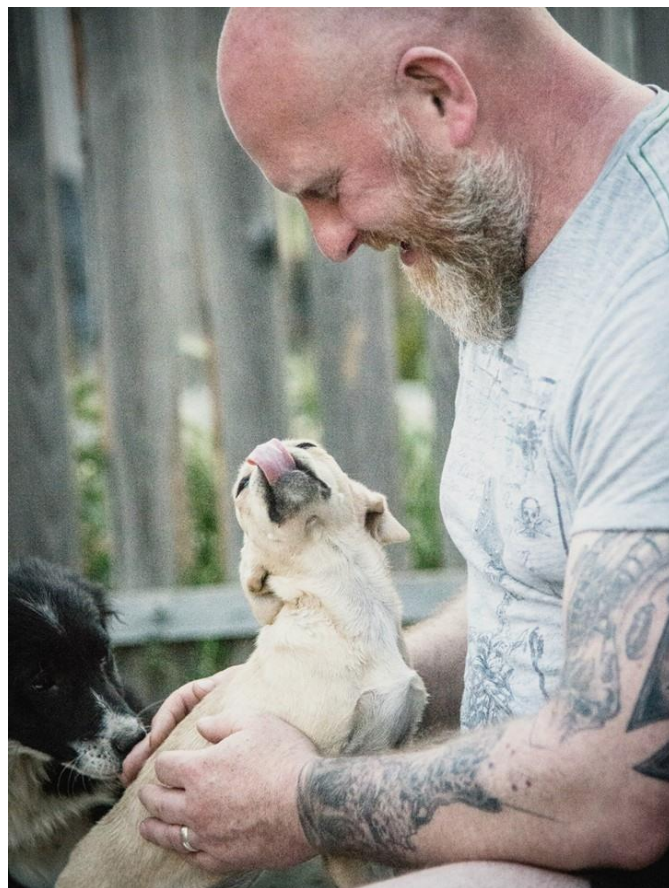




Adopters' Guide



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Introduction

Congratulations from All the Barking Mad Dog Rescue Family on your new family member!

Barking Mad Dog Rescue was set up in 2014 by Hilary Anderson and we became a registered charity in March 2015. The charity supports five shelters in Romania with anything up to 700 dogs dependent on Barking Mad for food, of which 350 are wholly dependent on BMDR for all veterinary care and their day to day needs. A dog adopted from our charity means a rescue place is available for another dog in danger.

Thank you for your support and congratulations on adopting your new family member through Barking Mad Dog Rescue. We are a small volunteer run registered UK charity 1160985. Barking Mad saves and cares for some of the most persecuted dogs in Europe. We are very grateful to all those who adopt and save the lives of not only their adopted dogs but also the ones who will take the vacant places in the shelter. We hope that adopters will help us in supporting the dogs still in the shelter, by spreading the word amongst friends and family and perhaps doing some fundraising activities. Approximately 700 dogs depend on us daily for food. For 350 of those, every aspect of their care and veterinary intervention is our responsibility. They have no one else. For information on how you can help, please get in touch.

The adopted dogs usually settle into their new homes quickly and bring love, joy and happiness to their new families. This pack contains information which we hope will help you during the settling in period. If you have any questions or concerns which are not addressed here, please email the charity or message the rescue page on Facebook, Barking Mad Dog Rescue, and someone will respond to your query. If there are any urgent health questions within the first few weeks of your dog arriving, please seek the advice of your vet first but also let us know as soon as possible. If, for any reason, you feel unable to keep your adopted dog, you must contact us and return the dog to the rescue, so that we can ensure the dog's safety and wellbeing. This is part of the adoption agreement, which you have signed.

Paul Connolly, www.wolfspeak.co.uk:

"When we take a dog into our home, we are not simply extending our family unit; taking on another mouth to feed, a companion to keep us company and entertain us. Sharing our lives with a dog is far more complex than that, it is a journey of commitment, exploration and discovery, which is as demanding as it is rewarding. As we embark on this journey, it is important we try to view the world from the dog's perspective and recognise we are forming a Pack in which each and every member has responsibilities and roles to play, which will ultimately create the structure and hierarchy within the Pack, nurturing strong bonds, calm obedience and a relaxed ambient atmosphere, where WE are the Pack leaders and our dogs the Happy Followers."

Bringing Your Dog Home

Before your dog arrives, you are advised to register it with a vet. Barking Mad will send you enough information for you to do this. Also prior to your dog's arrival, you should have signed up for **training classes** local to where you live. Socialisation of your dog can be addressed in this way through a fun and friendly environment.

