

Boston Terrier Rescue of East Tennessee Home Visit Worksheet

Thank you for completing a home visit for Boston Terrier Rescue of East Tennessee. Your observations will help us determine whether the home is fitting for a rescued Boston Terrier. This worksheet can be taken with you to the home. Remember to be friendly and conversational in order to get truthful answers from the family. Be mindful and observant during the home visit, too. The home visit is about inspecting the home inside and out, interviewing the family and your gut instinct. **It is about discussion and observation.** Our online home visit form contains these questions as well. This worksheet is a guide for you to use before and during the visit, and to take notes. **Please do not share this worksheet with the potential adopters.** Thank you.

Applicant's Name: _____ Home Visit Date: _____

Exterior of Home

Observe

*type of home
safety of area
busy streets/highways
overall appearance of exterior
fence (type and height)
objects near the fence
openings/holes in fence
latches and locks on gates
litter, poisonous plants, chemicals
pool (depth and if there is a fence)
dog door
balcony
close neighbors' dogs (breed)*

Discuss with the Family

*Will the dog ever be left out unattended?
When and how will they use the dog door?
Will they let the dog out on the balcony?
Discuss issues with fence and/or yard.*

Exterior Notes:

Interior of Home

Observe

*cleanliness and safety of home
is home dog friendly
is there clutter or dangerous items
do they smoke or can you smell smoke*

Interior Notes:

Applicant History, Experience and Disposition **Family Notes:**

Observe

*is family warm and friendly
is family ready for expense/commotion
do they seem physically able to care for dog*

Discuss with Family

*Has family owned more than one pet at once?
If the applicant wants an additional dog, why?
Does anyone object to having a dog?
Where will the dog sleep at night?
Where will the dog be when no one is home?
Will the dog have run of the house?
Will the dog be allowed on the furniture?
Is everyone who lives in the home currently
here during this home visit?*

Children

Child Notes:

Observe

- children's manners
- children's interaction with pets
- who will be responsible for dog

Discuss

- Who will be responsible for the dog
- If no children in home, will children be visiting?
- If yes, ages and how often?

Other Pets in Home

Other Pets Notes:

Observe

- wearing collar and tags
- overweight/underweight
- well-trained/obnoxious/fearful
- disposition over all
- how family member interact

Discussion Points

Discuss these items and take note if you think the family will/will not abide.

Car Rides: No dog should ever be left outside in a car, even with the windows cracked. Also, a dog should never be allowed to ride in the back of a pick-up truck.

Vet care: Dogs should be tested yearly for heart worm and given preventative monthly. Ideally, the dog should have flea and tick treatment, too. Likewise, dogs should get age appropriate vaccines. As dogs get older, they should be updated on rabies (required by law) but likely no longer need other vaccines unless they're kenneled often (in that case Bordetella).

Identification: The dog must have a collar with the rescue-issued ID tag on at all times. If the tag is lost at any point, the applicant should call the rescue for a new one. The adopter should also get a regular ID tag for the dog.

Adjustment: The dogs should meet on neutral territory or outside of the home. The new dog should be kept on a harness, observed indoors and separated when not under supervision. It can take a few months for a dog to fully adjust to a new home, including the family members and other pets.

House training: It can also take time for even a housetrained dog to adjust to bathroom habits. There's an incredibly good chance that the new dog will have accidents once in the home. Things like a schedule, appropriate re-training and belly bands can help.

Feeding: A healthy diet will extend the life of your dog and reduce health issues. Real meat should be the first ingredient. Avoid foods with and treats with dyes or made out of the country.

Toys: Kong toys are great. Caution against rope toys, rawhides and other toys that can be chewed easily and cause blockages. All toys should only be used with supervision.

Training: All dogs can benefit from positive training, even "already trained" dogs. Never use prong or choke collars, or negative training like yelling, hitting, rubbing the face in an accident, etc. In the case of behavioral issues, they should rule out health issues, contact us for advice, and seek the help of a behaviorist (a typical training class at PetSmart typically won't do). *Discussion Points continued on next page..*

Training continued: It requires time and patience to train a dog. Dogs will not arrive perfectly well trained. We have many resources on our website about training, lost and found resources, vacationing, pet-friendly housing and more. The applicant should take the time to review and use these resources.

Insurance: If they are approved for adoption, they should take all information about the dog, including vaccine information, to their vet for establishment. Explain we have options for free (about one month) pet insurance plans they must take advantage of if they are approved.

Costly Care: Tell the adopter that if the veterinarian feels the dog has a costly issue, they should contact us BEFORE agreeing to any procedure or treatment. Explain routine vet care can cost several hundred dollars each year.

Grooming: Explain that while Boston Terriers have short coats, applicants should learn or find a vet/groomer who can clean the dog's ears and trim his/her toenails.

Disposition: These dogs are smart and trainable but stubborn. They may not always greet other pets well initially, but are typically not defensive. They typically love to play with toys and chase balls, often to a fault. They can have eye issues (because they're buggy) and breathing issues because of their short snouts. Boston Terriers should only be kept briefly (long enough to do their business) in extreme weather, or pee pads should be incorporated. Boston Terriers, again because of the shape of their face, tend to snore and can be gassy. They typically love people but are not appropriate for small children.

If lost: If the dog runs away or goes missing, they should contact BTRET immediately. Likewise, they should hang fliers and visit (not just call) local shelters. There are helpful Lost and Found resources on our website.

Additional Important Contract Terms:

The dog must be on a leash at all times if not in a fenced-in yard.

The rescue-issued ID tag must be issued at all times.

Changes in phone number or address should be given to BTRET and the microchip company.

The dog should not be left alone for more than 6 hours without being let out or having pee pads.

We can't guarantee the health or disposition of any dog, though they are seen by a vet.

If they can't keep the dog, the dog MUST be returned to BTRET.

Discussion Point Notes:

Question for Home Visit Volunteer

Would you leave your pet with this family?

Notes on Home Visit:

*Thank you for completing a home visit for Boston Terrier Rescue of East Tennessee!
Our home visit form can be filled out electronically at bostonterriertn.org. Please submit your form as soon as possible while details from the visit are still fresh in your memory. Questions? rjraibley@gmail.com*