

Adoptable dog bios – what do they mean?

Check off phrases or versions of phrases found within a dog’s bio to help guide you through learning what you need to know.

<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ned would thrive in a home with a lot of land. <input type="checkbox"/> Ned would prefer a home in the country. <input type="checkbox"/> A home in a quiet area would be best for Ned. <input type="checkbox"/> Ned would prefer a home (or requires a home) with a fenced yard. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>Has Ned shown barking, lunging, growling, or biting towards people, children, dogs, or other animals when approached, seen on walks, or at a distance?</i></p> <p><i>How does Ned respond to things around him in a backyard, on walks, or in public?</i></p> <p><i>(if reactivity is divulged) What training has been attempted that did or did not help with Ned’s reactivity?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Ned may be reactive to people, animals (mainly other dogs), or other stimuli. Stating that Ned would thrive with a lot of land or fenced yard does not necessarily mean he likes to run or explore. Suggesting Ned have a lot of land, a quieter area, or a fenced yard may mean that the rescue or shelter feels such a home would reduce Ned’s exposure to the stimuli that trigger his reactivity, avoiding the need for them to divulge the details of his behaviors. Just because a home is in the country, has a fenced yard providing a visual barrier to outside stimuli or reducing the need for daily walks, or has land away from traditional neighborhoods, does not mean Ned’s possible reactivity will not pose difficulties for his adopter. Proposing a large country property for Ned may not be a safe or possible option for Ned. He likely cannot simply be let loose to run and the environment may still include stimuli Ned reacts to. Ned likely has not been off leash trained and properties with a lot of land (or neighboring properties) may have farm animals that Ned is not necessarily safe around. These considerations make the country, “a home with land”, or a fenced yard not the “automatic solution” that a rescue portrays it be for a dog that may have reactivity concerns. Reactivity can include but is not limited to barking, lunging, growling, snapping, or redirecting on the leash or handler (using their mouth to any degree on the handler or their clothing or biting the leash and possibly tugging on the leash with their mouth and may be difficult to redirect from tugging the leash). Ned may be a risk to dogs or other animals if he becomes free from his leash or a fenced area. Some breeds are genetically predisposed to reactivity towards other animals, such as hounds, and while training may improve reactivity, traits inherit to a dog from a root of their breed may be more difficult to change.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Peri would prefer a home (or requires a home) with a fenced yard. <input type="checkbox"/> Peri is the perfect jogging partner and can help you train for that 5k! <input type="checkbox"/> Peri would benefit from learning an “off switch”. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What is Peri’s physical and mental energy level and what outlets have been tried with Peri that have satiated those needs?</i></p> <p><i>How does Peri behave if his physical exercise needs are not met?</i></p> <p><i>How does Peri behave if his mental exercise needs are not met?</i></p> <p><i>Does Peri show sustained interest in outlets like fetch, training, toys, or other channeled activities? How long does his interest last?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Peri may be a high energy dog that the rescue feels needs exercise or “needs to run”. However, energy is not only expended through exercise and expelling energy through exercise is not always going to fully resolve whatever the symptoms of concern are that compelled the rescue to put this in Peri’s bio. This could just mean that Peri is more active than other dogs and, if exercise outlets are insufficient, Peri may display unwanted nuisance behaviors such as overactivity, getting into things in an effort to seek stimulation, soliciting attention from household members, increased vocalizations, etc. Alternatively, this could mean that without exercise Peri has significant difficulty settling and may display overarousal behaviors like mouthing, humping, disruptive vocalizing, or soliciting for attention or increased frustration that may or may not lead to conflict with his adopter and or aggressive or temperamental incidents. The most serious concern would be if these notes are because Peri, while very active, is unable to be channeled into focusing on outlets. Peri may move or run around a lot or investigate his surroundings for sustained periods of time and possibly show interest in a toy or other items or opportunities presented, but he does not seem to be truly interested in anything or engage with a human for play or training. If Peri shows these behaviors, it should be considered if this is the type of personality the adopter is seeking, how the adopter will be able to be sufficiently exercise Peri for the rest of his life, and if the adopter is prepared to manage or address any noted behaviors that present if exercise is insufficient.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby is the queen of her castle and wants to be the center of attention. <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby prefers to be your only pet. <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby has so much personality that she’s the only pet you’ll need! 