You should also look into pet insurance. There are many different types of policies. All have benefits and drawbacks, so do some research before buying. There is plenty of information online that can help you choose the correct policy for your circumstances.

Most of our dogs arrive through home delivery these days, but a few may need to be picked up from kennels or a designated meeting area, so you must come prepared and equipped with a slip lead and a normal lead and adjustable harness, which must be fitted before the dog leaves the vehicle. It is difficult to estimate what size of collar your dog will need from a photograph and a loose collar is worse than useless. **A slip lead therefore, is essential.**

Some dogs can be very frightened. They have had a very long journey and have no idea that they are going to a lovely new home, where they will have a wonderful new life. There is a significant risk that some may try to escape, so all possible precautions must be taken to keep them safe when changing from one vehicle to another and on the rest of their journey to their new homes. They should be safely contained within your vehicle either in a crate, behind a dog guard or using a dog seatbelt harness. Ensure that your dog is secured in some way within the car so it can't jump out when a door or the boot is opened, but keep a check on any leads or straps in case the dog becomes entangled. Have a large bottle of fresh water and a bowl and give the dog a drink regularly, particularly if you have a long journey ahead. Keep any food until you arrive at your home, as dogs are often travel sick and stress can make this worse. When you arrive home, take the dog into your house, via the garden if you like but still safely secured. Your dog will be very tired. Offer a little food and make water freely available. Let him sleep and rest as much as he needs to in the first few days



Introducing your new dog to your established pets

Before you introduce a new dog, you will have thoroughly checked your outdoor space and ensured that the garden is secure. Other pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, need to be securely and safely housed, preferably in a separate part of the garden, as many dogs have a chase instinct and rabbits and guinea pigs are easily stressed. Some of our dogs have lived outdoors all their lives and may feel more comfortable in the garden initially.

If possible, it is best to introduce your new dog to your existing dogs outdoors in your garden, where they are not in a confined space. Ideally you need two confident, positive people, more if you have several dogs. Introduce the dogs one at a time while walking them on their leads, walking alongside each other, not coming face to face. Allow them the opportunity to sniff each other, as this is normal dog greeting behaviour. Give them time to become used to one another before entering the confined space of your home. Observe the dogs closely for some time, anticipating any signs of aggression and being ready to say NO. Dogs need to check each other out and sometimes that involves a degree of growling. Let them know that this is not acceptable behaviour.

If there are problems, place the dogs in separate rooms and reintroduce slowly. This can take a few days but it is very unusual for any dog to be unable to live with others. You need to be patient and be proactive to avoid issues arising at times when the dogs are more likely to be in competition with one another e.g. feeding times. Be the pack leader **at all times** by being in charge, letting the dogs know what is acceptable and what is not.

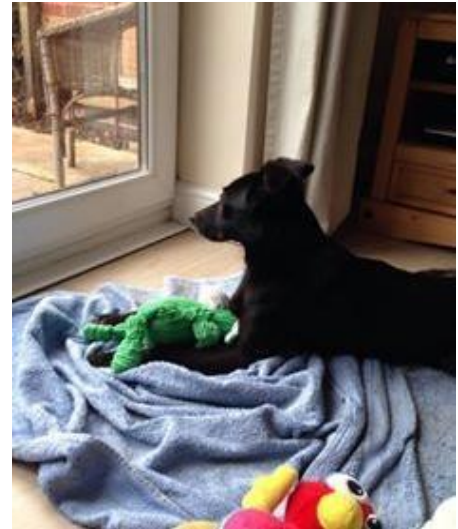
It is tempting to make such a huge fuss of your new dog and feel you have to make up for all the horrors he or she may have had to face prior to rescue. Initially, try not to make your new dog the centre of attention as this may make him feel he is the second in command in the pack after you and he has to then defend this position. Let him come in and feel his way slowly. Have his crate ready as his safe space to retreat to.

Cats

Many of the dogs will have lived alongside cats and if your cat is used to dogs, this will make it easier. Certain breeds of dog have a very strong chase instinct, so if you have a nervous cat who is likely to run, watch your dog carefully, as this instinct may be triggered and make it more difficult for them to develop an amicable relationship. If in any doubt about the dog, use a muzzle for the initial introduction. Before the dog arrives, check that the cat has places in each room where it can escape, out of reach of the dog. If the dog shows signs of chase behaviour, a firm command and a treat for ignoring the cat may be all that is required. Confident cats will turn on the dog and stop it in its tracks. More nervous cats will need your assistance and it can take some time to achieve harmony. Once the dog and cat are more confident about one another, they will be able to live happily together.

