



Please fill this form out completely and email it to: [info@northwestgermanshepherd.org](mailto:info@northwestgermanshepherd.org)

Be sure to answer all questions as accurately as possible. Once your application is received, an adoption counselor will call you to discuss your application. Any missing information may result in delays in processing your application.

**I am applying to:** *(please check all that apply)*

- Adopt       Foster       Foster-to-Adopt *(available for select dogs only)*  
 Volunteer       Transport

**Section 1 (All Applicants)**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU & YOUR FAMILY**

Name:	Home phone:
Address:	Mobile phone:
City:	Alternate phone:
State:	Best # and time to call:
Zip:	Email:

How did you hear about our rescue?

- Petfinder       Adopt-a-Pet       Newspaper       Flyer (where?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Web search       Shelter       NWGSR website       Personal referral \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied to adopt from another rescue or shelter in the past 2 years?

- No    Yes      If yes, please supply the name of rescue or shelter: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Information**

- Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How long at present job: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many hours do you spend per day working away from your home on average? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people currently live at your residence? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list each below, including yourself:

Name	Age (or Adult)	Relationship to you


Does anyone in the household have any known allergies to animals?

No  Yes      If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Reference** (*other than relative or vet*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Years known: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternate phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterinary References** (*list any veterinarians who have seen your pet(s) in the last five years*)

Name of vet or office: Phone number: Address: Pets seen by this vet/office: Date of last visit:	Name of vet or office: Phone number: Address: Pets seen by this vet/office: Date of last visit:
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**Your Home Environment**

Do you own or rent your home?       Own       \*Rent  
 If renting, do you have your landlord's permission to keep a dog?       No       Yes  
 If renting, are there any weight or breed restrictions?       No       Yes

If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If renting, Landlord's contact information (*name or company and phone number*):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If renting, you must include a copy of your lease with your application\**

Which of the following best describes your type of home:

- Apartment, condominium, townhouse or other multiple family dwelling with no yard\*\*
- Apartment, condominium, townhouse or other multiple family dwelling with a yard\*\*
- Single family home with no yard (e.g, small city lot)
- Single family home with yard
- Single family home with acreage

*\*\*If you live in a condominium/co-op, or your house is part of a homeowners' association, please provide a copy of the bylaws, rules and regulations of such organization stating that there are no restrictions regarding owning a dog. If there is a limit on the number of pets you are allowed, please note the limit on the copy of the bylaws\*\**

How long have you lived at this address?       Months       Years

Tell us about your residence:

Do you have a fenced yard?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Fence type & height:	
What type of gates?	
How large is the fenced area?	
Does fencing completely enclose a yard for a dog?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is the fence secure and solid?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Is the fenced-in area directly accessible by you and your pets through a door from your living area?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you checked the yard for dangerous articles, poisonous plants, or anything the dog could use to climb the fence?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a doggie door to the yard?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you aware of any distractions outside your yard that could aggravate the dog? (such as neighbor's dog, loose dogs on street, mischievous children)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Can strangers gain access to your yard?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a family member home during the day?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a family member home during the evening?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

If no fence, how will you handle the dog's exercise and bathroom needs, etc.? Please explain in detail. \_\_\_\_\_

### Previous Pets

What pets have you owned in the last 15 years? (include **all** types of pets)

Name	Type/Breed	Gender	Neutered/ Spayed? Y/N	Age	Years owned	What happened to pet?

For any pets you have rehomed, please explain the circumstances:


### Current Pets

What animals **currently** live in the household? (Please list all)

Name	Species/Breed	Gender	Neutered/ Spayed? Y/N	Age	Years owned	Indoor/Outdoor?

Have you had any complaints about your pets?  No  Yes

If yes, please elaborate:

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Have you crated your dogs in the past?  No  Yes

Have you attended obedience classes before?  No  Yes

What is your definition or philosophy of disciplining and training a dog?

