



ADOPTING A RESCUE DOG

If you are thinking about adopting a rescue dog please read this first. A rescue dog will rarely settle in within a few hours/days of bringing it home, no dog will. Many of these dogs have been through a lot, they need time and patience to settle - if you cannot offer this then a rescue dog is not for you.

Owning a dog is a big responsibility. Please think carefully before you take this commitment. The average lifespan for a dog is 12 years, and you will need to meet all your dog's needs for his entire life. Take time to work out what commitments you can make, this will help you decide whether a dog is right for you now.

Time Commitment - Do you have time for a dog? You will need a minimum of an hour a day to provide basic care for a dog. That's an hour every day, not just at the weekend! and this is a minimum, some dogs will require much more time !

Exercise – there is truth in the old adage, a tired dog is a good dog. A dog with too much energy and not enough to do, will find things to do and these will often not be things that you want them to do. A medium energy dog will need at least a half hour brisk walk once a day while higher energy dogs will need more.

Training - can take a lot time, particularly if you own a puppy. Training helps you develop a bond and establish leadership with your dog, and gives your dog the mental exercise that they need to thrive. Plan on training a puppy for at least half an hour each day, once you have established the basics you can reduce the amount of time spent training or move on to more advanced exercises. Most behaviour problems can be prevented by correct socialization and training (& of course adequate exercise).

Socializing – dogs are social creatures and need interaction to thrive. Be prepared to spend a lot more time with the dog in the first few weeks as you establish a relationship and create a deep bond with the dog.

Home – is your home one that can accommodate a dog? Will you worry about muddy footprints? Is your garden securely fenced?

Allergies – do you have any family members who suffer from allergies? A dog may make them itch, sneeze or worse!

Routine – dogs like routine, they need to be exercised, and fed every day. Can you give them the routine they need everyday?

Cost of Owning a Dog - Here are some of the most significant costs:

Food and Treats

Boarding kennels when you go on holiday

Routine Veterinary – an annual check-up along with vaccinations are important to ensure your dog stays healthy and to catch small problems before they become big.

Non-routine Veterinary – the biggest surprise for most dog owners is the cost of non-routine procedures. Non-routine veterinary costs tend to be higher for older dogs. Good insurance cover will help you absorb some of those expenses.

Grooming – costs associated with caring for your dog's coat vary significantly by breed.

Non Consumables – your dog needs a few basics like a lead, collar, crate, bed, and two bowls.

Training – this is one place where most new dog owners would be a lot happier if they spent a little more time and money. Especially if you are a first time dog owner, having someone with a bit more experience help you work through the trouble spots will make life together easier and more fun.

Rescue Dog Considerations

Finally think about whether you want a rescue dog. Taking a dog from a rescue saves a life. Adopting a dog that is a little older and trained & you may well find it easier to fit into your home than a new puppy. But, there are some disadvantages that you should be aware of.

Adopted dogs may come with behavioural problems. One of the most important things you can give a new dog is TIME to settle in – a rescue dog could take weeks or even months to really settle into a new home. We will try to tell you all that we know about a particular dog but often we have very little history on the dogs. Working with your dog to overcome these problems is very rewarding, but may be challenging.

Please take some time before you make the decision to adopt, to think through whether a dog fits with your life. If you have room in your life for a dog, do consider adopting a rescue dog. You'll have a loyal companion for life.