

Dog Adoption Questions

Have you owned a dog before?

- If the reply is yes heaps of dogs - get an overview of what has happened to all these dogs.
- If the reply is yes, ask how long did they have the dog (did they have it for its entire life?)
- If no, make sure they are aware of the time, effort and expenses involved in dog ownership.

What is the approximate height of fences and gates?

- Must be 6ft all round, including gates. You don't want the dog escaping or being tied up 24/7.
- Do you have dog free access to your front door? (If someone came onto your property and left the gate open could the dog get out?)
- **DO A PROPERTY INSPECTION.**
- **Farm properties- do they have a secure fully fenced area to safely contain a dog? Do they live near a busy road? Is there stock just a leap over a fence away? How long would the dog be in a kennel/run (or chained up) for each day? Would the dog be allowed inside as part of the family at night or out in the kennel/run again?**

If living in a rental property, do you have the landlord's permission to keep a dog on the property?

- If yes, we need to see this in writing and ask how long they have been in the rental property. We want long term renters.

Where will the dog sleep at night?

- If outside, a good quality insulated kennel must be provided to keep the dog warm and dry.
- If the dog is already used to sleeping inside, find a home that will continue with this.
- If outside at night, ask if they will allow the dog inside at all or will it be an outside only dog? Dogs are social and need company.

Do you have any other animals? e.g. cats, rabbits, livestock etc

- For dogs that may be okay with other pets, are the new owners confident to do a safe introduction with their other pets and monitor this over time? Most dogs can be trained to learn that the other animals are part of the pack.

Are you a working family? (Some dogs do not tolerate being alone all day)

- Do not home a puppy if it will be left on its own for long periods of time.

Give a trial period: if the new home for your dog does not work out, a trial period means the dog can come back to you for re-homing, rather than possibly being re-homed to anybody.

PUPPIES

If people are looking to adopt a puppy, be extra vigilant with questions – make sure it's not an impulse adoption because the pup is small and cute. Will they still want it when it's going through the trying teenage years? Will they put time and effort into training and mental stimulation? Is there someone home during part of the day for company/socialization/meal times/training. **Are they aware of the cost of vaccinations and de-sexing?** It's really important that pups go to responsible homes that will get both these done. Vaccinations - can prevent pup suffering from Parvo. De-sexing - we don't want more puppies in the future - there are simply not enough homes for them and many thousands are put down every year in New Zealand. Is there a possibility of them moving or traveling for a long period overseas in the coming years?

Hunters – If you are considering homing your dog to a hunter, **please** find out how your dog will be housed, how often will the dog be let out of its confines? What type of hunting they do – if it's pig hunting, are you aware of the risk of injury to your dog? And what will happen to the dog if it turns out not to be a good hunter? Dogwatch does not support or promote pig hunting of any kind.