



Rovers Return Dog Rescue
Feed Fix Network

A Letter From Your New Dog

I am so happy that we have decided to adopt each other. My life before rescue was full of uncertainty.

In rescue, I have been learning that people can be gentle and kind leaders. I need to learn that you will protect me, feed me, exercise me, and teach me the rules of this new home.

PLEASE START SLOWLY

For the first two weeks, I will be excited and a bit overwhelmed. You may want to take me to meet friends, visit work, or go shopping for clothes, collars, beds, treats, grooming, and everything else my heart desires. Please do not. It is an awful lot for me to process all at once.

What I really need is to get to know my new home and family. Lead me gently. Do not pick me up and carry me if I freeze, stop moving, or growl because I am scared of a stranger. Luring me with treats is never a wrong strategy.

TEACH ME THE BASICS

Where is the bathroom? I need my family to show me or I will have to guess. Do not be mad at me if I guess wrong. Show me where to go and praise me when I use it.

I love food. I may not have had enough for a while. I would like breakfast and dinner in my kennel, where I can have a quiet meal without worrying about anyone taking it from me.

I may have extra energy because I am nervous and uncertain. If you do not show me what I can chew, I may try the remote or your shoes. I will feel better if we can play in the backyard or go for a walk.

DOGS, PARKS, AND NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

At my foster home, I had dog friends. A dog park may sound like a great idea, but let's wait a few weeks, if ever. I need to know you will guide and protect me if anything goes wrong.

If I have a new dog brother or sister, please do not expect us to be immediate best friends. Let me sleep and nap in my kennel while I get used to new smells and sounds. Give us both treats during introductions so I learn that good things happen when that dog is around.

Later, we can walk around the block with each dog led by an adult. After the walk, maybe we can smell each other.

MY KENNEL MATTERS

My kennel will be an important place for me. It is a place to eat safely, chill out, and think through all the new changes.

Changes are exciting and exhausting. Please protect me from overload. If you introduce me slowly to my new life over weeks or months, it will help us tremendously for our lifetime together.

Thank you for choosing to love me. I already know I love you.

Rev. May 1, 2026

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