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>Has Ruby shown barking, lunging, growling, or biting towards dogs or other animals when approached, seen on walks, or at a distance?</i></p> <p><i>How would Ruby behave if a dog or animal came up to her unexpectedly?</i></p> <p><i>If a proper introduction was done, how would Ruby respond?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Ruby is likely dog (and possibly other animal) aggressive. She may also be reactive to dogs and other animals. If an adopter feels this would not impact their ability to care for and live with Ruby as they envisioned, then that adopter could be a good match for Ruby. Ruby will not be ok with their adopter bringing Aunt Jo’s Pug over for a visit or for pet sitting when Aunt Jo travels. Ruby will require specialized dog care or walking services that do not require Ruby to be around other dogs. Ruby may not respond well to being kenneled around other dogs in boarding even if kept separate which could lead to more expensive boarding options. Ruby may be a risk to dogs and other animals when out on a walk. Even if Ruby is properly secured, if an accident occurs and Ruby gets loose, she could be a risk to dogs and other animals. Ruby may be difficult to handle in a vet’s office lobby or grooming facility if other animals are present. An adopter may want to research if the compatible professional services they will need are within an accessible travel distance from them and within their budget. An adopter likely will not be able to acquire another pet in Ruby’s lifetime or add another pet to their household if the adopter wants to add a pet-owning new partner, friend, or family member to move in. Training might be able to improve Ruby’s ability to cohabitate with another animal, however, there’s no guarantee that cohabitation will be possible at all.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sam prefers not to share his things. <input type="checkbox"/> Sam needs space when resting. <input type="checkbox"/> Sam enjoys his snacks and meals best separately or in his crate. <input type="checkbox"/> Sam likes other dogs, but wants to be the only dog at home and be the center of attention. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>How close can a human or other dog come while Sam has a toy/snack/treat/ other food, a toy, stolen food or item, or is resting and Sam is comfortable with their approach?</i></p> <p><i>What would Sam do or what has Sam done when a human or other dog has come too close?</i></p> <p><i>What training has been attempted that did or did not help with Sam’s resource guarding?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Sam likely resource guards food, toys, and or resting spaces. Sam may show any level of threatening or aggressive behaviors when he is eating a meal, snack, or treat, engaging with a toy, and or while resting on a dog bed, couch, or human bed or in a crate. Although suggestions such as feeding in a crate or leaving Sam alone may be offered, life is not always predictable and the depth of the resource guarding may not be fully known. Sam may also resource guard food or items he gets access to that he should not have and his adopter may not realize that he will resource guard in those scenarios. It may be suggested that Sam’s access to guarding opportunities be limited, however resource guarding can include “shifting triggers” meaning if Sam cannot guard things he used to because they are not provided, he may start guarding other things or things he didn’t used to guard in the past. Training could help in Sam’s adoptive home provided that his adopter is willing and able to dedicated the time and afford the cost while managing the behavior in the meantime with an understanding that improvements could be minimal. Resource guarding can affect both human and animal-to-animal interactions.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tami needs an adopter that is home more often than not. Tami is seeking an adopter that works from home or is retired. <input type="checkbox"/> Tami loves people so much that she wants to around them all the time. Tami is a Velcro dog. <input type="checkbox"/> Tami is a lovely dog and come with her human everywhere as the center of attention. <input type="checkbox"/> Tami doesn’t need a crate in the home. <input type="checkbox"/> Tami loves adventure and is offended when she doesn’t get to come for a car ride with her humans. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>How long has Tami been left alone without people around, if ever?</i></p> <p><i>Was she left loose or in a kennel or crate? What kind of kennel or crate?</i></p> <p><i>How does Tami feel when she is kenneled or crated?</i></p> <p><i>How does Tami feel when left alone with no humans or other animals present?</i></p> <p><i>How would Tami feel when no one can be with her?</i></p> <p><i>Has Tami ever chewed anything, peed or pooped, been found salivating or pacing, broken out of a crate/kennel, or barked/howled/vocalized while left alone?