



VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

www.LookBackRescue.org  
501(c)3# 46-3240637

**LOOK BACK** Border Collie Rescue. Inc.

*Look Back*  
...the command given to search  
for more lost sheep requiring  
deep trust and teamwork

P.O. Box 1511 Duarte, CA 91009  
LBRescue@outlook.com (626) 806-5500



*Donna White, President  
Keith White, Vice President  
Ed Smith, Secretary  
Shelley Borchert, Treasurer  
Jay L. Moore, Board Member*

Thank you for considering volunteering with Look Back Border Collie Rescue (LBR). Dogs in our rescue have mostly come to us from overburdened shelters. We often have little reliable information about their past behavior in a home environment, out on walks, during transport, or at events. Volunteers may be dealing with dogs during the period in which foster homes are temperament testing and assessing behaviors. The safety of our dogs is a primary concern. We have attached materials to help you understand the responsibility of handling rescue dogs as well as our core principles and volunteering information.

**Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ home phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone# 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current/Past Pet Information**

Please describe current pets (names, breed, sex and ages), what you do with them, how long you have had them \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you owned border collies or other dogs before? Please describe them (names, breed and ages), what you did with them, how long you had them, and how they may have died: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Graphic Art/PhotoShop/Video Editing/Photography Assistance**

Would you be able to help us with creating marketing materials? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Would you be able to help us edit video and create clips for website and youtube? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Border collies can be very challenging subjects. They move fast and may fear cameras. They have been abandoned and getting them to look happy is difficult, yet it is in the early weeks that it is most important to get their photos out for potential adopters to see. Ability to lighten photos of black faces, remove distracting or unattractive backgrounds, or even photoshop in a toy can really add to the appeal and capture someone's attention. Are you good with photoshop and would you like to help us in this area? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Would you be able to help us with our **FaceBook** page, posting materials & gathering friends? \_\_Yes \_\_No



**Are you interested in helping train dogs in rescue?**

If so, do you have a yard? yes no      If yes is it fenced? yes no  
Size of yard \_\_\_\_\_ Height of fence \_\_\_\_\_ Type of fence \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in coming to a foster home and taking dogs for long walks or hikes? Yes No

**Are you interested in helping transport dogs either between foster homes or from shelters?**

If so, are you willing to accept any risk involved in transporting a dog inside your vehicle?  yes  no

Would you be able to transport long distances, as much as 2 hours away  yes  no

One of our challenges is that the shelter might be in Bakersfield and the primary foster home able to deal with quarantine issues might be in Valencia, while you live in Pasadena. Or the foster home might be in San Diego and the shelter is in Pasadena. Southern California covers a lot of territory.

**Are you interested in helping at events?**

Would you be able to transport dogs as much as 2 hours away from an event?  yes  no

Would you be able to arrive early to help set up for events (usually around 8:00 am) or stay late to help pack up (usually around 5:00 or 6:00 pm)? Such help involves carrying and wheeling dog crates, tables, chairs, totes, etc from transport vehicles and walking the dogs to the booth.  yes  no

Would you be able to attend events and help talk with people, usually a 4 hour shift?  yes  no

Would you be able to walk dogs during events, usually a 4 hour shift?  yes  no

**Would you be interested in helping with administrative tasks?**

Would you be willing to update data base information for applicants, adopters, volunteers, etc?  yes  no

Would you be willing to regularly respond to emails from potential adopters and coordinate with foster homes? This requires a commitment to check our email account at least twice per day, when you are "on duty", generally one week at a time.  yes  no

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this application!**

Please let us know how you heard about us:

PetFinder    Adopt-a-Pet    Facebook    Internet Search    Friend/Family  
Other, please describe \_\_\_\_\_



## Core Principles and Philosophy

### Honesty

Look Back Border Collie Rescue, Inc. (LBR) is founded on the concept of teamwork that is based on trust and cooperation. It is the heart of our name and embedded in our logo. Truth is the foundation of trust. Honesty is the quality, condition, or characteristic of being fair, truthful, and morally upright. It is more than not lying, it is full disclosure. It is through open and honest conduct that we build a foundation of trust and attract like-minded volunteers, fosters, adopters, and supporters. Our conduct will determine the longevity of LBR.

Further, potential volunteers, volunteers, adopters, foster families have a right to confidentiality. We do not share their information beyond the scope of rescue and never distribute information for profit. Further, we never speak poorly of anyone in the LBR family or any other rescue. We do not judge, we try to lead by example and assume that everyone has good intentions to help dogs.

