



# Adopt A Boxer Rescue

[www.AdoptABoxerRescue.com](http://www.AdoptABoxerRescue.com)



## HOME VISIT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### Procedure

1. AABR informs the prospective home applicant to expect a home visit, and that an AABR representative will call them to schedule the visit.
2. The AABR representative contacts the applicant family, and makes an appointment to visit them at their home. When the AABR rep calls, they should identify themselves as an AABR rep. Please ask that all family members be present for at least part of the home visit, and that the principle caretaker of the dog be present for the entire visit.
3. After the visit, the AABR rep reports to AABR and sends the completed home visit report to AABR's mailing address, email address, or fax.

**The Home Visit Purpose** - The purpose of the home visit is to meet the prospective adopters, and to see the environment that they will provide for their dog. AABR essentially wants to know: Would you be comfortable leaving your dog with this applicant? Do you think that the applicant will provide a good and loving home, will keep the dog's needs in mind, and will provide for the dog's safety at all times?

When you arrive at the home, introduce yourself and briefly explain the function of the home visit. Tell them that you are visiting to meet them and to evaluate the suitability and safety of their home for a dog. It is usually easy to start a conversation after that by saying, "So, you're thinking about adopting a Boxer," and then pause for a reaction. Let them talk and volunteer information. **NOTE: If you are not comfortable with the applicant as a dog owner or are in any other way uncomfortable, simply end the interview on a nice note and leave.**

Tour the house, including the yard, basement, garage and living area.

In the house: Check to see whether the living quarters are dog friendly. Are there lots of small objects, exposed cords, houseplants etc that the dog may chew? Are the cleaning materials secured in the cabinets? Is the house reasonably neat and clean?

In the yard: Check the condition of the fence. Is it in good repair? Is the yard totally enclosed? Can the dog get out of it? Are there areas where the dog could injure him/herself? Is the house situated on a busy road?

In the basement and garage: Will the dog have access to these areas? Are there hazards present?

Talk to the applicants. Do not make this a formal interview! Engage the applicants in conversation about the dog they want to adopt. Observe their behavior. Get a sense of how they would be as dog owners. How do they interact with each other? Do they express basic considerations and caring to spouses, children and other pets? Do the children seem like they would be respectful to pets? Will the adults monitor the children's behavior with the dog? Do the applicants have a basic understanding of the dog's needs and behaviors? Are there other pets in the house? How will they introduce the new dog to the other pets? Do they understand that sometimes rescues go through a period of adjustment? How will they handle this?

Although we are considering their application for a specific dog, you might find that they would be better suited for another dog. Please let us know if you think this. Perhaps they have applied for a young dog but might not be able to handle the exercise requirements so should consider an older dog.

When the meeting is over don't tell the person whether or not they are approved. Should they ask, tell them that the information is relayed to a committee of people who make final decisions on all adoptions. Not every home is right for every dog so even great people can be wrong for a specific dog.

The home visit is a critical part of the application process. AABR will request the home visit as the last stage of the application process. Therefore, the applicant has corresponded with AABR, decided on a dog, has had their references checked, and has had their written application approved. However, email and vet references cannot always inform us about whether the prospective adopters will be good owners. We are relying on your observations during the home visit to help us assess the suitability of the applicants as potential dog owners.

In preparing for the home visit, please review the Guidelines and the Report Form. Do not feel that your conversation should be limited to the topics indicated in the Guidelines, but do make sure that you cover those topics.

At the conclusion of the visit thank the applicant and tell them we will be in touch.