



BEAGLE RESCUE PROJECT

Prospective Adopter Information

The Anti-Cruelty Society has partnered with the Humane Society of the United States to rescue 36 beagles from Envigo, a breeding and research facility in Virginia that was recently found guilty of dozens of federal regulation violations, resulting in dogs being ill, injured, underfed, and, in the worst cases, dead. The Envigo beagles have faced extraordinary circumstances in their short lives.

When considering bringing home a dog who has been rescued from the Envigo site, adopters should be fully informed of the care implications before committing to adoption. These dogs have never experienced a “normal life” and will need caretakers who are exceptionally patient, kind, and resilient. These dogs are unfamiliar with the sights, sounds, and tactile experiences that come with living in a home or being outside. They will not understand how to walk on a leash, play with a toy, or how to navigate the stimuli of an urban or suburban environment. Due to their limited socialization and lack of exposure to domesticated life, we anticipate that these dogs will require extensive socialization, counterconditioning, relationship-based training, long-term housetraining, and other specialized care to ensure their well-being. Read more about the care and training that will be needed for these dogs on our Beagle Project Animal Care information sheet here [\[hyperlink\]](#).

When deciding whether an Envigo Beagle is a good fit for your home, family, and lifestyle, we ask that you consider each of the following:

- **Time Commitment:** Each of the beagles is a unique individual, so we can't predict the full scope of needs each future caretaker will face. We do, however, know that these dogs will require an exceptional amount of time to decompress. The average adopted shelter pet takes anywhere from 3 weeks to 3 months to fully integrate into a family. We anticipate that, due to the trauma experienced by these dogs, it may take *many months* for them to fully acclimate. They will need patient guidance from their adopter to help them become a well-adjusted member of their family over time. This means countless hours of counterconditioning, gentle training, and allowing the dog to dictate the pace at which they make progress. If you have a flexible schedule, or have roommates, partners, or family members who can take part in assisting you with the long-term emotional and physical needs of an Envigo beagle, then you may be a good adoption match for one of these dogs.
- **Home Environment:** The Envigo beagles are coming from a horrendous situation – one in which they experienced severe neglect and were unable to practice behaviors that come naturally to dogs. This includes the most basic of activities, like being pet, receiving positive one-on-one attention, taking walks in the fresh air, feeling grass beneath their paw pads, or simply playing fetch with a toy. For that reason, it is crucial that their new home provides them with a quiet, calm environment in which they can adjust, and over the course of time, come out of their shell. Households with low activity levels, or who may have the added space to provide an Envigo beagle with their own quiet room for decompression purposes, are ideal. A household that has

an existing dog-friendly canine can also be beneficial as a resident dog can help teach an Envigo beagle natural dog behaviors.

- **Care Capacity:** The Envigo beagles entering The Anti-Cruelty Society's care will be placed in our Special Care adoption category. This designation indicates that the pet will need above and beyond behavioral and/or medical support in order to thrive in their adoptive home. Due to the Envigo beagles' stunted emotional development, as well as the negligent care they received in the breeding facility, we anticipate each of these dogs will have both physical and psychological needs which are considerably more complex than that of the average pet. So, in addition to considering time and household dynamics, we ask all prospective adopters to consider their care capacity. Working one-on-one with a pet who has experienced significant trauma can be emotionally taxing on their caretaker, albeit infinitely rewarding. That's why it's important to consider your level of compassion resilience, as well as tolerance for navigating complex care needs, before considering one of these dogs.

Making an Envigo beagle a part of your home is a big decision, which is why The Anti-Cruelty Society asks all prospective adopters to fully consider all of the implications above before initiating the adoption process. We have no doubt that, with love, patience, and time, each of these dogs will become a well-adjusted, loving member of each family they join.

If you have any questions about our adoption approach, or a specific Envigo beagle, please reach out to our adoption team at adoption@anticruelty.org. Please note that, due to a high outpouring of support from the community, it may take up to 48 hours to receive a reply from our team.