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Tami likely exhibits isolation distress (ID) or separation anxiety (SA). Isolation distress is a level of discomfort when a dog is left alone. While separation anxiety is a level of discomfort when separated from one or a few specific people. Either behavioral condition can be applied to other animals i.e. Tami can be left alone comfortably only when within visual sight of another dog or a specific dog. However, often, leaving a dog with ID or SA alone with another animal as a solution for the ID or SA does not work and the dog’s condition is human specific. Plus, a dog with ID or SA may not be able to be safely crated if they also exhibit confinement distress and it may be risky to leave Tami with another dog unsupervised either due to Tami’s other behavioral traits or the behavioral traits of the other animal you are trying to leave Tami with. ID and SA may be able to be improved through training, however, for some dogs the condition cannot be fully resolved and, in most cases, training takes several weeks or months during which Tami cannot be left alone while the training is progressing. Life changes such as moving or schedule changes can also lead to regression in progress made with ID and SA training even if Tami progresses to being able to be left alone for the lengths of times needed. Even if Tami only suffers from ID, she may not respond well to being placed in boarding as many boarding places require dogs to have downtime away from humans so they can service other dogs. If Tami also possesses traits that make her difficult or unsafe to socialize with humans or other dogs, boarding options are further limited as Tami would not be eligible for “cage-free” boarding where are all the dogs are placed together. An adopter may want to research if the compatible professional services they will need are within an accessible travel distance from them and within their budget.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny can get overexcited at times when playing with other dogs. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny needs help knowing when play is done. <input type="checkbox"/> An adopter that can supervise Sunny during play would help him understand when it’s time to take a break. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>Under what circumstances does Sunny become overexcited with people?</i></p> <p><i>Under what circumstances does Sunny become overexcited with other dogs?</i></p> <p><i>How often? How can his over excitedness be deescalated? How often is that successful?</i></p> <p><i>Do you have videos of Sunny playing with a person and becoming overexcited and how the situation was deescalated? Other dogs?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Sunny may have some concerns about over arousal, inappropriate behaviors towards people and or other dogs when interacting, or have issues with other dogs that are not well understood. Even if a meet and greet goes well for Sunny with resident dogs in an adoptive home, Sunny may display overwhelming, socially inappropriate, threatening, or aggressive behaviors towards another dog in the home at some point. What “overexcites” Sunny may not be well known or only occur under very specific conditions, but those conditions may not be easy to manage or control. Sunny’s “overexcitement” may become more prominent or frequent as Sunny gets more comfortable in his new home. Sunny may not do well with visiting dogs or exciting situations. It may be difficult or dangerous to deescalate Sunny. Sunny’s “overexcitement” may actually be dog selective dog behaviors. Sunny may not be eligible for walking/boarding services around other dogs. An adopter may want to research if the compatible professional services they will need are within an accessible travel distance from them and within their budget.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Remi develops a deep bond with his person. <input type="checkbox"/> Remi would do best with one person to call his own. <input type="checkbox"/> Remi is monogamous and seeking a single partner. <input type="checkbox"/> If you’re like Remi and prefer the solace of your own abode, you’d both be a great match! <input type="checkbox"/> Remi loves to give and receive undivided attention with his person. He’s very people oriented! 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What does Remi convey or do specifically that makes you say he bonds strongly to his person?</i></p> <p><i>What does Remi do when he is with his person and another person that is not his person approaches?</i></p> <p>Refer to the question suggestions for Tami.</p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>This could refer to Remi being a dog that the rescue feels connects with a human more than the average dog seen in ways that are often desirable such as being up for any activity his adopter would like to do, a good training partner, strong handler focus, etc. There is a possibility though that this describes behaviors or traits that are not often desirable such as Remi not bonding with others in the household. This could be as benign as Remi simply enjoying the company of his primary person most, however, this could be a disappointment for others in the household that wanted to bond with Remi as their pet too. This could be more significant such as resource guarding his person from people in the household approaching. For single person households, this could still pose difficulties as Remi could display some level of separation anxiety when away from his primary person or be unwelcoming to visitors.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jen will need time and patience in her new home. <input type="checkbox"/> Jen is learning to be brave and to trust. <input type="checkbox"/> Jen warms up to people at her pace. <input type="checkbox"/> Jen is sensitive and needs an adopter that is willing to teach their guests how to make friends with Jen. <input type="checkbox"/> Jen would do best in a calm home. <input type="checkbox"/> Jen needs a nurturing environment. