



Colorado Beagle Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 2704
Littleton CO 80161-2704

303-464-9403
www.ColoradoBeagleRescue.org

Foster Care Information

What is it all about?

The purpose of a foster home is to place a rescued dog immediately into a normal family situation, **NOT A KENNEL**. Our dogs may come from a pound or from a family moving to another city, and we feel that a temporary foster home is the best place for the dog to adjust to the changes and, hopefully, to be adopted.

Ideally, a rescued dog should spend no longer than 30 days in a foster home (hopefully, not that long). We believe that in this amount of time, you should know whether or not this is the dog you want to adopt. Fostering longer than the 30 days can be hard on the dog, because by then the fostered dog thinks of YOUR home as his. We try very hard not to move our Beagles from home to home, and hope that when you decide to adopt one of our Beagles, you will consider the adoption a commitment for the dog's life. The foster parents always have the first right to adopt the dog they are fostering, but if the Beagle you foster should not be the dog you want to adopt, we will move the dog and try to find the right one for you. If you are not looking to adopt but only fostering, we will start having people come over to look at him/her a few days after you have had a chance to start the evaluation.

What is my responsibility?

We ask that you keep using the name of the dog you are fostering unless he/she does not have a name. In that case you may give him/her a name. The adopters can change the dog's name if they feel they must.

As foster parents, you are responsible for the dog's basic needs, such as food and shelter. A fenced area large enough to allow the dog plenty of room to run and play safely is a must. Basic health requirements such as shots, special food, tattooing and spay/neuter are paid by Colorado Beagle Rescue, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as CBR), unless you can absorb these costs. If the dog you foster needs veterinary care follow up, **call CBR at 303-464-9403**. CBR will furnish the dog with an identification tag. The tag has the dog's rescue number on it as well as two phone numbers. This collar and tag must be worn at all times. Please NEVER use a choke chain on a dog unless you are going for a walk and you know how to use it. Dogs have died by hanging when the choke chain gets caught on a fence picket, nail, etc. The easiest way to handle this is to leave the choke chain on your leash, and when it is time to go for a walk, simply slip the chain over the dog's head, leaving the nylon collar and tag on the dog.

The new arrival

A dog's security depends upon people and places he is familiar with and, having lost both of these, he is apt to be frightened and insecure. He may appear timid or slightly aggressive or hyperactive. **THE WAY YOU INTRODUCE YOUR NEW DOG TO YOUR PRESENT DOG IS VERY IMPORTANT!** A little effort on your part NOW can mean the difference between success or failure. Remember, all dogs are territorial and your present dog considers YOU and your yard and home as HIS/HERS. For this reason, it is best to have the new dog and your present dog meet in "neutral" territory. Arrange to meet the new dog away from your house...down the block, across the street, at a nearby park, etc., **AND GO FOR A WALK TOGETHER**, both dogs on leashes, of course. Keep walking . . . this is not the time for the dogs to do their ritual sniffing, etc. After a short time (if the walk is going well), allow them to get acquainted...then turn around and take them **TOGETHER** into the yard. Now your present dog has a "house guest" instead of an intruder! It's fun to watch dogs form a new relationship!

BE CALM... AND BE FAIR. You should make an effort to be as calm and relaxed as possible. Don't smother the new arrival. And remember, **YOU HAVE TWO HANDS!** ... one for the other dog and one for the new dog. Also, be careful that the children (if any) don't neglect your first dog for the excitement of the new dog.

WHEN YOU BRING YOUR NEW DOG INTO THE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, walk with him (on leash) around the house while he sniffs all the new smells. Being on a leash, it will be easy to jerk the leash slightly and tell him "no" if he decides to urinate, either from the instinct to mark new territory or from excitement. He needs to learn that "inside" is where he lives and, consequently, not where he "goes." He may have been an "outside" or an "inside" dog, but in either case, he is apt to have an accident before he learns that he has a new place to live and, consequently, a new place to keep clean. If you praise him profusely when he urinates or defecates outside, and give him a sharp "no" if you CATCH him going inside, he will learn quickly. If you don't catch him in the act, forget trying to make the point, and, in no case, ever rub his nose in it. (Remember, you're trying to TEACH, not change the color of his nose.)

