



## **The Meaning of Rescue Back Up – a guide for all new owners.**

**The purpose of Rescue Back up is to support new owners throughout the lifetime of their dog, with the expectation that this support will be in the owner's home. The removal of a dog from a home is only considered in extreme circumstances – so please read this guide to ensure you understand what we can offer and when.**

When a dog is adopted, FARDogs (the Charity) allocates a Follow Up Coordinator (FUC) to the new owners. This FUC will contact the new owners at regular intervals throughout the first year of the adoption, however, they are always available to be contacted if questions, or issues arise. It should be noted that usually the Adopter will have the Guardian's contact details and may also contact this person in an emergency.

For the majority of our placements no issues arrive, and the new owners use the FREED Facebook page to communicate with the Charity and other adopters, however, sometimes issues arise that require intervention.

We expect all new owners to have fully considered the implications a new dog will have on their lives, their children's lives and the effect it may have on other animals in their care. The majority of our dogs have been living in foster homes where they have built up a routine, however this routine will be removed when placed with a new owner. Just because your new dog was housetrained/ slept through the night/ walked on a lead for the foster family, it doesn't mean you have a readymade dog at your disposal.

Your new addition needs to get to know you, trust you, and learn new routines, please be patient, understanding and kind. Adopting a puppy is like having a baby, they whine and cry and will wake you up through the night. Adopting an adult dog can have the same implications. It will most likely be their first time in a home and processing all the new sounds and smells often causes anxiety and needs that same patience and kindness.

We expect new owners to call us if a dog develops new worrying habits that they are unsure of – aggressive tendencies as an example. We can help you, but we need to do this early before the behaviours embed themselves.

We will in the first instance put you in contact with a behaviouralist who will talk things through with you and help you understand why the dog might be acting the way it is and give you suggestions on how to deal with this. Remember, these suggestions will not work if you ignore the advice. Listen to us, we have years of collective experience.

It is imperative that you understand that Rescue Back up does not mean you can call us up and expect us to remove the dog immediately because you no longer want it. Your dog is a living creature and cannot be discarded like an old toy if it no longer suits you and your family.

We understand that sometimes a dog is not suitable for a family, and will support you by readvertising the dog, finding prospective new owners, and helping you choose a new owner;



however, this process can take weeks. We expect you to support the dog in your home, treat it well, and with kindness during this period.

We do understand that sometimes life is unexpected and genuine emergencies require you to rehome the dog – but once again, even then we cannot move the dog the same day. We will advertise for an emergency foster to assist you – however, please be prepared to wait while we find a secure home for your new dog. We are a small charity, run solely by volunteers, we do not have our own kennels, nor do we always have emergency foster homes available.

Please be aware that if we cannot immediately find a foster parent and the need dictates the dog/puppy being placed in kennels, that we may ask you to contribute to the costs incurred during their stay.

We will always support owners experiencing problems and will help initially with telephone conversations with our behaviouralists, and if need be, will look for a dog trainer in your area to provide 1:1 training. We will never turn our backs on you, or the dogs we have placed.

*\*Please sign below to indicate you have read, and fully understood this document and return with your Adoption Agreement.*

*Name:*

*Signature:*

*Date*