



Good leadership is IMPERATIVE!!!!

FOSTER/NEW DOG CHECK LIST (October 2019)

- ✓ If the Foster dog is surrendered to the Foster home by the owners, never let the dog see the owners leave the home. Dogs will be more difficult to work with and will grieve the loss of their owners.
- ✓ Blend the old food 50/50 with the new food. That way the dog will not get an upset stomach.
- ✓ Socializing is very important to their success.... but don't do too much too soon. Give them time to settle in and get to know and trust you.
- ✓ For the first several days always have the Foster dog drag a leash. You never grab the dog by the collar and that is why he drags the leash. Dogs can be fearful if you reach for their collar and grab it. They don't know what you're going to do when you reach out at them. Just pick up the leash, say the dog's name, give the command, "come" and start walking away holding the leash. Tell him good boy.
- ✓ Don't trust the Foster dog just because he seems to be obedient. Keep the leash on him until you have a comfortable relationship. You don't have to be in a hurry. Take your time getting to know about him and give him time to know you.
- ✓ Patience... Patience.... Patience.... Their prior life may have been abusive or rough.
- ✓ Don't have a lot of friends over to meet the new dog when you first bring him home. This is a new home and a new situation. Give him time to want any competition for food. Supervised mealtimes.
- ✓ The dog may or may not be housebroken. No matter what, the first few days you have him, pick up the leash and walk outside with him about every hour and say "potty outside." When he does, praised him.
- ✓ When you go outside with him or come in the house with him, don't let him rush in front of you. Make them wait at the door, say "I go first" or "Wait," then step inside first and then you say "Come on in" or whatever command you want to use. This is teaching him that you are the leader and the boss and you always go first.

- ✓ Foster dogs should not be allowed on the furniture since you don't know if the new owner will allow it. Also, a dog should never be allowed to jump up on the furniture without being invited by the human. If you invite the dog on the couch you are claiming the couch as your property and giving the dog permission to sit next to you. If he jumps up on his own, he's claiming it as his own. That's a no-no. If the new owner allows their dog on the furniture, they should wait about a week before doing so. This is another way of reinforcing leadership.....the boss gets the furniture and it's a privilege earned to be given permission to be invited on furniture.
- ✓ If you call the dog once and he doesn't come, he might not have heard you. If you call him a second time and he still does not come, he's not minding you or he's deaf. Simply pick up the leash, say his name, say, come, give a little tug and say come and start walking away so he has to come to you. When he comes to you praise him.
- ✓ We like to use a Martingale collar so the dog cannot pull out of it.
- ✓ First thing in the morning and last thing at night.....potty time.
- ✓ WHEN MEETING A NEW DOG FOR THE FIRST TIME...DO NOT, under any circumstances, wear a hat and sun glasses. A dog needs to see a human face.... glasses and hats prevent that.
- ✓ All new dogs should be wormed with Droncit for the Tape Worm.
- ✓ Vaccinations and medical needs are handled as needed with each individual dog.
- ✓ Never leave a dog in a door closed room. More than likely he will scratch and try to get out.
- ✓ Have a gate in front of the door so he can hear and see out.
- ✓ At night, the first several days, have him sleep in a confined area, such as behind a gated room or in a crate. By doing this there is less of a chance of a potty accident and less of a chance of him being startled waking up by noises in a strange house. Let him get acclimated before you give him full range at night. Some fosters prefer to crate and confine the dog every night. It's good training.
- ✓ It's best to pick up dog toys when the foster/new dog comes home if there is another dog in the home. This will prevent the possibility of a scuffle over a toy (resource guarding)
- ✓ They should always be taken out on a leash the first day, even if in a fenced yard. You're introducing them to the yard.
- ✓ Don't give any high value possessions like bones, hooves, pigs ears or raw hides. With not having a relationship yet. The dog may get possessive and resource guard.

- ✓ Introduce dogs in neutral territory, start with walking together not allowing head to head meeting.
- ✓ When entering the home, the first time have the foster dog enter before resident dog. This way the resident dog doesn't get as concerned with another dog entering their property.
- ✓ The foster dog may have come from a bad situation but that is behind them. Don't force issues with them but don't feel sorry for them. They should start right off with following house rules. If they've come from a bad situation give them a new name "new name new life."
- ✓ Severely traumatized dogs can go through recovery stages. All of a sudden there can be a behavior change: peeing in the food bowl, eating their poop or dirt. Don't punish them for doing it. There may also be sudden changes in anxiety levels or anxiety expression - check with a trainer on how to deal with it.
- ✓ Supervise children when they are around the new dog. PLEASE, PLEASE give children boundaries and explain good behavior on the right way to treat a dog.
- ✓ DO NOT allow children and toddlers to crawl on your dog.
- ✓ DO NOT allow children to bother the dog while he is eating, chewing on a bone or chewing on a toy.
- ✓ DO NOT allow them to push or touch the dog when he is sleeping. It may startle the dog from a deep sleep.