



## **THE BEAGLE ALLIANCE FOSTER / NEW ADOPTER GUIDE** (Includes Lost Dog Protocol and Martingale Collar Warning)

THANK YOU for fostering / adopting a rescued dog with The Beagle Alliance! This guide provides information and tips gleaned from years of experience placing former research dogs (mostly beagles) and other animals who exhibit signs of trauma or who have been harmed, abandoned or neglected, into loving homes. In addition to this guide, The Beagle Alliance has a private Facebook group for all our fosters and adopters where photos, stories, personal tips and experiences can be shared.

**\*\* Before you bring home your dog, it's a good idea to do a walk-through of your home from a dog's vantage point. Remember to store toxins (cleaners, anti-freeze, medications, etc.) out of a dog's reach, which includes countertops and easily opened cupboards! \*\***

### **SAFE SPACE and CRATES**

We recommend an area that can be a safe space for your foster dog, not isolated from the family, but where the dog can go and feel safe when overwhelmed or over stimulated, such as a crate WITH THE DOOR OPEN or removed in the living room, or a bed placed a little out of the general traffic area. Dogs naturally like their own little "den".

Closing the crate door and covering the crate at night may ease anxiety. It is also a good idea to be prepared for the need for separation while introducing your own dog or cat to your foster. Baby gates or Exercise pens can be useful when a little separation is called for.

We believe in crate training as a tool for safety and transport, as well as for periods of reducing overwhelm – however, not as punishment. Some dogs will not like the crate – we will work with you on that.

### **DRINKING WATER**

It is very common for newly released laboratory survivors and others who have come from traumatic pasts to go into a bit of a shut-down mode both physically and psychologically. They may not eat or drink or pee or poop for a few days.

\*Dogs, like animals in the wild, are most vulnerable when eating, relieving themselves, and while sleeping. Newly rescued animals can show anxiety around these natural activities.

**\*\* If this goes on beyond 2 to 3 days, though, please contact TBA. \*\***

Your dog may have never drunk out of a water bowl before and it may scare him/her. He/she may have had a water container that hung on the cage, or he may have been used to a water bowl in the cage that was full of his or her own urine and feces.

Some tips for getting your dog to drink:

- Try low-sodium or salt-free chicken broth in the water bowl.
- You may try cupping water in your hand to see if he/she will drink from your hand
- Try bowls with rubber bottoms. Clinking metal on the floor may scare the dog.

**TIP:** You may use a small syringe to gently give your foster dog water. *Be mindful that the sight of a syringe could trigger fear.*

## FOOD

TBA recommends raw dog food above all food for dogs, however this is your choice. Wet food is the next best option coupled with raw beef bones for teeth (supervision required). We welcome inquiries about holistic health for animals and do have expert resources.

If your dog won't eat kibble or canned food:

- Try chicken breast cooked in low-sodium broth with white rice and some canned pumpkin
- Add some broth to kibble or try mixing canned food with kibble
- It could be the bowl, switch from metal or ceramic or plastic, or try cupping the food in your hand.
- Add high value treats to the top of the kibble or canned food.

**TIP (Resource Guarder):** If yours is a multi-dog household, we recommend feeding separately until you know how your foster dog behaves around food. (Also true for toys). He or she may be a resource guarder, or your own dog may be a resource guarder with a new dog in his or her space.

**Treats to try:**

- Peanut butter
- Cooked chicken
- Cooked sausage links or patties
- Cream Cheese (small amounts as there is usually sugar added)
- Cubed cheese
- *\*Carrots are often a treat choice; however, they are very high in sugars and can lead to obesity.*

**We understand that it is easy to focus on what the dog has been through and spoil them with food. This said, Tba has gone to great lengths to take these dogs out of harm's way and over feeding causing extra weight can take years off a dog's life – which is essentially harming them. Please take care to focus on what you can do now to offer your dog a long and fulfilling life!**

## POTTY

Assume your foster dog will not be housebroken. If your dog came from a laboratory, he/she likely spent her life in a cage so will have no knowledge about going outside to potty. Unlike training a puppy where everything is new and you're teaching the puppy from square one, your foster dog has been doing things the same way for years, so you're not starting from square one; you're starting from a place where the dog has been doing things one way for years and now must unlearn that way of doing things.

