



## FINDING THE RIGHT RESCUE DOG FOR YOU?

How wonderful to re-home a dog from a responsible rescue centre, it is very rewarding indeed! The vast majority of dogs are perfectly re-homeable and the national success rate is very high. Whilst there may be issues needing care, these should be covered during the adoption process so that you, the adopter fully understand what you are taking on and most importantly, how to integrate a rescue dog into your family and lifestyle.

However, you must be sure to ask as many questions as you possibly can and be fully satisfied with the answers before agreeing to take a dog into your home.

The Rescue Centre should be able to provide answers to most of these kinds of questions!

1. Does the centre provide for the dogs' physical & *psychological* needs?
2. Can you see warm/cool kennels with comfortable bedding, toys & excellent hygiene?
3. Have dog kennels got indoor space & free access to outdoor runs – *at all times*?
4. Are all dogs walked *daily* & have free running in exercise pens?
5. Dogs should be temperament tested & assessed by knowledgeable staff?
6. Do the Rescue organisation rehabilitate & retrain the dogs?
7. Do all dogs have basic manners taught?
8. Is there a FULL history on the dog?
9. If a stray, what has the centres assessment shown with regard to temperament & sociability?
10. Has the dog displayed or is there any known evidence of the dog being aggressive towards other dogs, adults or children?
11. Do they fully vaccinate, micro-chip, neuter & health check each dog?
12. Do they socialise dogs together where possible?
13. Do they use equipment to retrain dogs eg., headcollars, harnesses, muzzles etc?
14. Do they offer advice for any problems that may arise when new in your home?
15. Do they ask you to get to know the dog by several visits, prior to adoption?
16. Do they insist that your existing dog is happy with the new dog and all the other members of your family?
17. Are you asked a lot of questions about dog ownership and your lifestyle?

You also need to know ....

1. How old is the dog?
2. How many homes has the dog previously had?
3. What was the age bracket of the previous owners?
4. Why is the dog being re-homed?
5. What was its' former lifestyle? (This may be so very different to yours.)
6. Has it come directly from a residential home?
7. Does it really get on well with cats and or children?
8. How does it walk on-lead? (The only true way to find out is to lead walk it!)
9. Will my family be able to exercise the dog or could it be too strong to walk with?
10. Is the dog currently receiving any form of medication and if so, for what and for how long?
11. Will I have to carry on with any medication?
12. What training and or commands has the dog received and/or responds to? Best way to find out is to test the dog!
13. Is this really a family dog or one man dog for life?

If you have any doubts, walk away ..... there is always tomorrow!

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