



BARKING MAD DOG RESCUE

Pre-ADOPTION INFORMATION

There are several frequently asked practical questions which we can address. First and foremost, though, adopting a dog is about both *your* commitment, *your* compassion and *your* understanding of your own experience - where you need to seek help from a professional or where you can draw on your previous experience to sort out hiccups. Before you adopt, rescue, or ever add another animal into your life, you need to consider current pets and family members. When you decide to change the dynamics of your household, it has a knock on for everyone, both human and four legged. Think carefully about the 'what ifs'.



Please understand that our shelters are not like those we see in the UK. Dogs live in large pens in groups. Dogs who are offered for adoption have been assessed as such by our experienced Romanian team and through visits by our UK team too. If a dog is shy in the shelter, then this will be mentioned in his/her bio on the website. If a dog is friendly in the shelter, there is still a huge process of adjustment for him or her to go through in leaving the security of his/her pen and pen mates.

Our dedicated adoption team at Barking Mad Dog Rescue, will guide you through the process from your initial application, where your compatibility will be assessed, through your home check and beyond. Yet, ultimately the onus will be on you to make it work. BMDR only offer dogs for adoption who are assessed as suitable for rehoming with 100% chance of success.

1. How much can we tell you about the dog you want to adopt?

Sometimes rescuers will know a dog's history and sometimes they won't. However, as much as possible we work with very experienced rescuers who can assess a dog's personality and this will be described as accurately as possible but there are NO guarantees. Dogs do tend to blossom in a home situation. Like anything in life, if you commit to your dog, GIVE IT THE TIME IT NEEDS and seek support when you feel you need some, things will go well. Most move seamlessly into homes. Many small dogs have already lived in yards as a pet. The occasional lucky dog has lived in someone's house in Romania, though this is not common.

2. Will your potential rescue dog be health checked?

Yes, as far as possible. Our Romanian vets are very experienced and thorough. Again there are NO guarantees. Street life is a hard life. The dogs are also tested for vector borne diseases through a 4DX blood test plus, prior to travel a test for giardia is carried out. We also test for leishmaniasis and brucellosis, although these are not common diseases in Romania. Pups are tested for distemper upon rescue and pups are also tested for parvo virus prior to worm treatment and vaccinating.

3. Will a rescue dog be clean in the house?

Yes - if you train it to! Some just seem to know from the outset, others need to be shown. This is no different from any new puppy.

4. How much does it cost to bring a dog over and what has to be done?

All of our dogs are neutered prior to adoption except those who are too young. The dog needs vaccinations, worming, flea treatments etc. and an international pet passport. This also includes the above mentioned 4DX blood test which is a test for blood parasites, plus separate tests for leishmaniasis and brucellosis. The kennel cough vaccine is not always available to our vets in Romania. When it is, then our dogs receive it. However, there are so many strains of kennel cough, that the vaccination used is not always a guarantee of cover. Our dogs also go through a final, pre-departure veterinary check.

We ask a minimum donation from you from £480 to help to cover the costs of getting the dog home. These include a pre arrival Zoom session with our in house trainer. This donation can be given in two stages if easier. The first of £230 upon a successful home check, (this part of the donation is non-refundable) and the remaining £250 or so, a minimum of one week prior to your dog travelling.

5. Can I adopt from you if I have young children?

Sadly, due to the fact that our shelter dogs won't have lived with children before, we are only able to offer adoptions to families with dog-savvy children over the age of 10. Some exceptions can be made for foster dogs already living in the U.K. who have successfully been integrated with younger children.

6. Can I adopt a dog from you if I live in a flat?

Every application is assessed on its merit. We can't and won't rehome a puppy to a flat without direct access to a garden. Pups need to learn to be clean in the house and they have little bladders which need to be emptied often and sometimes in a hurry. This is just not practical when you have to run down several flights of stairs. Some of our adult dogs have lived in a house before and may adapt to life in a flat as long as they have regular exercise and forays out into some green space.

7. Can I adopt a dog if I work part time or full time?

Most of us have to work, that is how life is. However, we can't let one of our adult dogs go to a new home and be left for long periods at a time. At a push, once well settled, an adult dog can be left for up to four hours. Some of our dogs go to doggy day care when their adopters are at work. Some have dog walkers coming in. Most though go to homes where someone is home for the greater part of the day. For a **puppy**, we will rehome only to a household where the puppy is not left alone for more than any two-hour period in a day.

8. How can I know if my adopted dog will get on with my cat?

This very much depends on your cat, yourself and the dog you have chosen. Is your cat dog savvy? Do you feel you could manage staged introductions and deal with any negative behaviour from the dog? Many of our dogs have gone to live in homes with resident cats. We cannot guarantee that your adopted dog will fall instantly in love with your cat. Most of our team though, have adopted dogs and have cats too. It takes time and dedication to make it work.

9. What should I expect from my rescue dog to start with?

There's not any one answer to this. In the first days, the dog needs to have some quiet time in a quiet space. For a few, this will be their first time in a house. Many younger dogs seem to experience a real puppy phase. This is where equal mixtures of patience, stimulation and consistency come in. A dog is an addition to the family. Give them time, set them boundaries, take our advice and give them your heart and you'll be rewarded many fold. We provide an Adopter's Guide with tips and advice. One to one support too is available, but this is rarely needed. For further info, see Socialisation and Your Adopted Dog below. *

Prior to the dog's arrival, we expect all adopters to engage with a trainer who uses positive methods. BMDR ONLY endorses positive training methods. We also have our own dedicated behaviourist who can work with you remotely or in-person depending on your location - discounts available for BMDR adopters. You can read about her work here -

www.positivedirectiondogtraining.co.uk

10. Will I need to change anything in my house?

Asides from checking suitability as a rescue home, a home check will also check that you have a secure garden. This is essential. Rescue dogs can take time to understand territorial boundaries. Fences need to be intact. Walking with a harness is the most secure way of exercising as a properly fitting harness cannot be slipped. On top of this, we recommend a slip lead too, to start. Some people use a child gate in the house to confine a dog to one area, which can help with some initially but it's good also for a rescue dog to have a quiet place to retreat to. Our adoption guide is on our website and the link to this will be sent prior to the dog's arrival. You will be supported by our team following the dog's arrival to help you have a smooth settling in period.



