



GRREAT (Golden Retriever Rescue, Education and Training) Inc.

Home Visit Check List **2013**

PLEASE, answer all questions as thoroughly and completely as possible. The foster homes are relying on you to give a complete and accurate picture of the family and environment. Where possible, please use the home visit as an opportunity to educate if you see any potential issues or if the HVC asked you to check on something specifically. Please explain any Yes/No/OK answers.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS / REPLIES / OBSERVATIONS
Applicant's Information: Name: Address: Phone: Email address: (<i>ask applicants to spell out</i>) Date of visit: Age of dog requested:	
Home Visit Volunteer Your name: Your dog's name: Phone and email:	
List all people and pets that were present for the home visit. (<i>All family members must be present</i>)	
Exterior: Where is the home located (<i>subdivision, city, farmland, etc.</i>)? What type of home (<i>townhouse, condo, single-family, etc.</i>)? Is the home's exterior well cared for?	
Describe the local roads and amount of traffic:	
1. Yard and Fence: Describe the yard. Are there things a dog could get into (<i>e.g. sheds, tools, chemicals, trash</i>)? Kid stuff or toys? Is the yard clear of feces?	
Is the yard fenced? - Please describe the fence; what type and height? (<i>Look for security and/or jumping issues</i>)	
Describe any apparent holes, gaps, unsecured gates, etc.	
Would a mildly curious Golden be able to get out? (<i>If the fence is not physical or complete, this answer is yes.</i>) If the yard is not completely fenced, will the applicants always be outside with the dog?	
Could children or dogs easily open the gate? Do the gates have locks?	
Is there a dog house, dog door, tie-out stake, overhead cable, and/or kennel run ? (<i>Look for signs that the dog is left outside unattended, not walked, etc.</i>) If so, how do the applicants use these?	

<p>If there is a dog door, is it left open when the applicants are not home? Is the fenced-in area secure? (<i>Meaning, “non-jumpable” fence AND locked gates AND location not conducive to dog theft.</i>) Explain to the applicant the dangers in leaving a dog unattended outdoors. <i>Dognapping happens!!</i></p>	
<p>2. Water: Is there a pool or pond of any type on or adjacent to the applicant’s lot? (<i>If so, explain that most Golden Retrievers will make a beeline for a swimming opportunity. If there is a pool, they will have to train their Golden how to get out safely. Dogs can drown just like children.</i>)</p>	
<p>If there is a pool, does the pool have a cover and/or separate fence?</p>	
<p>Whether they have water nearby or not, please discuss water safety. Does the family understand that most Golden Retrievers love water?</p>	
<p>3. Outside Environment: How comfortable would you be if your dog had access to this yard without your direct supervision? (<i>If the yard does not have a secure and physical fence, the family should have plans to be outside with the dog at all times.</i>)</p>	
<p>If there are other dogs in the home, how often do the applicants walk them or provide outside sources of exercise (<i>e.g. dog parks, swimming, etc</i>)? If there are no other dogs, please ask them to describe their plans for walks and exercise.</p>	
<p>Would this be sufficient for the age and energy level of the type of dog they are requesting?</p>	
<p>Interior: What is your first impression of the home’s interior? Please remember: <i>Many applicants have never shared their home with a Golden and cannot anticipate the damage a large wagging tail can do. They may also not be used to a large, hairy, shedding, sloppy-drinking, muddy-pawed dog.</i></p>	
<p>Do the furniture and carpeting appear conducive to cleaning off dog hair and paw prints (<i>white carpets stain!</i>)? Is the house “too clean?”</p>	
<p>How close to your Golden’s tail level are the fragile items? Are there any items within a Golden’s reach that could pose a potential health issue?</p>	
<p>Where are the plants located? <i>Explain that some indoor plants are poisonous. A dog left alone too long will look for things to get into.</i></p>	

<p>Make detailed note of the floor covering (e.g. <i>carpet, tile, hardwood, pergo</i>).</p> <p>Would a Golden have trouble with slipping?</p> <p>Would the family have an issue with possible nail gouges on the flooring?</p> <p>How many levels in the house?</p>	
<p>Are stairs bare? Do they have stair treads, runner, or carpet? (<i>Slipping on stairs is dangerous and is one of the main causes for orthopedic accidents in the home.</i>)</p>	
<p>Would an older Golden be okay with this floor plan? If there are stairs, is the family able and willing to carry the dog up and down if it couldn't navigate the stairs?</p>	
<p>How about a young exuberant one? Are the rooms crowded or the floors slick?</p>	
<p>Where are the children's toys? <i>Explain that many dogs can't tell the difference. Also, many toys pose serious health risks if they are ingested (e.g. choking, intestinal blockages, etc)</i></p>	
<p>How much of a problem will shedding pose? (<i>Goldens shed all year long!</i>) Are the applicants prepared for all the vaccuming and dusting?</p>	
<p>Does the applicant understand how to properly care for a Golden's coat (e.g. <i>brushing, bathing, etc</i>)?</p>	
<p>Are any family members or regular visitors allergic?</p>	
<p>If yes, how will they manage the situation?</p>	
<p>Where will the dog spend its time when the family is home? Are there any rooms, areas, or floors where the dog is not allowed?</p>	
<p>What do they plan to do with the dog when they all go on vacation or other periods of longer than 10 hours absence?</p>	
<p>Where will the dog sleep at night? Please be specific. Is the dog allowed in the bedrooms?</p>	
<p>Do the applicants seem to understand the "in-your-face" nature of Golden Retrievers? (<i>Please explain that most Goldens want to be with their families at all times, including during mealtimes and at night.</i>)</p>	
<p>How long will the Golden stay at home alone each day? (<i>Please explain that bored dogs often get into trouble and that no animal should have to wait more than 10 hours to relieve itself. Crating for longer than 4 hours at a time is highly discouraged.</i>)</p>	
<p>Describe the area where the dog will stay when no one is home? Is it appropriate?</p>	

