



We have put together some advice and information to refer to when your new dog arrives. Some dogs enter a home and settle down like they've always been there, others take a little time so we have tried to cover the most common issues that may arise. Please read through and ask all questions to a member of admin.

DOGS CAN ARRIVE ANYTIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT DURING A 24HR PERIOD.

IF YOUR DOG IS DELIVERED DIRECTLY FROM ROMANIA, YOU MUST NOT WALK YOUR DOG OR LEAVE YOUR PREMISES DURING THE FIRST 48HRS BY LAW!

- It is most important to note when your dog arrives they will be scared. They may have been traveling for 2-4 days. They are in a new environment with new people. In many cases they do not wish to be stroked and fussed right away. Show them where a comfy bed and water is and let them settle and come to you when they are ready. Sometimes this takes just a few hours, sometimes a few weeks, the most important thing to remember is, just let them come around in their own time - don't expect too much too soon, and never push them to do something they don't want to do, which includes being stroked.
- Crying at night is common, it is up to you where your new dog sleeps if you have adopted, be prepared to sit with and settle your dog for the first few nights. It is all very new and scary for them. Often warmth and silence are very alien to them.
- Please ensure you have a tag made with your identity and contact details on prior to the dogs arrival, as wearing a tag is a legal requirement. Your dog will be microchipped and this will be checked against the passport when they arrive. If you are adopting your dog we can register your microchip at a reduced rate, so please contact us for further information. If you are fostering, the microchip remains registered to us.
- If your garden is secure allow your dog to explore in their own time. They may not wish to come back inside immediately or when you want them to, just give them gentle encouragement and use treats to encourage. NEVER push or drag your dog. Often these dogs may not have ever been inside a home so it is all very new and scary, allow them time to process it all. Walking through doorways can be very daunting, again this is something they are not used to and need gentle encouragement.
- NEVER try to bath your dog when they arrive. This will not help you bond, it will not be an enjoyable experience for your dog. Bathing could cause your dog lots of stress and could make them fear you more. Please always wait at least 1 week and go at the pace of your dog. Please think carefully prior to fostering or adopting a dog from overseas if you do not want a smelly dog in your home, because the reality is, they will smell.



- When your dog arrives an upset stomach is perfectly normal. It is not unusual to see traces of blood in their faeces. It is often just caused by stress and the long journey they have had. You can purchase some inexpensive pro-biotics to add to their food from most pet stores such as Pets at Home. A bland diet little and often is also advisable for the first few days, for example, chicken and rice, scrambled egg, white fish etc and then we suggest tins of wet Chappie which has been developed with veterinary advice, and a grain free dried food such as James Welbeloved or Harringtons which is more reasonably priced. Whilst in Romania your dog would have been fed a locally sourced dry food. Please allow at least 7 days of this plain bland diet before seeking further advice. Obviously should any large amounts of fresh red blood or clots be found speak to a member of our team immediately.
- Unless adopting one of our UK foster dogs, as mentioned your dog may never have been inside a house before. It is unlikely they will have any sort of toilet training. Please be patient and give your new dog time to learn. It is not unusual for them to start well and go backwards, be patient and consistent, build a good routine - out within 10-15 minutes of eating and have your own trigger word or phrase, such as 'be quick', 'wee-wees' etc. Some people do use puppy pads, but it can sometimes be more confusing for an older dog. If you are struggling with toilet training methods please consult a member of our admin team.
- Fear of a collar and leash is very common in Romanian dogs, a fear installed by bad experiences with dog catchers. We generally suggest a harness rather than a collar and using positive association with the leash and treats. High value treats are good to use here (cheese, hotdogs, cooked chicken or liver paste). Be aware that certain breeds such as malamutes and husky types tend to be worse in a harness as the pressure on the chest can make them pull more. If you find a harness isn't working then try just a slip lead.
- Be prepared to work hard using a long line and treats to ensure perfect recall. Your dog may have a 'name' but it doesn't know its got a name or even know its name! Most dogs quickly learn their name and basic commands. Until you are confident your dog is happy on a lead we recommend using TWO slip leads when first walking your dog in case they wriggle out of one.
- We always recommend that you keep your dog on a long lead in the garden for the first few days/weeks, they can be notorious escape artists and will scale walls and fences. Always ensure all windows and doors are kept shut and secure whilst your dog is settling in as this is also a common escape route for them.
- We always advise that our dogs WILL NOT be cat tested. We cannot guarantee how they will react to cats. If you have a cat in your home, always





introduce very slowly. Do not overload your new dog with introducing them to every other pet in the home immediately. A safety gate they can see through but not access is a useful tool. Please be aware that handing a dog back just because your cat does not immediately take to your new arrival is not acceptable.