Socialisation and Your Adopted Dog -What to expect.

One question we ask in our application form for one of our dogs is that you commit to helping your adopted dog to become a good canine citizen.

From one person to the next, the idea of what is acceptable behaviour in a dog can vary wildly. However, we need to have a broad definition of what a socialised dog looks like in more general terms. We all want our dogs to be able to be comfortable in most situations from having the Hoover or TV running at home, to being able to walk him through the park, enjoying himself, whilst meeting other dogs. We need our dog to be able to ignore the rowdy boys playing football on the grass beside him when on his foray through the park. We want visitors to our home to be able to come in and for our dog to be comfortable with that, neither throwing himself at them in wild greeting nor snapping and growling at them in fear.

Having a dog who is comfortable with his home environment as a safe place and being a fun companion whilst out is very achievable for our dogs offered for adoption. For some shelter dogs, it may take longer. For most, if measured exposure takes place at a pace the dog is comfortable with whilst ending each session on success, the world will become you and your adopted dog's oyster.

The Romanian Shelter Dog.

There are several types of dog who are adopted via our rescue work in Romania. Of course, characters vary within these categories and a dog's personality coupled with his experiences at the hands of people will have a bearing on how long he or she takes to settle. People will often ask for a dog's history prior to rescue but until our dogs learn to talk to us, this isn't something we can know definitively though sometimes we can hazard a guess.

Puppies

Puppies should be like sponges for soaking up learning. They are the most adaptable, it may be argued. Pups in our own main shelter are around people daily. We can't house train most of them prior to adoption but then how many puppies come ready house trained? Indeed, how many babies come ready potty trained? Treat your pup like you would any other puppy but allow for catching up time. Most of our pups have lived outdoors all their short lives, hoovers and such household equipment will be new and scary. Be empathetic whilst not over protective. Most of all, allow time for your pup to sleep off the disruption to his wee life that he has gone through to get to you. He has left his buddies - shelter friends and littermates - to come to a whole new set of faces and places. All this is via a transport van and another set of people and new dogs on the way. Some pups we take on are through other rescuers or tricky situations and these may be shier and therefore more suited to a home with another dog. Having another dog in the home is easier on a pup for sure.

Pre-owned abandoned dogs

Many of our smaller adult dogs have belonged to Romanian owners prior to being dumped. Arguably these dogs have had the most social experience, though this may not include living in a home. It is common practice to keep your pet dog in a 'yard' in Romania. These yards/gardens mainly have solid fencing so views on the outside world aren't great but the dogs so often are turfed out during the daytime to look after themselves whilst owners work, then to be let in at night. Hence the dog has experience of the streets, other dogs and traffic.

Older pups and adolescent abandoned dogs.

Older pups will have had longer in the shelter and have got used to seeing the same faces every day and very much the shelter is the only home they have ever known. We work hard to ensure that our pups meet new people where possible and are used to some handling. What we don't have, at this point, is a chance to get older puppies out and about in town. The ease of them adapting to an adopted home can be a varied but ultimately rewarding experience. These dogs have to be considered like a younger pup would be with occasionally some teenage behaviour thrown in. New experiences have to be built in to their training and what is expected of them clearly communicated in a way they can understand. Always end each training session on a positive note.

Adolescents, newly abandoned, can sometimes be like troubled teenagers with a foot in neither camp though sometimes their move into a home can be quite seamless. Much can depend on the adopter's approach. They haven't learned on the streets what their place in

the doggy scheme of things is, nor are they confident enough to brazen it out. Just like with any of our adopted dogs, the adopters need to be a benevolent leader and make the decisions on behalf of these teenage dogs. They do best with clear concise boundaries and laid back adult dog companions to learn from who will tolerate their inexperience whilst not taking any nonsense from them. It can be significantly harder adopting a teenager if there isn't already a resident dog for them to lean on.

Street Dogs

Streeties are great. They are survivors. Either abandoned or born on the streets, most are super friendly and crave affection. (Please note, we do not offer very scared or traumatised dogs for adoption unless to exceptionally experienced homes.) Street dogs have lived by their wits for as long as they have been living as strays. Some were fed regularly by people when they lived on the streets but most have had to find the food they need every day from bins and cast off takeaways. They have learned to avoid cars and avoid trouble, mainly a boot from a passer-by or something equally horrible but all too common. Street dogs adapt to living in homes very easily but boundaries need to be taught. Bins aren't for raking and that chicken you just cooked and left to cool, well...! Garden fences need to be high enough. A street dog comes to realise soon though that you are his pack leader and his place is with you. This doesn't take long. Street dogs can have their own idea of how to meet and greet new dogs outside the home as they have done it all their lives! The adopter needs in this case a different approach to socialisation – being able to ignore other dogs encountered on the daily walks.

Of course, these descriptors are very general and every dog is different in his take on the world . We believe that adopting a dog from a shelter can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Happy Rescuing!