



The First 30 Days With Your Rescue Dog

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Bringing home a rescue dog is a rewarding experience, but the transition period is critical for building trust and setting up a successful future together. This guide outlines what to expect in the first 30 days and how to help your new companion feel at home.

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Day 1-3: The Adjustment Phase

The first few days can be overwhelming for a rescue dog. They may be nervous, unsure, or even shut down as they adjust to their new environment. Patience and consistency are key.

- **Give them space:** Avoid overwhelming them with too much attention or activity.
- **Stick to a routine:** Feed, walk, and let them out at the same times each day.
- **Set up a safe space:** A crate or designated quiet area can help them feel secure.

Week 1-2: Establishing Trust

Once your dog starts to settle in, focus on building trust and setting expectations.

- **Use positive reinforcement:** Reward good behavior with treats and praise.
- **Avoid punishment:** Fear-based training can cause setbacks in their adjustment.
- **Introduce slowly:** Gradually introduce family members, pets, and new experiences.
- **Start training early:** Teach basic commands and house rules to build confidence.

Week 3-4: Building a Bond

By now, your rescue dog should start feeling more comfortable, showing their personality, and learning your expectations.

- **Engage in play:** Interactive toys and activities strengthen your bond.
- **Explore together:** Walks in different areas help build confidence.

- **Monitor behavior:** Look for signs of stress or anxiety and adjust accordingly.
- **Schedule a vet visit:** Ensure vaccinations and health checks are up to date.

Tips for a Successful Transition

- **Patience is key.** Adjustments take time—progress at their pace.
- **Reinforce boundaries.** Consistency helps them understand expectations.
- **Don't give up.** Rescue dogs need stability, love, and time to adjust.

"Rescue dogs aren't broken; they've simply experienced more life. If they love you, it's because you've earned it."

— Unknown

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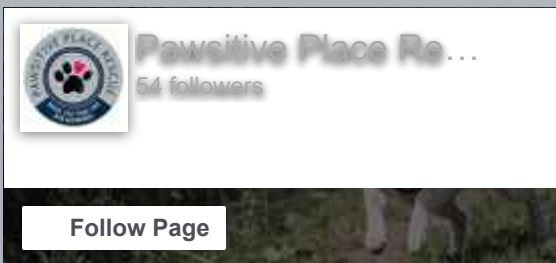


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