

Adopt-A-Bull Rescue, Inc.

ADOPTION PROCEDURE



Before you choose to adopt, foster, or even fill out an adoption application, please read this document in its entirety. (There will be a test at the end 😊)

1. We do not operate on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. Although applications are reviewed and processed in the order they are received, our primary goal is to match the needs of the specific dog with the most suitable home. Please be patient! It is not uncommon for us to receive several applications on one particular dog. We are very selective in the adoption process. We may not respond to inquiries unless you have an adoption application on file with us.
2. In most cases, we don’t know the history of our rescued bulldogs. If you are not prepared to deal with and work through some of the ‘baggage’ our rescue dogs carry with them from their past life, please do not fill out an application.
3. We do not ship/fly our dogs. Out of state adoptions are permissible, however, you must be willing to travel to adopt your new family member.
4. We do not have a commercial establishment/kennel where our rescue dogs are held. Because of the way we are structured, you can not come and ‘shop’ for the bulldog you want. Each and every bullie is cared for in the personal homes of our approved foster parents, or by members of our board of directors where they receive lots of TLC & individualized attention according to their specific needs.
5. Rescue bullies need lots of attention and care. We reserve the right to deny any application based upon households with several small children, multiple pets, or any other condition deemed unacceptable by our standards.
6. All our rescued Bulldogs have been thoroughly examined by a licensed veterinarian, de-wormed, up to date on all vaccinations, and are spayed/neutered. Any known medical issues will be disclosed on the dogs profile found on our website: www.adoptabullrescue.com.
7. In the event that Adopt-A-Bull Rescue is able to find a suitable bulldog to join your family, there will be an adoption donation for the bulldog. It is very rare that we receive puppies or bulldogs with their papers, however in these instances; the adoption fee may be higher.
8. If you decide to contact us via the hot-line number and leave a message inquiring as to a particular dog’s adoption fee, or to ask a question in which the answer is already given on our website, we WILL NOT call you back. Please read and follow instructions! We have established a very strict adoption procedure for a reason; one of those reasons is so we can filter out unsuitable adopters right from the start.

Transition Tips

Adopting or fostering a bulldog in need can be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll have. Because of the changes in their environment our rescued bulldogs may be nervous for the first few weeks. It is important for this transition to go smoothly and for the bullie to feel safe. Following these rules will help your bulldog adjust to his/her new environment with the least amount of stress. It also helps to promote the development of a healthy relationship with your dog and helps your dog adjust faster. The steps outlined below are imperative to a successful transition.

1. For the first week or two keep your dog crated and isolated from young children and other pets. You should take your dog out **ONLY** for walks, training, feeding, and supervised interaction. During this time your dog will feel safe in his crate and have a chance to watch how the family operates without feeling the stress of interaction. Make sure your dog has lots of chew toys; they serve as a great stress reliever.
2. Do not allow your dog to have free run of the house and make sure he spends plenty of time crated *without* attention. This will help him adjust to when you will not be home as well as giving him much needed rest during this stressful transition.
3. Just as you would child-proof your home when a toddler is learning to walk, your home must always be 'doggie-proofed' when you have a bullie. Floors should be free from debris and garbage: bottle caps, papers, wrappers, paper clips, etc. Phone cords, electronic device wires and cables should be neatly tucked away out of reach.
4. When training or during supervised interaction, have your dog leashed and keep corrections to a minimum. Focus on positive training with easy commands like: sit, stay, and come. Save the down command for later.
5. When taking your dog out of the crate, please leash him. Have your dog sit before entering and leaving the house. Use lots of praise. Do not let the dog pass through the door way first. He must follow behind. You can use your body to block if need be.
6. Do not allow your dog on the furniture, bed, or in a position where he is elevated above you. Enabling this behavior teaches the dog that he is higher in the family hierarchy. ***Remember, you must establish and maintain the role as Alpha.***
7. Do not play tug of war or wrestle on the floor with your new dog. It teaches the dog to challenge you.
8. Feed your dog twice daily; give him 10 minutes to eat the food. Remove the food bowl after 10 minutes even if there is still food in it. This teaches the dog that you are Alpha – you tell him when, where, and what to eat. Do not let your dog graze freely on food all day long. You must be in control during feeding time. Feed your dog after the family and handle his food when preparing it. Have your dog sit before putting the food down. **NO TABLE SCRAPS.**
9. Have your dog sit before petting, grooming, walking, feeding, etc.

10. Do not interact with your dog when he is eating, sleeping, or playing with his toys. If you must approach your dog when he is sleeping, call out his name to let him know your coming so that he's not surprised.
11. Over the next couple of week your dog can EARN more time out of the crate with the family. This should be done incrementally and under close supervision.
12. Don't assume your dog is already housebroken. Even if he was in his past home he may not understand what is required in your home. Show him where to go and reward him when he does go.
13. Teach your family that **"DOGS DO NOT LIKE HUGS AND KISSES"**

For Bulldogs under 2 years of age

Most dogs under 2 years of age do not have the maturity to be trusted unattended or unsupervised in a house. They are like toddlers after finding trouble where you least expect. They may be more *nippy* as they haven't learned good bite inhibition.

They will likely chase and jump on running children. It is important to stop this behavior immediately. This is easily done by allowing your dog to drag a leash.

This will give you optimal control. Below are some simple easy to follow rules to help you with your younger dog.

1. Make sure you are supervising the dog at all times when out of the crate.
2. Provide your dog with plenty of appropriate chew toys. If you have children stay away from stuffed animal toys. Dogs cannot differentiate between his stuffed toys and your daughter's favorite teddy.
3. Give your dog lots of opportunities to go to the bathroom.
4. Give your dog plenty of exercise.