

Rowdy Dog Rescue

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What to Expect When Adopting a Dog

If you see a dog listed on our site please be sure to read if the dog is at our facility or still awaiting transport from the South. If the dog is not at our facility yet then we will not have any 'hands-on' experience with them so will not be able to give you any first-hand knowledge about their personalities or characteristics. If the dog is here we will tell you everything we know and have experienced with the dog but we cannot tell you things we don't know like if the dog enjoys swimming in a pond or if he/she is good with kids or other animals. Unless the shelter can tell us 100% for sure, we won't be able to tell you for sure what breed(s) the dog is and can only guess by their looks. Most shelter dogs are mixed breeds.

Rescue Process: When we 'tag' a dog from a shelter it is then put into quarantine and vetted (neutered/spayed, vaccinated, etc). We require our dogs to be quarantined for 2 weeks prior to transport to our facility. During this time transport is arranged. However, because the transport is mostly executed through volunteer drivers it does not always fill – meaning we have to wait another week to see if it fills. Sometimes filling a transport can take as long as a month or more so please be patient and keep in touch with us. We usually know the Friday afternoon before the dogs are scheduled to leave. They travel over the weekend and we pick them up usually late Sunday nights. If a dog has been specially pulled for you then we expect you to be committed to the dog no matter how long it takes. If your situation changes and you cannot take the dog then you should tell us ASAP. This doesn't necessarily mean we will not rescue the dog but its best we know that he/she will be in need of a home upon arrival and can advertise as such. This is only fair to the dog.

Adoption Process: If you are interested in a dog we have listed or would like us to find a dog for you then you must fill out an adoption application. **Please note: we only keep applications on file for 30 days unless we hear from you asking us to keep the application open.** Of course this is not the situation if dog has been pulled from a shelter specifically for you and is awaiting transport. If you haven't yet adopted a dog after 30 days and are still interested please notify us. If you don't hear from us you must contact us as we only have one person that runs Rowdy Dog Rescue whom also runs Spring Hill Horse Rescue. So be patient but also don't be afraid to call (802 775-1098/802 353-6540) or email (springhillrescue@aol.com) if you have questions or would like an update on the dog situation.

Adoption Fees: Our adoption fees are set by the costs we endure to save these dogs. We do not get the dogs from the shelters for free and pay all of their vetting – spay/neuters, vaccinations, deworming, health certificates and special medications when needed. Most shelters charge a shelter fee to help cover their costs of operation. There are also costs associated with transporting them – crates, gas, driver fees, etc.

Additional Fees: Although all of the dogs are vetted prior to coming there are some instances that require the dogs to see a vet upon arrival. Most of the time it is an injury or illness that came about during transport. We reserve the right to pass this expense along to adopters, especially if it's a dog that was pulled specially for you. If, for some reason, the dog is not able to be spayed/neutered before arriving this expense will be the responsibility of the adopter. We require all of our dogs to be spayed/neutered. However, we would know this information ahead of time.

After Care: After the adoption contract has been signed you are responsible for all of its care and expenses unless other arrangements are made. We recommend bringing him/her to your vet for a **well check visit** immediately. In fact, when you know when you will be getting the dog set up an appointment prior to receiving the dog so you can be sure to get the dog to the vets for a well check right away. We will give you all of the medical records that come with the dog and you should give your vet a copy for their records. Your dog may be due for another vaccination and should be dewormed regularly. This will give your vet the opportunity to meet your dog and start a new client file for him/her.

Remember, these dogs come from the south so their **parasites** may be different from the dogs around here; be sure to tell your vet what state your dog came from so they can recommend the correct treatment. If you notice a **skin irritation** on your dog have your vet look at it. Most all conditions are easily treated about but should be taken care of immediately. Mange, fleas and ticks (parasites) are common in the south due to the warmer climates.

Even though your dog has been **vaccinated** it doesn't mean it won't come down with an illness. Transporting and rehoming dogs can stress their immune systems and make them more susceptible to illnesses. Keep your dog quite and at home for the first two weeks so its immune system can strengthen and he/she is feeling confident about their new surroundings. Don't expose your dog to other dogs right away. Other dogs can be carriers of illnesses and can pass something on to your dog due to a low immune system. This may mean keeping your dog away from your other animals for a bit as well. When at the vets do not allow your dog to smell other dogs either. If you have another dog(s) at your home make sure they are up to date on their vaccinations prior to a new dog coming.

