



## **Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society Dog Rescue Protocols**

### **1. Intake and Assessment**

#### **1.1 Intake Team:**

- Appoint a team responsible for responding to rescue calls, assessing situations, and coordinating rescue efforts.

#### **1.2 Ownership:**

- Unless there is no known owner of the dog, a completed surrender form must be received prior to any further action.

#### **1.3 Initial Assessment:**

- Conduct an initial assessment to determine the dog's health, temperament, and immediate needs.

### **2. Veterinary Care**

#### **2.1 Medical Evaluation:**

- Schedule a thorough veterinary examination for each rescued dog 8 weeks and older to assess overall health and identify any medical issues.
- Medical records and vaccination history must be obtained from previous veterinarian, if possible.
- A 16-week developmental health exam will be conducted on any puppies in our care by a veterinarian who will also administer the rabies and final core vaccination at that time.
- If an adult dog has not had a health check in the previous 7 weeks, one will be booked as soon as possible, along with necessary vaccines.

#### **2.2 Vaccinations and Preventatives:**

- Administer necessary vaccinations and preventative treatments (e.g., deworming, flea and tick control). Introduce deworming medication one to two days after the first vaccination.
- If adult dog without previous vaccination records, the dog will be treated as unvaccinated.
- If the dog does have proof vaccinations are up to date and has had a health check in the previous 6 months, further medical evaluation is not required except for obvious injury or illness.
- If puppy or dog requires a third core vaccination (administered by a vet), the second vaccination can be completed by a qualified M2BL volunteer. (If the dog receives a second core vaccination at or over 16 weeks of age, a third will not be required.)

### **2.3 Microchipping:**

- Microchip each rescued dog for identification and reunification purposes.

### **3. Spay/Neuter:**

- Puppies will be booked for spay/neuter appointments at 8 months unless an alternative timeline has been agreed upon by Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue and an adopter. Spay/neuter surgeries will take place at Tanglefoot or Steeples whenever possible.

## **4. Behavioral Assessment**

### **4.1 Professional Evaluation:**

- Engage professional dog behaviorists to assess the temperament and behavior of rescued dogs over the age of 8 months.

### **4.2 Training Plans:**

- Develop individualized training plans to address behavioral challenges and enhance adoptability, if needed.

## **5. Rehabilitation**

### **5.1 Rehabilitation Program:**

- Implement a rehabilitation program for dogs with behavioral or trauma-related issues.

## **6. Foster Care Program**

### **6.1 Foster Home Network:**

- Establish a network of reliable foster homes, including ones for dogs requiring additional care or socialization.
- All fosters **MUST** sign a foster contract prior to taking possession of a dog for foster care.

### **6.2 Foster Training:**

- Educate foster caregivers on the specific needs of each dog, including medical care and behavioral support.

### **6.3 Socialization Activities:**

- Encourage fosters to organize regular socialization activities to familiarize dogs with various environments, people, and other animals.

## **7. Adoption Procedures**

### **7.1 Adoption Guidelines:**

- All dogs must be at least 8 weeks of age and have been in care for a minimum of two weeks prior to being placed for adoption.
- Dogs must have an up-to-date health check and be scheduled for necessary vaccines and spay/neuter prior to being adopted.
- Costs for resolvable medical issues discovered during health exams we have scheduled will be paid for by Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society.
- Unresolvable medical issues (i.e., hip dysplasia, neurological disorders, diabetes, etc.) will be disclosed to potential adopters with the understanding they will take over medical costs upon adoption completion.

### **Events:**

- Organize regular adoption events to showcase available dogs to potential adopters.

### **7.2 Screening Process:**

- Implement a thorough screening process for potential adopters, including home visits and reference checks. All members of a potential adopter family must attend meet and greets so interactions between each of them and the dog can be observed.

### **7.3 Contracts & Fees:**

- Adoption contracts must be signed, and adoption fee paid, before adopter takes possession of the dog. This can be done in advance or at the time of transfer. Meant 2B Loved must also, turn over any medical and vaccination records they may have for the dog.

### **7.4 Adoption Counseling:**

- Provide counseling and guidance to adopters to ensure a successful transition for both the dog and the new family. Include any documentation or further resources available to them or provide the website(s) where reputable resources are found at the time of adoption.

## **8. Follow-Up and Support**

### **8.1 Post-Adoption Follow-Up:**

- Conduct follow-up checks to ensure the well-being of adopted dogs and provide support as needed.

## **9. Community Education and Outreach**

### **9.1 Education Programs:**

- Conduct educational programs in the community on responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and the importance of adoption.

## **10. Advocacy and Networking**

**10.1 Advocacy Initiatives:** - Engage in advocacy initiatives to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership at the local and regional levels.

**10.2 Networking with Rescues:** - Collaborate with other animal rescue organizations and shelters to share resources, expertise, and support.

## **11. Record Keeping:**

- Medical records, behavioural assessments, contracts, and all records will be entered into M2BL's record-keeping program (currently Trello) with backups placed in the appropriate folder in the M2B Google email account.

These protocols, when diligently followed, will help Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society conduct effective and compassionate dog rescue operations, ultimately providing a second chance for dogs in need and promoting a culture of responsible pet ownership in the community.