- Again, they may not have been in a home. They do not understand that your expensive ornaments / cushions / rugs / curtains are not appropriate toys! Provide a variety of toys, squeaks / raggys / tug toys / soft toys for your dog and let them know they can play with them. A firm no is all that is ever needed if your dog does something you'd rather they didn't. NEVER, EVER strike or smack your dog.
- Food aggression is a normal issue to encounter, it is important to remember your dog may have lived on the streets and had to fight for food in the past. Food aggression is not impossible to overcome, we always advise you feed your dog on its own, and keep all other animals and children separate at feeding time. It does not take long for your dog to learn in your home food is readily available.
- Please be aware that growling is not a pre cursor to aggression. **Growling is merely a warning.** It is a dog's way of saying that they are uncomfortable and unsure of a situation. Back away and leave them in peace. Growling IS NOT a dog being aggressive, it IS NOT a dog about to bite, it IS NOT a dog 'going for you'. Growling at other animals is a warning. It is also a dogs way of finding their place in the new pack. Allow them to settle things at their own pace. Should a full fight occur DO NOT put yourself in danger to separate. Make yourself aware of what play fighting can look like, sometimes it looks a bit scary, but while they nip at each other's neck and faces they never break the skin. A submissive dog will bow down to invite another dog to play and sometimes when two dogs are bouncing around in this way it can look and sound worse than it is.
- DO NOT allow anyone other than the usual adult members of your household to look after your dog for the first few weeks of arrival. Too many strangers can scare your dog.
- BE VERY AWARE - these dogs have had to survive any way they can, they can jump higher than you think, wriggle through holes smaller than you think, be gone in seconds if scared. In the unlikely event of your dog escaping you must inform a member of our team IMMEDIATELY - you should ring the dog warden and all local rescues. If you and friends or family go to search for the dog we cannot stress highly enough DO NOT CHASE OR TRY TO CORNER THE DOG they will just become more fearful and run further. We have specialist tracking teams we can contact who are highly skilled in returning Romanian dogs to their owners.





- There are other quirks that rescue dogs can show, some across all rescue dogs, some more particular to those from Romania, do not be surprised to see your dog eating its own faeces, showing fear of traffic, fear of vans or bin/recycling lorries, fear of males, raiding bins, digging in your garden, eating everything and anything they see. All of these are common - anything you are concerned by always contact us.
- Unless stated, our dogs are unlikely to be used to children, we will advise during contact if we think your family is suitable for the dog you fall in love with and always endeavour to make the perfect match. When introducing your new dog to children please do this very carefully and **ALWAYS** under strict supervision. **NEVER** leave a dog with any child unattended.
- Please remember that the size your dog is stated as being or maturing to is a guesstimate. As mixed breeds can vary so much, therefore your dog may grow bigger than we initially thought, or infact remain smaller!
- Please enjoy your family's new addition, and remember the commitment you have made to them. Settling in can take time, these dogs have been taken from everything they have known and put in a situation that can feel scary and daunting. They do not know that are safe in your home or that you will love them, they don't know that they are no longer in Romania. They have probably never heard a TV, a vacuum cleaner or a phone ring.

Please be patient and please give them the time they need to settle in.

The Pawprints to Freedom team are always on hand should you encounter any issues or need advice/training tips.

Please respect the journey these dogs have been on and the changes that they are having to make.

Finally, remember, there are always more dogs needing our help.

Please tell all your friends and family about us!!



WE KEEP ALL YOUR DATA SECURELY STORED AND WILL NEVER PASS YOUR DETAILS TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR CONSENT.

WE WILL SHARE YOUR DETAILS ONLY WITH OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED DIRECTLY WITH YOUR APPLICATION WITH PROVISION OF HOME CHECKS AND TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS WHO ALSO COMPLY WITH ALL GDPR LEGISLATION.