



Rovers Return Dog Rescue

Feed Fix Network

Welcome Home Guide

Adopter welcome and lost dog safety

Congratulations on adopting a rescue dog from Rovers Return. Today, you have changed a life. We are grateful you opened your heart and home to a dog in need.

This is the beginning of a journey for both of you. There is no love quite like the love of a rescue dog.

KEY ACTIONS

- Keep the first days quiet, calm, and structured.
- Use a martingale collar and leash at all times on day one.
- Contact Rovers Return immediately if your dog escapes.

WHEN YOU GET HOME

While you are excited, your new dog may feel overwhelmed or scared. They may not have had the easiest start and will need time, patience, and structure to feel safe and begin to trust.

Your dog may not understand right away that they are safe. They may feel anxious or unsure, not understand house rules, or have accidents even if previously trained. Dogs need time to decompress and learn your routine.

Be patient. It will get better.

THE RULE OF 3S

3 days, settling in: keep things quiet and calm, give space, especially from children, start a simple routine, and reward what you like.

3 weeks, finding their place: reinforce good behaviors, expect some setbacks, and consider a trainer if needed.

3 months, feeling at home: your dog understands they are home, trust and routine are established, and your bond becomes strong.

SAFETY ON DAY ONE

- Use a martingale collar and leash at all times.
- Never assume your dog will not bolt.
- Supervise all outdoor time.
- Contact Rovers Return immediately if your dog escapes.

Never assume your dog will stay close. Safety in the first few days is critical.

LOST DOG GUIDE: DO NOT CHASE

- Stay calm. Chasing will push your dog farther away.
- Crouch down, speak softly, and toss treats.
- Call or text Rovers Return at (760) 585-5973.
- Email a photo, last seen location, and description to info@roversreturndogrescue.org.
- Create a safe spot with a crate, food, water, and clothing with your scent.

ALERT AND CANVAS

- Report on Petco Love Lost, Nextdoor, Ring Neighbors, Facebook, and to local shelters.
- Put up large flyers and speak to neighbors, postal workers, and delivery drivers.
- If spotted, tell people not to chase. Ask them to sit, toss treats, and call you immediately.

SKITTISH DOG RECOVERY

- Do not approach, make eye contact, or walk toward the dog.
- Speak softly so they can hear you, but do not talk directly at them.
- Use a feeding station and do not pressure them.
- Hang worn clothing inside out and high enough for the wind to carry the scent.
- Do not search randomly. Wandering spreads scent, confuses direction, and can push the dog farther away.

POSTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Posters should include only a clear photo, phone number, and DO NOT CHASE.

Do not include the dog's name, personality details, or rewards.

Place posters in plastic sleeves upside down, tape at major intersections, and secure top and bottom so they do not move in the wind.

Do not post exact sightings or rewards on social media.

Collect date and time seen, direction of travel, and speed such as running, walking, or wandering.

Calm, consistency, and coordination bring dogs home. Chaos pushes them farther away.

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