

Getting a Dog From a Shelter: A Guide

Why and How to Adopt a Stray

Advantages of a shelter dog



- ★ Getting a dog from a shelter is free or less expensive than investing in a pedigree pooch
- ★ Shelter animals have been neutered
- ★ With adult dogs it's "what you see is what you get" and – they're easier to tame
- ★ They're grateful to their new masters for giving them a home
- ★ Some people feel they have more personality than a pedigree
- ★ Shelter dogs are tough

Deciding to adopt a shelter dog



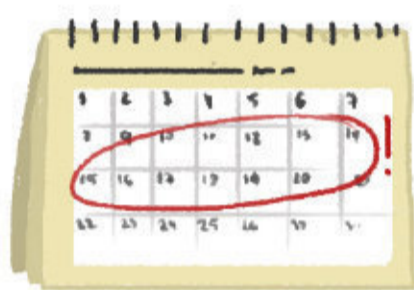
Talk it through with your family, friends



Make sure no one in your family is allergic to dog-hair



Think about whether you'll really have the time to walk it



Who'll look after it while you're on vacation?



Remember the other pets you have. Would they get on?



If you have any doubts – don't do it, it wouldn't be fair to the dog otherwise

How to adopt a dog from a shelter



Check social networks for shelter sites or pages advertising animals that are in need of a good home



Contact the shelter or organization that is looking after the dog



Spend time with the animals you like. It could be "love at first sight"



Take your new friend home by car. Don't forget about a dog mat!



There'll be some paperwork to make the adoption formal – this varies country to country



You can visit the shelter several times so you and your new friend can get to know each other better

Contact the shelter about any problems or worries you have about your new pet

Be prepared



Make sure you take it to a vet or animal clinic for a thorough examination and medical advice on treating any underlying conditions



The dog might be frightened by new people and even by its new home. Be kind to it



Shelter animals are sometimes not used to going out for walks. It used to do its business in the kennel. Take it on frequent walks, and be patient while it adapts



Shelter dogs might bark or howl more than usual when you leave. Make sure there's something for it to do when you're out



The dog may chew your things. Buy it toys and try to encourage it to be better behaved



Be responsible when deciding to adopt a shelter dog. Be patient with it

Made with the help of volunteers at the EcoBiryulyovo Fate's Gift animal shelter www.priutsobak.ru