

# PennyPaws Rescue to UK

## Advice for adopters



Congratulations!

You finally have your precious soul from Romania. You have both been on a momentous journey to get to here, and now you will both begin to write your own story and make unforgettable memories together. It is important to remember however, that much of your dog's story so far is an unknown and therefore you all need time to get to know each other and above all, he/she needs time to discover what life with *YOU* is going to be like. The life of a Romanian dog will no doubt have been a million miles away from what you would think of as 'normal' and that is why they will need more time to acclimatise themselves to your way of life and it is essential that you allow them this time.

It is important to remember that your dog has travelled hundreds of miles to be with you, he/she is not aware of what is happening and one minute he's in a shelter full of barking dogs minimal human contact, not necessarily positive experiences and the next, in an unfamiliar cage, in a vehicle (possibly only twice in his/her life) and the next, on your doorstep surrounded by several strangers, all excited to see you and then in an unfamiliar building (your home) and although this is the best thing to happen to them so far, they're terrified and want to hide in a corner. This is his/her first experience of you and your family/home, *put yourself in his/her position*. To make this a happy experience for all of you, remember:

- Their life may have been awful up to now but it's all they've known. Introduce their new life slowly. Small steps. Let them wander around (safely indoors), sniff, don't all expect him/her to bowl you over with kisses, allow him space to familiarise him/herself, don't push him/her to play/take toys/eat/know where to ask for the toilet/understand your house rules instantly (on the furniture or not, can or can't go upstairs etc. Don't attempt to bath/take to a groomers in the first few days
- Dog/cat introductions are planned carefully, allowing both parties to introduce themselves in a quiet and calm atmosphere. Dog introductions are best allowed in the garden (on a long line preferably). It is advisable to not leave dogs unattended for at least 5 days to allow for a settling in period. Dogs may grumble at each other whilst they are sorting themselves out. Allow them to express themselves and the odd skirmish may occur which must be monitored carefully. If these encounters seem worrying, please contact PennyPaws but a certain amount of 'grandstanding' may occur and is normal.

- Allow him/her to decide where 'bed' is and don't force them to accept your nice fluffy comfortable bed, he/she's probably never had one. They will decide where is best for them to start with.
- When you take them into the garden, they *must* initially be on a lead or long line. When a dog is scared, it may try to run, that is a natural instinct, so it is up to you to ensure their safety from day ONE. They **MUST NOT** be walked beyond the safety and security of your garden *unless absolutely necessary* for TWO WEEKS! This is for their safety!
- Ensure that children do NOT try to play with them until the dog has been with you for 48 hours to allow your dog to start to relax. What may seem to a child nothing more than a game of tug, could, to the dog, be seen as aggressive and they may react.
- Ask that people wishing to visit a) do not do so for at least 5 days, b) are small in number (2 at a time and no more),c) visiting children are monitored carefully d) visiting dogs are introduced slowly and sensibly.
- Diet is important. Ask PennyPaws what they have been used to and for suggestions. Introduce new food gradually over a period of days.