BEAGLE RESCUE
of
SOUTHERN MARYLAND

WHY ADOPTION MATTERS

We’re glad you’re here.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

3/3/3 Rule

in the first...

3 DAYS

- **Feeling overwhelmed**
- **Scared & unsure of what's going on**
- **Not comfortable being themselves**
- **May not eat or drink much**
- **Wants to hide**
- **Testing boundaries**

3 WEEKS

- **Starting to settle in**
- **Feel more comfortable**
- **Understand their environment**
- **Get into routines (like potty training)**
- **Show more personality**
- ***Behavior issues may show up**

3 MONTHS

- **Feeling comfortable in a new home**
- **Building deep trust and true bond**
- **Gain a new sense of security**
- **Firmly set into their routines**

The 3-3-3 Rule is a general guideline. Every dog is unique and will adjust at different paces. Patience is key! 🔑

SO IT'S DAY ONE...

DECOMPRESSING

- Prepare anything you'll want to use to engage your new dog mentally. You may want to use food-filled frozen Kongs, puzzle toys, etc.
- If this is a dog's first time out of the shelter, take a walk for 10-15 minutes before leaving to get comfortable with the dog. Especially for beagles, letting them sniff is a **fantastic way** to let them decompress!
- Continue walking, either at the shelter, a park, or in your neighborhood until your new dog appears to relax.
- We've found that doing resident dog intros before a walk around the block together helps keep everybody relaxed, too.



INTRODUCTIONS

- Ideally, the new dog will meet the resident dog(s) at a neutral spot like a park or playground. Have each dog on leash and walk them far apart from each other, gradually getting closer. Do not punish any reactivity, but reward desired behavio,r such as looking at the other dog without barking.
- Once home, let them explore the yard together before going in the house, and repeat treating for desired behavior.
- Keep an eye on any resource guarding or food aggression while using treats.
- Keep introductions to family members chill. Let the dog come to them at the dog's pace. Do only essential meet-and-greets for the first 48 hours to week, depending on the dog's comfort level.
- Do not overload the dog with dog parks, trips to pet stores, etc. while he/she is adjusting to you and your home.

CONFLICTING ADVICE?!

- Some people plan so that you don’t need to leave a new dog alone in the house for 24-48 hours after they arrive.
- But some people have found success with the opposite!
- What’s the key theme? **EVERY DOG IS DIFFERENT!**
- Some dogs may have separation anxiety, and some may not.
- If your dog appears to be calm when crated, you may want to set up a camera the first few times you are gone to monitor them so you know how they do.
- Injuries can occur when an anxious dog tries to escape a crate, so we advise against crating for long periods alone until you know how your dog will react.

HOUSETRAINING

- It’s unlikely that your dog will be perfectly house-trained. Be prepared for an adjustment period until your foster dog gets used to your schedule.
- Take them outside to go potty multiple times per day (3-6 times daily, depending on age, but if you want to be extra careful, every hour, and **always** after waking up from a nap, playtime, or Zoomies).
- Did the dog go potty outside? ***YAY!*** Get excited, show them happiness, and reward them with love, affection, and a treat.
- Initially, you may need to take them out more frequently to remind her where the door to the outside is and to get used to the routine. Most dogs will give cues — such as standing near the door or sniffing the ground and walking in small circles — to indicate that they need to go out.
- If your dog has an accident inside the house, clean up with an enzymatic cleaner. Nature's Miracle and Simple Solution are two products containing natural enzymes that tackle tough stains and odors and remove them permanently.

What's important

Patience! If you get overwhelmed, take a deep breath. We've all had those moments.

Manage expectations. You have no idea what your new dog has endured. He/she may not seem to like you at first or be happy in your home. **Give it time.** Dogs are amazingly adaptable, but they need time and patience.

Banish boredom. Dogs are intelligent creatures with individual personalities. They are not meant to sit around all day and only go out for potty breaks. Beagles especially need to work their noses and get physical exercise and playtime. Walks, runs in the yard, dog parks, snuffle mats, frozen kongs, puzzle bowls, and simple indoor "games" can keep your foster dog (and you) from losing their mind!!



Ask for help! Don't know what to do? Confused about a dog's behavior? We have resources for trainers, and you can always reach out to your dog's foster with questions.

ADOPTION SUCCESS STORIES

Ringo

Ringo was a hunting dog who was given up, and a foster with a confident resident beagle took him. Even after living his entire life outside, Ringo learned the ropes of being an “inside dog” quickly, loved snuggling in the human’s bed, and was potty trained in less than a week (thanks, doggie door!).

The best part of Ringo’s journey was watching his demeanor change at meal time. For the first week or so, he would go crazy, jumping and running around frantically for food.

