



Second Chance Dog Rescue CIC

Reg number 13232642

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## **DECIDING TO GET A DOG**

### **Important Information for All Prospective Adopters and Fosters**

The decision to bring a dog into your home must be made with careful consideration, long-term planning and full household agreement. This applies equally to puppies and rescue dogs. The following information is provided to ensure that all applicants fully understand the responsibilities involved before proceeding with a home check. It is intended to protect the welfare of our dogs and to ensure successful, permanent placements.

### **A Long-Term Commitment**

Owning a dog is a lifestyle commitment, not a short-term arrangement. Dogs commonly live 12–15 years and sometimes longer. During that time, your circumstances may change. Your responsibility to the dog does not.

### **All members of the household must:**

Be in full agreement about taking on a dog

- Understand the time, financial and emotional commitment required
- Be prepared to prioritise the dog's welfare long-term

A dog must not be obtained:

- Primarily for children

## Deciding to get a Dog

- Because children are requesting one
- For companionship alone
- For exercise motivation
- Because others have done so
- As a replacement for a previous dog

Rescue dogs are not interchangeable. They are individual animals with individual needs.

A dog cannot be returned because:

- The adjustment period is challenging
- Behaviour is more complex than anticipated
- Time commitments feel greater than expected
- The dog's personality differs from expectation

Rescue is not a trial arrangement. It is a commitment to that individual dog.

### **No Dog Comes With Guarantees**

No rescue organisation can provide guarantees regarding:

- Behaviour
- Temperament development
- Future reactions
- Breed traits

All dogs are assessed in shelter, foster and again in UK kennels. All information is disclosed honestly and transparently to the best of our knowledge.

However, behaviour observed in a rescue setting may change in a home environment. Stress levels, attachment patterns, territorial behaviour and environmental triggers can alter once a dog settles.

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Information regarding:

- Dog compatibility
- Cat testing
- Child interactions
- Responses to men or visitors
- Traffic behaviour
- Handling tolerance

must all be understood as assessment guidance, not legally binding assurances of future behaviour.

In some cases, limited background information is available due to rescue from streets, pounds, road traffic accidents or abandonment situations.

By proceeding with an application, you acknowledge that behavioural development in a new home environment cannot be fully predicted.

### **Behavioural Adjustment and Responsibility**

Once a dog enters your care, you assume responsibility for:

- Management
- Training
- Supervision
- Environmental control
- Ongoing behavioural development

Dogs respond directly to consistency, structure and leadership within the home. Behaviour is influenced by human responses, household dynamics and environmental management.

It is essential that adopters approach integration with:

- Realistic expectations
- Patience
- Structured routines
- Consistent boundaries

## Deciding to get a Dog

- An understanding of canine behaviour

Dogs do not understand language or languages in the way humans do. They learn through repetition, association and consequence.

## Training and Aftercare Support

Second Chance provides ongoing aftercare guidance, including:

- Behavioural advice
- One to one advice and support as necessary
- Structured training recommendations
- Community support
- Access to professional input

However, advice must be implemented consistently by the adopter.

No trainer or behaviourist can 'fix' a dog independently of the household. Progress depends on:

- Daily consistency
- Reinforcement of training techniques
- Environmental management
- Commitment from all family members
- Bond building and trust development

Behavioural change is a process, not an event.

## Trauma and Fear-Based Behaviour

Many rescue dogs have experienced trauma, including but not limited to:

- Starvation
- Physical injury or abuse
- Road traffic accidents
- Abandonment

## Deciding to get a Dog

- Neglect
- Loss of littermates or pack members
- Kill shelter confinement
- Trauma may contribute to behaviours such as:
- Fear reactivity
- Guarding behaviours
- Anxiety
- Resource guarding
- Lead reactivity
- Separation distress
- Destructive behaviour
- Hypervigilance

Fear-based behaviour is not disobedience. It is a survival response.

These behaviours may not be fully apparent in kennels and can emerge during the settling-in period.

Applicants must be prepared to work through behavioural challenges using structured, positive and consistent methods over an appropriate timescale.

There are no fixed adjustment deadlines.

### **Supervision and Safeguarding**

All dogs require appropriate supervision, particularly around:

- Children
- Visiting adults
- Other household pets

Supervision is a safeguarding requirement, not an optional precaution.

Environmental management (e.g. separation barriers, lead control, crate training where appropriate) may be required during integration.

### Applicant Responsibility

Before proceeding, please ask yourself:

- Are you prepared for long-term behavioural management if required?
- Do you have the time and stability to commit consistently?
- Are you prepared to prioritise this dog's needs over convenience?
- Adoption is a commitment to that individual dog's welfare for life.

Returning a dog due to unmet expectations can cause significant emotional and behavioural regression.

### Acknowledgement

By submitting an application, you confirm that:

- You have read and understood this information
- You recognise that no behavioural guarantees can be given
- You accept responsibility for training, management and integration
- You are applying with long-term commitment in mind

### Our Position

Second Chance exists to save and secure safe, permanent placements for vulnerable dogs.

We prioritise:

- Stability
- Welfare
- Transparency
- Responsible ownership

For those prepared to commit fully, we are here to support you every step of the way. Without committed adopters, rescue is not possible.