

Dog Safety



Ideas for the breeder/rescue to help encourage responsible ownership

Dog safety ultimately lies in the hands of dog owners. They determine how safe their dog will be.

However, the first responsibility for the home that puppy or dog will enter begins with the person placing it.

What are you doing to encourage responsible ownership?

Here are some ideas for the breeder and rescue to consider, if you are not already doing them!

Developed by:
The Safe Kids/Safe Dogs Project
www.SafeKidsSafeDogs.com.
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Before going home

It is vital that anyone placing animals screen the homes puppies/dogs are released to. It is important to ask questions such as:

1. Why do you want the dog?
2. What experience with dogs do you have?
3. How many people (ages) live in the house?
4. Who will ultimately be responsible for the dog?
5. Have you ever owned this or a similar type of dog?
6. Where will the dog be kept when you are/are not home?
7. Will you agree to a spay/neuter contract?
8. What is your opinion of dog school and thoughts on training/manners?
9. What veterinarian do you use and can we call for a reference?
10. How much time and money do you plan to invest in this dog?
11. Would you consider a sport to help alleviate boredom/excess energy?
12. What if there is a major life change (divorce, birth, death, move, etc.)? What will happen to the dog?

If you have any doubts, reconsider placing an animal in the home. Better safe than sorry.

Further education of buyer/adopter

Create a purchase/adoption packet. Within this packet include information on: responsible management; spaying/neutering; socializing and training; how to find a good trainer; how to find a good veterinarian, when a vet should be contacted; basic dog language/behavior tips and a suggested reading list.

Develop incentives for training

Rescues should contact local trainers and inquire about reducing fees for adopters or refunding a few dollars once the dog has successfully completed a program within a set period post-adoption. Or, develop a partnership with some local trainers to work with adoptive families.

Breeders can offer similar incentives such as a small refund of purchase price if the puppy/dog completes a training program within a set period after purchase.

Breeders and rescues should keep in close contact with new owners for at least the first year that the dog is with the new family. Do not rely on the owners to contact you.



Additional Resources

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers,
www.APDT.com
1-800-PET-DOGS

Resource providing information on finding a trainer and what to look for in a program.

Dogwise
www.dogwise.com
1-800-776-2665

Source for books and other materials for all levels of dog ownership: novice to experienced.