

SETTLING IN YOUR ROMANIAN RESCUE



DO'S

- Get your dog's microchip updated immediately! This is so important, it is likely in the first few days that your new dog is scared and more likely to run away if the opportunity arises.
- Give them plenty of space and regular periods of quiet time during the first few days.
- Avoid having lots of visitors to the house during the first week. Let your dog settle, get used to their environment and get used to you before you start introducing more people. Let your dog CHOOSE to interact with your visitors. It is really important that you let your dog set the pace for new introductions.
- Keep them separated from resident dogs for regular periods to allow them to get to know each other gradually and process all that is happening to them. Preferably using a baby gate so they can see, smell and sniff each other.
- Keep them on a lead, preferably a long line in the garden for the first few days, some dogs can be very panicked by all their new surroundings and you need to make sure they have no intention of escaping. This is especially important if your rescue was a street dog.
- Keep your new dog and resident dog separate at feeding times for at least a few weeks, maybe longer. Your new dog will arrive very hungry. If they have spent time in a Romanian public shelter they will have had to fight for their food and whilst this behaviour subsides during the settling period it

could still be in the forefront of their mind. If a fight breaks out over food it could ruin the relationship of your new dog and resident dog forever, which will cause many more problems in the long run. Always feed treats, bones and chews separately.

- If you have a resident dog, pick up all toys for the first few days until you can see how they are getting on, and to give them time to settle into each others company. If your resident dog is used to playing with toys with you take them into another room so they don't miss out and leave your rescue with a treat to keep them happy.
- Double lead your dog when you first start walking them outside, in case they panic and slip a collar or harness. Best combination is harness + lead and flat collar + lead.
- Take your dog out for a toilet every 2 hours (1 hour if a puppy) this will lessen the risk of accidents in the house and give you the opportunity to praise all toileting outside, increasing the likelihood they will quickly learn where they are supposed to go to the toilet.

DO NOT'S

- Don't keep fussing over them, they will most likely not be used to it and although you may feel your comforting them, they can actually find it more stressful.
- Don't allow them to follow you everywhere and have access to all areas of the house for the first few days/weeks. Often these dogs will not be used to home comforts so if you allow free reign they could develop resource guarding. Plus it can help prevent the development of separation anxiety.

- Don't let them on the beds or sofas for the first few weeks. Again this can instigate resource guarding, which once it starts to happen, is more difficult to stop.
- Don't allow them to keep demanding attention from you. This is usually insecurity behaviour and you could enhance separation anxiety and owner possessiveness develop (resource aggression).
- Leave grooming, bathing and rubbing with a towel until a relationship of trust has been established. Your dog will most likely smell quite unpleasant, but bathing can be another stressor leave it until they feel comfortable.
- Don't take your new dog for a walk for a few days. We as owners feel they need walks everyday to be happy, but many of these dogs will not be used to our busy environment and will find them scary and stressful. They will be tired enough with processing all that has and is happening to them, they need time to settle.
- Don't expect your dog to be used to wearing a collar and walking on a lead. If they have experience of being on a dog catchers pole, they will most likely be terrified if you start trying to pull them along on a lead. Do plenty of lead practise in the garden to get them used to it without the distractions they will face when actually out on walks.
- Don't let your dog off the lead for at least several months - some never, unless you are 100% certain you have reliable recall, that **WILL NOT FAIL** in the presence of unexpected distractions.