Adapting to Life in a Home

The dog may never have been inside a home and may be confused or even frightened by everyday appliances, such as the TV, washing machine or kettle. It may feel confined and want to escape or may cower in a corner and defecate through fear. It may never have had a safe place to rest and sleep and may find it difficult to settle and relax, remaining watchful and alert to every movement or sound. If a dog has never been in a home, he may not understand that he has to go outside to the toilet or that he is not allowed on the table.



What you decide is a safe place for the dog may not be where it feels safest. Using a crate as a refuge and place of safety is recommended, a cover over the top can provide a cave like refuge. For help to crate train your dog, see below.

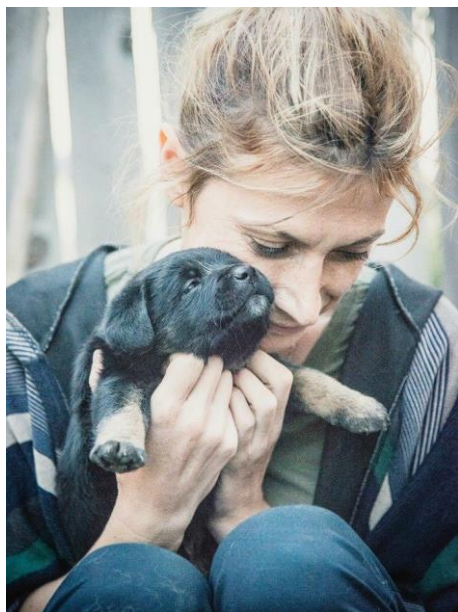
Your dog may not understand the purpose of objects in the house and find it difficult to differentiate between its toys, which it is allowed to pick up, bite and chew, and other objects such as cushions, shoes and the contents of your handbag, which are forbidden. It may also have difficulty in understanding that your food is yours and may steal or beg.

Give your dog time to get to know you and your family before gradually introducing other family and friends. Make sure that family, friends and visitors understand not to crowd your dog and march into his space – no matter how well intentioned they are.

There is so much for the dog to learn about you and your home and for you to learn about your dog. Relax, take it slowly and keep praising your dog when he gets it right. It takes time but is so worth it.

Adopting a Puppy

Puppies cannot be vaccinated for rabies before 12 weeks of age and therefore cannot travel before 15 weeks. Many of them will not have had a good start in life. They may have been undernourished or had to fight some diseases. Barking Mad tries to ensure that from the moment of rescue, pups in our care have access to good quality puppy food to ensure healthy growth and constitutions.



Your pup may be bouncing and in your face from the beginning or may take a few days to come round. However, puppies are puppies and most won't have been through trauma so will settle well given boundaries, love and security in equal measure. Puppies are recommended for anyone with very young children for several reasons: they can grow up with the children, which is a great experience for both child and puppy; they are more likely to adapt quickly to the household environment, as they will still be in the phase of learning where all experiences are new; they will not have developed bad habits that have to be undone before new ones can be learned.

Puppies should be like sponges for soaking up learning. They are the most adaptable it may be



argued. Our shelter pups are around people daily. We can't house train most of them prior to adoption but then how many puppies come ready house trained? Indeed, how many babies come ready potty trained? Treat your pup like you would any other puppy but allow for catching up time. Most of our pups have lived outdoors all their short

lives, hoovers and such household equipment will be new and scary. Be empathetic whilst not over protective. Most of all, allow time for your pup to sleep off the disruption to his wee life that he has gone through to get to you. He has left his buddies - shelter friends and littermates – to come to a whole new set of faces and places. All this is via a transport van and another set of people and new dogs on the way.

Some puppies have to learn bite inhibition - it is part of their normal development. All puppies are likely to nip, no matter where they come from. By nipping and biting their siblings in play, they learn to limit the strength of their bite. If a puppy nips a child, it is done in play, not in fear or aggression, and it is easy to teach them that it is not acceptable by giving a toy to bite on instead, whenever it tries to nip or chew on a finger or clothing. All puppies need house training and it will be no more difficult with a Romanian rescue puppy than with any other puppy. A child can take ownership of a puppy, because it is small like them. This is good for the emotional development of the child and helps the child to learn to respect all living things and develop emotional intelligence. Many puppies are born and grow up in rescue and can spend the rest of their lives there, so a puppy is as much in need of rescue as any older dog.

