



Friendly Hounds Professional Dog Training

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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.