

Retired Mama and Daddy Dogs

We love to find wonderful homes for our parent dogs after they retire. In the 2 decades of having them we've learned a lot and perfected the process.

Our first rehoming of a spayed mama dog was a disaster!. She went to an elderly lady who called us crying the morning after bringing her home. She told us that the mama dog had tried to climb the fence, dug under the fence, cried off and on at the door or in her crate at night and wouldn't eat or drink at all. !whew! Epic fail

Since then, we've been 100% successful with every adult.

Here's what works:

Preparation, REALISTIC expectations! Everything the dog knows has changed. It will take time to adjust. It would be like dropping us off in Japan with no language or idea how to meet our needs.

They don't eat much the first week, no big deal. Have food available. By week 3, the appetite is pretty normal.

We don't pre neuter them anymore. You make an appointment for the sappy for appx a week after they join your family. During the week waiting, you only stay in safe places, like your fenced yard, home, car. Once he/she comes to you when you call, you can venture out. After the spay, you are the caregiver and hero. You bring the food/water/pain meds and like magic the dog is fully attached to you ! Its happened 100% of the time and we have 100% happy families.

Because the dog has grown up on the farm, it won't be the same as a blank slate puppy. There will be quirky things. Some things people have told me is that they are scared of an ambulance, walking across a busy street at a light, a crowd of people. (None of these things are on the farm, it's all new) They may do quirky things like cover their food bowl, or a few have eaten their poop in the beginning. Mama dogs eat all of their pups poop the first 3 weeks. Be patient, redirect, they all have adapted and are thriving in their new homes.

Introducing to another pet you have- In the beginning you'll introduce outside, both on leashes, many times for 2-5 min. Once they are compatible there, they play off leash, you allow them to be together in the house in the old dog's least favorite room, slowly making it to the room old dog favors. In the first weeks it will be gradual by week 3 -4 all dogs have integrated and are napping together. To keep them apart, new retired dog will be happy in a crate. That will be familiar and a comfort. That's where they will be when you're away too.

Potty training:

Because we don't have adult dogs free in the house, you'll need to give them time to learn where to go and how to tell you or get there. The Dog door is fastest. You put them through it to go out and call them to come back in. They'll learn getting in through the doggy door in a day or so. Keep it shut if the dog is out and you're not there when they come in. Freedom is not a dog's friend in the beginning.

While inside, dog is on a harness w/ a leash or rope tied to your waist, in one room with no carpet and you watching, outside in a safe fenced space, in the crate. Out to potty every 2 hrs when you're home they can be in the crate 8-9 hrs at night and 4-5 during the day. Until you know that they won't chew something or potty - that's total freedom. As you see progress you give a 2nd room, then a 3rd. Carpet is the worst, most accidents happen there. Roll up the small rugs around your house temporarily. Its a lot like training a pup except their bladder is already good for 9 hours, they learn your ways much quicker. Some in days, most a few

weeks. Also you can leave them longer in the crate during the day with toys and water and they are content. The crate will be a safe zone initially w everything new.

The retired adults make fabulous pets, and wonderful walking partners. Some work as therapy dogs, some are well loved family pets. It's harder to have an adult be a therapy pet for a child as kids are more unpredictable and the dog may be frightened. For a patient adult, they do well.

We don't have retired parents often, so let us know about a year before you want one or watch the website.

Caroline

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Txt is fastest

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