



Dear Adopter,

I'm a New Dawn Dog and I want to tell you my story. I want to tell you what its like being a rescue dog.

Before I arrived at New Dawn, I was happy in my home that I thought I would have forever. Some of my friends weren't so lucky. They were called a stray, somehow their humans lost them. Some were so badly treated they lashed out and were threatened with being taken to see the vet at rainbow bridge.

When I arrived at New Dawn I was given to a human who was called a Foster. I quickly realised this was my new home. I heard the Foster say that I will be assessed. I saw my human cry as I was led away, I cried too. Although some of my friends were glad their humans went.

The good thing is my Foster human is very kind to me. She spends a lot of time playing with me, taking me on walks and teaching me new things. After a while I start to feel safe and settled again. Its not long before my Foster human says she has a visitor coming. I got excited thinking it was my old human.

Its not. My Foster human says hello and asks me to, too. She is standing with me so I feel safe. After a while our visitors prepare to leave and I realise I'm going too. I start to worry but my Foster humans says it will be ok and that I will be happy.

I don't feel happy, the last time I went on a car journey my old humans left, It's happening again. I'm driven in a car for hours with strange humans I don't know. They are happy and excited and talk a lot about walks and places to go.

I'm not happy, I feel worried and unsettled. I feel scared like I did when my old humans brought me to my foster human.

I arrive at a house and I'm taken out of the car and told this is my new home. I don't want to be here, I want to be with my foster, she understood. I was happy there. I've endured hours of petting, stroking & cuddling. I'm too worried & frightened to do anything. I'm trying to be polite so I just sit there.

Then its bedtime and I'm left alone. I worry what's going to happen next. The following morning my new family tries again;-

They want to make friends, I'm scared and lonely! It's a lot to take in. I didn't sleep during the night I was too scared & now I feel irritable and tired. I don't want them to touch me, I don't feel quite so polite - I want to be left alone!!!

"Please leave me alone" no one is listening "Please let me go to my bed" No one is listening

"Please take me back to my Foster" No one is listening "I'm Frightened" No one is listening {I bark & growl} I'm really scared now" No one is listening!! {I'm barking a lot}

Then it happens

Are you stupid can't you hear what I'm saying? {I'm barking and growling really loudly now} Can't you see how I feel! I want you to know 'go away or I'm going to bite you'

Too late. . . . I had to, my teeth are the only way I have of telling you, I'm scared & frightened and you won't give me space. I'm sorry there was blood - I tried to tell you.

Next thing we know we are back in the car. I can read their minds ' another driver for hours' - No one is happy or chatty this time.

Finally we stop and the car door opens, my Foster is standing there. I'm relieved to see her - she understands, she gave me time and space. I wag my tail softly. Sad that I still don't have a forever home, but happy to be safe again.

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to get angry - At our fosters we get told its ok. People don't understand the time it takes.

Please don't be like those people - Please give us time to settle - Time to trust - Time to understand. Our lives have been unsettled enough

The New Dawn Dogs