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What does Jen do when meeting a new person? How does Jen behave when she meets a person again that she has met in the past?</i></p> <p><i>How was Jen introduced to new people and how many?</i></p> <p><i>How long does it take for Jen to completely warm up to new people? (hours/days/weeks) Will Jen need multiple visits to warm up?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Jen is likely nervous or fearful in new environments. Jen may be nervous, fearful, or aggressive towards new people. She may display some level of fleeing, hiding, freezing, barking, growling, lunging, charging, or biting around a new person. An adopter will want to consider how often they have guests visit the home and the activities they envision doing with their new dog. Jen may require specialized dog care, walking services, and boarding with a professional experienced with dogs like Jen which could lead to more expensive boarding options. An adopter may want to research if the compatible professional services they will need are within an accessible travel distance from them and within their budget. Jen may struggle at the vet. While these behaviors may improve with training, her adopter will need to be prepared to live with Jen safely while working on her behaviors and there is no guarantee of how much improvement can be made. Keep in mind that her new home will be an unfamiliar environment for her and her adopter will be considered a new person by Jen for any length of time before and after adoption and she may show these behaviors towards her adopter.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bee and Bop love each other so much and are looking for a home where they can be placed together. <input type="checkbox"/> Bee and Bop are great friends and we’d love to see them find a home together. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>How long have they known each other and been considered a bonded pair?</i></p> <p><i>How do each of them behave when walked on leash in separate directions? How do each of them behave when separated in another way such as Bee is left in her crate and Bop and taken out of his crate and led out of the room?</i></p> <p><i>Are Bee and Bop better once they can’t see each other after a separation and have settled down a bit? Can they be distracted from the separation by each receiving attention from separate handlers during a separation?</i></p> <p><i>Have Bee and Bop had any situations where they had to be separated while they’ve been in the shelter or rescue? If so, what behaviors did they display?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>It is possible that Bee and Bop are a bonded pair. A bonded pair of dogs describes two dogs that, if separated, one or both of the dogs could display some level of concerning behavior ranging from temporary discomfort to lasting distress. While bonded pairs do exist, rescues and shelters may categorize a pair as bonded when they are in fact not truly bonded and would be able to adapt to life separately reasonably easily. However, stating dogs are bonded can get two dogs adopted at once or be a way to get a more difficult to place dog adopted by requiring it be adopted with another dog that is easier to place. It certainly is not encouraged for a shelter or rescue to separate dogs that would experience a notable level of discomfort just because an adopter asks them to, just because someone is skeptical if the pair is truly bonded, or just to adopt the individual dogs out faster than if they were required to be adopted together. However, bonded pair assessments should be accurate and continually evaluated for changes by the organization. Adopting a bonded pair could be a good match for some adopters. However, having a dog companion for your new adopted pet does not mean they won’t be double the work. Each dog will have their own behavior and medical needs and expenses. While a pair may be bonded, that does not mean they definitely get along all the time in all situations, though they certainly could. Can Bee and Bop be walked, taken to training class or the vet, or go for a trip separately while one stays home? In such scenarios, will the one left behind need to be crated during that time and can that dog be crated? How will taking two dogs everywhere that the adopter needs or wants to take only one dog work for the adopter’s lifestyle? Careful consideration is advised when considering a bonded pair adoption.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evie can be nippy at times when... <input type="checkbox"/> Evie can be mouthy with her dog friends. <input type="checkbox"/> Evie may use her mouth when trying to get attention or while playing with her humans. <input type="checkbox"/> Evie sees kids as little friends and can be too rough and mouthy or nippy with them. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What happened before, during, and after each time Evie has been nippy?</i></p> <p><i>Has Evie ever broken skin when being nippy? Has Evie been nippy in a way that she remained physically attached in a grabbing manner to a person or animal or person’s clothing?</i></p> <p><i>How has Evie been deescalated during/after a time that Evie has been nippy?</i></p> <p><i>Has Evie’s nippiness decreased while in the organization’s care through any training or enrichment outlets? What training or enrichment has been attempted that did or did not help decrease Evie’s nippiness?</i></p> <p><i>Do you have video of this behavior?