

Mile High Weimaraner Rescue Surrender Packet

Thank you for your interest in placing your Weimaraner through Mile High Weimaraner Rescue.

We are a non-profit organization run by a group of dedicated, unpaid volunteers whose goal is to match your dog to the best new home possible.

The Mile High Weimaraner Rescue is a member of the Weimaraner Club of America and our rescue director is on the Weimaraner Foundation Fund's National Rescue Committee, a Board Member of Mile High Weimaraner Club, and associated with many rescue organizations throughout Colorado.

We successfully place an average of 150 Weimaraners into new homes each year, as well as provide education and resources to Weimaraner owners. Owners who surrender their Weimaraners to Rescue do so for various reasons and we are here to make the process as successful and stress-free as possible. Of the 150 dogs we place each year, approximately 70% are owner surrenders and the remaining dogs come from shelters or are strays.

Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions:

- **I got my dog from a breeder, will they re-home my dog?**

A reputable breeder should always take a dog they have bred back in the event you can no longer keep it. If you know who your dog's breeder was, contact them before proceeding with rescue. If you have a CONTRACT with a breeder you are legally REQUIRED to contact the breeder and return the dog to that breeder. If the breeder is unwilling to help or cannot be reached, then rescue can assist.

- **I got my dog from a shelter, or other rescue group, will they re-home my dog?**

A shelter or another rescue group should always take a dog back in the event you can no longer keep it. Please contact them before proceeding with rescue. If you have a CONTRACT with a shelter or rescue group you are legally REQUIRED to contact them and return the dog to them. If the shelter or rescue group is unwilling to help or cannot be reached, then our rescue can assist.

- **What do I need to do to surrender my dog to Rescue?**

We ask that all surrendering owners complete the attached surrender forms (pages 5-7). Please email these forms (with your initials on each page and your signature on the last page) to coloweimsrescue@yahoo.com Or, fax these forms to 720-246-6685.

We will need the ORIGINAL with the signature when we place your dog. To get started, send in the forms. Pictures and a bio are also very helpful.

We request a \$25.00 surrender donation that helps to cover the cost of finding your dog a new home. This can be waived if your dog is current on shots, already microchipped, spayed/neutered, and on heartworm preventative.

If you are having financial difficulties, this fee may be waived.

- **How does Rescue go about finding my dog a new home?**

All dogs are featured on our web site with photos and a personal biography. Our web site is also linked to the national petfinder.com site (and other, similar web sites) to further gain exposure for our featured dogs. We also operate a Yahoo Group and FaceBook page to

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increase our online exposure. We periodically run ads in newspapers as well as make appearances on television news stations. Rescue holds scheduled meet and greets/information booths at least two times each month where the general public as well as potential adopters can have a chance to meet some of the available dogs. Many of our adopters hear about Rescue through word of mouth or find us while searching the internet.

- **How does a meet-n-greet work?**

We have meet-n-greets at least twice a month. This schedule is posted on our website at <http://www.mhwc.org/rescue/events.shtml>. If you can come for an hour, that would be best. You can meet potential owners and chat with them. Placements are never done from a meet-n-greet – we don't want any impulse decisions made. Owners and potential adopters go home and think over the dogs/potential owners they met. If a potential adopter shows interest, we let you know. If you agree it is a good match, we set up a day to start the two week trial.

- **Can I write-up my dog's biography for the website?**

Absolutely! A heart-felt biography always grabs the attention of potential adopters. Also, any pictures of your dog that show them in a good light are always a plus. Dogs without pictures do not get adopted. Pictures are very important, as is ANY and ALL information that you can share about your dog.

- **How long will it take to find my dog a new home?**

This is a difficult question to answer, and can depend on how much involvement you have in the process. The average length of time is 1-2 weeks, but some dogs do not find new homes for several months. We do our very best to find your dog the best home in the shortest time possible, but have found that it is always better in the long run for surrendering owners to be patient and wait for "just the right home". We hold "meet and greets" at least two times per month, and highly encourage you to "show" your dog at a few of the meetings. This is a chance for potential adopters to meet your dog, for you to meet potential adopters, and it greatly increases the chance of him/her finding a new home.

- **Why should I choose to place my Weimaraner through Rescue and not a shelter?**

There are many reasons why placing your Weimaraner through rescue is an advantage. Rescue volunteers have the unique ability (and experience) to screen all potential adopters to ensure that the Weimaraner is the right breed of dog for the adoptive family. Shelters simply do not have the staff and experience to do this and often times the Weimaraner will be adopted out to the wrong family for the breed and then returned to the shelter. Rescue also offers the adoptive family a two week trial period with the new home to give the best chance of a permanent placement. Shelters are often in a position where dogs are euthanized (put to sleep) because there simply is not enough room for all of the dogs. We have needed to euthanize Weims, but only in the case of aggression or serious health problems.

