



# Welcome to Fostering a Rescue Dog!

## *Your Guide to a Happy Start*

### **Thank You for Giving a Rescue Dog a Second Chance!**

By fostering, you're offering love, safety, and hope to a dog in need. We know it can be exciting but also a bit overwhelming, especially if this is your first rescue dog. This booklet is designed to support you through the first days, weeks, and months together.

### **What to Expect at the Start**

- Rescue dogs may feel nervous or unsure.
- Accidents and odd behaviours are normal.
- Be patient and calm—this is their adjustment period.
- Always communicate with the rescue before seeking medical advice, unless it's an emergency.
- Remember: challenges are temporary with love and consistency.

### **Bringing Your Foster Dog Home**

#### **Create a Safe Space**

Set up a quiet, comfy spot with a bed, water, toys, and minimal noise or traffic.

#### **First Interactions**

Speak softly and move slowly. Let your dog approach you—it's their choice.

#### **Managing Your Feelings**

Celebrate small wins and ask for help if you feel unsure.

### **Introducing New People, Pets & Places**

- Start with household members only.
- Introduce other pets slowly on a leash.
- Take short, calm walks in quiet areas.

### **Feeding & Toilet Training**

- Follow the rescue's feeding plan.
- Feed at consistent times in a calm space.
- Establish a toilet routine—take them out often and praise successes.
- Never punish accidents; clean with enzymatic cleaner.

### **Preventing Reactivity and Building Trust**

Identify and avoid stress triggers at first.

- Use treats and praise to reward calm behaviour.
- Redirect rather than punish.

## Settling In

- Keep routines consistent.
- Use toys and short training sessions for mental stimulation.
- Practice short alone times to prevent separation anxiety.

## Vet Visits & Medical Care

- Emergency vet visits only if severe symptoms occur.
- Routine care is coordinated through the rescue.
- Maintain vaccinations, flea/tick prevention, and microchipping.

## The Adoption Process

- Apply through the W&W website.
- A home visit and suitability check will be arranged.
- A 3 week fostering trial helps both sides adjust.
- Adoption is finalised with a contract and post-adoption support.

## Adoption Conditions

- Dogs cannot be rehomed or sold without W&W's consent.
- Home visits may occur post-adoption.
- Changes in circumstances must be reported.
- Dogs must be neutered and microchipped (unless exempt).
- Adopters must meet the Five Welfare Needs under UK law.

## Thank You!

You are making an incredible difference. Your kindness and patience give these dogs a chance for a happy, safe future.

For support or questions, please contact your rescue coordinator anytime.

### W&W Rescue Team

*Unfolding Love, One Wrinkle At A Time*