



## ECHO DOGS HOME VISIT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### Procedure:

1. Rescue contacts the Home Visitor and requests a home visit. Rescue provides information from the application and contact information to the Home Visitor. Rescue informs the applicant to expect a home visit, and that the Home Visitor will call them to schedule the visit.
2. The Home Visitor contacts the applicant family and makes an appointment to conduct the virtual home visit. Ask the applicant what technology they are able to use: Facetime/Skype/Zoom?
3. Please ask that all family members be present for at least part of the home visit. The principle caretaker of the dog must be present for the entire visit.
4. After the visit, the Home Visitor reports back to the rescue organization by submitting the home visit report online at: [www.echodogs.org/hvreports](http://www.echodogs.org/hvreports)

### The Home Visit:

The purpose of the home visit is to meet the prospective adopters and to see the environment that they will provide for their dog. The rescue organization 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? In your opinion, will this home keep the dog's needs in mind and provide for the dog's safety at all times?

When the meeting is over, do not tell or imply to the applicant whether or not they are or will be approved. The information you obtain is for the rescue organization to make the final decisions on all the long-distance adoptions. Not every home is right for every dog. Even great people can be wrong for the specific dog they may have applied for, or the dog's evaluation may indicate that the dog they applied for is not suitable for a specific family and their lifestyle. Just let them know that you do not make the decisions on approvals, you just do some home checks for the rescue group as a volunteer.

### TIPS:

- Print out a hard copy of the form so you can review the questions in advance of your scheduled home visit.
- Take notes on your hard copy so you can easily enter all relevant information into the online form.
- **IMPORTANT!** Please be sure you go into as much detail as you can in the last section entitled "OVERALL OBSERVATIONS". Your home visit reports are an important factor in determining if a foster parent thinks the applicant is a good fit for their foster dog.

# HOME VISIT REPORT FORM

**Rescue Name:** Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue  
**Home Visit Date:**  
**Applicant Name:**  
**Phone Number:**  
**Home Address:**

**FAMILY MEMBER OBSERVATIONS:**

1. Name of each person living in the home:
2. Please list number of each below.

<b>Adult Males:</b>		<b>Adult Females:</b>		<b>Children:</b>	
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<b><u>Female Children:</u></b>	<b>0-3 years:</b>		<b>4-8 years:</b>		<b>9-12 years:</b>		<b>13-17 years:</b>	
<b><u>Male Children:</u></b>	<b>0-3 years:</b>		<b>4-8 years:</b>		<b>9-12 years:</b>		<b>13-17 years:</b>	

3. Describe the overall behavior of each adult in the home. *(with you, with other family members, with current pets, etc. Were they asking questions? Did they talk over one another?)*

4. Describe the overall behavior of each child in the home. *(with you, with other family members, with current pets, etc. Did they seem to listen to their parent(s)?)*

- a. If young children live in the home, do the adults seem to understand and be prepared to teach both the child(ren) & the new dog how to interact respectfully with one another?

5. Describe the overall behavior and appearance of any current pets in the home. *(Do they seem comfortable in their home? Happy to interact with their family? Do they appear physically maintained in coat care, weight, nail care, etc?)*

**OUTSIDE/AROUND THE HOME OBSERVATIONS:**

Check the option(s) that best answers each question.

<i>Which best describes area setting?</i>	Urban:		Suburban:		Rural:	
<i>How busy is the nearest street?</i>	Quiet:		Moderate:		Busy:	
<i>How far is the home from the street?</i>	0-50 feet:		51-100 feet:		101+ feet:	
<i>How far away is the nearest neighbor?</i>	0-50 feet:		51-100 feet:		101+ feet:	
<i>Do the neighbors have dogs? Can they access the applicant's property?</i>	Yes; cannot access:		Yes; can access:		No dogs:	

<i>Is there a yard?</i>	Yes, in front:		Yes, in back:		Yes, on side:		No:	
<i>If so, is the yard fenced in?</i>	Yes, physical:		Yes, invisible:		Partially:		No:	
<i>If there is a physical fence, what material was used to build the fence?</i>	Wood:		Vinyl:		Chainlink/Metal:		N/A:	
<i>If there is a physical fence, approximate how high is the fence?</i>	<4 feet:		4-5 feet:		6 feet:		>6 feet:	

1. Describe the layout and condition of the yard. (*are there stairs to access the home? Debris? Is the yard maintained? Is there a pool or body of water? Etc.*)

a. If there is no yard, how/where does the applicant plan to take the dog for potty breaks?

2. Describe the condition of the fence. (*is it secure? Are there holes or gaps where the dog may escape? Do gates have secure latches?*)

a. If it is an invisible fence, do they seem to understand the training necessary for the dog to understand the boundaries?

b. If there is no fence, what are the applicant's plans for confinement? (*tie-outs, runner cables, leash walks, boundary/recall training, etc.*)

**IN-HOME OBSERVATIONS:**

Check the options(s) that best answers each question.

<b>Home Type:</b>	<b>Single Family:</b>		<b>Apartment:</b>		<b>Condo:</b>		<b>Duplex:</b>		<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Types of Flooring:</b>	<b>Hardwood:</b>		<b>Carpet:</b>		<b>Tiled:</b>		<b>Linoleum:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

<b>How many stories does the home have?</b>	<b>Single-level:</b>		<b>Two stories:</b>		<b>3+ stories:</b>	
<b>Will the dog have to regularly do any stairs?</b>	<b>Yes, full flight(s):</b>		<b>Yes, less than 5:</b>		<b>No stairs:</b>	
<b>Is there a basement? Will the dog have access?</b>	<b>Yes, full access:</b>		<b>Yes, supervised access:</b>		<b>No basement or never access:</b>	
<b>Is there a garage? Will the dog have access?</b>	<b>Yes, full access:</b>		<b>Yes, supervised access:</b>		<b>No garage or never access:</b>	
<b>Length of current family's residence?</b>	<b>&lt;1 year:</b>		<b>1-9 years:</b>		<b>10+ years:</b>	

1. Describe the layout and condition of the home. (*Is the home well-maintained? Is it kept neat? Is it open concept? Are there baby gates? Etc.*)

a. If there is a basement or garage, please describe condition.

2. Where will the dog's sleeping & living quarters be? Are dogs allowed on furniture? Where will the dog be fed? If there are other pets in the home, do they understand feeding separately is ideal (at least initially)?

3. Where are current/will adopted dog(s) be kept when left home alone? Is applicant familiar with crate-training and the benefits? Do they seem open to crating?

**OVERALL OBSERVATIONS:**

1. What is your overall impression of this applicant and the environment they could provide to an Echo Dog?  
Please also include additional observations or any concerns/special needs we need to consider regarding placement.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Would you be comfortable placing your own foster dog or personal dog with this applicant? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Would you recommend this applicant be approved to adopt an Echo Dog?

Yes:	
No:	

Home Checker Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_