

# TIPS FOR TRAINING

## Rescue dog survival, first two weeks

Congratulations on your new arrival. A new transition for you and your dog which takes time for adjustment. The secret to being successful when fostering or adopting a rescue dog is giving the dog time to adjust to you, your family, the home, and other pets in the new environment. All of this before introducing her to new people, or taking her out on any big adventures,

### **The importance of being patient:**

For the first two weeks while your dog is taking in her new environment don't pressure her by pushing too fast and throwing too much at her, don't forget you are a stranger. This is the time for the dog to be in a calm atmosphere, getting to see you, meet you, hear and take in the new sounds and smells of your home. "A journey into a new and scary world." All is new. The voices speak a new language, cars might be new, leashes and handling might be new. Even petting and acceptance of a pet is stressful on a new dog. When new dogs are stressed and not given that calm environment and period of adjustment, they may communicate this by growling or possibly biting due the stress they are feeling.

### **Typical behaviors to be expected:**

Jumping up which, can be discouraged by not responding with attention (good or bad) this way you're not rewarding the jumping.

Exploratory behavior, including sniffing, mouthing and chewing new things. Stealing food.

Accidents in the house. The shelter rules differ from the new home's rules, which will take time for the dog to learn.

Wild running and play in the house. The new dog cannot yet distinguish between indoor and outdoor behavior.

They will be well behaved and literally shut themselves down these first few weeks. When they adjust the true personality begins to shine through

### **What to do and what not to do?**

Teach a safe zone when the dog is around you and other humans in the home. This can be done through the confinement of a crate or separate room. Leashing is also a good option. You can leash the dog to your belt or under a piece of furniture. This also stops the dog from reacting if you have to get him off of something like the couch. You are not reaching in and grabbing onto him, just tug gently on the leash, say "come" and there you go. No conflict!

Obedience training for the first two weeks is not necessary -- just fun exercise. Maybe throw some toys for fun. Leash the dog if you don't have a fence outside. If you do not have a yard, taking the dog on a walk while leashed is acceptable. No car rides, no other dogs, (unless crated beside them), no pet stores. (The exception to this is of course if the dog needs to go to the veterinarian.)

Praise good behavior gently. For example, the dog is sitting nicely next to you. Touch or softly pet the dog "good girl." Let them know you appreciate GOOD behavior.

So, please, if nothing else for your new dog, give it the time to LEARN YOU as you are learning who they are! This method works on shy dogs, confident dogs, abuse cases, dogs who were previously chained, rowdy dogs, all temperaments!

