

Telephone Screening Form for Dog Adoptions

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NAME: _____	PHONE #: _____
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A PET? _____	DATE: _____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT YOUR PRESENT ADDRESS? _____	
HOW MANY ADULTS LIVE IN YOUR HOME? _____	
ARE THERE CHILDREN? WHAT ARE THEIR AGES? _____	
WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANIMAL? _____	
WHAT KIND OF AREA DO YOU LIVE IN? _____	CITY _____ SUBURB _____ RURAL _____
HOW MANY ANIMALS ARE YOU LEGALLY ALLOWED TO HAVE ON YOUR PROPERTY? _____	
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CRATING A DOG? _____	APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

1. Do you want the dog for yourself, or is it for a gift?

For me personally [0]

Gift for other person [State that you will have to interview the recipient first]

2. Are you a student or active military?

Yes [-20] No [0]

3. Do you live in an apartment, house, mobile home, or condo?

Apartment [0] House [+5] mobile home [0] Condo [+1]

4. Do you own or rent your residence?

Own [+10] Rent [0]

(If they rent) Will your landlord give you written permission to have a dog?

Yes [+3] No [Do not adopt to this person!]

(If Yes) Will you show me the landlord's written permission that you can keep a dog (or dogs) on the premises?

Yes [+3] No [Do not adopt to this person!]

5. Do you have a cat or dog now?

Yes [+1]

What Kind? How Many? _____

How long have you had your pet?

0-3 years [0] 3-6 years (+2) 6+ years (+5)

(If it's a dog) What size is your dog in relation to mine?

Same [+2] Larger/Smaller [0]

What sex is your dog?

Same sex as yours [-2] Different sex than yours [+2]

What kind of personality does your dog have?

Dominant/Aggressive [-10] Docile/Easy-Going [+2]

Have you had any pets prior to the one you now own?

Yes *Go to # 7* No *Go to #9*

No [0]

6. Have you ever had a cat or dog?

Yes [+2] No [0] *Go to #12*

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7. How long did you have your pet?

0-3 years (0) 3-6 years (+2) 6+ years (+5)

8. What happened to your pet?

Got rid of it (Ask for details - choose all that apply)

Unavoidable [0] Owner Inconvenience [-20] Adopted w/fee [+2]
 To Trusted Friend/Family [+5] To Pound (-10) "Free to Good Home" [-15]

Died of a health problem

Was the animal treated by a vet for this problem? Yes [+5] No [-10]

Ran away (Ask for details)

Owner negligence [-20] Fluke Accident [0]

Killed in traffic (Ask for details)

Owner negligence [-20] Fluke Accident [0]

Poisoned/Shot/Murdered (Ask for details. If they still live in the same place and/or the circumstances have not changed, do not adopt to this person!)

9. Does (did) the pet have its shots?

Yes [+3] No [-10]

10. Who is (was) your Veterinarian?

Names a vet [+2] Has (had) none [-10] Don't remember name [0]

(Names a vet) May we contact your vet as a reference?

Yes [+3] No [-10]

11. Is (was) the pet spayed or neutered?

Yes [+5] No [-10]

12. Are you interested in breeding?

Yes [-20] No [0]

13. Do you think that an animal should have at least one litter before being fixed?

Yes [-10] No [0]

14. Will this dog be primarily an indoor or outdoor pet?

Indoor [+3] Outdoor [-20]

15. Where will the dog be kept when you are away from your home?

Indoor [+3] Outdoor [-10]

16. What is the longest period of time that the dog would be left unattended?

0-8 hrs [0] Up To 9 hrs [-5] Over 9 hrs [-20]

17. Do you have a fenced-in yard?

Yes [+4] No [0] **Go to #18**

(If yes) Fence Height: 4' and under [-2] 5' and over [0]

Gate Height: 4' and under [-2] 5' and over [0]

18. If you moved, what would you do with the dog?

Take the dog with me [+5] I'd have to find it a home [-20]

