

Adoption Questionnaire



Questions to ask the humane society or rescue about the dog you want to adopt.

Date:

Rescue Name:

Dog's Name:

Notes

Use this space to add any additional notes and observations.

GENERAL

How did the dog come to be in the shelter or foster home?

How long has the dog been in the shelter or foster home?

Why was he surrendered?

Where does he sleep at night? In his crate, dog bed?

Has he been to a groomer before? How did it go?

Does he allow you to trim his nails, clean his ears, give him a bath?

HEALTH

Has he had a general wellness exam by a veterinary? When? Does he have any known medical issues?

Is the dog neutered/spayed?

Is he current on all vaccines? Rabies - Distemper/Parvo - Bordatella. If you adopt him, make sure to get copies of all vet records available.

Is he current on heartworm and flea/tick preventative?

Has he had a Snap 4 DX test?*

Does he have a Microchip?

Does he have any allergies?

Check the eyes and ears for yourself. Are the eyes clear of discharge, are the inside of the ears clean?

**A 4Dx snap test is a blood test that is run by a vet. While not required, it provides valuable information. The test is a screening process for six vector-borne diseases: Heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichia canis, Ehrlichia ewingi, Anaplasma phagocytophilum and Anaplasma platys.

ADOPTION TIP: Don't be afraid to ask questions. Whether you are adopting from the humane society or a local rescue group, find out as much as possible about the dog you want to adopt. This is a life-time investment for the dog and your family.

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POTTY TRAINING

Is he potty-trained? Don't assume that an adult dog is already potty-trained.

Does he have any signals to ask to go outside?

How often does he go outside?

ENERGY LEVEL

How much exercise does this dog need?

What is his typical energy level like?

How many times a day does he need to be walked, and for how long?

Does he relax and lay down when you are ready to stop playing?

What are his favorite activities? (Playing fetch, swimming, frisbee, walking, running)

Would he be a good dog for going on hikes or running?

CRATE TRAINING

Is he crate trained?

If not crate trained, do you leave him loose when you're not home? If so, how does he do? Any mischievous behavior?

How does he act in a crate? Calm, anxious, bark?

How do you think he does when left alone?



ADOPTION TIP: A dog that is in a shelter situation may not be able to be fully assessed since it is not in a home environment. When a dog is in a shelter, it may never feel comfortable.

Read and download the 3-3-3 Rule.

Don't ever feel pressured into adopting a particular dog, you have the right to say no and find the perfect match. Remember, this dog will be part of your family for the next 10-15+ years.

Notes

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BEHAVIOR

Does he have any resource guarding issues with food, toys, or anything else?

Is he independent or dependent? Is he unsure or shy?

Does he show any signs of separation anxiety?

Does he bark excessively when left alone?

How long can he be left home alone?

Does he have any fears? (Thunderstorms, loud noises)

Does he chew things such as kids toys, furniture or shoes?

Does he like to play with other dogs?

Is this dog friendly around other dogs? How does he act when he meets new dogs? On leash and off leash.

Ask to see him interact with another dog.

Have you ever taken him to a dog park? How did it go?

If you have a cat, has he been around a cat before? How does he act around cats?

Is there anything that brings out fear or aggression in him? (Bikers, strangers, men, etc.)

How does he act around strangers? Is he scared, shy, aggressive, or friendly when meeting new people?

Has he been around kids? How old where the kids? How does he act around them?

LOOKING FOR HUGS





ADOPTION TIP: Don't ever feel pressured into adopting a particular dog, you have the right to say no and find the perfect match. Do not ignore the red flags.

Remember, this dog will be part of your family for the next 10-15+ years.

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BEHAVIOR, continued.

Has he ever nipped, bitten or attacked anyone?

Do you consider him a vocal dog? What makes the dog bark? Does he bark when left alone? Does he bark at the door bell? Does he bark at people/dogs on walks?

How is he in the car? Is he calm, overly excited or scared of the car?

TRAINING

Has he had any formal training for behavior, obedience, hunting, agility, etc.?

What commands does he know? Ask for specific words or hand signals used, this will help you understand how to interact with the dog if you adopt him.

What type of training tools have been used on him? E-collar, prong collar, etc.

How does he walk on leash? Does he walk with a flat collar, harness, prong collar, or any other tools?

Does he pull or lunge at other dogs, people, cars, or bikes?

Can I take him for a short walk? If you have another dog, ask if you can walk the two dogs together.

Does he have any known behavioral issues?

Is he food motivated?

What type of discipline works with him?