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>The concern with subjective language such as the term “nip” is that we cannot be sure the nature of, intensity, or intent of the behavior. Asking questions in a way that seeks an objective description of the behavior and events surrounding a behavior can help. The greatest concern is that such phrases are actually describing aggressive snapping or biting behaviors as opposed to excitement, arousal, or response to movement. Evie may use her mouth during exciting moments or to grab at fast moving things when a person makes brisk movements or direction changes, a moving hand, running children, joggers on a walk, etc. If Evie’s mouth behaviors are as such during the stated or similar situations, Evie may be inclined to use her mouth by pinching, grabbing, snapping, mouthing, or holding with her mouth in such or similar situations. This can be a breed trait as seen in herding breeds however it is rare that a herding breed would “herd” people or dogs and even if the dog has a history of or exposure to formal herding. Regardless, it is an unproductive behavior and not representative of herding skill on its own. Typically, this is a manifestation of response to movement, excitement, or arousal. This can be concerning if Evie does this often, permeating life with her, or Evie does this hard enough to leave marks or break skin. Additionally concerning would be if Evie will not let go of the person, animal, or clothing or if Evie becomes aggressive or escalates when attempts to remove her made. As this relates to these behaviors towards other dogs, asking for more detail can help determine if Evie is stimulated by a dog moving fast, presents mouth behaviors towards dogs in arousing or exciting situations, or is actually displaying a behavior with an aggressive root. It should be considered how another dog, particularly other dogs in the household, will respond to these behaviors of Evie.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Duke needs a quieter home as he is startled by sudden or loud noises right now. <input type="checkbox"/> Duke needs a home in the country or suburbs rather than a busier area or city. <input type="checkbox"/> Duke would prefer not to venture to busy areas or places with loud noises. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What types of noises or volume of noises startle Duke and what does he do?</i></p> <p><i>Where has Duke experienced noises that startle him?</i></p> <p><i>Has he tried/suspected to try to escape a fence or collar/harness when startled?</i></p> <p><i>Has Duke’s startle response to noises decreased while in the organization’s care through any training? What training has been attempted that did or did not help decrease Duke’s startle response to noises?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Duke may be a dog that is only concerned about sudden or loud noises or Duke may be a dog that is also generally nervous or fearful of a variety of stimuli or busy situations or places. Duke may be more nervous of sounds in unfamiliar environments than familiar environments and may not be comfortable in new or busy places. One adopter be ok with Duke not wanting to go to such places while another adopter would prefer a dog that can go places with them comfortably. Duke may be comfortable in a variety of places until a noise occurs then remains uncomfortable for a prolonged period even if attempts are made to calm him. Duke may be fearful of storms or fireworks and require accommodations to help him feel better during all storms and fireworks. Duke may be a flight risk or try to escape a collar, crate, fence, car, or home when a noise occurs. If an adopter anticipates that they may need or want to travel or move to a busier area or city at any time in Duke’s lifetime, Duke may struggle with the transition even if he becomes more comfortable with noises in his adoptive home.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Todd can be rambunctious with kids and will need to go to a home with kids 12 and up. <input type="checkbox"/> Todd likes kids but he prefers respectful, dog savvy children. <input type="checkbox"/> Kids make Todd nervous/scared so an adult only home is best for him. 	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What does Todd do when he sees kids under 12? and over 12?</i></p> <p><i>How often and how long has Todd interacted with kids in the past? ages?</i></p> <p><i>What does Todd do if a kid accidentally pulls on his ears/tail, pats him too hard, pushes him, hugs him, touches his paws? Are there specific things that Todd does not like that a kid might do? If so, how did Todd react to that in the past?</i></p> <p><i>What would Todd do if a kid came up to him unexpectedly? What would Todd do if a kid was seen and Todd’s leash broke or he escaped a fenced area?</i></p> <p><i>Has Todd ever barked, lunged, snapped at, or bitten a kid?</i></p>
