



*Saving just one dog won't change the world...
but, surely, the world will change for that one dog...*

MARCH 2023

The official Speaking of Dogs Monthly Newsletter

Ask the Trainer

Baby Steps for Success with your Rescue

By Lucinda Glenny

Many families welcomed new puppies and dogs during the pandemic, many of which were from rescue organizations. While the motivation to rescue a dog is admirable, it can be a big change for everyone! In most cases, it will become a positive one – what's better than saving a dog that needs a good home? However, for the dog, the stress of moving into this new home is still very real! Patience and the cooperation of all family members is the key to success in the dog's training!

Realistic timelines and expectations are critical

Many people want to help the new family member to immediately be their best. In a well-intentioned way, families often want to start training right away.

Meanwhile, the dog is still in a state of stress from the move. Stress hormones make it very hard (if not impossible) to learn. This why it is critical to set your immediate training goals to a level that the dog realistically attain.

A recently adopted dog may have had a difficult past and, even if they didn't, moving to a new environment with people they don't know or trust can be stressful. They need time to decompress and acclimate to all things new. It's important to give them at least 2-3 weeks after coming into your home before asking too much of them.



Add play into your interactions and training

Play can be taught and is an important marker in the progress of a rescue dog who may have been too shut down to engage in it. When we see them start to engage with a toy, it lets us know that they are on their way to recovery. Play also stimulates the release of endorphins, the happy hormones, and has been shown to help lay down a more durable memory of learned behaviour chains when compared to just treats-based rewards. Playing with your dog - whether it's tug, fetch, interactive games, or hide and seek (as examples) can go a long way in relationship building. It can also help the dog 'shake off' the stress of learning, or a pressured situation. Training the dogs to do tricks that employ physical behaviours can go a long way towards helping both the dog and the owner find some fun in their training session. We want to create the perception that training can be more of a game than work.

Slow and steady is the way to go when building behaviors and cooperation!

"Capturing" desired behaviours at this stage is the best route to building skills and a strong bond. When the dog settles on their bed on their own, praise 'Good Settle/bed!' and drop a treat beside them. When they sit instead of jumping up on you - praise and treat! Just saying 'NO' doesn't teach them a desired behaviour. Even if they approach but don't jump - they need high praise!

Capture the behaviours that you do want to be repeated so they know which behaviours get your approval and a treat.

Most handling issues with new dogs in the home relate to the dog's apprehension and lack of trust. They might not want to be groomed, leashed up, picked up, or dressed to



protect from the cold or rain, despite your best intentions. We don't know what those things meant to the dog in their previous home - they may have no experience at all, or they could have had a negative experience.

Remember that dogs, regardless of size, aren't stuffed animals - please be sure to teach and remind children of this! Quick, unpredictable movements can be uncomfortable for many dogs. Be sure to gain the dog's attention and cooperation before picking them up or moving them and be aware of any physical discomfort when lifted. They should never be picked up from behind. This can be frightening for them, as they're suddenly off their feet and restrained. Picking them up from behind can build future resistance and compromise trust.

It's important that the handler remain calm and patient - TAKE YOUR TIME when handling new dogs, to build their acceptance of the handling and trust that you won't hurt them. Break things into small portions. For example, if you're trying to get the dog used to wearing a coat, show them the coat, put treats on it on the ground and let them investigate. Don't put it on immediately. You can drape it on their back and give a treat while it's there. Be sure to keep your voice and movements slow and calm.

If they are too frightened to take the treat or are afraid of the coat, don't push things. Be patient and try again another day.

The most common concerns I encounter with new dogs in the home include:

Moving the dog when it's resting

Reactivity often increases when dogs are suddenly moved or disturbed from their resting spot. Would you want someone to startle you while you were sleeping? To avoid any adverse reaction from the dog being startled, it's important the whole family agrees that the dog shouldn't be disturbed when sleeping – at all, but gently awakened first, no matter how well intended the person is. **Hugging while asleep is unfair to the dog and can be dangerous to the human!** This is especially important to teach young children who may look at the new dog as an adorable stuffed animal to cuddle.

