



Offering a rescue dog a home

In an ideal world there would be no such thing as a rescue dog. Dog ownership would be a lifelong commitment and shelters wouldn't need to exist, but real life is very different.

There are many reasons why dogs find themselves without a home. There are the genuine cases, where families relinquish their dogs with great reluctance and then there are those who simply took on a dog with the view it's easily discarded when it becomes a burden, not to mention those who breed with little regard to the future of the puppies.

If you're reading this then the chances are you view a dog as a life time companion. If this is the case then we salute you, as you are part of the solution!

Offering a rescue dog a home is without a doubt the most rewarding thing you may ever do. Many rescue dogs arrive from backgrounds which mean they may never have been shown what a good home really is, and to see their confidence and happiness grow once they are with you, will fill your heart with warm happy feelings.

Now we appreciate that one of the biggest concerns people have when considering rescuing a dog is the idea of not knowing what you're taking on, and whilst an understandable concern, this couldn't be further from the truth! On the contrary, Rescue dogs come with ready-made personalities and most are fully grown so no surprises there. Of course there is an element of mystery with some dogs. Whilst any reputable shelter will inform you of as much as they can on a dog's history, they are only putting together a puzzle, and sometimes pieces may be missing, especially if the dog was found as stray. However, with assessments in place, St Francis would only match you to a dog we felt was a good match for you and your family.

But what if you have your heart set on a particular breed? Well once upon a time it was thought that only crossbreeds could be found in kennels, but times have changed and you may be surprised to find that no breed is exempt from kennels. Chihuahuas, Labradors, Shih Tzu's and Beagles are just some of the many pedigree breeds that have passed through St Francis doors, and yes we do still get those loveable crossbreeds!

If you're worried that you're not experienced enough for a rescue dog, then that actually makes a rescue dog perfect for you! Not all dogs in rescue centres are untrained and boisterous. Many are pre-trained, gentle souls who are in that kennel through no fault of their own just waiting to prove to you how amazing rescue dogs can be and it's worth remembering, taking on a rescue dog means lifetime support! No matter how long ago you took on ol' Billy, we will always be just a phone call away for any advice you might need.



There is no feeling quite like the pride of walking your new furry friend out of the shelter for the very last time. Offering a rescue dog a home for life is an amazing thing to do. You also set a good example for the children in your family and may well provide inspiration for your friends to do the same in the future. What do you get for giving a home to a rescue dog who has come to the Centre through no fault of their own and showing them love, compassion and happiness? You get the best friend that you could ever imagine, a waggy tailed, wet nosed, loveable dog, who will give you unconditional loyalty.

If all that wasn't enough to convince you to consider a rescue dog, then consider this, when you rescue a dog, it isn't just one dog you save, its two. The 1st is the dog you take home, the 2nd is the dog who was able to take that kennel space that has become available.

So if you're considering adopting, please give us a call, you never know, your future best friend could already be sat in a kennel waiting for you.