In order to determine your level of experience regarding training, please tell us if you have dealt with any of the following behavior issues:

Counter surfing: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Chasing cats or other smaller pets (prey drive): <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Housetraining accidents: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Separation anxiety (whining, destructiveness or acting out when left alone): <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Leash pulling: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Shyness or uneasiness toward strangers: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Inappropriate chewing: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Herding behaviors (e.g. chasing or herding people or animals): <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Barking: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Aggression toward other dogs: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Fence jumping: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Resource guarding: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Submissive urination: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	

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## **Section 2** **ADOPTION APPLICATION**

If you are interested in adopting a German Shepherd from NWGSR, please fill out this section as completely as possible. We make every effort to match the temperaments of our dogs with the preferences and lifestyles of potential owners. Our goal is a lifetime of love and companionship for both our dogs and our adopters.

Who is this German Shepherd for? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a particular dog in our program you are interested in?  No  Yes

If so, which dog? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want a dog? *(mark all that apply)*

- |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companionship        | <input type="checkbox"/> Guard dog                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise partner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Companion for other pet                        |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service/Therapy work | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced obedience (Schutzhund, agility, etc.) |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____         |   |                                  |

Which other breeds have you considered? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your preference:  Male  Female  No preference

Do you have a preference for the color of your new dog? *(specify)* \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preference for the age of your new dog?

- |                                       |  |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 years     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over 4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> No preference |                                    |

Please list the expectations you have for the age group you want to adopt. List both positive and negative aspects that you have taken into consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_

What is it about German Shepherd Dogs that generated your interest in the breed?

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What are the three characteristics you find **most** appealing about a new dog? (*choose three and number the choices: 1 = BEST, 2 = 2nd BEST, etc.*)

- Active     Calm     Aggressive     Playful     Intelligent     Independent  
 Loving     Shy     Protective     Submissive     Dominant     Affectionate  
 Physical attributes (size, color, coat, appearance)     Other \_\_\_\_\_

What characteristics would you find **least** appealing in a new dog? (*mark all that apply*)

- Shyness     Independence     Clinginess     Submissive     Poor training  
 Playful     Couch potato     Protective     Hyperactive     Health issues  
 Barking     Hair shedding     Aggressive     Affectionate     Challenging  
 Disabilities     Sleeping on furniture    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the same list, indicate which characteristics might cause you to want to return an adopted dog: (*mark all that apply*)

- Shyness     Independence     Clinginess     Submissive     Poor training  
 Playful     Couch potato     Protective     Hyperactive     Health issues  
 Barking     Hair shedding     Aggressive     Affectionate     Challenging  
 Disabilities     Sleeping on furniture    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain any of the items checked above in more detail:

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Who will have primary responsibility for the care of your German Shepherd?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your family's overall reaction to owning a dog? \_\_\_\_\_

Which members are enthusiastic? \_\_\_\_\_ Unenthusiastic? \_\_\_\_\_

What complaints, concerns, or objections have been made? \_\_\_\_\_

What amount of time and effort do you want to devote to training a new dog?

- 0-15 minutes/day     15-30 mins/day     30-60 mins/day  
 More than 60 mins/day     Less than 1 hr/week     1-2 hrs/week  
 2-4 hrs/week     More than 5 hrs/week     Weekends only  
 Days off only

Approximately how many hours per day will your new dog be alone? (*check one*)

- 3 hours or less     4-6 hours     7-9 hours  
 10-12 hours     More than 12 hours/day

If you checked six hours or longer, what provisions will you make for the dog to relieve itself and get exercise during your absence?

\_\_\_\_\_

How will you provide exercise for your new dog?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where are you planning on keeping your new dog while someone is home?

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Where will your dog stay when left home alone?

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What kind of sleeping arrangements will be made for your dog?

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What area(s) of the house will your dog not have access to?

