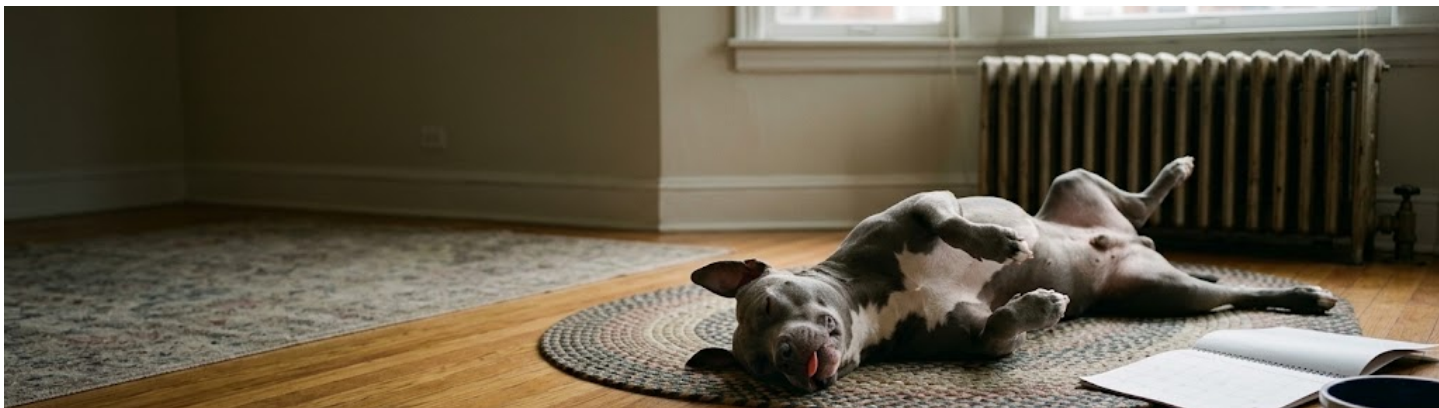


Rescue Dog Adjustment: Watch Behavior, Not Dates



THE SHORT ANSWER

A rescue dog usually takes a few weeks to learn a new home's routine and about 3 to 6 months to feel fully settled. Fearful, under-socialized or long-stay shelter dogs can need 6 months to a year to adjust. A rescue dog's behavior is a better measure of adjustment than days on the calendar.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1 Expect routine learning over weeks and settling over months. Fearful or long-stay dogs may need substantially longer.
- 2 Track appetite, sleep, play, proximity and recovery after scares weekly. Look for trends, not individual difficult days.
- 3 Support adjustment with predictable routines, short sniff walks and fewer visitors. Account for the dog's age, history and household demands.
- 4 Arrange an early veterinary check: pain can stall progress. Emerging behavior needs attention, not pressure to meet deadlines.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Start a weekly behavior log and arrange a veterinary check for health concerns that could affect adjustment.

Read the full article and sources:

<https://letthembedog.com/blog/how-long-for-rescue-dog-to-adjust>