### Teamwork

Volunteers are the heart of our organization and are celebrated with gratitude. In order to develop a community supporting our mission, a positive attitude attracts positive results.

### Mission – Rescue & Education

Our primary mission is to appropriately and successfully place each dog as quickly as possible. Since so many border collies come to rescue because they were the wrong dog for the wrong family, our secondary mission is education about the breed. Continuing education for our LBR community will increase their passion for their current dogs, future dogs, and rescue efforts.

### Priority of In-Take

Our hearts want to save every dog – NOW. But, we must focus our mission and activities for long-term success, which will ultimately save more dogs. Therefore, our mission is centered on apparent pure bred border collies because this is the breed for which we have expertise and passion. We will try to first rescue border collies most at risk of being euthanized. We can only bring in borders if we have available quarantine spots and ultimately foster spots. If we over-extend our capacity, we will burn out fosters and ultimately save fewer dogs. Also, our finances are limited, and the reality is that we can only afford to have the dogs in rescue as a way-station. Consequently, only adoptable dogs will be brought into rescue. We will work on socialization, house manners, and training with all dogs brought into the rescue, but are not equipped to handle: severe lack of socialization, aggression, significant medical issues, or older dogs (unless really family/child friendly).

## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Without volunteers, rescue would not be possible. We are extremely grateful for your help and love for border collies. Please be patient if some of this material seems obvious or remedial. But, some volunteers may be new to the breed. Some may have only been around well trained/balanced border collies. And even those of us that have been doing rescue for many years, need to remind ourselves that foster dogs need special consideration. It's in that brief moment of inattention that accidents happen. So, if you are helping at an event, helping with training, helping with transport, or taking a foster on a walk, these are some points to remember.



## **Safety First**

*Always on a leash* - Even the most seemingly easy foster will be “ungrounded” in a new setting and we will not know what things might spook the dog. A slip lead (like used in veterinary offices) is preferred until familiar with the dog.

So, it is critical that the dogs be transported preferably in a crate, but if not, they must be on a leash and the leash must be controlled by the human before any car doors are opened. Dogs must be removed from crates very carefully, see kennel instructions below.

The dog must also be on a leash going to/from the house to the car and on walks. You never know what might spook the dog and cause him/her to run off or run into traffic.

*Tight collar* – As our personal dogs become reliable, many of us start leaving their collars very loose and don’t mind if they pull out of them because they follow our commands. However, if fosters pull out of a collar when frightened or resisting, they will NOT be inclined to run to you. It is critical that collars remain tight enough that they cannot pull out of them. Optimally, use a martingale collar.

*Tags* – The foster dog will have a chip identified to LBR as well as tags with LBR phone numbers, but we really don’t want to get those calls.

### **Think TIGGER by the tail:**

TI – tight collar

GG – good grasp of leash

ER – be ready for emergency (dog’s unexpected panic reaction)

## **Events**

*Kennels* – Block the door with your body as much as possible. Slip the lead around the dog’s neck before opening the door enough to allow the dog out. Why is this so important? Because noises at events are especially unpredictable. If someone pops a balloon just as the door is open, without total control of the dog, he/she may push past you and run off. Once outside the kennel, double check the collar. If it is adequately tight enough, attach regular leash and remove the slip-lead. Rarely does an event go by without at least one dog getting loose, running wild, and causing much panic. We don’t want that dog to be ours.

*Showing* – Dogs are more appealing outside of kennels, so we try to have a volunteer greeting people with a border collie on a leash. You will need to know the basic characteristics of “your” dog and whether he/she is good with children. This information is available on the kennel card.

*Walking* – Dogs need some time outside of their kennel to stretch their legs and relieve themselves. This is also a good time for a drink of water. When walking through crowds and around unfamiliar dogs, you need to be aware of your dog’s behavior and attitude at all times. When in doubt, come back. Dogs may become fearful and overwhelmed and will feel safest back at their kennel.

*Kennel cards* – Please keep them updated with the following type of information: When drank water, went for walk, pee, poop & type, etc. – just fill in forms on each kennel. (All of this is good information to let us know how the dog is handling the stress of an event.)



### *Dealing with the public*

We are always polite, but we must also be alert for inattentive parents. Children must not put fingers inside cages, ever! Dogs are stressed at events and even a dog that loves children can turn around in startled fear and react negatively. So, we watch for children and use the opportunities for education on how to properly approach dogs.

