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What NOT to Do With a New Rescue Dog

FOSTERS & ADOPTERS

Do not rush

No welcome parties, crowded outings, dog parks, forced cuddles, or immediate meetings with every resident pet.

Do not punish communication

Never punish growling, hiding, accidents, or fear. Increase safety and distance, then use humane training and professional guidance as needed.

Do not leave interactions unmanaged

Never leave a dog alone with a child. Do not leave newly introduced pets together without direct supervision and an approved plan.

Do not create escape opportunities

No off-leash activity in unsecured spaces; no unsecured doors or gates; no relying on recall during adjustment.

Do not misuse crates

Never use a crate as punishment, force a panicked dog inside, or confine for inappropriate lengths of time without breaks. A safe room or pen may be better.

Do not guess about health or behavior

Do not give unapproved medication, ignore concerning symptoms, or describe the dog as compatible with cats, dogs, or children without sufficient evidence.

Do not delay asking for help

Report medical concerns, escape attempts, bites, and escalating behavior early. Seeking help is part of responsible care.