<p>WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>It is unknown from the description alone if the organization has observed Todd around children at all and more information should be gathered to understand what interactions Todd has had around kids if any. For the first two bullets, Todd may be ok with kids of the age noted in the bio. For the first bullet, Todd may truly be an energetic, excitable dog and the only concern is that he could knock down, step on, jump on, scratch with nails, or generally overwhelm a younger or smaller child. For the second bullet, Todd may still be best in a home with kids that will not do certain things to or around Todd. Identifying the exact things that Todd does not like that kids could do can help an adopter identify if Todd is a good fit for their household. Identifying how Todd will respond in a variety of scenarios with a kid can help an adopter assess if they are comfortable with the potential risk Todd may pose to kids. An adopter should consider if and how often they have visitors to the home that are kids, if they plan to do activities with Todd in environments where kids are present, and if they plan to have kids in Todd’s lifetime. Should Todd be a risk to kids, the adopter should assess if they are comfortable with the liability that could be present should Todd ever get close to a kid accidentally or otherwise.</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Axe may be reactive to people, kids, dogs, and or other animals. While Axe may not be reactive from a root of fear, nervousness, or aggression, an adopter should consider if they are ok with working on and managing Axe's behaviors. Reactive behaviors from a root of excitement or frustration can include but are not limited to barking, yelling, lunging, redirecting on the leash or handler (using their mouth to any degree on the handler or their clothing or biting the leash and possibly tugging on the leash with their mouth and may be difficult to redirect from tugging the leash).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tony greets you by standing on his rear legs to say hi.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tony is learning to keep his paws on the floor when he makes new human friends.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>When greeting, does Tony put his paws on people? (if jumping is divulged) What training has been attempted that did or did not help with Tony's jumping?</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Tony likely jumps on people to some degree. The strength or frequency with which he jumps with may be too much for some adopters, household members, or visitors to the home. Jumping is a behavior that can improve with training, but his adopter will need to be prepared to live with Tony safely while working on jumping.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ranger pulls when on a walk but then he settles in.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ranger needs some help with leash walking.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ranger needs a strong handler.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ranger loves ... and directs his foster mom to them on neighborhood walks.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ranger would prefer a home (or requires a home) with a fenced yard.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p><i>What does Ranger do while on a walk? What training has been attempted that did or did not help with Ranger's leash walking? Are there certain situations or environments where Ranger pulls most? Meeting Ranger and asking to try leash walking him is suggested.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Ranger pulls on leash to some degree. The strength he pulls with may be too much for some adopters. Alternatively, this may refer to Ranger being unfamiliar with or disliking leashes. He may attempt to escape a collar, chew the leash, pull in an attempt to get away, refuse to walk, or alligator roll on the leash. Leash walking is a skill that can improve with training, but his adopter will need to be prepared to walk Ranger safely while working on leash walking training.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ani is seeking an experienced adopter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ani needs a special home.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If these traits/needs of Ani haven't scared you off, she may be the right fit for you!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ani needs guidance and or a strong handler/leader.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ani has many unique qualities!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ani's quirks make her a special pup!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p>RIC's Cooperative Adopter Foster Contract is suggested to help ensure all behaviors are well communicated and documented prior to foster or adoption.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <p>Ani may display concerning behaviors or have the potential for concerning behaviors. Just because a home is experienced or unscared by a bio does not necessarily mean they will be willing or able to accommodate Ani's behaviors or enjoy Ani as a pet. Even if some behaviors are described, there may be more behaviors that are not obviously mentioned.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO SAYS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Little to no information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This dog is new to us and we are learning more about them! (However, it is noted that the dog came in to the shelter or rescue more than a month prior.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOW TO NAVIGATE</p> <p>RIC's Cooperative Adopter Foster Contract is suggested to help ensure all behaviors are well communicated and documented prior to foster or adoption.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT THE BIO MAY MEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dog is new and little information is known, • The shelter is a municipal, required intake shelter that lacks the resources to consistently write lengthy bios, • The dog is experiencing behavior or medical complications and its bio is not ready yet, OR • The rescue does not spend the time it should in gathering useful information about the dogs they take in. 	

