



Adopting a Romanian Rescue Dog – Quick Guide

1. Initial Enquiry / Application

- Contact us via enquiry form, social media, or by submitting an application.
- We always ask for a **completed adoption application** to assess your home and experience.
- You'll receive an **acknowledgement within 1–5 days**.
- **Typical response timeframe:** 1–5 days after acknowledgement.

2. Review of Your Application

- We review your details to ensure your home is suitable.
- **Typical timeframe:** 3–7 days.

3. Homecheck (Virtual /In-Person)

- A virtual video home check (or in person if you live local to a home checker) is arranged if your application looks suitable.
- **Typical timeframe:** 1–2 weeks, sometimes longer depending on volunteer availability.

4. Adoption Decision

- After the home check, we confirm if you can proceed.
- **Typical timeframe:** 3–7 days, sometimes longer.
- **Please note:** Not all applications are successful. Decisions are based on:
 - **Dogs most in need of a home**
 - **Our capacity to provide rescue backup**
 - **Suitability of your home and experience**

5. Preparing for Your Dog & Decompression

Key Points:

- Rescue dogs may **show unexpected behaviours:** fear, anxiety, excitement, or guarding.
- They may **not be toilet trained** or familiar with bowls, routines, or toys.
- **Patience, consistency, and gentle handling** are essential.

Decompression Timeline:

Weeks 0–2 – Settling In

- Quiet, safe space; dogs may hide or be cautious.
- Toileting accidents are normal.

Weeks 3–6 – Exploring & Trust Building

- Curiosity and personality emerge.
- Introduce short walks, feeding from a bowl, and basic handling.

Months 2–6 – Confidence & Life Skills

- Gradual socialization with people, dogs, and new environments.
- Consider a **professional dog trainer** for behavioural support.

Beyond 6 Months – Adjustment Continues

- Full adjustment may take up to a year.
- Past trauma can cause ongoing sensitivity.

Support & Expectations:

- We provide **rescue backup for all our dogs**.
- Adopters must **make a committed effort** and seek **professional training support** when needed.
- We **cannot provide continuous behavioural guidance**.

6. Rescue Backup Support

- Guidance for **essential questions, settling in, and health concerns**.
- Rescue support is a safety net, **not a replacement for adopter effort**.
- A dog is for life, their whole life, this could be up to 18 years for our young dogs – please ensure you are fully committed to paying vet bills and giving a dog all your love and care.

Next Steps

- If you're happy with this process, we can arrange your **virtual home check**.
- **Timeframes are approximate** and may take longer depending on volunteer availability or the dog's situation.
- Rescue dogs require patience, understanding, and a serious commitment to help them thrive.

Please see the link to helpful tips for adopters for more information:

<https://pennypawsrescue.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Helpful-Tips-for-Adopters-Anne-Brough.pdf>

