary medical bills. We have a vet who does all of our surgeries and diagnostics. If something simple (i.e. vaccines, etc) is needed, we may ask you to use your local vet and we will reimburse the expense.*

4. What should I do if there's a medical emergency?

*You will be provided with phone numbers of several of our volunteers. Call us immediately.*

5. Who is responsible for communicating with potential adopters, screening them and introducing the dog to them? Will I be required to bring him to adoption events and, if so, where/when?

*SRSC will prepare all of the dog's info material and will coordinate with our waitlist, social media and website. We may reach out to the *Sammy Sitter* for pics and videos. After the initial 3 weeks, the dog will move to our boarding facility for scheduled Meet 'n Greet with potential adopters.*

6. Will you provide food, leash, medications, etc., or will I be expected to?

*SRSC will cover these expenses either by pre-purchasing or reimbursing the *Sammy Sitter*.*

7. If I have a problem, whom can I contact? If I leave a message, how quickly will that person get back to me?

*You will be provided with phone numbers of several of our volunteers. In non-emergencies, you can expect a return call within a day.*



## TRANSITION TIPS:

- When transporting dog, please use a crate or have another person who can control the dog while you're driving. Take caution until you really know the dog.
- Take him to his toileting area immediately and spend a good amount of time with him so he will get used to the area. Praise him.
- Take him out every 1 ½ hours until you know that he is toilet trained. Be prepared for accidents. If he pees/poos in the house, give the leash a quick jerk while saying, "Fido, no pee/poo in the house. Pee/poo outside". Then immediately take him outside and praise him every time he does perform outside.
- Keep him on a long leash the whole time you're with him for the first 1-3 weeks. If he is a runner, this will help in catching him. If he starts to misbehave, you can quickly reach for the leash and give a corrective action.
- Give the dog time to acclimate to new home before introducing to others. Please, no visitors the first few days.
- Remain calm and quiet around your dog; try to limit too much excitement.
- Until he gets comfortable, maybe limit him to specific rooms of the house.
- Create a schedule for feeding (if dog was boarded, try to duplicate that schedule)
- If you plan on crate training the dog, leave the door open so he can go in at his will.
  - If you don't have a crate, a card table with a blanket covering will also work.
  - Just give him a place to feel safe.
- Start your consistent schedule. The dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement.
- People often say they don't see their dog's true personality for several weeks. Your dog may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to a consistent schedule.

