**RESCUE DOGS EXPLAINED**

Poodles whatever their size are very intelligent breed of dog, they bond with their owner at 8 -10weeks of age and this human is their world.

So imagine suddenly losing that special person, not a nice thought. In some situations when a succession of owners occurs, or mistreatment happens the dog becomes psychologically challenged and exhibits various behaviors to compensate.

In getting a “rescue” dog they are older, are often set in a routine which you do not know about, they often have food likes and dislikes, phobias about thunder or other loud noises, sometimes due to the poodle having lived its life in a kennel situation they have no socialization so do not take well to other dogs or animals. Soiling and taking food only from the ground can also be the norm.

You would think that your pup would be so happy to be with a new loving owner that they’d be jumping for joy, so why cower under a chair? Hide under a bed? Back away from food offered?

Fear! The world has been turned upside down because of multiple experiences, the sanctuary of a kennel and familiar faces, other known dogs around — and whatever may have come before it — and so this experience moving to yet another home, the dog doesn’t know if this home is good or bad. Stressed and disorientated, all the dog knows and wants is a place of safety.

Just like a new puppy coming home your older rescue dog may be in flight mode, wanting to run away so dog proof your house and be on close guard for door opening as you do not want this puppy escaping!

**Time and patience** are the key ingredients, as frustrating as it is this dog will take anywhere up to 6 months to become comfortable in the new home with you. There will be good days and bad, try to just look toward a positive future, don’t push the dog to achieve, give it time and space let it come to you and if it wants to have a ‘cave’ to retreat to then set up a crate with a cover or a big cardboard box on its side where the dog can go chill out and watch from its safe place.

Food can be an issue and often the dog won’t eat initially, don’t panic or stress just offer the food leave it on floor near the ‘cave’ the dog will eat when hungry. Some dogs also guard or protect their space, toys and human as in a pack situation it learnt these behaviors to survive so now must unlearn this will take time as well nothing can be hurried.

Toileting in non-acceptable area’s is usual for new territory and male dogs just have the dog outside initially allow it to mark out there and when inside take it out regularly until it becomes familiar with where toilet area is allowed.

The big issue is always separation anxiety as the dog begins to attach to you it also becomes VERY stressed when you leave, barking, howling, scratching, chewing and destroying the environment are all signs. This can be sorted so don’t stress!

So by now you are probably thinking **WHAT HAVE I DONE** taking on a rescue dog?

You are not alone as even those who buy a new puppy often have these same issues, poodles being the clever dogs they are soon adapt and learn to rule their domain. Most importantly your dog needs **STRUCTURE, routine, and calm, yet firm handling.**

Once your new dog is settled start teaching tricks for rewards, walkies out in the wide world to introduce new smells and sights, don’t rush this aspect. Car rides can be good but initially the dog may feel it is off again to a new owner and this activity may be threatening.

**Any concerns at all no matter how small please contact me to discuss same.**

**If for any reason the placement doesn’t work out do not become upset this happens, better the dog comes back to one familiar place then be moved on to a shelter or another home.**

We love to hear progress and invite all our poodle friends to join us at the twice yearly “Poodles in the Park” event. In 2019 the dates for these events will be posted on the Poodle club website closer to the time.

Good luck and enjoy your new Poodle

Paula Morgan

Secretary

Mini & Toy Poodle Rescue Co-ordinate

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