19. Does everybody in your family want an adopted dog?

Yes [+2] No [-20] Single Person [0]

20. May I visit your home to see how and where the animal would be living?

Yes [+3] No [-20]

NOTES: _____

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SCORE _____

GRADE: 40 or more	Excellent. Based on their score, these people should provide an ideal home. Arrange for you to visit their home and for them to meet the prospective dog.
GRADE: 30 - 39	Good. Keep them on your list of potential adopters. Meet with them personally and visit their home to form a more solid opinion of them.
GRADE: 20- 29	Fair. Proceed with caution. You definitely should visit their home and get to know more about them before adopting an animal to them.
GRADE: Below 20	Poor. Unless there are very unusual circumstances, we would not adopt to these people.

GUIDELINES

Do not reveal to the person being interviewed what you are looking for in a pet owner. Some people may then tell you only what you want to hear. At the same time, don't "grill" them. Instead, make conversation and you will be surprised at what they reveal about themselves.

The first gray section of this form gives you a general background on the person and an idea of what kind of environment might be provided for the dog. The prospective adopters set the tone right away when they describe what they are looking for in a pet. It could be a companion for a lonely person, playmate for their children, buddy for another pet or an act of kindness in providing a home for an unfortunate animal. The number of adults and children in the home and their ages will indicate to you whether the dog would be suitable or not, since you are familiar with the animal's personality.

How long they have lived at their present location usually gives you some idea of their stability. If they have moved into their neighborhood recently, ask how long they lived at their last residence. The location of the prospective home may also help you in the decision making process in many ways. For instance, the community they live in determines how many animals may be kept on the property. Don't let them adopt an animal if it puts them over their legal limit!

If they disapprove of crating a dog, you should educate them on the benefits of this type of training. Give them literature if you have it, explain how the dog perceives the crate as its den, that it is not cruel and that, until it is trained, it is in the dog's best interest to be confined when you are not at home.

In all cases, do not make a snap decision while on the telephone. Tell them that other people are on your prospective list and that you will call them back. Then tally up their points, review your notes and compare them with other prospects. If you feel that you have found a good home, call them back and make arrangements for them to see the dog and for you to visit their home.

This screening form should be used in conjunction with other techniques, such as face-to-face interviews, home visits and conversations with the person's friends and references. None of the conditions in this screening form are absolute. They are guidelines and should not be used alone to make a definitive decision regarding someone's suitability as an adopter. . While, in our opinion, getting a -20 on any given question is generally a "show stopper", **there are always exceptions to every rule.** For instance, the form deducts a lot of points if the person is a student or in the military. This is because these demographic groups are known to abandon pets much more often than the average pet owner does. But if they score high in other areas, get to know them better and ask for character references. They may be totally dedicated to a pet and would never abandon it.

Another example would be someone who has recently lost an old and/or beloved pet and has been referred to you by a reputable veterinarian. This is practically a "no-brainer", regardless of the circumstances.

Points are gained when you have a fence and gate 5 feet or taller, however, that still does not mean that the fence is suitable. You won't know that until you visit the home. If a dog is to be kept in a yard any time at all, it is very important that it not be able to escape and that another animal not be able to get into the yard with it. If the fence is in disrepair and/or there are places that a dog could easily crawl or dig under it, you should require the owners make repairs before you adopt to them. Remember, it is better for a dog to live in an apartment and be walked regularly than to be kept in an unsafe yard; or even worse, to be dumped in a yard 24 hours a day without any human contact.

Use your discretion with the points system. If you feel that someone went above and beyond the norm in any of the situations, you should feel free to give them a higher score than listed. For instance, if someone went to extraordinary lengths to try and save a former pet with a health problem, they would merit more than 5 points on item #7. Alternatively, if you feel more strongly about any of the negative items, you may want to deduct more points.

Careful thought and common sense are required to be successful in this process. Also it is necessary to be flexible, keep an open mind and use your good judgment.