Toxic and Harmful Human Foods

Many human foods are harmful or even toxic to pets and care should always be taken to ensure your pets do not have access to human food. Even if it is not immediately harmful, it is not good for your dog to have his diet supplemented by human food. It is very easy to inadvertently leave harmful foods lying within a dog's reach and vets will tell you how often this happens in busy homes. It is therefore important that you know which foods are harmful or toxic. This list should help but is by no means exhaustive:

Alcohol	causes coma, death, intoxication
Avocado	contains Persin - causes vomiting and diarrhoea
Caffeine	vomiting and diarrhoea, toxic to heart and nervous system
Chocolate	toxic to heart and nervous system, can cause death
Cooked bones	can cause stomach lacerations
Dairy	too much causes diarrhoea
Fatty foods	too much can cause pancreatitis
Grapes, raisins, sultanas and currants	cause kidney failure so take care at Christmas with mince pies, Christmas pudding and Christmas cake.
Medications	can cause kidney failure, gastrointestinal ulcers, death
Mushrooms	some varieties can cause shock and death
Onion and garlic	too much causes blood cell damage and anaemia
Walnuts and	causes nervous system and muscle damage
Xylitol (used as a sweetener in gum),	causes liver failure, hypoglycaemia, death

It goes without saying that all household chemicals, such as cleaning products, must be kept out of reach of children and pets.

Possible Health Issues

Our adult dogs in the Barking Mad Shelters are fed a reasonable quality mid-range diet. There should be few issues with the changeover to feeding a good quality diet. Sometimes, vets recommend feeding chicken and rice – plain boiled chicken and boiled white rice, if the dog has an upset tum after the stress of the change to a new home and travelling. Chicken and rice are very bland and easily digested and are excellent sources of protein and carbohydrate. They should be fed until normal, firm, brown faeces are passed and then a commercial diet may be introduced slowly. Pro and pre-biotics are helpful in replacing the microflora in the gut. They can be purchased online, or obtained from your vet, but natural live yoghurt can be used until such products can be sourced. Protexin and Canikur are examples of these products. Colitis can be induced by the stress of the journey and will settle as the dog becomes more relaxed and recovers from the journey over time. Some of our rescue dogs are wheat intolerant so cheap treats can set off the passing of slimy poops.

Our dogs are dosed with dewormer and are also defleaed regularly in the shelter but also immediately prior to setting off to come to you. A dog who is not used to a home environment may become irritated by house dust mites, for example. There are many microscopic bugs within the home that a new dog may never have been exposed to, so these will cause irritation until the dog becomes used to them. Stress can also cause a dog to scratch, as they do it to appease themselves. When shampooing a dog, a mild, hypoallergenic shampoo will cause the least irritation. Dogs should not be shampooed often as it damages the oil layer of the coat and can cause skin complaints. Most spot on flea treatments do not recommend shampooing a few days either side of treatment, as the product will become ineffective. Frontline used to be the best product available, but due to overuse it has been observed to be ineffective over the past couple of hot and humid summers. Advantage is now available without veterinary prescription.

Kennel cough can sometimes be picked up in transit. It is so called as it usually exists in kennels, where dogs are in close proximity to one another, but it can be caught anywhere. There is a vaccine available that protects against bordatella, the most common bacterial form and parainfluenza, the most common viral type but there are other strains for which there is no vaccine available. Kennel cough is not fatal and usually causes no problems other than a harsh, hacking cough, although occasionally it may cause regurgitation of food. Kennel cough most often passes with no veterinary intervention but if your dog develops a cough and you are worried, seek veterinary advice.

Demodex is a non-contagious skin condition and is common in shelters. Some dogs can have small patches reappear from the stress of the journey and with the changes to their lifestyle. The skin can look red and sore. This is normally transient and can be treated at home but very occasionally veterinary intervention is necessary. Working as we do now with our own team, demodex is rare in our adopted dogs.

House Training

When it comes to house training, rescue dogs should be treated as puppies. Although older dogs may have some training, this may not be apparent when entering a new home, especially if other dogs are present, as a degree of scent marking, even in females, can occur. Some dogs know to go outside, but don't know how to let you know. You need to pick up their signals. They may appear unsettled, run about with their nose to the floor, keep going to the outside door or come and touch you when they need to go outside.