It's common for the dogs to have small bouts of **diarrhea** due to transport stress and new foods. The dogs are not fed a lot during transport (which takes 2 days) so they won't get car sick so be sure to start with a light, easily digestible diet. Don't give your dog a lot of different treats as this will surely mess with his stomach. Make sure the dog's feces are firm and not runny before introducing new treats. Giving your dog a probiotic can be very beneficial to getting his/her digestive tract back on track. However, if your dog has profuse diarrhea, vomiting, or seems overly lethargic take him/her to the vet immediately as this could be life threatening.

PUPPIES! Puppies are great fun and many people are specifically looking for a young dog. If you want to adopt a puppy or young dog please know this: most all puppies will chew, most all puppies will have accidents in the house, most all puppies will chase your cat at least once and most all puppies will jump on people (including kids!) upon greeting. Always supervise your kids around any dog, especially puppies. Please do your research before adopting a dog if you have never had one or if you have never raised a puppy before. Returning a dog because he/she chewed up your favorite shoes or had an accident on your new rug is not a behavioral problem of the dog, it's a behavioral problem of humans. Getting a puppy is a huge responsibility and should not be taken lightly. They must be trained in a gentle yet very structured way ensuring they leave bad habits behind when they are mature dogs...**this is the responsibility of the humans.**

Mature Dogs: Even if you opt to adopt a mature dog don't assume he/she will not have some issues like chewing or having accidents. Please remember that these dogs are coming from shelters and have been in pens. Many of them are strays so their history is unknown. Most likely they will need to be house trained so make sure you set your dog up for success and not failure by letting him/her have the run of the house while unsupervised or leaving your garbage out where the dog has access to it. Don't assume your dog is fully house trained or doesn't have any bad habits. In fact you should assume the worse and there to be at least 2 weeks to a month of consistent training and supervision before allowing the dog to be unsupervised in the house.

House Training: As noted above, assume the dog you have adopted is not house trained. Even if he/she is well behaved in the house, being in a new environment will take some getting use to. For the first few weeks the dog should be restricted to a small area if he/she is by itself or during the night. A crate is wonderful for potty training a dog as they usually will not soil where they sleep plus it keeps them from wondering around unsupervised and potentially chewing property or laying on furniture, etc. Your dog should be put to bed just before you go to bed (just after a last walk outside to potty – no food or water at least 2 hours before bedtime!) and be allowed outside to potty as soon as possible in the morning. After a while the dog will understand the schedule and wait to potty outside. This does not mean that accidents may happen in between. However, crating or containing a dog in a small area excessively is cruel and unfair. Tethering a dog outside is unacceptable. Dog runs are okay for short periods of times but not excessively. If your lifestyle does not warrant available quality time for a dog then **please do not get one.**

Off Leash Training: If you have a large yard or property and would like to be able to let your dog off leash while you are outside then you must do some training before ever trusting he/she will not take off. You should have a tag on your dogs collar with your contact information at all times. MicroChipping is another option in the event your dog gets lost. Before ever trusting your dog off leash he/she should know its name and come to it consistently. A good method of training is to have an ample supply of your dogs favorite treats (either cut up chicken or hotdogs are irresistible) and call your dogs name and say 'come' right after (Rover, Come!). When your dog comes to you give him a treat immediately. If he/she does not respond then pull him/her to you with the leash and repeat the command and then give a treat. Practice this in the house until the dog is consistently coming to you when called. Go outside and practice some more on-leash. Get a long leash and allow your dog to move farther away and practice it some more. When you are sure he understands the command you can try it off leash but it would be best if you did it in a fenced in area. Puppies and young dogs shouldn't be off leash because they are easily distracted by people, other dogs or critters roaming about. Some dogs may never be trusted off leash. If they are hunting dogs or a breed that has a particularly aggressive personality or prey drive it would be unsafe and risky to allow the dog to run free at any time. Please be sure to research the breed of dog you want to adopt before hand.

Getting a new dog is a big responsibility but also very joyous and exciting. We expect all of our adopters to treat their new dogs like family members not possessions. We expect your dog will be able to live in your house and provide lots of love and attention, NOT tied up to a tree or doghouse outside and ignored after the novelty wears off. We expect you are or will be educated on the proper training of a dog and NOT use abusive methods. If we find out otherwise we will take the dog back as this is what you will agree to when signing our adoption contracts. When you get a dog you should be aware of the expenses, space, and time involved in having one before hand. You should be prepared to work through any behavioral issues if they should come up. If by chance the issue cannot be resolved or something should happen and you are not able to care for the dog, we expect you will return him/her to us or help rehome the dog to a loving home. DO NOT BRING THEM TO A SHELTER OR HUMANE SOCIETY!

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