

The trials and joys of adopting a rescue dog

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We'd arranged that John would do our home check and bring Rosa with him so she could stay if all went well. There was a whirlwind of activity, two dogs chasing each other, Rosa exploring her new home. There was a thump from the bathroom – she'd tried to get into the bath. Later we realised she'd run off with the soap – both dogs were on the bed, she with the soap in her mouth, Logan looking on trying to tell me that it wasn't him! I retrieved the soap, relieved to see that she hadn't actually eaten any of it.

By bedtime we were both exhausted and ready to sleep when I became aware of a shadow slipping into the room – she looked towards me then turned to my teddies. Away she padded with a teddy in her mouth! She dropped it immediately when I called out, bless her. She was just seeking some comfort.

Over the next few days we became aware of just how much she had needed to forage for food. She kept trying to open the bin and often leapt up onto the worktops in the kitchen ready to steal whatever she could find. Fortunately no injuries were sustained! We kept all the worktops clear and worked on a 'leave' command, which Rosa learnt quickly. She no longer jumps onto the worktops but we still have to watch where we put food and where she is. One day she grabbed a banana which was too close to the edge – she is definitely an opportunist! However she is fed regularly so the impulse to steal food has waned. She had no boundaries when she arrived but now recognises them.

She is affectionate and funny and now has a safe home. The joys are greater than the trials, without a doubt.

Kath Holt