<p>Interaction: How did the applicants greet you and your Golden? Did they give your dog a polite pat? Did they go all out? Or something in between? Did they offer your dog any treats or water?</p>	
<p>How old are the children in the home? How did they behave around your Golden?</p>	
<p>Describe other pets in the home. Do they appear well cared for? Please provide details: <i>*For dogs and cats, please note the pet's weight and refer to the chart. If the pet is overweight, please discuss.</i> <i>*Please note the pet's coat. Check if there are any mats (under ears, belly, etc.) Does the hair appear healthy? Or is it dry or dirty? If so, discuss proper grooming and the importance of good diet</i> <i>*Are the paws well-groomed (hair and nails clipped)? Do you hear clicking when the dog walks? If so, discuss the importance of traction and mobility.</i></p>	
<p>If the applicant has cats, how did they react to your dog? Is the cat food and litter box secured where the dog can't reach it?</p>	
<p>How did the family interact with THEIR OWN animals? Did the animals come willingly when called?</p>	
<p>How did their animals behave? How did their animals interact with your Golden?</p>	
<p>1. Crating: Do the applicants own a crate or expect to get one? What is their opinion of crating? <i>(Crating should never be used as a punishment tool. Crating can be a very useful and humane training apparatus for certain dogs. Many Golden's also regard the crate as their personal den.)</i></p>	
<p>Do the applicants understand the appropriate way to use a crate for training and/or as a den?</p>	
<p>Do the applicants have a crate or space picked out that the dog can call it's own? <i>(Some dogs need "down time" from children, guests, other dogs, etc)</i></p>	
<p>Do other family members who live outside the home regularly visit? Do they bring their pets? <i>(If so, it is advisable that they meet the prospective adoptee before adoption. There</i></p>	

<p><i>is a possibility that a dog will end up being locked up in his own home whenever the "adult children, grandchildren, etc" come home.)</i></p>	
<p>2. Daily Life: Ask the applicants to describe their vision of a typical day in the adopted dog's life. Are the applicants aware that most Golden's not only require their time but also their active involvement?</p>	
<p>What brand of food do they plan on using? Please discuss good dog food options. How often do they plan on feeding the dog (e.g. <i>once, twice, free feed, etc.</i>)? If they feed once or free, please discuss the benefits to feeding twice or more. If they have multiple dogs, what are their plans for separating the dogs during meal times?</p>	
<p>On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (know it all), how savvy are the applicants in regard to MEDICAL issues? (<i>Include diet/nutrition, emergencies, safety precautions.</i>)</p>	
<p>On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (know it all), how savvy are the applicants in regard to BEHAVIORAL issues? (<i>Include training knowledge, crating knowledge, safe dog and kid interaction knowledge, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (know it all), OVERALL how dog savvy are the applicants? (<i>If the family has never owned a dog ON THEIR OWN before, do not give them more than a 3. Very few owners are a 5!)</i>)</p>	
<p>What was <u>your</u> impression of this family?</p>	
<p>Did they ask you questions? Had they done any research? Did they listen to your answers? If inexperienced, do they seem willing to learn?</p>	
<p>Are they willing to take an obedience class if the Foster Home recommends it?</p>	
<p>What age/energy level dog did they request?</p>	
<p>Are these expectations realistic? Please explain.</p>	
<p>Why would or wouldn't you be comfortable allowing your dog to stay in this home with this family? (<i>We all know that we are highly protective of our own dogs, but if you had a foster that fit the criteria of what the family is looking for, would you leave your foster there?</i>)</p>	

If there were any special areas the HVC asked you to look for or discuss w/applicant, please describe below.
(Some times there are questions that need further explanation. Often, the concerns involve lack of education on the part of the applicants. The HVV has the perfect opportunity to provide the education needed and also to lay the groundwork for the foster home to reinforce it. Please explain GRREAT's policies and procedures where appropriate. These can be found on www.GRREAT.org.admin)

Any additional comments on subjects not covered above that are relevant to this potential adopter that GRREAT should be made aware of for consideration.

Thank you for your help!

HVDOC 0613