This dog will take longer to learn new ways. Patience is required.

Additionally, research dogs often are kept in cages with wire floors where their excrement is caught in a tray underneath, or in kennels where they pee and poop right where they eat, sleep, and live.

We have found that former laboratory dogs often prefer to potty on hard surfaces like concrete as opposed to grass. They often have never seen grass before being rescued and because it's new to them, it can cause them anxiety.

Some housebreaking tips - **PATIENCE and CONSISTENCY!**

- Create a potty schedule and try to stick to it by first charting when the dog wants to go out, how long after meals, etc. At the beginning, take your dog out frequently and always after meals or high-energy times. Increase the time between potty breaks as your dog doesn't have accidents in the house.

- Use potty pads or a pee and poop station in your dog's den area at the beginning only as you do not want to perpetuate the use of these tools. **Not for long term use.**

## LEASH WALKS

Your dog may not be leash trained!

In your TBA pack, you'll find leashes, collar and/or harness, and ID tag, along with a **\*\*\*Martingale collar.**

- **ID tag must be attached to the collar or harness of your foster dog AT ALL TIMES.**
- Do **NOT** affix the ID tag to the martingale.
- The martingale collar should **ONLY** be used for walking your dog. The martingale collar that is difficult for a dog to maneuver out of: the dogs can't stop and pull back, pulling it off over their heads. But some dogs are Houdini-like and can even get themselves out of martingales, so **always be vigilant!**

The martingale is a **CHOKING** and **STRANGULATION** hazard and should never be left on the dog after walking. (Please familiarize yourself with the martingale collar detailed below.)

## MARTINGALE COLLAR WARNING AND USE

The martingale collar consists of a large loop that encircles the dog's neck and is connected to a smaller loop with a D-ring for leash attachment. When a human pulls on the leash to restrain the dog, the small loop becomes taut, causing the larger loop to tighten evenly around the dog's neck, **thus preventing the dog from backing out of the collar.**

A martingale collar gives dog parents a special measure of security for dogs who are timid or fearful, especially in unfamiliar situations. **Because the collar's unique design prevents choking, it's a gentle way to safely prevent dogs from escaping their collar and running away.**

It's not unusual for a new rescue to become frightened and disoriented in his or her new surroundings. **Using a martingale collar with a leash while your new family member becomes familiar with his or her environment can help prevent accidental runaway situations.**

**Martingale collars should NOT be worn all the time.** Because of the martingale's tightening function, **martingales can become a choking and strangulation hazard if left on unattended dogs.** If the collar snags a piece of furniture, a branch, a stray paw, etc., it's very likely that your dog will not be able to free himself or herself. Also, due to the tightening aspects of the smaller loop, a martingale collar isn't suitable for attaching dog tags.

**Please use another collar that fits more loosely and affix the ID tag to that.** That way, if your dog's collar becomes snagged on something when no one's around, he or she can back out of it more easily. We do not suggest crating these dogs, as they have spent their lives in cages. ***If you must crate, please do not leave a collar on your dog.***

**USE BOTH!!!:** a harness and martingale with a leash attached to both. Practice within a fenced area with little stimulation for the first 2 weeks. **We DO NOT suggest going to any overstimulating places or events for the first 4 weeks. Ie: markets, pet stores, large gatherings or gatherings where noise is a factor.**

**Be ready for "triggers" while walking.** Loud sounds – cars backfiring, trash cans rolling on the concrete, car horns honking, etc. Your dog may startle and try to bolt suddenly, so be prepared.

