



## **Senior Dogs & Friends Rescue Guide To Adopting A Pet**

***EVERYONE needs to read this if you are thinking of adopting!!***

We work soooo hard with these dogs and put months of work, foster care, interviews, education to fosters/adopters in and we finally celebrate an adoption!! Welcoming a new dog into your family takes time and patience! No dog deserves to be judged by its first hours, days, even weeks!! It takes time and work! Adopting a pet? Congrats! You've just picked someone up in your car who isn't great at communicating, just got out of a tough situation and isn't sure if they trust you yet. Sound familiar? That's because the first three days with a new pet are basically a 72-hour first date. It's exciting, it's awkward, and it's definitely not the time to start planning your holiday cards or giving them a bubble bath. No judgment, but some of y'all might need a quick refresher on first- date etiquette. So here's your official guide to early red flags, from you, not them.

### ▶ **Leaving them unattended like it's no big deal**

Imagine showing up to a blind date and immediately getting ditched at a party where you know no one. That's how your pet feels when they're left alone right away.

**Bottom line:** Don't ghost your new pet. It's day one. Stick close.

### ▶ **Being too handsy**

They're cute. You're smitten. But this isn't the moment for kisses, cuddles, or TikToks with voiceovers. You just met. They don't know your intentions yet. This isn't a fling, it's the start of something real. Let them come to you. (Consent matters, even in pet parenting.)

### ▶ **Introducing them to your entire cast of characters**

You ever meet someone and they immediately want you to meet their mom? Yikes. Your pet doesn't need to meet your whole social circle (or animal crew) right away. Let them settle in, one face at a time. Save the group hangs for later.

### ▶ **Giving them a bath**

You wouldn't give someone you just met a bath, and if you would... we don't want to talk about this anymore. Yes, shelter pets can be a little stinky. But baths are a lot. They're wet, stressful, and weirdly intimate for a pet who doesn't even know your hobbies yet. Spritz some pet-safe essential oils around the house and give them time to decompress before sudsing them up.

### ▶ **Taking them on a spontaneous adventure**

You are not on 'The Bachelor'. No one wants a surprise helicopter ride on day one. Keep things calm and close to home. No breweries, dog parks, or road trips. Your pet's just trying to figure out which room has the snacks, don't make them learn a whole new location yet.

### ▶ **Expecting instant love**

Some folks swipe right, go on one date, and expect sparks to fly immediately. The same energy applies to new pet parents who expect instant attachment. Sometimes it does happen, but more often, it's a slow burn. They might hide under the bed, bark at the fridge, or side-eye you for three days straight. It doesn't mean it's not working. It just means you're still getting to know each other.

### **The Bottom Line:**

Love doesn't always strike like lightning. Sometimes, it starts with awkward silences, side-eyes, and mutually agreeing that you won't make any sudden moves. But give it time, stay patient, and keep showing up, and you just might find yourself in the best relationship of your life.