Adoptable dog bios – what do they mean?

Check off phrases or versions of phrases found within a dog's bio to help guide you through learning what you need to know.

Additional Considerations

Feral Dogs

Categorizing a dog as feral should not be used as a blanket description add-on for all dogs that just nervous, fearful, anxious, aggressive, do not want to or have difficulty focusing on their handler, or lack desire to associate with humans. Feral is a specific quality of a dog and while the previous descriptions could be present in a feral dog, such does not mean the dog is feral. RIC's best guidance for determining if a dog is feral is hiring a competent trainer with experience with truly feral dogs to evaluate the dog. A dog being feral has a range from the dog being only somewhat different from non-feral dogs to being incredibly different from non-feral dogs. Feral dogs may never assimilate into a household nor partake in activities dogs typically enjoy such as playing with toys, cuddling, petting, training, going for walks, traveling, or meeting new people. Feral dogs may be difficult to contain on a leash and in a crate, fence, tie out, kennel, crate, or house, attempt to escape with or without cause, and be a flight risk. Being feral can be genetic or long time practiced from a previous living situation and training may not change a feral dog's behaviors.

Dogs from Hoarding Situations or Large-Scale Foster Homes

A dog that came from a hoarding situation or was kept in a foster home with a lot of other dogs may not have had a thorough, accurate assessment done for behaviors relating to other dogs and being alone (confinement distress/isolation distress/separation anxiety). This relates to dogs consistently kept with 5-10+ other dogs constantly without a behavior assessment done outside of that environment. In such environments, it is not typical for the dogs to be left alone a lot as there often is not a safe way to leave that many dogs unsupervised. Even if the dog was left alone at times, information should be gathered on how the dog was kept (crate/kennel/pen/loose indoors/loose outdoors) and how they behaved in that arrangement while alone. It is unlikely that information can be known on how the dog feels when left alone without other dogs present in this living arrangement. When a dog is kept with a lot of other dogs, they may not behave the same way as they would when engaging with or living with just one or a few other dogs. When surrounded by many other dogs, a dog may be less likely to show aggressive behavior or guard resources due to fear of a particular other dog's reaction in the mix or simply being overwhelmed. For a dog that lived in a large-scale foster home, they may also lack accurate information on their energy level or physical or mental exercise needs. A dog in this type of environment is constantly stimulated through never ending activity and social interactions and decisions relating to the other dogs. From the constant activity and need to socially interact, the dog may appear to be more wired and unable to settle in the foster environment, then exhibit a lower energy level after adoption. Conversely, from the constant activity and need to socially interact, the dog may appear to be laid back and low energy in the foster environment when truly the foster environment exhausted them, then exhibit a higher energy level after adoption.