We can't be in a hurry to move a sleeping dog but rather need to take our time and build their acceptance that good things happen when they're moved and that they'll have time to wake up. Call their name first to let them know that you're there and hold a tasty treat under their nose to rouse them, without a startle reaction. Then lightly touch their back with a gentle stroke. This may be even more important as a dog ages – they might sleep more deeply, and their hearing might be diminished.



The old saying of "let sleeping dogs lie" probably arose from some unhappy experiences and should be heeded!

Mine

High-value resources and guarding is a common concern. There are many tips online which advocate teaching your dog that you're in charge and a frequent – but incorrect one tells owners to put their hands in the food bowl while the dog is eating. **Please don't do this!** You don't need to be alpha but, instead, a kind and fair parental figure. To get them used to you being near their "treasure", call their name as you come near and toss an extra treat in the bowl. Your presence is now a signal of a better thing arriving, not that they are going to lose their treasure or that they need to guard it.

Thank you for rescuing a dog in need and, with these small steps, you can help them become such wonderful and happy family members!



Lucinda Glenny

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Accredited Behaviourist (caninebehaviour.ca)

Adoption Update

To: Speaking of Dogs Rescue

From: Erin Latimer

Subject: Scout

Dear Speaking of Dogs Rescue,

Foxy was renamed Scout. She has been fabulous - fits in well with the family and my lifestyle. She loves hiking, swimming and is very enthusiastic and social. She loves people and other dogs. We attended a puppy obedience course last winter. The past year with Scout has been full of adventures. Whether we are hiking, at the lake, or just hanging out at home - there is never a dull moment! She is a social butterfly, curious and enthusiastic while also being calm and at ease wherever she goes.



"Scout has enhanced my life in so many ways and puts a smile on everyone's face when she is around."



Thanks to our generous donors, Speaking of Dogs Rescue was able to help sponsor the first-ever spay/neuter clinic in Tadoule Lake, Manitoba!

Big wags of appreciation go to Save A Dog Network for their ongoing efforts and for coordinating the vaccinations and spaying/neutering of 55 dogs!



Dogs Looking for Homes

A friend in need is a friend indeed Without a doubt, a dog is a real friend. Our dogs come in all shapes and sizes, but they have one thing in common they all need loving forever homes.

***Open your heart and your home to a rescue dog.
You'll be glad you did.***

[**Click Here to Learn more about our adoption process**](#)

March Feature Dog

Say hello to Eddie

There's just so much to love about Eddie it's hard to know where to start!

Looking for a moderate energy, lower maintenance older gentleman who only asks for tummy rubs and a comfy place to nap? That's Eddie!

Eddie, a lovely laid-back chap, approximately 12 years old weighs about 70 lbs. He is a husky/hound mix with a naturally bobbed tail and a beautiful golden coat with auburn highlights. He came to us from PAWS (Provincial Animal Welfare Services) and was part of an overcrowding/neglect case.



When he arrived into their care, he was heartworm positive but was treated and is now heartworm negative. He needs dental work which is booked (for late spring) and paid for but must wait until his vet gives the ok to go under anesthesia (due to his heartworm treatment).

He's crate trained but really doesn't need to be crated - he can be left with the run of the house. If you give him a cookie on his bed before you go out, you'll return to find the cookie gone and Eddie snoozing on his bed. He's a great sleeper and can go a straight 9 hours without a peep. He's housetrained, generally quiet and is a good passenger in the car once he's settled in. The foster mom has been training him to use a ramp so he can access the vehicle without having to jump.