### *Potential Adopters*

Engage conversation and understand whether people have border collie experience, what they want in a dog and whether they are serious or just enjoying the event. The very simple question, “have you had a border collie before?” gets the conversation going. They will usually ask very basic questions about the dog first, which are usually answered on the kennel card: sex, age, good with children, cats, etc. Feel free to engage people as much as possible. If they are interested, pull the dog from the kennel so that they can meet. But, remember safety first. Also, if there are small children, get one of the adoption counselors to help before introducing the dog to the children.

As soon as possible, alert an adoption counselor so that more information about the dog’s background can be shared. Typically, we try to describe all issues with the dog and identify situations in the potential adopter’s environment as soon as possible to save everyone’s time and hopefully move them to a better suited dog. For example, if we have a chain link fence climber, we might as well ask that question first. If they have block walls, then we continue, otherwise, it is better to try to move them to a different dog.

*Photo opportunities* – often rescue photos become boring. Events might be a great opportunity for a fresh face with the dog or getting the dog out on some nice green grass. Often foster families just don’t have the time to get good photos because they are working on training, or they are only one person. Photos work best as team efforts.

### **Training enhances adoptability**

The more skills that the dogs develops, the more potential homes will be appropriate. A well trained, socialized dog that loves everyone and children can go to almost any home. The more unresolved issues with a dog the more limited his/her chances, which means much more time in rescue until the right home comes along. Not only will teaching a few basic skills make the dog more adoptable, but it will make your experience more enjoyable.

Some dogs may have had NO training and others may have had training, but with different commands, gestures, or even languages. So, be alert to signs of what the dog may know. As much as possible, it is good to use commands from basic obedience classes, which we have included in separate materials. Using common commands/gestures makes it easier for the dog to transition to continued training in his/her forever home.

“*Wait*” needs to be part of first training. The dog must wait for food, wait to cross the threshold, wait to get into or out of the car, wait to cross the street on a walk, etc. Wait is a great tool for establishing that you are in charge. Using the wait command helps establish that food and toys are NOT the property of the dog, but rather controlled by the human, which is very helpful in dealing with food/toy possessiveness. Wait is the building block for boundary training.

*Socialization* is very important. A dog that kisses the adopter’s face gets adopted. A dog that hangs back remains in rescue much longer.

*Walking on a leash* is another initial skill that helps with adoption. If the adopter can take the dog on a short walk during the first interview, not only will the adopter start to bond with the dog, but it is an excellent tool for you to evaluate the skills of the adopter to access whether he/she will be able to handle the dog.



Places to go for socialization – Dog parks are not suggested until you have had significant time assessing his/her behaviors. Having a dog that you are uncertain about combined with irresponsible humans and/or unbalanced dogs can lead to disaster.

Local parks where dogs are on leashes or hiking are excellent places to both practice walking and socialization.

PetsMart and PetCo are also great places to work on both socialization and walking on a leash. Take treats and ask friendly strangers and store employees to give a treat to the foster. These stores all offer obedience training and have their classes walk around the store doing “friendly stranger” exercises. The customers love it and the stores support rescue. It is easy to work on both loose leash walking and socialization. Also, the stores let you play with toys and see what toys get a reaction from the dog. There are often children around and you can watch the dog’s reaction to the little people. If the dog knows any other commands, such as sit/stay/come these stores are great places to practice commands with distraction and long leads.

“Adopt Me” scarves are great icebreakers and advertising. Try to have the dog wear it’s “adopt me” scarf whenever you are out with the dog. People are more apt to talk to you and that’s good for socialization. Also, you never know, they might be looking for a border collie to call their own.

*Photo opportunities* – Socialization opportunities might also present chances for interesting photos. It has been proven time and again that the dogs with the best photos get adopted fastest. Dogs with black faces present the most challenges. They especially need colorful backgrounds to draw attention. Another trick is to get a photo interacting with a person. We had a great photo of a 9 year old dog with a stick in his mouth that got more attention than a boring photo of a young beauty queen. The photo captures the attention so that the dog’s personality can seal the deal.

### **Right dog/right home**

As much as we want every dog to find his/her forever home as fast as possible, we must always be patient. It must be a right home for the particular dog. We are always honest about the dog. We try to honestly assess the potential adoptive home. We don’t expect perfect, but it has to be a good match with high probability of success for the particular dog. Most of the border collies that we will have in our rescue come to us through no fault of their own and we don’t want to match them with humans that may fail them again. We also want the humans to have a successful adoption.

Some border collies may require a human with significant border collie experience, others will not. Some may require a VERY active home, others will not. Some may need to be an only dog, while others will only be happy with another dog and male/female may matter. This is all part of proper placement. **So, we never sell – we try our best to consult and offer the best advice based on our experience as possible.** We remain patient and confident that the right match up will ultimately come along.