



Preparing to Welcome your New Furry Family Member!

Bringing home a rescue dog is a wonderful way to provide a loving home for an animal in need. Here are six tips to help make the transition smooth and successful for both you and your new furry friend:

- 1. Puppy Proof your home.** You may be adopting an adult dog but make sure your home is safe for them as much as a puppy. Put away any toxic items they can get into, check for holes in the fence they can squeeze through, or furniture they can get stuck behind.
- 2. Always assume they will try to run,** until they show you otherwise. Your pup does not know they are home. Use a secure harness on walks with a 4 or 6 foot straight leash. Retractable leads are not secure and are a danger to you and your pup. When you enter and exit your home, open the door just a bit and use your leg to block any escape before you fully open the door. The most secure option is to put a gate in your front entry way to prevent accidental escapes.
- 3. Create a Safe Space:** Your pup may have never known love and they want you to show them – at their pace. Using a pen or crate with a soft bed, some toys, and easy access to water and food is a great start. This is their space, try not to bother them here. Encourage them to come out with soft words and treats. You can also use enhancement objects like lickie mats or puzzle toys to build their confidence and work their mind. This helps get out nervous energy.
- 4. Be Patient and Understanding:** Understand that your rescue dog may have had a difficult past. Building a strong bond takes time, so be patient and gentle as your dog learns to trust and love again. If you have a difficult time approaching your new pup, leave the harness on with a 4 foot leash so you can guide them when necessary.
- 5. Establish a Routine:** Dogs thrive on routine, so try to establish a consistent schedule for feeding, walks, playtime, and potty breaks. This will help your rescue dog feel secure and understand what to expect in their new home.
- 6. Socialize Gradually:** Introduce your rescue dog to new people, places, and other pets gradually. Socialization is important for their development, but it's essential to do it at their pace to prevent overwhelming them.
- 7. Training and Positive Reinforcement:** Use positive reinforcement techniques such as treats, praise, and toys to train your rescue dog. Patience and consistency are key in training, so be sure to reward good behavior and avoid punishment.
- 8. If despite all your best efforts, your pup does get lost.**
Contact the rescue immediately! They are professionals who can help track down and catch your wayward fur kid.



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