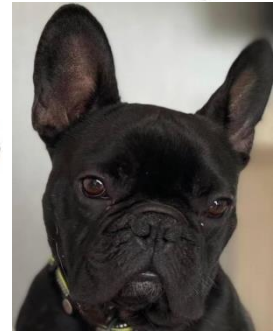




Boycie's Bridge

Tel: 07964877766 or 07950218568

Email: boycie.rescue@yahoo.com



Rehoming a Rescue Dog

Before welcoming one of our dogs into your home, we ask that you carefully read this guide to owning a rescue dog.

Rescue dogs make fantastic family members, it's often a shock how loyal and loving even the most abused and neglected dogs can be. However, we need all potential homes to be fully aware of issues many dogs have adjusting to a new environment.

The 3's

There is a guide which is usually quite accurate. It takes a dog 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to settle and 3 months for them to realise that this is their home!

The First Few Days

The anxiety of the move may cause an upset tummy, to avoid this try to stick to their own food they are used to and avoid giving too many treats. Carrots or chicken are the best treats to give if you want to.

Barking, howling is another common problem, as is pacing, panting and scratching at doors. This is all normal and to be expected. We usually suggest a calm distraction such as a fuss, a walk around the garden etc.

Be sure where you want them to sleep and make sure that they are warm, comfy, have access to fresh water and a distraction toy if alone. Quiet music/TV or a ticking clock/rain sounds on speaker etc. can also help.

Outdoors

We suggest that for the first week or so even garden visits should be on a long lead. Some dogs find escape routes we may have missed or be nervous coming back into the house, so for safety reasons a long training lead is a good option. On walks we advise 'double lead' which again is a safety precaution. Often dogs in new surroundings can become easily spooked so a harness and collar with a clip on each side is best. This will prevent the dog escaping.

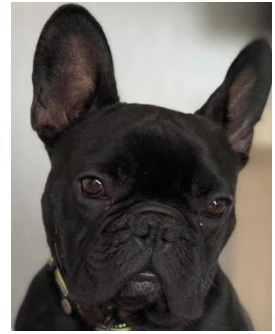
Please ensure the dog has a collar and disc with updated details which is to be worn outdoors at all times. Microchip details must be updated as soon as possible too.



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Food and Toys

We will advise you of the food your dog is used to. If you decide to change their diet, we advise to do this over the course of at least a week, gradually reducing the old food and adding the new food. Natural chews such as Antlers or raw chews are preferable, avoid coloured items, Hide chews and never give cooked bones.

Exercise

Walking is of course essential. However, sniffing on walks, being allowed to explore and take in the smells and atmosphere is also extremely important.

It is equally as important for your dog to have more enrichment than just exercise. Naturally dogs like to forage for food, to use their senses. There are so many toys available now, snuffle mats, lick mats, interactive toys – even a simple cardboard box with old towels, with hidden treats will encourage natural instincts and help keep the mind active. For long stimulation, frozen stuffed Kongs and long lasting treats will help.

Bedding

Depending on a dogs age there are lots of beds to choose from but for the first few weeks we suggest using cheap bedding as often when stressed or anxious with the move dogs will chew or mark their bedding.

Marking and Toilet Training

It's not unusual for dogs to regress with toilet training in a new environment. Sometimes it's because they are simply marking their new territory, sometimes it's because they feel anxious or stressed.

Whatever the reason, it's extremely important that you do not chastise the dog for the accident. Calm kind words and being taken to the outside area is the best way and praise when they toilet outside.

Bad Behaviour

Often when unsettled unwanted behaviour may start, this again is normal. Ignoring the behaviour and praising good behaviour will reinforce what you expect from your new family member. We do have a fantastic behaviourist who is experienced with rescue dogs. Her details are below, fees will apply:

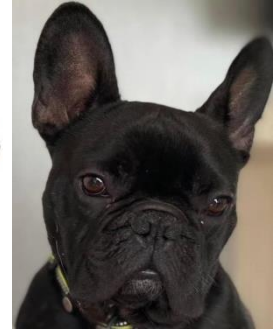
Caroline Lewis, Help at Hand Dog Training and Behaviour- Contact: 07738715195



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Children and your New Dog

If you have children the dog you have chosen will be one who previously lived with children or has been carefully assessed for their suitability to live with children.

As you get to know your dog you will notice their likes and dislikes, however we do have a strict guideline with children and dogs together. Dogs should always have access to a safe space. This should be a comfortable easily accessible area where they are not disturbed. Just like us, dogs have off days and need space. They should always be able to do so.

Dogs show signs of being uncomfortable and you should always look out for these signs. If you Google 'signs a dog is unhappy with a situation' you can see images of the body language they may display if they need some space. Always ensure children show respect towards them, never pulling or poking – we've even known of children sitting on dogs, totally unacceptable!

Introducing Pets

We will have talked to you about introductions. Two well-mannered dogs will be much easier to introduce without any interference. A long loose lead on each and allowing their own natural introduction is ideal. Lots of sniffing, sometimes play bowing etc. is normal.

Sociable dogs will often 'tell off' another dog who is showing bad manners, with a growl or a snap, this is normal and should not be reprimanded. There may be squabbles over toys or food, so we do advise to feed separately for a while and don't give high value long lasting treats in close proximity until they are familiar with each other and you are comfortable there are no sharing issues.

Leaving your Dog for the First Time

Once you have decided where your dog will be left when you are not home, ensure that you have done as we suggested with distraction toys and noise. Try not to make any fuss about leaving. Just walk away, no fuss, just as you would if no dog was there! Making leaving a long affair could trigger some anxiety.

Make your first outing short and on return go straight to the garden to let the dog toilet, then a calm reward and praise will start a routine. Sometimes an over excited dog jumping up is lovely to come home to – but with your best clothes on, with visitors or young children, this is not so desirable! A calm return routine will benefit you both.

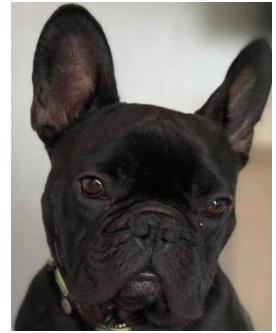
There are a number of sites available on Facebook to help with your dog – plenty of free ideas and some great like-minded people.



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Free Facebook Groups:

- Canine Enrichment Group
- Dog Training Advice & Support
- Reactive Dog Support Group
- Kong Recipes for Dogs

For any issues or queries please contact:

Anne Marie - 07964877766

Lisa - 07950218568