



**Bringing Home Your Rescue Dog**  
*What to Expect In the First 24-36 Hours...*

Congratulations on your newest, furry addition! The volunteers at Tailwaggers 911 are thrilled that you chose to help a rescue dog so deserving of your loving home. Bringing home a rescue dog is a very exciting time, but these initial hours are critical for the successful integration of your rescue dog into your home. The foster-to-adopt (FTA) program which you are about to begin allows you, your family, and your rescue dog to get to know each other. In the beginning, rescue dogs can be confused about their surroundings, the new people in their lives, and what to expect from their new families. Creating a structured environment before and during your FTA period is important in making the transition as smooth as possible for everyone involved. The following are some tips for a successful transition.

Don't forget to bring your collar, leash, and have an ID tag ready for your new pet!

Again, thank you for helping to save a rescue dog and know that your new dog thanks you even more!

Sincerely,  
Tailwaggers 911 Team

Donna  
Preraphael  
Colleen, Connie  
Dawn  
Heather



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- ❖ *If picking your dog up off of a transport, please note that the **transport** from the south is **very stressful for the dogs**. They will have not had any food for approximately 15-20 hours and very little water to drink. It is imperative that they are allowed to drink water as soon as they arrive at your drop-off site, water will be provided. We ask that once your dog has had water and been allowed to go to the bathroom, you head home immediately. Once home, please provide another bathroom break, food, and rest.*
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- ❖ **Accidents:** Your dog has just gone from shelter/foster and through a very stressful transport, to a new environment with new smells and sounds. It is not uncommon for him/her to have some accidents in the beginning.
- ❖ **Food & Water:** Allow your new dog to eat and drink as much as possible in the first 24 hours. Dogs coming off of transport will have eaten or drank very little, if anything, prior to and during transport. Keep in mind that he/she may not eat/drink right away due to stress and the changing environments. After 24 hours, you can start to establish your feeding routine.
- ❖ **Loose Stools:** It is common for your new dog to have diarrhea or soft/loose stools, especially for the recently transported dog. If your dog's diarrhea does not clear up, please contact Dawn.
- ❖ **Bathing:** We recommend you bath your dog once he/she has settled as they may be dirty/smelly. If your dog has recently been altered, do not bathe them for 7-10 days (if needed, dry shampoo can be used).
- ❖ **Keep a routine:** Dogs are creatures of habit. Keeping a consistent routine for feeding, exercising, and potty time will help your dog adjust.
- ❖ **Quiet time:** Give your new dog time to acclimate to your home and family before introducing him/her to other family, friends, neighbors, and dogs.
- ❖ **Tidy Up:** Do not leave tempting shoes, clothing, or children's toys within reach of your new dog.
- ❖ **Finally, and most importantly, give your new rescue dog lots of LOVE and patience.** You have saved them from a high-kill environment and they couldn't be more thankful and appreciative. You will be rewarded over and over again for this for many years to come, enjoy it!