



BRINGING HOME YOUR NEWLY ADOPTED, RESCUED DOG:

CONGRATULATIONS! Your new dog needs a minimum of two weeks to adjust to his/her new home and family.

Even though your new dog has been evaluated by a rescue foster care provider to determine the obvious temperament of this dog, you must understand that there will be an adjustment period, since he/she is going into yet another new home situation. You should be evaluating his/her behavior during this period. You can be sure he/she is evaluating you and your home situation to see if he/she fits in and what he/she can or cannot get away with.

During this time you should carry on your normal daily routine as much as possible. **DO NOT** start trying to teach anything new, with the exception of your normal rules of the household. Be firm, but forgiving. You will start to see your new rescue gradually relaxing as he/she becomes familiar with your routine and what you expect of him/her. Although you will want to be cautious when introducing your dog to new people, take special care to understand that socialization of him/her with people outside your family will promote further trust.

From the beginning it helps to use a dog crate to confine your new rescue when you are not around or when taking him/her in the car. You might be able to modify this eventually once you have learned to evaluate his/her behavior. Please try to avoid crate situations when you are home by incorporating your dog into your household, teaching him/her responsibility and extending trust.

Your new rescue has to **EARN** your trust as well as you having to be able to trust him/her. **NEVER** automatically trust your new dog. Most times we know nothing of the dog's background. You wouldn't trust a stranger in your home or around you children, likewise with a dog you don't know. Allow your new dog to approach you and use positive reinforcement to assure continued wanted behavior.

When you feel the dog is comfortable with your family and vice versa, you can start with a training program, initially one new thing at a time.

Adopting a rescue dog is like adopting a child of 5 years old and up. They both come with a lot of baggage. This may include physical and emotional abuse in his/her original home and may manifest itself as fear or insecurity. When a dog is surrendered to rescue or a shelter it is basically abandoned and some may have a hard time dealing with it, showing itself as "separation anxiety". Love, patience and understanding is the only way to heal this dog. They are better, but never truly healed, they always remember. Your relationship will grow with your dog and you will be rewarded with many years of pleasure.

Remember to always "EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED" from any rescued dog,