A crate can be useful for house training. A dog should never urinate or pass faeces where they eat or sleep. If you have introduced a new dog to an indoor kennel to sleep in during the night and spend time in whenever unsupervised, this will prevent any toileting accidents and will teach the dog bladder control.



Paper training is a popular idea, but isn't always helpful. All this does is teach the dog that it is acceptable to go in the house and you will probably find that some dogs want to go on mats, rugs and dog cushion beds, as they cannot distinguish between these and the paper. Start as you mean to go on. Go outside - it will save time, as paper training takes time, then you need to recondition the dog's thinking to start going outside.

Puppies urinate approximately every two hours and so will an older dog that has never been taught bladder control. They will also urinate after sleeping, playing and eating.

Take the dog outside first thing in the morning and GO OUTSIDE WITH IT. It will find its perfect spot to go. Once it has been, you need to give the dog the biggest reward of its life. Make lots of fuss, say "good boy/girl", give a food treat. Use whatever your dog loves. It is always a good idea to introduce a command. For puppies, saying "go wee wee" in a high-pitched voice works well. Dogs can then be taught to urinate on command, which is very useful.

Then take them back to their preferred spot every two hours and again, give a big reward when they urinate. Always remember to GO TO THEIR SPOT WITH THEM. If they don't urinate, go back inside, but you will need to keep a watchful eye on them. Older dogs will tend to pace, sniff and/or circle when preparing to go, but puppies can just drop with no warning. They will also need to go out after every nap, feed and during or after excessive excitement, playing etc. Never reprimand your dog for urinating in the house, they need to

be taught where to go before you should do this. Simply clean it up using biological washing powder/liquid and take note of what YOU did wrong.

Puppies usually poop up to five times a day, although this does depend on their diet. Adult dogs will usually go two to three times daily, depending on times of meals. It is a good idea not to feed dogs after 6pm, so they should not need to pass faeces during the night. Dogs fed on cheap dog food will pass more faeces than a dog fed on a good quality diet and this makes house training more difficult.

Sleeping Arrangements

If you are using a crate or indoor kennel for your new dog, make sure it is in a warm, dry place with comfortable bedding. It should never be used as a punishment and the dog must see it as a pleasurable, safe place to be. It can take time for a dog to become accustomed to the crate and for some dogs this may prove difficult. If you provide a new soft dog bed, do not be surprised if your dog does not take to it immediately. It is unlikely to have had one before and certainly not indoors. Your dog may find it too hot initially. Once the dog realises that it is a safe and comfortable place, it will be used.



a danger to the dog if chewed or eaten. A dog gate can be useful, so that the dog can still see and hear you.

You can use this at times during the day as well, so that the dog becomes accustomed to being in there and sees it as a safe place. Treats can be given there, so there will be an association with good things. If you are going to allow the dog to sleep in the bedroom with you, give it its own bed. It is not advisable for the dog to sleep with children at first.

If you intend the dog to stay in another room at bedtime, be prepared for howling, barking and whining at first. Dogs are pack animals and your dog has been accustomed to sleeping with other dogs in the shelter. If you are not using a crate, ensure that there is nothing which could be



Do not attempt this until you know the dog well and it is completely settled.

Whatever you decide, be prepared to adapt your ideas as necessary, to achieve the best and safest arrangement and the most restful sleep for you and the dog.

Getting Out and About

It is important that your dog is not allowed off lead until you are certain of their response to recall. This will take some time. Ensure your dog is secure at all times. A correctly fitted harness is useful here and in the beginning, we would recommend a slip lead too. Some large dogs have necks which are larger than their heads and collars can easily slip off. Also, be careful if using an extending lead. Do not use one if the dog's weight at the end of it, when



extended, is likely either to pull you over or pull the handle out of your hand. You need to observe the dog's responses to everything while you are out, so that you are aware of anything which may trigger fear, excitement, chasing or aggression. The dog needs to see you as more interesting and exciting than anything else it encounters. Play and having fun are important parts of training and bonding with your dog. Your dog also needs to learn the language that you use for commands.

Your dog may not know its name, because although it may have been given a name by those at the shelter, it will have heard it infrequently. You may have decided to change the dog's name, so it will require time and repetition to learn to respond to your call. Teaching your dog to respond to a whistle is also useful, particularly if you plan on walking in the countryside where there is a lot of ground cover.

