



## ARE YOU REALLY PREPARED TO ADOPT A RESCUED DOG?

Although we want to save them all, it is important that you do not act on a spur of the moment. Avoid giving-in to “I want to own one of those poor doggies” impulses. Consider everything before you act.

Please note that these dogs are not housetrained – they will eliminate anywhere and everywhere. Some will urine mark their territory. Many may be extremely fearful of men or children and may act defensively. It is important to insure your family agrees totally with the decision to adopt one of these animals. This means that your family should be fully informed of all the problems that might occur. If anyone has reservations, one of these dogs might not be the right choice for your household.

Unfortunately, some of these dogs will be extremely difficult to houstrain. There could be behavioral issues, like excessive fearfulness, shyness, or an especially needy dog. These dogs tend to be frightened of sudden movements, loud noises and sometimes even the touch of a hand. Many of these dogs have never worn a collar, walked on a leash or felt the grass beneath their feet. Everyday activities that most people take for granted can create panic in one of these animals. If one of these dogs' escapes from your house, they may run in a panic and be difficult to recover. They have never learned how to act like a normal pet. They will require much patience and understanding, without guarantee of success.

Another problem that sometimes occurs in these animals is separation anxiety. Dogs that have been confined without attention for long periods of time can become extremely dependent once they experience a positive relationship. These dogs will not want to be separated from their owner, and can become stressed, depressed or destructive when left alone.

There will also be an increased potential for ongoing medical expenses. Some of these animals arrived at our facility with skin, eye and dental problems, while others had developed joint problems due to poor breeding and/or years of being confined to small, cramped cages. Other medical problems might not become visible until the dog has been in your home for a period of time.

It is important for potential adopters to realize that they are not adopting the “perfect dog.” In fact, after days, weeks or months of hard work, they may still own a dog that is shy, fearful, not housetrained, growls, barks constantly, is protective of food or toys, or requires ongoing medical treatment. Please ask yourself, “Can you and your family accept this possibility?”

Take time to discover if the challenge of adopting one of these rescued dogs is not for you BEFORE you take one home. It is our goal to find the right home for these dogs, and help you and your family find the right pet for your home.