Dogs Saved from Euthanasia

It is not unseen that a dog being saved from euthanasia is exaggerated or untrue. In cases where the dog was actually saved from euthanasia, the reason the dog was saved from euthanasia could be due to a former owner requesting euthanasia without a cause (rare) or an extended stay or lack of space in a municipal, required intake shelter (more common). At times, the reason the dog was slated for euthanasia was due to behavior and or medical concerns which may have been severe. Inquiring with the organization why the dog was slated for euthanasia can offer insight into any possible concerns seen previously.

Length of Stay

While a dog that has been waiting to be adopted for a longer time than others could be a good match for an adopter, sometimes a dog that has waited a long time possesses traits or needs that most people are unable or unwilling to accommodate. An adopter could gain valuable information about a dog by asking why previous potential adopters have inquired about the dog and why they did not end up moving forward with adoption.

Returned Dogs

A dog being returned is actually a good thing. This means that the shelter or rescue was willing to take back a dog that they placed exemplifying responsibility. It also means the shelter or rescue could have gained valuable information about the dog's behavior, likes/dislikes, and traits observed while in the previous placement. An adopter may learn more by asking about a dog's time in its previous placement.

"Transport Rescue"

Transport rescue refers to rescues that operate in an area far from an adopter and the rescue transports the dog to their adopter after approval. The adopter does not meet the dog prior to committing to adopt and take the dog into their home. This is a risky practice as the adopter has no way to verify information about the dog by seeing the dog first. Rescues doing adoptions in this way almost never have systems in place in case the dog is not what the adopter expected or needs to return the dog at any point.

Dogs as Sports or Working Prospects

While there can be dogs in shelters and rescues that would make good sports and working partners, observations of the dog's potential and any formal evaluation or experience in the sport or working capacity should be explained. Stating that a dog has high food and or toy drive or has high mental and or physical stimulation needs is not a sufficient basis for claiming that a dog

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Check off phrases or versions of phrases found within a dog's bio to help guide you through learning what you need to know.

will be a good fit as a sports or working partner. Likewise, neither are vague references to liking fetch, frisbee, using their nose, running, swimming, or picking up on training quickly. Sports or work require a dog to have the potential to be trained through complex behaviors that are sustained for longer than a few behaviors in a sequence in a variety of new environments with vast distractions. Sport and work environments can be noisy, contain a lot of strangers, kids, and other dogs, and require that the dog be off leash at some point in their sport or working capacity. At times, dogs with behavior concerns are highlighted as being a sport or working prospect despite their behaviors of concern that would be difficult or incompatible with sport or working requirements or environments. Shelters and rescues rarely have in-depth knowledge of the dog's health or fitness and almost never have information on the dog's lineage for information on its potential health genetics. An adopter can rarely gauge if a dog is and will remain physically healthy to do sports or work.

Puppies

It can be difficult for a shelter or rescue to gauge the future personality and any potential behavior or medical concerns of a puppy. Dogs go through social maturity between 18 months to 3 years old during which the dog's personality solidifies. Of course, nurture is always at play with nature, however nature is a significant driving force in a dog's behavior traits. Adopting a puppy can be unpredictable both behaviorally and medically. It is possible for a competent trainer to spot potential behaviors of concern in evaluating a puppy that an adopter is considering should the adopter wish to hire one.

Bios with Limited or Poorly Taken Photos and/or Short Bios

The organization may be a municipal, required intake shelter that lacks the resources to consistently write lengthy bios and take numerous good pictures. In other cases, the organization has far more animals in their care than they can reasonably dedicate time to. This may not relate only to their time and attention available to write lengthy bios and take numerous good pictures, but the organization may not spend adequate time and attention to evaluating the animals in their care and providing for them.

While past behavior is the best indicator of future behavior, it is not a guarantee either for better or for worse. RIC suggests utilizing RIC's Cooperative Adopter Foster Contract to help ensure all information about a dog is well communicated and documented prior to foster or adoption.