When Eddie first came into foster care, he needed support with housetraining and is now 99% there but, if his routine changes or if the weather outside is bad, he might forget and need to be offered more outdoor opportunities. His exercise needs are easy to manage – a few short walks and lots of time for exploring a fenced yard would be perfect. On recent outings, he's walked nicely on leash with no pulling. When off leash in a fenced yard, he enjoys following his nose, with an occasional burst of speed and a quick sprint.



Eddie is very laid back and enjoys being fussed over but he is not one to join you on the furniture. He shows no interest in stairs and is happy to sleep on the main floor.

Eddie knows some basic cues and will sit politely waiting for his dinner bowl to be put on the floor. He's always on hand in case any of the foster mom's dogs need assistance with their food. No one ever leaves anything, but he still lives in hope! Eddie is great with other dogs, has previously lived with cats, and enjoys being pet (would be happy to just lay back and get pats and rubs all day).

He has never lived with, or been around children, that we know of so a home without toddlers is advised. Eddie is a lovely, sweet, lowkey guy who is ready to have his best life with a family all his own.

If you are interested in giving Eddie his forever home, click below to fill out an **adoption application**.

[Click Here to visit our Adoption Application](#)

Learn more about each of our wonderful dogs ready for adoption by simply clicking on their photo below



Miley

Chihuahua(Short Coat)
Small Senior Female



Reggie

Catahoula Leopard Dog
/ Labrador Retriever
/ Mixed (Short Coat)
Large Adult Male



Pancake

Cocker Spaniel / Mixed
(Medium Coat)
Medium Adult Female



Pepper
Bichon Frise / Poodle (Toy)
/ Mixed (Short Coat)
Small Adult Female



Lily
Shepherd / Mixed
(Medium Coat)
Medium Baby Female



Montana
Terrier / Mixed
(Short Coat)
Small Senior Male



Alvin
Poodle (Miniature)
(Short Coat)
Small Adult Male



Bruce
Golden Retriever / Labrador
Retriever
(Medium Coat)
Medium Baby Female

Can you Lend a Paw?

Speaking of Dogs Rescue benefits from:

ResQwalk App

People walking and using the ResQwalk app with Speaking of Dogs Rescue as the selected rescue

FundScrip

People purchasing gift certificates from FundScrip.

BarkBox

BarkBox sales - use code SPEAKING OF DOGS at checkout and the rescue will receive a \$15 donation from BarkBox. Plus, you will receive **10% off your subscription!**

Gifted

Gifted - is an online invitation, RSVP management, cash registry and fundraising platform that allows hosts to donate any portion of their cash gifts to a charity of their choice. Speaking of Dogs Rescue can now be chosen as the charity that will benefit from a GIFTED party

Visit our donation webpage by clicking [here](#)

Happy Tails

Recent Adoptions

A big thank you to our foster parents and our new adoptive guardians for helping give these loving dogs a second chance.



Sally



Marmalade



Gertie



Benny



Crystal



Paddy



**Tofu a.k.a
Poof Daddy**



Flower



Hubert



**Fiona a.k.a
Cuddles**



Bobby



Buddy

In Memoriam



Zoey
Adopted in October 2020
Loved by the Anthony Family



Lennie a.k.a Macy
Adopted in August 2020
Loved by Jamie Greenspan
and Family



Bella
Adopted in November 2021
Loved by Dale Chaplin



Dora

Adopted in December 2013
Loved by the Hatton Family



Debo

Adopted in February 2022
Loved by the Gill Family



Darla a.k.a Mitsou

Adopted in March 2009
Loved by Paul, Melissa &
Family



Hartley

Adopted in January 2017
Loved by Sue Skinner

About Speaking of Dogs

Speaking of Dogs Rescue Program is a Canadian registered charity established in the Greater Toronto area (with foster homes across Ontario). Launched in 2001, we are a foster-based, all breed rescue with a focus on senior dogs. We are run solely by volunteers with a mission to help homeless dogs in need by providing shelter or sanctuary, necessary medical care, adoption and education.

Newsletter Team

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