



- Strengthening the Human Canine Bond

Shelter Dog Search Questionnaire

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email (required): _____

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).

- Can you afford a high-quality pet-store food?
- Can you afford the basic equipment needed for my new dog (leash, collar, ID tag, registration, microchip, bowls, dog bed, crate, toys, etc.)?
- Can you afford the spay/neuter cost (mandatory)?
- Can you afford the regular yearly vet visits and vaccinations?
- Can you afford additional costs (e. g. surgery, training sessions, boarding, grooming, new sofa 😊), that the dog might incur.
- Are you able and willing to spend the time and money necessary to provide training, medical treatment and proper care for your pet?

Please also download and read the following manual "Before Getting Your Puppy" by Dr. Ian Dunbar:

http://www.jamesandkenneth.com/PDF_docs/J&KBEFOREpic.pdf

Most of the information applies not just to puppies, but dogs of all ages and will be very helpful.

1. **Living Environment**

Do you currently live in a house _____, apartment _____, mobile home _____, duplex _____, other (please specify) _____?

2. If you rent, does your lease allow pets? Yes _____ No _____ I don't know _____

3. **Household**

How many people live in your household?

Elderly or with disability _____

Adults _____

Teenagers _____

Children up to 10 years _____

Children up to 5 years _____

Toddlers and infants _____

4. **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. Please check and fill out all that apply.

___ 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?

5. Are ALL members in your household in agreement to adopt a new dog at this time?

Yes _____ No _____

6. **Reasons for adopting a dog**

Please check any of the following reasons for adopting a pet:

Family Pet _____, Companion _____, Watchdog _____, Breeding _____, Hunting _____, Guard dog for business _____, Child's Pet _____, Companion for other pet _____, Dog Sports _____, Gift _____, Other (please specify) _____

7. **Experience**

According to your experience with dogs, some dogs may be more suitable than others for your home. Please check all that apply.

___ 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 (or somebody else in the same household) am somewhat afraid of dogs.

8. **Other pets in the household**

Do you already have pets? If yes, how many?

Dogs (Please list breeds and ages: _____)

Are your dogs dog-friendly? Yes No It depends I don't know

Are your dogs spayed and/or neutered? Yes No Some (please specify)

Cats (Please list breeds and ages: _____)

Do your cats like dogs? Yes No It depends I don't know

Other (e. g. birds, fish, rabbits, snakes. Please list: _____)

9. **Age**

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

I am looking for a

Puppy (approx. 2-5 months)

Adolescent Dog (approx. 6-18 months)

Adult Dog (approx. 2-5 years)

Senior Dog (approx. 5 years +)

Special Needs Dog (please specify) _____

10. **Breeds**

Please research the breed that you are interested in. A good online resource is:

<http://www.yourpurebredpuppy.com/dogbreeds/index.html>

I am interested in the following breeds of dog:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

11. **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.

12. **Time**

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

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.

13. 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).

14. 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)

15. 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.

16. 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)

17. Responsibility

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

- 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? _____

18. Questions and Concerns

Please share any questions, information and concerns that you may have with us (e. g. physical limitations, allergies).

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. We appreciate your desire to adopt a shelter dog and strive to match you up with a suitable animal.

We will first evaluate your profile and give you some feedback. If appropriate, we will then look for suitable dogs for you in the local shelters. This process might take some time, so please be patient and bear with us. When we have found a dog that matches your profile, we will ask you to come to the shelter and meet and interact with the dog. We will then also evaluate the dog, using the Assess-A-Pet® method. You then decide whether you wish to adopt the dog or not.

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 or comments, please feel free to get back in touch.

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