

Posted 10/29/12 to email list

Foster homes:

We do expect to post photos of our foster dogs to our Facebook page, Petfinder and our website. This is necessary for us to successfully find homes for our dogs and generate positive PR and fundraising. Please do understand that this will happen.

We understand that some may be worried about "geotagging". A geotag is a tag that can be embedded in photographs which gives the latitude and longitude of where the photo was taken. Using this, a person can conceivably track the physical location of the dog.

After doing some research, there is a very simple solution to this. Most geotagging is done on phone photos. Some digital cameras have this capacity also. If you are concerned and are using a device that has this capacity, just go in and make sure it is turned off.

If you don't know how, you can 1) contact the manufacturer of your equipment and get help to turn it off or 2) you can use free or cheap software to scan your computer for these codes and remove them. (If, for some reason, you email a photo to the list that you are still concerned about, just note it something like, "Marcia, please remove GSP code before posting on line." While Julie normally does the posting, Marcia will handle anything so noted with the software. Please keep in mind that this is imposing on Marcia's personal time to do something that you could do yourself, so kindly try to do what you can to handle it at your end. Here is the information on the software which you can use to do it if you do not adjust your camera/phone.)

See <http://www.geotagsecurity.com/> for free software which will do a one-time scan. If you don't find geocodes in your photos, then you must have it turned off and have no need to worry. If you do find it, turn it off or buy the cheap package they sell to continuously scan and remove them. (Note: There are probably other companies doing it; this is the one Facebook provides a link to. This is not to recommend one software over another.)

And please realize the concern about this is rather overblown when the photo is that of a dog. It would be different if we were publishing a photo of your gold collection or your diamond tiara; or if we were saying, here is the house, it will be empty for the next week while she is on vacation. But we are just taking a photo of a dog. If you are still concerned and don't want to turn off tagging, then take the dog to the park to take its photo.

So please be aware, foster homes must post photos of the dogs to email; photos to our email list are likely to be used on Facebook, the Website and possibly Petfinder. If you have a concern about this, turn off the tracking or remove your geotags after the fact.