

LEASH OF LIFE

FOSTERING.

Fostering a rescue dog is a rewarding thing to do. To open your home and life to a dog in need, you may well be saving a life by freeing up a shelter space to allow another dog to be saved, whilst it too awaits its turn at Rehoming .

Fostering though is not just about the emotional feel good factor. A foster placement allows for a dog to become more adoptable through training, socialisation and adaptation to move out into the world as a good canine citizen. Every effort is made to match a dog to the fosterers experience and support is always available from our experienced team.

PUPPIES

Puppies seeking foster homes need the same input as any puppy would, whether from a breeder or a Shelter. Orphan puppies are better going into homes with other dogs as they will have missed that vital input of a mother dog telling them what is acceptable and what is not. Fostering a pup means toilet training, lead training and socialisation. Puppies can be hard work but are fabulous fun.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young adult dogs often need the same input as young pups. Socialisation of these dogs is important. Shelter dogs won't have seen the TV or experienced the washing machine or the vacuum cleaner. Many will never have walked on grass. Some will have been someone's dog before but perhaps have experienced ill treatment.

ADULT DOGS

SMALL dogs have inevitably been someone's dog and have been abandoned or stolen by the dog catchers. Some are fearful but most adapt swiftly to a home environment again, although some have a residual fear of men having suffered at the hands of the dog catchers or through rough handling by their less than gentle Romanian masters.

LARGER adult dogs have more often been street dogs and surprisingly are hugely affectionate but need to be taught boundaries. If you had to fend for yourself on the

street, then things like the kitchen bin or countertop are fair game. A dog can't be expected to know what is 'wrong' in a human's eyes unless we, their carers, teach them. Labels of 'good' and 'bad' behaviour are human labels. A dog is just behaving as a dog does given any set of circumstances, unless we let it know otherwise in ways it can understand.

Many dogs move seamlessly into a home, but some need more time.

We are truly indebted to our team of foster carers for offering dogs a chance to move from Romania or Spain into a halfway house. We would love you to join that team.

Leash of Life will meet vet bills providing this has been discussed prior to the dog attending the vet (except in case of emergency).

Paul Connolly, Wolfspeak. www.wolfspeak.com

"Rescue dogs require patience, understanding and a determinedly calm, balanced and controlled approach, without over-compensating for the dog's previous history. The rescue dog with problems does not need our sympathy, nor does it require an unhealthy overload of unbalanced affection, pity or constant reassurance. The rescue dog does not feel sorry for itself over past experiences. It lives in the moment and asks only that we share that moment, with empathy, understanding and a will to go forward and become the perfect "pack leader".