

Assessing the Home and Match



Home Check Guide

A home check helps determine whether the home is safe and suitable for the individual pet. It may be completed in person or by live video with the potential adopter's permission.

Basic Information

Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Home check completed: ☐ In person ☐ Live video

Everyone in the household agrees to the adoption: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Landlord permission confirmed, if applicable: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Home and Household Safety

Confirm that:

- ☐ Doors, windows, screens, gates, and fences are secure
- ☐ The pet cannot easily escape
- ☐ Food, medication, chemicals, cords, and other hazards are secured
- ☐ The pet will have a safe place to eat, sleep, and adjust
- ☐ Exercise, litter, enclosure, or outdoor arrangements are suitable
- ☐ Household members understand the pet's needs and boundaries
- ☐ Any species-specific safety needs have been addressed

Where will the pet spend most of their time? _____

Where will the pet stay when no one is home? _____

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Children and Other Pets

- ☐ Children's ages and experience with animals have been discussed
- ☐ Adult supervision will be provided when needed
- ☐ Current pets appear healthy and appropriately cared for
- ☐ Introductions will be slow, controlled, and supervised
- ☐ The household has a safe way to separate animals if needed

Current pets and their temperaments:

Potential Concerns

Pause the process if:

- Information does not match the adoption application
- Household members disagree about adopting
- Landlord permission cannot be confirmed
- The home contains serious or unaddressed hazards
- Current pets appear unsafe, neglected, or poorly managed
- The applicant refuses reasonable questions or prevents parts of the home from being viewed
- The applicant plans to breed, resell, abandon, or give away the pet
- The applicant pressures the guardian to make an immediate decision
- The home cannot safely meet the pet's known needs

Concerns or follow-up needed:

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Overall result:

☐ No concerns noted ☐ Follow-up needed ☐ Home does not appear suitable

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Meet and Greet Checklist

A meet and greet allows the pet, current guardian, and potential adopter to become familiar with one another before a decision is made. One positive meeting does not guarantee a suitable placement.

Before the Meeting

- ☐ Choose a safe, quiet, and species-appropriate location
- ☐ Use a secure leash, carrier, enclosure, or other appropriate equipment
- ☐ Tell the adopter about known medical, behavioural, and safety concerns
- ☐ Decide in advance who may attend
- ☐ Keep children and other pets separate until a controlled introduction is appropriate
- ☐ Do not proceed if anyone feels unsafe or pressured

What to Observe

- How does the adopter approach and handle the pet?
- Do they respect the pet's space and body language?
- How does the pet respond to the adopter?
- Does the adopter listen to instructions and safety concerns?
- Are interactions calm, patient, and appropriate?
- If other pets are introduced, can everyone remain safely controlled?

Observations:

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Questions to Discuss

- What does the adopter expect during the adjustment period?
- How will they manage feeding, exercise, training, grooming, and veterinary care?
- How will they introduce the pet to children, visitors, or other animals?
- What will they do if medical or behavioural concerns arise?
- What will happen if the placement does not work out?
- When would the pet move, and what supplies will be provided?

After the Meeting

- Allow everyone time to consider the decision
- Discuss any concerns before moving forward
- Arrange another meeting if more information is needed
- Complete the transfer agreement before ownership changes

Do not rush because of pressure, sympathy, urgency, or fear of losing the adopter. A careful decision helps protect the pet, guardian, adopter, and community.

Decision:

☐ Proceed ☐ Another meeting needed ☐ Do not proceed

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