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Please answer the following questions, which may help you determine if a German Shepherd is the right choice for your family:

Will your new dog be allowed to sleep on your furniture?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you have a crate large enough for a GSD?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you have the space in your home for a GSD-sized crate?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you asked yourself whether your lifestyle is such that you might not have the time or energy to properly care for a German Shepherd?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do friends, relatives, and/or children have access to your home, property, and car without your supervision?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
If you have children are you willing to accept the additional responsibility of a German Shepherd?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you willing to accept that the dog may not like all of your children's friends?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Does everyone in the family want a dog?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you and your family discussed the pros and cons of owning a German Shepherd?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you considered the financial cost of dog ownership?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you financially prepared to give your dog routine medical care as we require?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you financially prepared to pay for the cost of unforeseen illness and accidents?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you aware that GSDs are chronic shedders?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you financially prepared to provide your new dog with appropriate toys for entertainment?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
To facilitate the bonding process, we recommend that every new German Shepherd attend some introductory obedience training. Would you be willing to attend obedience school with your dog?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Have you and your family considered that a dog lives for many years? Are you willing to accept the commitment?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

### Section 3

#### **FOSTER APPLICATION (optional)**

Where did you find out about fostering?

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Describe your requirements for fostering:

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What is your preferred age range for your foster dog?

Under 1 year

1-2 years

2 - 4 years

Over 4 years

No preference

Please indicate your preference:

Male

Female

No preference

How long would you be willing to foster a dog?

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Are there any other restrictions we should be aware of before placing a foster dog in your home?

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**I certify that I have read the Foster Requirements online** (please initial): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Section 4

#### **VOLUNTEER & TRANSPORTER APPLICATION (optional)**

Approximately how many volunteer hours per month are you interested in committing to NWGSR? \_\_\_\_\_

In which of the following areas are you interested in volunteering?

(please check all that apply):

Transportation of animals

Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone calling

Home visits

Fundraising

Computer assistance

Dog walking (to assist foster homes only – we do not have a facility or shelter where dogs are centrally located)

Event coordination

Dog training

Veterinary care

Respite care for foster homes (weekends/overnights/emergencies when fosters are out of town and need a dogsitter for 1-2 nights)

Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 5**  
**ALL APPLICANTS – READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW**

*PLEASE NOTE: Completing, signing, and returning this document constitutes your permission for us to check references.*

Both parties agree that this application can be executed by the applicant and sent to Northwest German Shepherd Rescue via hand delivery, US Mail, Federal Express or any other recognized overnight delivery service or by email. If the applicant would like to send the document via email, applicant and Northwest German Shepherd Rescue both agree that the applicant's signature is valid and binding upon the parties.

As part of the adoption process and before placing any dog, you will be asked to sign a contract in which you agree to certain conditions including keeping the dog as an indoor house pet, maintaining regular veterinary care, allowing a rescue representative to visit your home before and/or after placement of the dog, and finally, surrendering the dog back to Northwest German Shepherd Rescue, (not animal control nor a shelter) if you violate the contract or are unable to keep the dog for any reason.

**Are you willing to sign and be bound by such a contract?**  Yes  No

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All of the information I have given above is true and complete.

I certify that I am at least 25 years of age and that I will be the legal owner of, and ultimately and solely responsible for the care and well-being of any dog I adopt from Northwest German Shepherd Rescue. Any misrepresentation of the true facts in this application or in the adoption agreement will invalidate the adoption agreement and will give Northwest German Shepherd Rescue the legal right to reclaim the adopted dog immediately without monetary or material compensation to the adopter.

If I adopt a dog from Northwest German Shepherd Rescue, the dog will reside in my home as a pet. I will provide him/her with adequate water, a high quality dog food, shelter, training, affection, and medical care.

I understand that Northwest German Shepherd Rescue is a referral service and is not responsible for the accuracy of information received about the habits, temperament, or physical condition of the dogs available for adoption. I understand it is my responsibility to evaluate a dog for myself before agreeing to adopt him/her.

I am in full agreement of the terms of the adoption. Northwest German Shepherd Rescue shall not be liable for, and is hereby relieved from, all liability for any damage, expenses, causes of action, fines, suits, demands, judgments, or claims of any nature whatsoever arising from or by any reason of any damage to property or injury to any persons caused in whole or in part during the visitation of the dog up for adoption and a dog placed in your home. I hereby accept and assume such liability and agree to protect, indemnify and hold Northwest German Shepherd Rescue harmless from and against all of the aforesaid.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you so much for your commitment to rescue,  
and helping save this wonderful breed!**

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY APPLICANT, FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, AT OUR SOLE DISCRETION