Also be prepared for your dog refusing to walk - just stopping and not budging. You may need to carry him or her for a bit or even all the way home. *Dragging the dog is cruel and won't help train him or her.*

Tips for leash walking:

- If your dog is afraid of the collar/harness/leash, try putting it on him or her in the most relaxed way possible. High value treats may be helpful.
- If possible, carry some high value treats with you on walks, rewarding walking as you go along.
- Start with just leash walking around the backyard.
- When you venture out from the yard, keep the walks short, just halfway down the block at the beginning.

## SLEEPING

As mentioned earlier, sleeping is an activity where your dog perceives himself as vulnerable. **NEVER WAKE A SLEEPING DOG SUDDENLY.** The dog may come out of a sleep snapping.

We're all for letting the dog sleep in your bed but also have a dog bed so your dog knows he has a safe, quiet spot to call his own where he can sleep undisturbed.

This is a situation where you'll have to assess what's best yourself. **Don't let the dog sleep with a child** until you are confident that a foot touching the dog in the night won't startle the dog to a behavior response that could be dangerous.

## MEETING - YOUR DOG and NEW DOG

It is important that your dog(s) know that their home is still theirs and is safe for them. No one is replacing them! Here are a few tips to ease in the transition. Consider them if possible.

- When picking up your new friend, leave your dog(s) at home.
- Enter the house or property with your new dog in a crate and keep closed, allowing your dog(s) to sniff at the crate and walk around it.
- Once the new dog is out of the crate, consider walking around the home and yard while leashed – yes even inside, so that your dog(s) know they still have control of the situation. ( a week is suggested)
- Treat your new companion as one of the “pack”. We tend to dote on our survivors because we know what they have been through, but this does not serve them. They can become possessive of treats, toys and even YOU – this is resource guarding, and we want to guard against this.
- Give them time to form a relationship, they are all different, it'll take time – but do call us asap should any aggression occur. We have resources!
- **Never put more than one dog in a crate together.**
- **DO NOT LEAVE DOGS ALONE and loose for the first while if not forever. A former research dog does not know the cues of a regulated dog and may perceive aggression where there is none and this may create a situation where one or both dogs could be harmed. This is why crate training is very important.**

**If urgent, please call (not text) 204-266-1968** for immediate assistance.

## BATHING AND GROOMING

There is no need for the dog to go anywhere early on unless it is an emergency. Nail trims if necessary, can be done by a vet.

Bathing is fine of course, using slow, gentle movements as with any activity and limiting stimulation.

## COACHING, TRAINING AND SUPPORT

We offer 24/7 support for **emergencies** but do encourage you to send photos and videos **during regular business hours only PLEASE**, as well as questions via email or text. During the foster period it is imperative that you communicate weekly as to how the dog is getting along.

Within 2 weeks, we offer a more detailed guidebook and resources, as well a coaching session with our trainer Chelsey Marino from Command Canine – Kepper and Kin Project. Chelsey is an expert with dogs coming out of laboratories and dogs with PTSD and anxiety. **OUR GOAL IS TO SET YOU AND YOUR BEAGLE UP FOR SUCCESS** – meaning decreased anxiety for you both and a smooth transition into family life!

As a foster, you are not permitted to hire a trainer. A former research dogs needs time to decompress. They are not like other rescue” dogs. They have never experienced any kind of freedom and obedience, “tricks” or nosing and hunting games are not the priority and could trigger a setback.

## VETERINARY CARE

These sweet dogs have been through a lot in a short period. We do not want elective medications, vaccines or surgeries to further impede the immune system – if not necessary. The Beagle Alliance will ensure that the dog is spay and neutered and has all necessary vaccinations. We will make all decisions for the dog during the foster period.

The dog will be microchipped and registered to TBA.

