Advice for re-homing a rescue dog.

Please remember a rescue dog isn't like adopting a puppy.



1. A rescue dog may have been uprooted from the only home he knows, not understanding why, and is therefore going to feel extremely unsettled. Your home isn't his home yet, you will need to give them time. Love him with your voice (Soft vocal communication) and try not to over handle him in the first couple of weeks.
2. Don't introduce your dog to the whole neighbourhood on the first day, Don't invite all your friends and family to visit. Give your dog time to settle in and gain trust. Remember your family and friends are complete strangers to your dog. Wait at least a week before starting introductions.
3. Your dog may have had very little exercise in its previous home, although some breeds love lots of exercise don't go for ten mile hikes in the first few weeks. Build their exercise up slowly, 3x 20 min walks in a day is better than an hour a time for a dog that hasn't had regular exercise. You will need to build up his stamina.
4. Don't let children hug the dog tightly around the neck and don't let children disturb them when he is sleeping. Although most dogs like children, a rescue one maybe unsure. Perhaps he has never been with children or maybe he has been pulled and poked by them. Don't expect miracles overnight. There is no need to panic if he isn't behaving like your friends dog which was brought at 8 weeks old. A rescue dog takes time to gain your trust. Don't rush things.
5. Don't worry if your dog is a bit off his food, this is normal. Try a little something nice like tuna or chicken, over his normal food to tempt him. It is advisable to change food slowly as this can cause an upset tummy if done too fast.
6. Don't mistake barking at visitors as him being a good watch dog. Give your visitors a little treat to give your dog so he associates people visiting as a possitive and rewarding experance. If your visitors are fearful put your dog in another room while they visit. This is the best option for your dog, he will sence peoples fear but won't understand what they are afraid of.
7. Don't object if he wants to come into your bedroom at night, take his bed into the room so he can be near you. He is going to feel insecure and confused, it will be reassuring if you are with him.
8. Remember your dog may have been kennelled, maybe for some time. When house training, show him where you want him to go and praise when he has done right. A little treat every time he does his business in the correct place and he will soon understand what is expected of him.
9. Introduce a simple sound to indicate to the dog that he is doing something wrong. We believe in reward-based training, we are happy to help with any training issues that may arise while the dog is with you, no matter how long he has been with you. We have qualified behavourists and trainers at our disposal, free, so please take advantage of this.