- **Do you have a kennel for the dogs taken into Rescue?**

We sure wish we did! We have some foster homes, but we typically rely on surrendering owners to keep their Weimaraners until a new home is found. This greatly reduces the stress on your Weimaraner by staying in a familiar place until he is transferred to his new home. As a general rule, Weimaraners tend to be quite sensitive by nature and therefore do NOT do well in a kennel or shelter environment. It is ALWAYS best for your Weimaraner to stay with you until a new home is chosen for him/her. Remember, you cannot explain to your Weimaraner what is

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going to happen and why, so it is best to keep the dog in his/her normal routine as long as possible. If there are extenuating circumstances making it impossible for you to keep your Weimaraner during this transition, please talk with a Rescue volunteer about other options (boarding or foster care). If this is an URGENT situation, we will act quickly to help the Weimaraner.

- **What happens if my Weimaraner gets “returned”?**

Returns do occasionally happen, and we are committed to finding the right home for your dog, no matter how long it may take. If the dog is returned, we try to contact you to let you know. Sometimes owners need to separate from their dogs and the choice isn't the choice they'd prefer. We have contacted some owners years down the road and they are in a better place and would like to take their dog back. Some owners just like to know where their dog is and that they are safe. We do our best to find them the right homes, but life sometimes happens and gets in the way of the best laid plans. Our goal is to find the perfect forever home, and we will keep that goal even if the dog is returned.

- **How do I know that my Weimaraner is going to a good home?**

Weimaraner Rescue sends all potential adopters a 12 page information packet with a one page application. We ask for (and check) a reference from a licensed veterinarian, two personal references and make sure that the adopter's home and lifestyle will fit with the specific needs of the dog and the breed. Adopters sign an adoption contract stating that the dog MUST be returned to Rescue in the event that they cannot keep the dog (at any time during the dog's lifetime). An adoption fee is collected and sent to the Weimaraner Foundation Fund Rescue account which is a tax-deductible 501c3 fund. The new adopter pays this fee and the funds go to help Weimaraners who have not been so lucky to have owners that took care of them. Weimaraner Rescue reserves the right to follow up on all adoptions and retains the right to reclaim the dog in the event the dog is not receiving appropriate care. If you choose, you can be involved with selecting your dog's new home. You can meet the potential adopters and ask them questions. They will have questions for you and this usually happens at a meet-n-greet. It is a great way for you to feel more comfortable with your decision to find your Weim another home. Surrendering a Weim can be very difficult on owners. We give the new owners the right to continue a relationship with the surrendering owner or not. Remember, this decision is about your dog, not about you. We always place the dog first and sometimes it is hard to do that when your heart is involved. We ask that you respect the new owner's decision.

- **What can I do to increase the chances for a successful adoption for my Weimaraner?**

There are many things you can do to help your dog find a new and loving home. Participate as much as possible in the process by bringing your dog to all available meet and greets, making sure he/she is spayed/neutered, healthy and current on all vaccines, providing any type of home training you might have time for, and most importantly, being patient and flexible! Be honest when providing information for your dog's biography, and give as much specific information about his/her personality, likes and dislikes. We have a wide range of adopters that may be looking for specific traits and who have different levels of dog experience (e.g. some like a more mature dog with basic training; others want a younger puppy that they can train with, etc.). So, yes, do tell us about your dog's negative behaviors as well as his/her positive attributes. The more information you can provide and the more honest the information is, the better our chances will be of matching your dog with the most appropriate and loving home.

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- **Our dog has bitten a person and we just can't trust the dog in our home anymore. Can you find him a new home?**

If you can not trust the dog, it is a very big leap to ask any other person to trust the dog. Ask yourself this question: "Would I trust my dog with my best friend or a close family member?" If the answer is no, then we can't, in good conscience, take your dog and put them in a new home. The stress alone will increase the chance that the dog will bite someone else.

The laws in Colorado are very specific against vicious dogs. **A dog that bites ONCE is considered a vicious dog.** The liability that goes along with the placement of a vicious dog is very serious. **This means that if you place the dog with someone else you will be held LIABLE for the dog's future actions. And, should the dog bite in the future you can be sued. Again, this is VERY serious.** If this is the case with your dog, we can recommend a behaviorist to help you work with your dog so that you can keep them. If you cannot keep the dog, we offer a service, at a fee, to euthanize your dog in the most humane manner possible. One of our rescue volunteers will be present and can accompany you, if you wish to be there.

