

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. They make amazing pets and the families are all so happy with them. Many are serving others as therapy dogs or companion pets. It is such a joy to know how much happiness they are bringing people.

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, don't worry - no big deal. Have food available. By week 3-4, the appetite is pretty much back to normal.

We don't pre neuter them anymore. You make an appointment for the dog for appx a week after they join your family. During the week waiting, you only stay in safe places, like your fenced yard, friends fenced yard, home, car. Once he/she comes to you when you call their name, 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, he/she 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. Hey make amazing pets with thankful owners as they are such a gift.

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. Thats 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 they need to potty you or how to 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 few days or so. Keep it shut if the dog is out and you're not there when they come in. Though we don't have potty accidents in our house, pls be patient as he/she learns your home and family

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 free with no carpet, outside in a safe fenced space, or 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 4-6 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. It's a little like training a pup except their bladder is already good for 9 hours, they learn your ways much quicker and they are only learning their new environment as they haven't had accidents in our house. Some are fully adjusted in days, many 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/ running workout partners. Some work as therapy dogs, some are well loved family pets, some are great companions for seniors. 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. A pup may be better suited for a young child. For a patient adult, they do very well. Having said that, many of our retired parents serve as therapy dogs, some for children.

We don't have retired parents often, so let us know about 6 months before you want one or watch the website.

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