



Why do Dogs Come into Rescue with Phoenix French Bulldog Rescue?

Ex-breeding Dogs

Fostering or adopting an ex-breeding dog will take time and patience.

An ex-breeding dog will need a steady home environment that can give them the time they need to adjust, as training will quite often need to be taken back to basics.

Many may have never been inside a home or a car, gone for walks or even worn a collar. Most ex-breeding dogs are not house-trained and may not even have had their own name; some have just been numbers.

Some of the issues that we often see in an ex-breeding dog are anxiety, fear-aggression, lack of training, health issues - these often stem from having little or no interaction with the outside world.

An ex-breeding dog may often happily live with another needier dog, quite happy to sit back and allow the other resident dog to receive the majority of the attention. Many ex-breeding dogs find it hard to adjust to the sudden attention and are happier to sit back and observe.

Some ex-breeding dogs respond extremely well to the transition from the life they lived into their new home, others may take longer and they will require time and patience; they will need to be allowed to progress at a speed comfortable to them.

An ex-breeding dog is not a 'ready-made' pet; but the satisfaction of being a part of the journey that an ex-breeding dog will take to adjust to becoming a loving family pet is immeasurable.

Allergies and Skin Conditions

There are two primary categories of allergies seen in pets today, food allergies and environmental allergies.

As with humans, dogs can also suffer from seasonal allergies; environmental allergens and pollens can make for a very uncomfortable spring and summer for many dogs. Grass, plants, seeds, dust, air fresheners, carpet powders – these are only a few of the things that can cause a reaction.

Demodex is a microscopic external skin mite that can cause skin disease and can often be quite severe if not treated early on. The parasite is also present in low numbers on healthy animals, whether a pet shows symptoms depends primarily on their immune status. An outbreak of demodex will leave the skin with bald patches, and will be red, itchy and extremely sore.

Registered Charity No: 1171943

Registered Office: Phoenix House, 17, Wellington Road, Shortstown, Bedford, MK42 0UT

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Health Issues more frequently seen in the Bull Breeds

The French Bulldog is one of the brachycephalic breeds; this refers to the flat and wide skull shape, and although this gives the French Bulldog the characteristic flattened face and short nose, this can also bring its own share of skin, eye and breathing problems. The folds of skin over the front of the face can develop bacteria and yeast if not kept clean.

The soft tissue in the nose and throat, including the soft palate, are all crammed into a small space and the lack of nasal bones can cause the nostrils to become very narrow. The result of this is obstruction of the airflow through the upper airways (known as BOAS – Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome) which can cause severe breathing problems; this usually requires surgery to the soft palate and sometimes the removal of the tonsils too.

Cherry Eye is also common in the brachycephalic breeds due to the tight eyelids; the third eyelid will roll out exposing the gland underneath.

Due to the French Bulldog being a short-backed brachycephalic breed it is not uncommon for them to suffer with bone disorders and spinal problems, which may include intervertebral disc problems, such as hemi-vertebrae where the discs may fuse, or sometimes even spina bifida.

Dog or Human Fear/Aggression

Many dogs suffer from dog fear/aggression or human fear/aggression and this can be for many reasons; lack of socialisation in the early stages of life contributes to this immensely.

Bad breeding, such as where a dog that is aggressive has been bred from, may result in the puppies carrying the genetic make-up of their aggressive parents.

A dog may have been attacked by another dog resulting in a fear of dogs or he may have been abused by a human.

Time and patience will be needed for the dog to regain its confidence in humans/dogs.

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Anxiety and Fear Related Issues

Many dogs that come into rescue suffer with anxieties; unfortunately, it is not always possible to know the full history of rescue dogs which leaves us unable to know why these anxieties exist. We take the time to observe and assess the dog in his foster home to try and understand the cause and extent of these anxieties.

Like humans, dogs have anxieties and fears which cause stress and physical reactions, meaning that they may engage in repetitive or displacement behaviours to relieve the stress that is building up.

Change of Circumstances

A dog that has lived its whole life with one family, a loving and loyal family, may suddenly find himself taken away from all he knows and loves and placed into a new home with new people and new rules. This can be a very frightening and confusing time for him; he will not understand what has happened to his family and will need a lot of love and support.

Many know the terrible feeling of losing a dog that has been loved for many years through to old age. When a dog comes into rescue following the loss of an owner this is extremely sad and dogs, just as humans, grieve and they may pine for their owner, and may become withdrawn. In this situation the healing process will take time, patience and understanding.

It may be that a new baby joins the family and the once 'centre of attention' Frenchie, that may have been given no boundaries, now shows unacceptable behaviour and cannot be trusted around the child. This can be a classic reason for surrendering a dog.

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