



The volunteers taking care of the dogs at the organisation

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Adopt an indie dog as your 'fur'ever friend

Tamil Ilakkiya

If you are planning to bring include a fur baby as part of your family, think before you pay thousands of rupees to a breeder; instead, adopt a puppy who is in desperate need of a new home. There are many dogs who end up abandoned in the city and many NGOs are involved in rescuing these animals and providing them shelters. Human Animal Society (HAS) is one such organisation that rescues abandoned dogs and stray puppies in and around the city.

When the NGO first rescues a dog, they check for diseases and treat them. Once the treatment is done, they follow it up with animal birth control (ABC) procedure, after which it is available for adoption. "The adoption process starts with a house visit," says Shiva Kumar, manager of HAS. "We check for a suitable home environment, which includes a separate space for the dog and financial stability of the adopter. Our first preference is those who already own pets," he adds.

Some of the major issues the animal welfare centres face during adoption is gender discrimination between dogs. "There has been the misconception that female dogs are hard to maintain. People are always quick to adopt male dogs but not females. We try and convince them that female dogs are more protective and compassionate, as they have the motherly instincts," says Vivel Paul, a volunteer at the NGO. Another Volunteer, Heidi Dass, who volunteers in the shelter under a Workaway program says that she takes care of injured dogs and nurse them back to health. Her wish is to find suitable homes for these puppies.

Other than the shelters, there are a number of foster homes for dogs in the city. These homes foster puppies until they find their forever families. "The foster homes are life savers for the puppies, as they might catch other diseases if raised in a shelter," says Vivek.

Pranavi Jay, who adopted three dogs from the shelter says, "I have five dogs at home, of which four are adopted. I have two Indian dogs that I adopted from Kate, a volunteer, who was fostering them. I adopted a pug from the shelter and a Min-Pin, that I rescued from the streets. Gaining the trust of my indies and the pug was easy as they were puppies when I adopted them. But the min-pin was three years old when I found him, and it took me some time to win him over," she explains.

The abandoned dogs are usually more scared than aggressive, says Mini Vasudevan, the managing trustee of HAS. But once you treat them with kindness, they will start trusting you back. She further says that Indian dogs are easier to maintain and have greater stamina compared to foreign breeds. "I would recommend people to adopt Indian dogs instead of pedigree dogs as the latter is just not suitable for this environment," she adds. But before she signs off, she cautions, "Abandoned dogs need a lot of time and attention, and this practice of abandoning an animal when things get tough should change."