When going out in the car for the first time, you may be surprised that the dog is anxious about getting into the vehicle. This may seem odd, considering that it has already travelled a very long distance in a van. The dog is beginning to settle and realise that it has a new and comfortable home with a loving family and the car may bring back the feelings of fear and uncertainty about where it is going and what is about to happen. It may also bring back memories of the dog catcher's van. You may need to spend time getting the dog used to being in the car and enjoying pleasurable experiences before making a journey of any kind. The dog also needs to see travelling in the car as something which results in pleasurable activities, e.g. walks. Only experience can make that association in the dog's mind. Keep

initial journeys very short with a reward at the end. Give the dog treats in the car and have safe toys for it to play with or chew. If you have other dogs, this will make it easier for the new dog to feel comfortable in the car. When anxious, some dogs drool or vomit. This will lessen in time. Take a towel, kitchen roll and bags. Carry fresh water and a bowl in the car. Dogs get very hot, even in cold weather, when they are anxious.

Socialisation and your adopted dog - What to expect.

One question we ask in our application form for one of our dogs is that you commit to helping your adopted dog to become a good canine citizen. What does this mean?

Firstly, we ask that you find a good training class in your area. Joining a class is a great way to get you and your dog off to a good start. (For those lucky enough to live close enough), Paul Connolly, at www.wolfspeak.co.uk, offers a block of 12 starter classes free to any of our dogs and adopters to get them off to a positive start.

From one person to the next, the idea of what is acceptable behaviour in a dog can vary wildly. However, we need to have a broad definition of what a socialised dog looks like in more general terms. We all want our dogs to be able to be comfortable in most situations, from having the Hoover or TV running at home, to being able to walk him through the park, enjoying himself, whilst meeting other dogs. We need our dog to be able to ignore the rowdy boys playing football on the grass beside him when on his foray through the park. We want visitors to our home to be able to come in and for our dog to be comfortable with that, neither throwing himself at them in wild greeting nor snapping and growling at them in fear.

Having a dog who is comfortable with his home environment as a safe place and being a fun companion whilst out is very achievable for our dogs offered for adoption. For some shelter dogs, it may take longer. For most, if measured exposure takes place at a pace the dog is comfortable with, whilst ending each session on success, the world will become your and your adopted dog's oyster.

The Romanian Shelter Dog

There are several types of dog who are adopted via our rescue work in Romania. Of course, characters vary within these categories and a dog's personality, coupled with his experiences at the hands of people, will have a bearing on how long he or she takes to settle. People will often ask for a dog's history prior to rescue, but until our dogs learn to talk to us, this isn't something we can know definitively but we can hazard a guess.



Puppies – see above

Socialising your newly adopted pup is critically important to set him up to be a good canine citizen.

Older pups and adolescent abandoned dogs.

Older pups will have had longer in the shelter and have got used to seeing the same faces every day and very much the shelter is the only home they have ever known. We work hard to ensure that our pups meet new people regularly and are used to handling. What we don't have, at this point, is a chance to get older puppies out and about in town. The ease of them adapting to an adopted home can be a varied but ultimately rewarding experience. These dogs should be considered like a younger pup would be, with some teenage behaviour occasionally thrown in. New experiences need to be built in to their training and what is expected of them clearly communicated in a way they can understand. Always end each training session on a positive note.

Adolescents, newly abandoned, can sometimes be like troubled teenagers with a foot in neither camp, though sometimes their move into a home can be quite seamless. Much can depend on the adopter's approach. They haven't learned on the streets what their place in the pack order is - nor are they confident enough to brazen it out. Just like with any of our adopted dogs, the adopters need to be the pack leader and make the decisions on behalf of these teenage dogs. They do best with clear concise boundaries and laid back adult dog companions to learn.

Puppies should be like sponges for soaking up learning. They are the most adaptable, it may be argued. Our shelter pups are around people daily. We can't house train most of them prior to adoption, but then how many puppies come ready house trained? Indeed, how many babies come ready potty trained? Treat your pup like you would any other puppy but allow for catching up time. Most of our pups have lived outdoors all their short lives. Hoovers and such household equipment will be new and scary. Be empathetic whilst not over protective. Most of all, allow time for your pup to sleep off the disruption to his wee life that he has gone through to get to you. He has left his buddies - shelter friends and littermates – to come to a whole new set of faces and places. All this is via a transport van and another set of people and new dogs on the way, who will tolerate their inexperience whilst not taking any nonsense from them.



