

Responsible Dog Rehoming Guide

Helpful Tips for Screening Potential Adopters & Finding the Right Home

1. Be Honest About Your Dog

Share accurate information about your dog's age, health, temperament, energy level, behavior around dogs/cats/kids, training level, and any known medical or behavioral concerns. Honest placements are more likely to succeed long term.

2. Ask Potential Adopters Questions

Helpful questions include: Have you owned dogs before? Do you rent or own your home? Do you have other pets or children? How long will the dog be alone daily? Are you financially prepared for veterinary care and emergencies?

3. Require Meet & Greets

Whenever possible, meet adopters in person and introduce all household members. Dog-to-dog introductions should be done slowly, safely, and in a controlled environment.

4. Consider Home Checks

Home checks can help ensure the environment is safe and appropriate. Look for secure fencing, safe living conditions, and signs of responsible pet ownership. Home checks can be done in person, by video call, or through photos.

5. Verify Veterinary References

Ask adopters with current or previous pets for a veterinary reference. This can help confirm prior pets received routine care, vaccinations, and spay/neuter services.

6. Watch for Red Flags

Use caution if someone refuses screening questions, wants the dog immediately, will not allow a home check, plans to keep the dog outside full time, or seems unwilling to discuss long-term care.

7. Consider a Rehoming Fee

A reasonable rehoming fee may help discourage impulsive placements and can help offset veterinary expenses.

8. Use a Written Agreement

Even a simple written agreement can clarify expectations, ownership transfer, and return policies if the adopter can no longer keep the dog.

9. Follow Up After Placement

Checking in after adoption can help support a successful transition and allow the adopter to ask questions during the adjustment period.

10. Be Patient

Finding the right home is more important than finding the fastest home. Careful screening helps increase the chance of a safe, stable, and permanent placement.

Helpful Reminder: Avoid "free to good home" listings whenever possible. Take your time, trust your instincts, and prioritize safe, responsible placements.