But soon, he realized that he would get plenty of food, and he didn’t have to worry about if or when his next meal was coming. That’s when — without any training from the humans — he started to follow his foster brother’s lead and would calmly sit by his bowl for food to be put down.



actual photo of Ringo patiently waiting for his food LIKE THE GOODEST BOY

Ringo

Ringo's foster mom took lots of photos and videos of him for social media and the website and took him to an adoption event, where he met a family with a 1-year-old that fell in love with him. They talked to his foster mom, learned that Ringo loved her 2 and 4-year-old niece and nephew, spent some time with him, and filled out an adoption application that same day.

Ringo was adopted after 5 weeks at his foster home. In those 5 weeks, he learned:

🏠 how to live inside and potty outside
🛏️ how to snuggle like a pro
💬 "sit," "no," and "leave it"
🍕 that food was no longer scarce
❤️ that he was so, so loved

Now, he has his very own kid, and they spend Saturday mornings snuggling together. Their mom says they are "inseparable."

Ringo’s life now



FROM FOSTER TO FUREVER

Example Foster: Beau

Beau Onslow is a BEAUTIFUL boy who was described by the shelter as “extremely shut down and terrified.”

Indeed he was. When I picked him up from the shelter, it took me about 10 minutes to get him out of the car.

He opened up to my resident dogs right away, but it took a bit longer with me - AND with doorways. Little-known fact: many fearful dogs are terrified of doorways.



At his first (and only) adoption event, Beau leaned his body weight against me and DID NOT MOVE. His future moms fell in love with him anyway, and Beau is now thriving as an only dog with a cat brother.

He no longer has a fear of new places — or people — and is a regular at his local dog park.

Beau's life now





"These people just won't stop with the kisses!"



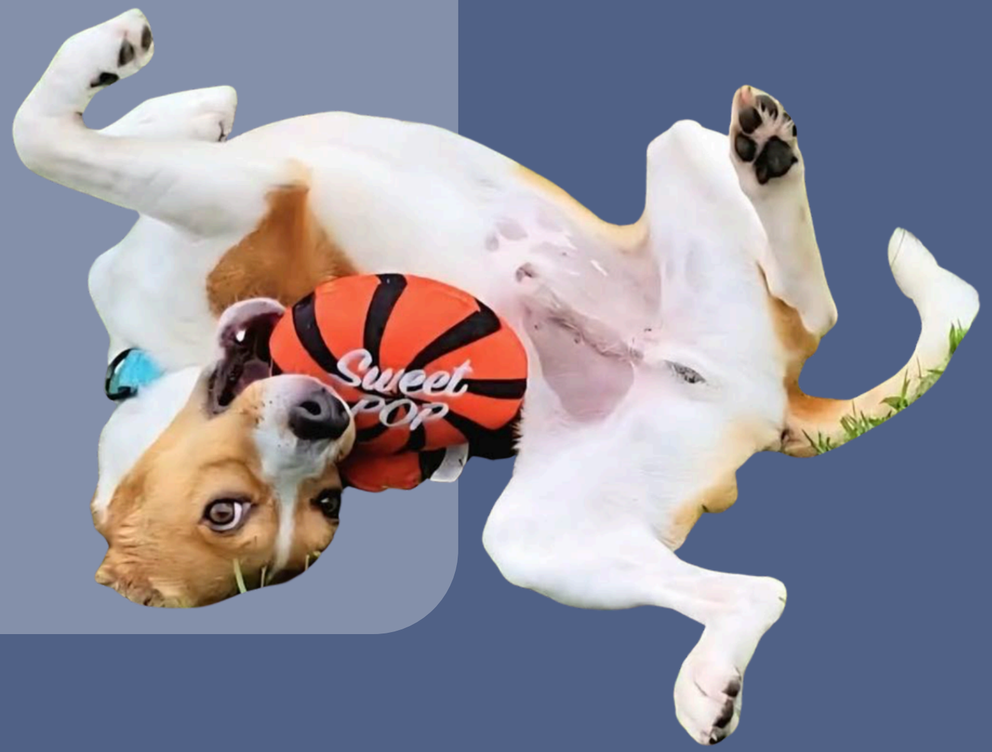




FAQs

Helpful Adoption Checklist

- ✅ Collar & Harness
- ✅ ID Tag W/Phone #
- ✅ Non-retractable Leash
- ✅ Crate
- ✅ Food Bowl
- ✅ Dog Food
- ✅ Dog Bed
- ✅ Poop Baggies
- ✅ Toys (Hard & Soft)
- ✅ Treats
- ✅ Baby Gates
- ✅ Doggy Shampoo
- ✅ **LOVE**



Other Resources

TRAINING TIPS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Decompressing Your Dog (PDF)

Helping your new dog feel at home (PDF)

Managing Distress (PDF)

Recognizing dog stress signals (PDF)

Preventing separation anxiety issues (PDF)

Do this, not that (PDF)

Crate training an adult dog (PDF)

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

General Training Tips

Behavior Webinars

PET MD GUIDE TO FOSTERING

BRSM FOSTER FACEBOOK GROUP
(invitation only)