



## Friendly Hounds Professional Dog Training

[www.friendlyhounds.com](http://www.friendlyhounds.com)

### Next Steps with Your Rescue

Life may be a bit more hectic now that a rescued dog is a part of your household. Perhaps you may be questioning, “What’s next?” Here are a few hints to help you, and members of your family, to develop a well-rounded relationship with your new canine friend.

Foremost, remember that your rescued dog has been through a fairly traumatic experience so plenty of tender loving care is needed. Allow your newest family member to adjust to your lifestyle and to his / her new surroundings, and remember that patience should be paramount!

#### Establish Routine

One of the best ways to work positively with your rescue is to establish routine. Determine a time when the dog will eat and go out for walks and / or potty outings. Routine should also include time for fun or play, for quiet, and sleep. Importantly, remember that you are in charge and setting the schedule!

#### Focus on Consistency

Once you establish routine be consistent! A schedule will help to reduce your dog’s stress and allow him / her to acclimate to your life more quickly. Remember that your new rescue is working hard to understand you and a routine will foster bonding and build trust.

Consistency includes training and determining what is or is not desired behavior. When you resolve that an action is off limits or a “no-no” stick to your decision: waffling on what you want or expect from the dog causes confusion and reduces your ability to train your new canine friend. Further, I can’t say enough about communicating such information to family members and friends. Children, in-laws, visitors, and the like need to know that puppy is not allowed on the couch or otherwise mixed signals may be given to your dog resulting in poor manners.

#### Time for Training

Your rescue may need training to become the well-behaved companion that you desire. Training for short intervals during the day (such as two or three times a day for 10 to 15 minutes) can go a long way in getting your dog to the level of obedience you want.

Yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks! Indeed, even if your rescue is a little older in age, he / she can still learn to sit, stay, and walk calmly with you. Training is an essential part of bonding with your dog – it is quality time you are spending together learning about each other. Again, tender loving care must be used – be firm yet gentle in your training.

Remember the ultimate goal is for you and your companion to build a foundation for a fun and fulfilling life together.