Preowned abandoned dogs

Many of our smaller adult dogs have belonged to Romanian owners prior to being dumped. Arguably these dogs have had the most social experience though this may not include living in a home. It is common practice to keep your pet dog in a 'yard' in Romania. These yards/gardens mainly have solid fencing so views on the outside world aren't great but the dogs so often are turfed out during the daytime to look after themselves whilst owners work, then to be let in at night. Hence the dog has experience of the streets, other dogs and traffic.

Lana, now in a loving home, saved from the streets.

Street Dogs

Streeties are great. They are survivors. Either abandoned or born on the streets, most are super friendly and crave affection. (Please note, we do not offer very scared or traumatised dogs for adoption unless to exceptionally experienced homes.) Street dogs have lived by their wits for as long as they have been living as strays. Some were fed regularly by people when they lived on the streets but most have had to find the food they need every day from bins and cast off takeaways. They have learned to avoid cars and avoid trouble, mainly a boot from a passer-by or something equally horrible but all too common. Street dogs adapt to living in homes very easily but boundaries need to be taught. Bins aren't for raking and that chicken you just cooked and left to cool, well...!

Garden fences need to be high enough. A street dog comes to realise soon though that you are his pack leader and his place is with you. This doesn't take long. Street dogs can have their own idea of how to meet and greet new dogs outside the home as they have done it all their lives! The adopter needs in this case a different approach to socialisation – being able to ignore other dogs encountered on the daily walks.

Of course, these descriptors are very general and every dog is different in his take on the world. We believe that adopting a dog from a shelter can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

Dealing with food issues and diet

Some rescue dogs may have food guarding issues. Some may have had to fight, or at least be pushy, to get their share. Initially it is a good idea to feed them separately from any other pets. Also, when giving treats, make sure all pets have plenty of space to enjoy their treat. Slowly but surely, most of the dogs will reduce the guarding behaviour. NEVER allow children to be around at feeding time if there are issues and do not allow them to give treats until the dog is settled.

Your dog will not be able to understand that your food is not available to him and you will have to be aware that the dog may try to steal or beg for food at any opportunity, so keep your own food safely out of reach. Don't blame the dog if you left your sandwich on the coffee table and it wasn't there when you returned.



Also, be careful if you have young children and don't allow them to wander around with food in their hands. It will take some time before your dog will feel confident that it will be fed on a regular basis and doesn't need to steal or beg.

It can be tempting to feed your dog as much as it can eat when it first arrives, as you are aware that it has known hunger and may be thin. However, this can cause all sorts of physical problems and the best advice is to feed little and often and build the dog up slowly. Three meals a day to start with, reducing to two once the dog has reached a suitable weight, is the best advice. Your dog may suffer from diarrhoea when it first arrives. This can be due to the change in diet, but is also, most probably, colitis which is stress related and should settle quickly. If in doubt, mention it to your vet when you take the dog for his registration visit.

A good diet is essential to the health and wellbeing of your dog. A good quality commercial diet will contain only ingredients fit for human consumption. Cheap foods contain all the stuff left over, which we, as humans, do not want, along with numerous additives, artificial colours, preservatives and flavours, which can cause all kinds of medical and behavioural problems. As with children, the feeding of artificial colours can cause hyperactivity and anxiety issues. This is not what you want when trying to settle in a new dog. Cheap ingredients can cause dietary intolerances, which present themselves as diarrhoea or itchy skin complaints. Natural, hypoallergenic diets, such as Arden Grange, are to be recommended. They are more expensive and not found in supermarkets, but you get what you pay for. Many of our adopters feed 'raw' very successfully.

HELP!

We are sure that you and your new dog will have a very happy life together. However, we are aware that some dogs and owners can experience a few difficulties in the early days. If it is a serious health issue the best person to contact in the first instance is your vet. Otherwise, we hope that you will contact us for help with any issues which are not addressed by the guidance in this pack.

You can message us via our website here: - www.barkingmaddogrescue.co.uk



WOLFSPEAK

CRATE TRAINING

Easy steps to settling your dog into using a crate,
for sleeping, travelling or recuperating.

Crate training your dog may seem to some of you unnatural, unfair and an unwanted method of training, but in a number different circumstances it is often a useful and in some cases essential element of training necessary for the continued well-being of our pet.



Wolfspeak

Say Less, Do More and Be Calm

WHY USE A CRATE?

When introducing a puppy into its new home and environment, a crate can prove invaluable in establishing where the puppy has access, where it should learn to sleep, and preventing the puppy getting hurt by chewing or swallowing items unfit for puppy consumption when left unsupervised or unattended.

