

WHAT NEWLY ADOPTED DOGS NEED

Be prepared! Many everyday noises and experiences can overwhelm rescue dogs
Overwhelmed and stressed dogs may behave in ways you may not expect

In the first few days, they need quiet and calm. They have had their world turned upside down. Remember, they don't know you, your family, your house, and nothing is familiar to them. This can be a very frightening experience.

THE FIRST FEW DAYS: CALM

Keep them quiet, calm and restrict them to only one or two rooms. Take them on a leash while going potty, even in a fenced yard. Your dog may be prone to escaping during this time during fear.

SLOWLY introduce other areas of the house, yard and street. Work on introducing other pets in a gentle, positive manner. Walking can be expanded to include more of your local streets once your rescue is comfortable.

Even though your dog may appear more relaxed, they are just starting to settle in. Keep their routine while **SLOWLY** adding in the occasional expansion. Perhaps start with quiet fields or local streams. Take it slowly!

SLOWLY expand to all the places you want to take them. The beach, pet stores, dog parks, etc. However, your dog may have never experienced any of these places so please remember that they can be overwhelming.

THE FIRST FEW MONTHS: STABILITY

This is the time that dogs start to truly relax and trust their new family / environment. Stability, routine and calm are still all major factors at this stage. As dogs relax more, they may start to display behaviors we possibly have never seen before.

Many people can inadvertently create more stress in a newly adopted dog by exposing them to new places and experiences too soon.

- Create a calm area just for them away from a busy room
- Keep the bedding or toys they came with
- Don't crowd them and expect snuggles, that will come later
- They need patience and understanding

Rescue Me!

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