



GUIDELINES TO ENSURE YOUR NEW RESCUE DOG SETTLES INTO ITS NEW HOME

Bull Terrier Club (UK) Welfare Trust wants every adoption to go as smoothly as possible and have therefore set out these guidelines to help the new adoptees and our rescue dog have the best possible start to their new lives together.

It is always important to let the new dog settle in and get used to yourselves and its surroundings before inviting people around or taking it out to the local pet shop.

We would be grateful if you would read this guide, if you are successful with your home check and do adopt from us then when you visit the kennel please bring this guide with you signed to say you have read and understand the contents. We will retain a copy and you will take a copy with you.

We would ask that all new owners follow our strict guidelines to avoid the dog being returned to Welfare or having to be put to sleep. We would ask that you follow these guidelines for at least three weeks. Please do not put the dog into situations before they are ready. You are the owner of the dog and it is now your responsibility to act at all times in a fair, firm and consistent manner.

Firstly we would ask you to let the dog settle in and get to know you and it's new surroundings, the dog will be experiencing so many new things – new people, new smells, new sounds, new surroundings. It is important for the dog to build a relationship with the immediate family, this way you also get to know the dog, understand it's body language so that when you take it out and it shows signs that it is not happy in a situation then you *know* to take it away and not force it to do things it is not ready to do, the dog will learn to trust you and be more confident.

Therefore:-

1. Do not take it to the vets until at least two weeks of being with you – unless it is an emergency.
2. No long walks initially the dog needs walks little and often and slowly build up the distance of the walk over the next few weeks.
3. Walk the dog around your area at first if possible quiet walks then slowly build up to walk in busier streets, no visits to the city centre, busy parks or seaside until at least 6-8 weeks.
4. No big family parties or lots of visitors to come and meet the dog until he is happy with you and settled in the house.
5. No rough play or tuggas, do not let the dog get over excited or possessive with anything.
6. If the dog is to come into a home where there is a resident dog then introductions must be supervised, dogs should be separated initially by a baby gate so they get used to each other, introductions should be slow and if the dogs are in the same room they must be supervised. Many people think that if you introduce the dogs on neutral territory, walk them for a bit



then take them in the house and let them get on with it that will suffice, this is not the case, remember the new dog may be a little overwhelmed at first, it has many different things to deal with in its new home as explained in the above paragraph. If you go out of the house they must not be left together we would recommend one or both are crated or kept in separate rooms until you are very sure they will be alright together.

7. Under no circumstances should the dogs play fight, this can lead to over excitement and a fight. Things must be taken slowly. Ideally you should play with the dogs individually, you should dictate when play stops and the dog then has time out.
8. Ensure you make the dog sit, stay and wait for all foods, also before going through a door or gate say "Back" showing the palm of your hand as sit, stay, wait as will be demonstrated at the kennels when you collect your dog.
9. Ensure the dog has a time out if you see or feel he needs to have some time alone if there is a lot of people at the house using a crate or gate.
10. Neither over use time behind a gate or in a crate in anger, the dog must neither, see or feel anger when using a crate or being put into another room, it must not be used as a punishment.
11. Only give recommended treats and give only when deserved, make sure the dog is sat and say to it "gently" do not let it snatch food and do not feed the dog from the table.
12. Feed good quality food as advised and remember to increase the amount the more exercise the dog gets
13. Do not allow the dog onto the sofa or bed until they are invited on by you if you chose to allow it .
14. If the dog then gets possessive over sofa's then do not allow them on, if they get possessive over their beds then please contact Welfare for advice, if they get possessive with toys then take the toys away.
15. Groom your dog and stroke it so it is used to you touching him, touch his feet, stroke his head and ears so he is used to you handling him, you also build up confidence with him in handling, but take things gently at first so he gets used to you, and it helps also at the vets.
16. Have a good quality collar on the dog which must be fairly tight so they cannot slip it over their head, you must by law have an identity disc on the collar when you are out.
17. Do not push your dog to make friends with other dogs, let him settle in and then only gentle introductions, the dog should be focused on you when out, it is sufficient for your dog to visibly acknowledge other dogs, then walking on. Do not allow your dog to play fight with other dogs as things can get quickly out of control. – You should also be aware of your responsibilities under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and 2014 a summary is available.
18. Never let your dog off lead until you have impeccable recall. Again be aware of your responsibilities as a dog owner under the DDA 1991 AND 2014.
19. We do insist as a condition of adopting a dog from us that it is insured, as you MUST have 3rd party liability insurance in case the dog runs out and causes an accident, knocks someone over and causes injury etc. This must be in place for the rest of it's life.



20. If you need a behaviourist please contact Welfare first and we can give you a list of qualified trainers/ behaviourists.

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES SET OUT ABOVE

SIGNED.....

PRINT.....

DATE.....