

## **The 10 Cardinal Rules for Adopting a Puppy Mill Survivor**

1. Have no expectations or timetable for change.
2. Use PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE and more PATIENCE. And then be REALLY PATIENT.
3. Puppy mill survivors have an absolute requirement for UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE. If you are not prepared or able to provide this, do not adopt one of these special dogs.
4. Being with, being comforted by and learning from other dogs is the single best way to emotionally heal for all but a few puppy mill survivors.
5. Tiny improvements are monumental conquests. The smallest baby step is cause for joyous (but calm and quiet!) celebration.
6. Never punish, scold, discipline or raise your voice with your puppy mill survivor.
7. Two clichés do not apply to puppy mill survivors: “Time heals all wounds” and “Love conquers all.” However, time and love remain essential parts of the healing process.
8. Emotional healing is an up-and-down journey on the way up. Two steps forward and one step back is a normal part of emotional recovery for puppy mill dogs. Expect to see the one step back many times and even occasionally two or even three steps back. This is all normal.
9. Never forget that no matter what your puppy mill survivor does, he still needs you to keep trying to help him heal.



10. Remember...No matter what happens, it's all but assured that you will gain a sense of satisfaction and reward that you have never known before!