*It is important to stay in touch, and we love that you do. Please text or email photos, videos and questions during the hours of 9 am – 6 pm Central time.*

**\*\*\* In an EMERGENCY - medical, lost, etc. please call 204-266-1968 ASAP! \*\*\***

## LOST DOG PROTOCOL

**Contact The Beagle Alliance IMMEDIATELY Call 204-266-1968**

**The Beagle Alliance will mobilize and come to you as soon as possible. We will delegate roles and assign them. Be prepared TO DO THE FOLLOWING ASAP:**

- DO NOT PANIC, we are with you and here for you. NO BLAMING – Just collaboration!
- Start physical search immediately
- Notify local shelters, animal control and police
- Enlist the help of friends and family right away
- Knock on doors, ask to look in backyards, TELL EVERYONE
- Share on your own social media with a good photo
- Post on Next Door if possible
- Post on Facebook neighborhood groups
- If possible, set up a grill close to where the dog ran off (maybe your front yard), and cook some chicken

**WE NEED A GOOD PHOTO of YOUR FOSTER DOG** - We will make flyers ASAP and have them printed at a print shop near you. We will be asking you and your friends and family, and The Beagle Alliance volunteers to get to your neighborhood and put up the flyers as soon as possible.

## ADOPTION POLICY IF APPLICABLE

- If I would like to adopt this animal, I will agree to speak with a TBA representative about what is best for the dog. I understand that TBA makes the final decision regarding adoption, and that fostering an animal does not guarantee that I will be the best fit for the animal's final adoptive home.
- I understand that if I would like to adopt the foster animal, there will be another interview (discussion) and an adoption fee. Adoption is only final when the agreement is signed and the fee is paid in full.
- **The fee to adopt an adult dog is \$725. Senior dog (8 years or older at time of rescue) is \$500 and a puppy (1 year and under at time of rescue) is \$825. All fees are non-refundable.**
- If the puppy is unaltered at time of adoption, a \$250 deposit will be required prior to adoption and reimbursed after surgical alteration is complete (paid by The Beagle Alliance).
- I understand that based on experience and given there are no serious medical or behavioural needs, the question about adoption and intent to adopt will happen within the 3–4-week mark.
- If I adopt, I agree to pay the entire adoption fee within 60 days from the time I pick up the dog. If I cannot pay within this time, I understand that a charge of \$50 will be applied to the fee. If this and the fee are not paid within 90 days from picking up the dog, TBA reserves the right to remove the dog.

**Please note:** 2 payments is an option, however within the above timelines. This policy is in effect to ensure that the dog can be cared for going forward. **The adoption fee is a statement of commitment and the ability to care for the dog. The cost to place one former research dog into your home is, on average \$1912.**

## YOU ARE SO SPECIAL!

We are so grateful that you may choose to FOSTER / ADOPT a TBA animal. Their circumstances have been less than ideal to say the least and without you, we could not bring them to safety and freedom, **from LAB to LOVE.**

*Thank you!*

## FAQ'S

**Why Beagles?** Beagles are the most used breed of dog in testing because they are sweet, docile, and forgiving. They are also a size manageable that more can be used in a study – saving space and money.

**Is animal testing legal in Canada?** Yes, it is legal and there is no federal legislation protecting animals in research in this country. Over 3 million animals are used in research, including over 16,000 dogs in Canada each year. Most are euthanized after study.

**Do you know what the dogs have been used for in testing?** No, we are not privy to that information and usually do not even know what facility they come from. Our rescue partners sign non-disclosures and do not know what kind of testing is being done. For the most part, the dogs do go on to live healthy and long lives – in our experience.

**Why do you call them special needs?** The dogs suffer varying degrees of PTSD and anxiety. They are not like regular rescue dogs. They are unique. Even an abandoned or a street dog has experienced freedom. These dogs have never been free, been outside or live beyond the cage. This is why The Beagle Alliance is not a regular rescue. We actively must go out to get these dogs and then support both the fosters and the dogs throughout the process. It is a labour of love. LAB to LOVE!

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