It will help immensely if you DO NOT GIVE HIM RUN OF THE HOUSE unless you follow him around, day or night, or until you know he is reliable. Remember, that even an "outside" dog does not dirty his doghouse, and he will become house trained when he learns that he just has a bigger doghouse to keep clean. The less he is allowed to "go" inside, the quicker this will happen.

A dog may wish to go outside, but not understand that you will open a door for him. Try to watch, and if you see him pass by a door and head for the back of the house, call him and put him outside -- praise him if he produces and let him back in so that he does not think that going outside is punishment. Heading for the back of the house is his attempt to get as far away as possible from where he lives. Pacing around the room is another clue that he may need to be put outside. **If everyone in your house is gone all day, consider getting a dog door... the best invention since popcorn!**

ALL RESCUE DOGS MUST SLEEP INSIDE AT NIGHT. If your dog must spend the day outside, we expect you to provide shelter as well as shade. Regardless of where the dog is used to sleeping during the day, **put him to bed at night, inside and in a confined area**. This can be a utility room or a crate or in a bedroom or anywhere where he cannot have the run of the house. He will be much less apt to relieve himself if he is confined to one room. He will probably be most comfortable in a room with a person or another dog, but if this is not feasible, put a blanket or pad down for him in a comfortable spot, out of drafts and not too hot or cold.

SPEAKING OF SLEEPING. . . We have lots of people calling and telling us the dog growled at them when they pulled him off the couch. THINK for a minute. . . so would you! No, you don't have to give in to the dog. Just say his name (wake him up) and tell him to GET OFF. "Off" is the key word and the leash is the magic wand. Go get the leash and put it on (after he is awake) . . . then a firm "Off" with a tug at the leash. Give him lots of praise once he's down. It won't be too long before the spoken command will get you your seat back. Also, be careful that the kids show a little respect for a sleeping dog . . . not by being quiet. . . but by not tripping over or falling on a dog while he is asleep. Wouldn't YOU come up growling -- or worse?

IF YOUR NEW ARRIVAL COMES WITH A BAG OF DOG FOOD or you have been told what kind of food he is used to, continue to feed him what he is used to . . . assuming, of course, that the food is not generic. Good quality food is the best investment you can make in the health and longevity of your new dog. It has become apparent to us that many of the dogs that CBR handles are victims of poor or at least careless nutrition. Any change that you make should be made SLOWLY. Beagles generally do better when fed a smaller amount twice a day. NO TABLE SCRAPS PLEASE. Treats are better confined to something like raw carrots, cut into bite-size pieces or cheerios. Be aware that it will take your new dog at least a week for his "internal clock" to adapt to your schedule (maybe before he came to live with you he was fed only once a day, or fed randomly). FRESH WATER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES -- INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.

SMILE PLEASE! It would be very helpful if you would take a snapshot of the dog you are fostering. We keep a scrapbook with pictures of all of our dogs, not only for sentimental reasons, but to assist us with identification if the dog is lost. **IF YOUR DOG GETS OUT, CALL US IMMEDIATELY BEFORE YOU GO OUT LOOKING. WE OFTEN WILL GET A CALL THAT YOUR DOG HAS BEEN FOUND BUT WE CAN'T FIND YOU! CALL THE NUMBER ON THIS INFORMATION SHEET.**

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR NEW ARRIVAL! Remember, keep those gates padlocked, and be careful at the front door . . . Beagles can be quick! Like so much in life, you'll get out of this experience exactly what you put into it. It is not always easy to be a foster "parent," but patience and trying to see the problem from the dog's point of view will help you over the rough spots. The foster dog is like a displaced war orphan. . . he doesn't know your language, your habits, your food. Give him/her time and love and your rewards will be many.

If you wish to help us in any way, please call:

CBR at 303-464-9403