If you are not honest with us about your dog's behavior or history, and it is discovered that the dog has bitten and you did not disclose this to us, we will pursue legal action against you.

There are TWO options if your dog has bitten: 1) You keep the dog and work with them. 2) The dog is humanely euthanized.

There are NO OTHER OPTIONS!

Under no circumstances will rescue take in a dog that has bitten a person.

- **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

Please send an email to: coloweimsrescue@yahoo.com.

Our Director can give you a call to discuss your dog, however, email to the above address is the preferred method of communication. Emails to other addresses on our web site are not answered immediately, so for immediate assistance email the address noted above.

Please return the forms within this surrender packet, along with a few pictures and bio of your Weimaraner – this will help to expedite the process of getting your Weimaraner adopted.

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Today's Date _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE #s (home/business/cell) _____

EMAIL _____

To enable us to find the best possible home for your dog, please fill in the information below as completely and accurately as possible.

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DOG

DOG'S NAME _____ Dog's Age/Birth Date _____

Spayed or neutered? _____ Color (Gray or Blue)? _____

If not spayed, list date of last heat cycle. _____

Where did you get your dog? _____

If breeder is known, list name and/or state _____

How long have you owned this dog? _____

Why are you giving up this dog? _____

Does this dog need a foster home? _____

If yes, list the last possible date you can keep this dog. _____

How many owners has this dog had? _____

Your veterinarian _____ Telephone _____

Shots given/date _____

Date and results of last Heartworm check _____ Preventative used _____

Date and results of last fecal check _____ Tattoo or microchip # _____

Has this dog been checked for hip dysplasia? _____

Has this dog been used for breeding? _____

Do you have a copy of the most recent vet records for this dog? _____

If not, we will need these records to accept the dog into rescue.

Housebroken _____ Signal used to ask to go out _____

Crate Trained _____ Type of Crate (Circle ONE) PLASTIC WIRE/METAL

Feeding schedule, amount, brand _____

Medication (Heartworm preventative, etc.) _____

Where does the dog spend most of their time? (Circle ONLY ONE)

Always outside Mostly Outside In Garage Outside unless we were home In a crate In or out at will Always inside

How many hours a day was this dog left alone? _____

Describe how the dog reacted to being left alone _____

How often does this dog urinate or defecate in the house? _____

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What form of exercise did this dog receive? _____

How often was this dog exercised? _____

Has this dog ever been hunting? _____

If yes, list types of game hunted, commands known, signals known, gun status.

What other types of pets did this dog live with? _____

Please describe any conflicts with this dog and the other pets? _____

List ages of any children in household _____

Please describe any conflicts this dog had with the children _____

How did you confine this dog to your property? _____

- Fence - what type? _____ How high? _____
- Chain or tie out? _____ How long? _____ Where? _____
- Invisible fence? _____ Doggie Door? _____

How often did your dog escape confinement? _____

What type of obedience training has your dog had? _____

What commands does your dog respond to? _____

Have you ever consulted a trainer or behaviorist on any problems concerning this dog? _____

What kind of problems? _____

Describe any issues this dog has with the following:

Children _____

Other Dogs _____

Cats or wildlife _____

Strangers _____

Other _____

Is this dog protective of any of the following: (please give examples)

Food _____

Toys _____

Family members _____

Property/House _____

Car _____

Other pets _____

What types of situations/things make your dog bark? _____

What form of discipline or correction do you use with this dog? _____

Have you received a ticket, citation, summons or other legal action regarding this dog? _____

If yes, list date(s) and location(s): _____

Bad habits (fence jumping, barking, chewing, jumping up, chasing cars, etc) _____

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Special things the dog enjoys _____

Has the dog ever bitten anyone? _____ If yes, give circumstances _____

Describe the ideal home for this dog _____

Is there anything else we need to know about this dog? _____

The laws of Colorado will govern the interpretation and enforcement of this contract. I certify that I am the sole owner of the dog described above and that I have the right to give it away. I further certify that there are no unpaid veterinary bills or claims on said dog. I hereby authorize Mile High Weimaraner Rescue to obtain any and all veterinary records pertaining to the dog described above. I hereby renounce any and all claims to the above-described Weimaraner. It is my understanding that Mile High Weimaraner Rescue will do what is best for this dog. I understand this is a legal, binding contract. With this instrument the dog becomes the property of Mile High Weimaraner Rescue.

Signed _____ Date _____