 RESCUE A DOG

 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Thank you for choosing to save a life with Rescue A Dog, Inc. Please fill out the adoption application completely and truthfully, this allows us to find the best match for you, as well as the dog. Please note, we are a non-profit compromised solely of volunteers so please be patient and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

All adoption donations are non-refundable.

* Applicants must be at least 18 years old.
* All dogs (adopted or in foster care) belong inside the home and interacting with your family. We will not tolerate a dog being chained outside.
* We require all dogs to be fully vetted and spayed/neutered prior to being adoptable. Dogs may go to foster-to-adopt homes while waiting for vetting.
* Fenced yards are a preference, but not a requirement. You must have a plan in place for exercise and potty needs of the dog.
* Besides filling out the application completely, we will conduct a home visit and family interview with anyone interested in adopting or fostering one of our dogs.
* We require all animal records of any animal in the house prior to placing the animal in your home. Vet references and personal references are also a requirement.
* If you adopt and it is not a good fit for your family or the dog, we require the dog to be returned to Rescue A Dog, Inc.

Please keep in mind that every animal, especially rescue animals, need time and patience to adjust to a new setting. The first few days may seem tough but with love and proper training, things will settle down and you can see the true personality of the dog.

The following steps are to encourage a positive introduction with your current dog to a new dog and how to build a comfortable relationship:

* All introductions should be done on neutral territory such as a nearby park, a friends yard or a short walk around the neighborhood.
* Keep leashes slack and allow the dogs to interact. If the dogs choose to ignore each other, that’s ok. Allow them time to get comfortable.
* Make the introduction positive and light-hearted. As the dogs sniff and get acquainted, encourage them in a happy tone of voice. Allow a few seconds of sniffing and then gently pull them apart and continue the walk. After a minute or two, allow them to interact again. These brief greetings help keep the dogs’ interactions calm and prevent escalations to threats or aggression.
* Observe their body language. Loose body movements, relaxed mouths and play bows are all positive signs. Stiff, slow body movements, tense mouths or teeth-barring, growls and stare downs are signs of perceived threats or aggression means it would be best to give the dogs distance. Once the dogs have calmed, you may try another several second meeting and then continue on the walk, allowing them to briefly greet each other.
* Once the dogs greetings have tapered off and they appear to be tolerating each other without fearful or aggressive behavior, it is time to take them home. Walk them together around the property before bringing them inside.
* Be patient, it takes time to build a comfortable relationship.
* To avoid squabbles, it’s best to start off without toys, chews, food bowls and any favorite items of your current dog. These items can be re-introduced once they’ve developed a good relationship.
* Give each dog their own food and water bowls and bed (toys can be given when they are separated).
* Crating the dogs is an excellent option when the dogs would otherwise be home alone. Please do not leave newly acquainted animals together without supervision.
* Encourage positive interaction and interrupt any negative interaction.
* Spend time individually with each dog to conduct training and playtime so they also build a relationship with you instead of just with your current dog.