



Home Visit Guidelines

When making a home visit to approve a family for adoption, please follow these guidelines. The Adoption Coordinator will brief the Home Visit person if there are any concerns or areas to focus on during the Home Visit. **Remember:** *Would you want this person (family) to adopt **your** dog?*

1. **ALL** family members **MUST** be present for the home visit. **No exceptions!!**
2. If you are taking a dog on the visit, contact the family when you arrive at the house. Ask them to come outside with the family and current dogs (if any) on a leash to do the introductions. The front yard is more neutral and less confining for everyone to make that initial meeting.
3. Please let them know about the entire adoption process and our need for due diligence.
 - 1) The dogs come from diverse backgrounds;
 - 2) Medical needs are addressed;
 - 3) Assigned to foster family for care, treatment, evaluation and training;
 - 4) We match best dog for each individual family;
 - 5) All dogs are chipped and Spayed or Neutered;
 - 6) Dogs are imperfect living beings! They can expect some issues. We will help.
4. Encourage families with no pets to take a dog that needs to be an only child.
5. If they need a dog friendly bulldog remind them that we normally have a waiting list of adopters.
6. **WE CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH:** Try not to talk about particular dogs in rescue on Home Visits. Unfortunately, thanks to our website and Facebook, they may already have their mind made up who they want. That might not always be the best for them or the dog. Get a feel for what kind of dog would work best. If the applicant is fixated on a particular dog, please explain that they are not currently completed with the approval process and that the dog they are interested in may already be in the process of being adopted. This is going to take the pressure off of you because you don't know the adoption status of any of the bulldogs in rescue except the ones you are fostering. We definitely want to discuss profiles of dogs (age, sex, good with kids etc.) But at this point the applicants are not even approved and should not be discussing a specific dog. That will be done later with their coordinator.

7. Young Bulldogs that are dog friendly are the most sought after. We have a list of such applicants that keeps growing.
8. Adopters should not go looking for dogs to adopt themselves. They need to let the Coordinators refer dogs for them to consider. When they meet a dog, they need to look for a connection with the dog and not to limit themselves to a particular age range, color, shape, etc. It's a lot like looking for a girlfriend or boyfriend. You can't tell everything by seeing a picture or reading a short bio. There needs to be some interaction.
9. We always need to move some seniors.
10. Answer any general questions about bulldogs you can answer. Help them find an answer if you don't know.
11. Encourage them to follow us on FB, and/or Instagram after adoption and use that as a means of asking future questions.
12. Inform them that after they are approved, they will receive an email from their Coordinator with the Adoption Handbook that will guide them through the rest of the process and for the first weeks after the adoption. Encourage them to read the Handbook completely.
13. Complete Home Visit Report.
14. Submit the report attaching any notes that help further explain the family and what they desire and what is the best fit for them.

Every step in the process is VERY important and everyone needs to be on the same page. We want to insure that *LSBCR* is in control of the adoption process and NOT the applicants. The applicants should be willing to work with *LSBCR* to find the perfect fit for them (most times this is NOT the dog that they thought was a perfect fit). The focus of rescue is *ALWAYS* what is best for the dog!