A crate is equally useful when settling an older dog into a new environment or into a new pack; a rescue dog, for instance, joining an existing group of dogs already established in that environment, may feel insecure or unsure of the other animals within the family group. This may include pets other than dogs and children, or in some circumstances a particular gender may seem threatening to a dog.

In these circumstances, crates can be used as means of acclimatising the new arrival to its environment and its new family, whilst providing a safe haven where it can begin to settle and feel secure.

Using a crate for travelling can also help an insecure dog settle to travelling in a car, whilst at the same time being safe in terms of preventing the dog from moving around too much or interfering with the driver, and remaining secure in the event of hard braking or indeed an accident.

It is a sad fact that at some time during many dogs' lives, they fall ill or sustain an injury, which will require a recuperation period of restricted movement. In these circumstances, a crate can be used without causing too much stress or anxiety to a dog that is already trained to the crate.

However, if a dog has never been in a crate and then as part of its treatment must be crated, then there will undoubtedly be added stress and anxiety to an already distressed and poorly dog.

THE TRAINING PROCESS

The training process should be planned carefully and it has to be recognised that this can be a protracted exercise and must not be rushed.

All dogs are individual and their acceptance of crate training will very much be dependent on a number of factors; the age of the dog; its previous life experiences; its demeanor - is it bold, timid, quiet or boisterous?

These, and possibly other issues such as medical problems, illness, injury, can affect how quickly you achieve success.

Not forgetting, of course, your impact on the training process; if you are calm, patient, observant and read your dog's body language accurately, you will make the process much easier for your pet and it will be a stress-free and rewarding experience for all concerned.

INTRODUCING THE CRATE

Initial introduction of your dog to a crate should be a positive experience and there should not be any harsh commands or a wrestling match to put the dog into the crate. The message we wish to

send to our dog is that this is perfectly normal, safe and indeed a rewarding process.

Ideally, the crate should be erected and placed in an area of the home shared by all members of the family group, prior to bringing the dog into the room or area. This will avoid our dog/puppy witnessing the strange phenomena of the sometimes noisy and strange appearance of a flat packed crate transforming into its much larger completed form.

This, from a canine point of view, could be quite disconcerting if not, frightening. Our aim in this exercise is to convince our pet that the crate is perfectly normal, safe and an acceptable part of the room's furniture.

Once the crate is erected, fasten the door back so that it does not swing to and fro and, in turn, startle the dog by closing unexpectedly. You are now ready to introduce the crate to the dog.

Ideally, this is best achieved by allowing the dog's own curiosity to lead it to investigate the presence of the crate, placing bedding or a blanket in the crate will have two positive effects, a comfortable area to lay in and a dulling of the noise created by the base rattling as the dog moves into it.

If the dog is ignoring the crate, don't be pushy or try to rush things; place some food in a bowl inside the crate and leave it for the dog to find and eat with the door open. If this is successful, feed the dog in the crate and whilst it feeds close the door.

The whole process should be conducted with the minimum of fuss and verbal encouragement. If your dog approaches the crate, enters or settles to eat its food in the crate then gentle low-key praise is all that is needed.

Initially, a short time in the crate should be rewarded with release, play and praise. Training the dog to enter on command will come with repetitions of treat reward to enter and sit, using the treat as a lure to entice and guide the dog into the correct position.

Once you have your dog entering and leaving the crate calmly, your focus then needs to be on incrementally increasing the period of time your dog is left in the crate. This begins with a couple of minutes with you present, to longer and longer periods, varying from you being present to your dog being left on its own with you in another room to eventually being able to leave the dog crated whilst you leave the house.

I would add a word of caution here. Crate training, whilst a useful and in some cases essential aid to managing some canine behaviours, is not an answer to controlling the dog for excessive periods of time.

It would not be acceptable to crate a dog all day whilst the owner is out at work, as issues such as toileting and exercise are obviously paramount in terms of your pet's wellbeing and stress and anxiety will ensue. This can be addressed by using dog walkers and sitters, to give your dog a break from the crate, if you have no option but leave your dog for long periods.

However, overnight crating is fine, providing toileting before bedding down is addressed, most dogs will happily sleep through the night in their crates.

When your dog has learned that it is not only safe and rewarding to be in the crate it will not be long before this becomes a safe place to rest and relax in, it is likely it will become a favoured place to retire to throughout the day.

REMEMBER crates should never be used to ostracise your dog from the Family (Pack) or as a Punishment Zone.

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