

INTERVIEW CALL GUIDELINES

When you are ready to place the dog and have selected those you wish to call to interview and possibly adopt out a dog, below are some suggested items you might want to discuss with them. This is not meant to be a “requirement” list, and does not limit you from asking other questions. It is just intended to help you think of things that you might want to know before placing a dog.

You probably want to start the call out with a statement to indicate that they are not the only home you are considering. You can let them know that you are interviewing others in order to make the best “match” for the dog.

- The reason for this is because you might find you don’t want to place the dog with the people you are interviewing and it makes it a lot easier to explain if you don’t chose them. It also helps them not get their hopes up too high and be disappointed.

THINGS TO DISCUSS

- Have they ever had a terrier? Do they understand that the dog will likely bark, dig, catch critters, etc.?
 - It might be necessary to educate them on terriers and suggest they try a different breed (non-terrier) if they are looking for a lapdog, for example.
- Do they understand that this dog is a rescue and is likely to not be “perfect”? They should expect to do some training to make the dog fit into their lifestyle.
- Do they understand that the dog may not like children and it might be best to crate the dog in another (off limits) room when children visit?
- Do they know that the dog will likely have housebreaking accidents at first? A male might mark and need careful training for the first few days.
- Do they understand that the dog needs supervision when there are visitors or the dog is outside his own home? This is especially true with children.
- Do they understand that the dog may benefit from some basic obedience training at a school?
- Do they know that they need to be the alpha boss?
- Are they ready to include the dog in many family events?
- Are they willing to crate or seatbelt the dog (in the back seat) when riding in the car?
- Are they willing to make sure the dog sees the vet at least once a year and gets all required vaccinations?
- Do they know that many Westies need a dental at least every 3 years and sometimes more?
- Do they know that Westies need grooming at least 4 times a year?
- Are they prepared to own and love this dog for the rest of the dog’s life regardless of how old that might be?
- If they move, will they make sure it is to a place where the dog can also go along?
- How will they correct the dog if it becomes necessary?
- Will you be able to afford additional medical costs should the dog become ill? As the dog ages, this is more and more likely to be an issue.