

## Choose a Shelter Dog

Before getting a dog for your home you should evaluate your personality and lifestyle, so you can find a shelter dog that will fit right into your household. Please make sure that everyone involved is willing and happy to accept a new doggie family member into your home.

Client's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions and statements:**

### Money

*Even though a shelter dog costs less initially than a dog from a breeder or pet store, below are some more expenses to consider (which apply to all dogs).*

- I can afford a high-quality pet-store food.
- I can afford the basic equipment needed for my new dog (leash, collar, ID tag, registration, microchip, bowls, dog bed, crate, toys, etc.)
- I can afford the spay/neuter cost (mandatory).
- I can afford the regular yearly vet visits and vaccinations.
- I can afford additional costs (e. g. surgery, training sessions, boarding, grooming, new sofa ☺), that the dog might incur.

### Experience

*According to your experience with dogs, some dogs may be more suitable than others for your home.*

- I have had a dog before. I had a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert breed and breed mixes here).
- I have a lot of dog knowledge.

- I have trained my previous dog(s), using the following methods and tools:

\_\_\_\_\_.

- I have been to training classes with my previous dogs.
- I have some dog knowledge.
- I know nothing about dogs, but want to learn.
- I just want a dog!
- I have never had a dog before.
- I am somewhat afraid of dogs.

## Time

***A dog is a social animal that likes to spend a lot of time with his (human) pack.***

- The dog will be alone more than 8 hours a day.
- The dog will be alone up to 8 hours a day.
- The dog will be alone up to 4 hours a day.
- There is always someone at home with the dog.

## Children

***If there are children in your household, it is important to choose a balanced, kind and self-confident dog that is good with children.***

- There are \_\_\_ children in the house.
- Please list ages of the children: \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have other children visiting your house? Please list their ages: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you planning to have (more) children within your dog's lifetime?

## Other pets in the household

***Do you already have pets?***

- Dogs (Please list breeds and ages: \_\_\_\_\_)  
Are your dogs dog-friendly?    Yes    No    It depends    I don't know
- Cats  
Do your cats like dogs?            Yes    No    It depends    I don't know
- Other (e. g. birds, fish, rabbits, snakes. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_)

## Size

***Size matters: A small dog can get hurt easily, a large dog might pull you down the street.***

- I am interested in a toy dog (e. g. Yorkshire Terrier).
- I am interested in a small dog (e. g. Cocker Spaniel)
- I am interested in a medium-sized dog (e. g. Springer Spaniel, Bull Terrier).
- I am interested in a large dog (Golden Retriever).
- I am interested in a giant-sized dog (e. g. Great Dane).
- It doesn't matter.

## **Age**

*Every age group has its advantages and disadvantages. A puppy is fun, but needs to be housetrained, a senior dog may be calmer but need more vet care.*

- I want a puppy.
- I want a young dog (6 months -2 1/2 years old).
- I want a mature dog (3-6 years old).
- I want a senior dog (older than 7 years).
- It doesn't matter.

## **Coat**

*Depending on the coat, the amount of shedding and grooming will vary.*

- My new dog should have a short coat (e. g. Labrador).
- My new dog should have a thick, medium-length coat (e. g. Husky)
- My new dog should have a feathery, medium-length coat (e. g. Golden Retriever)
- My dog should have a long coat (e. g. Afghan Hound, Lhasa Apso).

## **Exercise**

*Some breeds require a lot of exercise (and might get into trouble if they don't get it ☺), some are happy to just hang out with their owners.*

- I don't plan to take the dog for regular walks.
- I will take the dog for regular walks and occasional runs in a safe, enclosed area.
- I want to go jogging and/or hiking with my new dog.
- The dog will be outside all day in a kennel/yard/on a chain.
- I want to do dog sports with my dog (e. g. obedience, agility, herding, freestyle)

## **Training**

*All dogs should have basic pet manners, like sit, come and stay. Some dogs are easier to train than others.*

- I am not planning to do any pet manners training with my dog.
- I will take my dog to a pet manners group class.
- I will train the dog myself at home.
- Someone else will train my dog.
- I want to do dog sports with my dog (e. g. obedience, agility, herding, freestyle)

## **Responsibility**

*A dog requires commitment, as well as a lot of time, patience and love.*

- Who will be in charge of taking care of the dog?
- Who will feed the dog?
- Who will groom and bathe him?

- Who will clean up after the dog?
- Who will be in charge of training the dog?
- Who will walk the dog?
- Who will take the dog to the vet?
- Who will play with the dog?

### **Strangers**

*Some dogs will approach anyone for petting, other dogs are more shy and reserved.*

- I want my dog to be friendly towards strangers.
- I don't mind if my dog is somewhat reserved, but then warms up to people.
- It doesn't matter whether my dog is friendly or reserved.
- I want a watchdog.

### **Anything else?**

Is there anything that you would like to mention (e. g. are there any physical limitations, like allergies, or do you want your dog to be a Therapy Dog)?

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I will evaluate your profile and give you some feedback. If appropriate, I will then look for and evaluate suitable dogs for you in the local shelters. This process might take some time, so please be patient and bear with me. When I have found a dog that matches your profile, I will ask you to come to the shelter and meet and interact with the dog. You then decide whether you wish to adopt the dog or not.

This "Choose a Shelter Dog" service is free of charge. However, no guarantee is given that a suitable dog will be found or be available. HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC and the client can end this agreement at any time without notice or reason. The client must inform HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC, when s/he has obtained a dog elsewhere.

Please note that HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC and its agents do not assume any liability for the service offered nor for the behavior of the suggested dog(s) in the present or future.

The client agrees that s/he, her/his heirs, assignees and legal representatives will not make claim against, sue, or attach the property of HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC and its agents (consultant Silke Wittig, her family, acquaintances, or any other person acting on her behalf) for injury or damage done to or by dog(s) resulting from action or negligence, however caused, by HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC or its agents. The client forever releases HeRo Canine Consulting, LLC and/or its agents from any and all liability and demands which the client, and his/her heirs, assignees and legal representatives may have or may hereafter have for injury or damage to or by dog(s), and assume all risks thereof.

Executed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client (print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client (signature)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

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