

# MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue

## HOME VISIT

### Definition

The purpose of a home visit is to meet the prospective adopters and to evaluate the appropriateness and safety of their home that they will be providing for their new dog.

Q: Would you be comfortable leaving your dog with this applicant?

Q: Do you think that the applicant will provide a good and loving home and will keep the dog's needs in mind?

### Procedure

1. The Rescue Agent contacts the applicant, and makes an appointment to visit the **whole family** at their home. Please ask that all family members be present for at least part of the home visit, and that the principle caretaker of the dog be present for the entire visit. If the whole family is not present the homevisit will be considered incomplete.
2. If possible the Rescue Agent will bring the dog that they feel is a good match.
3. After the visit, the Rescue Agent reports back to MidAmerica ASAP and emails or mails the completed Home Visit Report to the MidAmerica group.

### Completing a Home Visit

- A. When you arrive at the home, introduce yourself and briefly explain the function of the home visit.
- B. Let the applicant talk and volunteer information. NOTE: If you are not comfortable with the applicant as a dog owner or are in any other way uncomfortable, simply end the interview on a nice note and leave.
- C. Tour the house, including the front and back yard, basement, garage and living area.

In the house: Check to see whether the living quarters are dog friendly. Are there a lot of small objects, exposed cords, houseplants etc. that the dog may chew? Are the cleaning materials secured in the cabinets? Is the house reasonably neat and clean?

In the yard: Check the condition of the fence. Is it in good repair? Is the yard totally enclosed? Can the dog get out of it? Are there areas where the dog could injure him/herself? Is the house situated on a busy road?

In the basement and garage: Will the dog have access to these areas? Are there hazards present?

- D. Talk to the applicants. Don't make this a formal interview! **DO NOT ASK THE APPLICANTS THE QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW DIRECTLY FROM YOUR SHEET.** Engage the applicants in conversation about the dog they want to adopt. Observe their behavior/interaction among each other and with the dog if one is present. Get a sense of how they would be as dog owners. Do the children seem as if they would be respectful to pets? Will the adults monitor the children's behavior with the dog? Do the applicants have a basic understanding of the dog's needs and behaviors? Are there other pets in the house? How will they introduce the new dog to the other pets or how are the pets getting along?
- E. Confirm the applicant's comfort level on understanding what rescue is and how we work. Do they understand that sometimes rescued pets go through a period of adjustment? How will they handle this?  
*Not every home is right for every dog - even great people can be wrong for a specific dog.*
- F. When the meeting is over don't tell the person whether or not they are approved. Tell them the information will be relayed to MidAmerica who will notify the potential adopter directly with a final decision and the next step.
- G. Email luckypawpals@aol.com the completed report or mail to 14826 Spaulding St, Omaha, NE 68116

## Home Visit Report

Applicants: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the street: Busy \_\_\_\_ Quiet \_\_\_\_ In-between \_\_\_\_

2. Is there a yard: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

3. Is the yard fenced: Yes, fully \_\_\_\_ Yes, Partially \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If No or Partially, when will the fence be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the fence (height, type, condition) and security (locks).

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is the yard safe for a dog to play in? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If No, list your concerns:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are there any dogs or other animals that live adjacent to this property? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If Yes list type, how they are contained:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe the condition of the home: for example, in good repair, clean, neat.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Where will the dog sleep? What will dog have as bedding?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Is there a crate available? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If Yes, describe the dimensions, and type:

\_\_\_\_\_

10. List the ways they have prepared for a new dog's arrival (toys, supplies, food, vet).

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Describe where dog will be kept when home alone.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Will the dog have access to the garage? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If Yes, is it in good repair, clean, no debris on the floor, hazardous substances out of reach of the dog.

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

13. Describe the behavior of adults among themselves, and to any other pets or children - respectful, hectic, loud, quiet, commanding, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Describe behavior of children in relation to adults, to other children and to any pets.

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15. Are other pets in the household present? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If Yes how do the members in the household treat them, are they groomed and do they seem happy?

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16. Any special needs, unusual circumstances or concerns that we should consider? If Yes, please explain:

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17. Would you feel comfortable leaving your dog with the applicant and family? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If No, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Are they able to . . .

\*Bend down to lift the dog            Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

\*Clean up any messes/accidents      Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

\*Catch the dog                            Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

19. Do they have transportation to take the dog to the vet should an emergency occur? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If No, what is their plan to handle such cases: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Agent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_