

## WHY WE ASK WHAT WE ASK!

PLEASE READ this document before proceeding to the application!!!

- DATE** Please date the application. This application will be active until you adopt a dog OR two years, whichever comes first. After two years, please reapply if still interested.
- FIRST OR REVISED** If this is your first application, we request a donation of \$25 to help cover the costs of processing. Most will go towards dog care. Please note that we will not refuse the application if you do not donate the \$25. This is a donation and does not convey any special privileges. We don't ask for a repeat donation if you are simply revising your application.
- AGE/SEX OF DOG** Please give us as wide an age range as possible. This will allow us to consider you for more dogs. You can limit the gender of the dog you are willing to consider...but it will mean you won't be offered dogs of the opposite gender which in turn may make your wait longer.
- MEDICAL** If you are willing to take a dog with "more than minor" medical conditions, bless you. If you check "yes", you will likely be contacted about more dogs. Checking "yes" does not commit you to anything. You will be told of the condition and you can then make your decision.
- NAME ETC.** Please provide all requested information in this area and be very careful to be legible, especially with your contact information. Email addresses are often very hard to read!! We do often use email to contact you. If you give us an email address, please be sure to check it regularly!
- WHY?** We would like to understand your motivation in adopting a Westie. A short reason is appreciated.
- HOME** Please Check one box for Rent or Own; Please check one box for type of home.  
  
NOTE: If you rent, we must have proof from your landlord that you are allowed to have a dog.
- FENCE** If you have a fenced yard, please tell us the type of fence and the height. (We will verify when we do a home check.) If you do not have a fence, the dog MUST be on leash at all times when outside. Please supervise. A coyote can get into your yard. A tethered dog cannot get away. If no fence, consider what you will do in the winter when you have the flu, it is sleeting and the dog wants to go outside. We seldom place dogs in homes with electric fences however it might be considered for some dogs.
- ALONE TIME/ SLEEP AND CRATES** We know that people who work still want to have dogs. Most dogs are fine at home although it helps to have someone who can come in at noon and let them out. We want to know that the dog will get quality time with you when you come home from work!  
  
We know some want to sleep with the dog, some want the dog to sleep elsewhere. We insist that the dog be an indoor dog; no sleeping all night in an outdoor dog house!! But we are very comfortable with the use of indoor crates. Dogs are den animals and most like their crate and consider it their personal "den".
- FAMILY** Please list names and ages of all who live in the home. It is important that everyone in the home be in agreement to adopt a Westie. Don't forget grandma even if you don't expect there to be a lot of interaction. We want to make a good match and we can only do that if we know everything we can about the environment the dog will be going living in.
- CHILDREN UNDER 10** We do not adopt to families with children under the age of ten or homes where children are expected in the future. We also want to take care about placing a dog in a home with frequently visiting young children. Many Westies are less than comfortable around youngsters. This is a frequent reason for a Westie ending up in Rescue. If your grandchildren or other young children visit often, a Westie may not be your best choice. If they visit only occasionally and it isn't a comfortable situation for the dog, you may be able to crate the dog in an "off limits" room while the children are present.
- DOG LIMITS** Many areas have limits on the number of pets you can have in a residential home. Please contact the authorities in your area and verify that you will be able to provide a legal home for a new dog. (Even if you don't have dogs, your three cats, 2 birds and turtle may put you over the limits!) Please let us know what your limits are, who you contacted and provide the contact information.

- OTHER PETS** Please list your pets by Species/Breed, Name and age. This is especially important for any dogs in your care but also for other indoor pets in particular. This will help us make a better placement since we may know that a particular dog does not do well with cats or might want to eat your pet Tarantula. A dog might be fine with older dogs but not with your 6 month old Chihuahua. And it might take a miracle to find the right Westie to live peacefully with your indoor rabbit or rats.
- ALTERED?** Are your other dogs and cats neutered/spayed? We do not normally place a rescued Westie in a home with unaltered pets. If your pets are not altered, please consider doing so. If they cannot be, please help us understand your situation.
- CAREGIVER** We would like to know who will be responsible for the care of this animal. If it is your young teenager, there is a chance the real responsibility will fall on your shoulders. If you state it is your child, we will want to know what happens to the dog if the child does not live up to this responsibility. Remember that it is not the dog's fault and be ready with a Plan B.
- There is also the matter of cost. People tend to underestimate the cost of giving good care to the dog. Good food isn't cheap. And Westies need regular trips to the groomer and nail clipping in between. Medical care is a must; even a healthy dog will need to see the vet, get annual shots, heartworm/tick prevention, even flu shots! Blood panels are usually done annually and a dental happens with most dogs every 3 years or so even if you are great at doing a nightly tooth brushing.
- REFERENCES** Please give us your vet's name and number so we can check to see how you take care of other pets. Your care of current pets is the only way we can measure how well you will take care of this Westie who we have put our heart and soul into. Please let your vet's office know we will be calling and that they can release information.
- Also give us two other references. Don't forget phone numbers so we can contact them. We DO check references!
- MISC** We are concerned about the dog's safety and well-being so are asking a few more questions that you should think about.
- 2 DOGS** This does happen and it helps us to know if you will consider this.
- HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT US?** It helps us to know what methods of communication are working better than others.

Please read the information on the application before signing. We are looking for forever homes for these dogs so please do be sure you are ready to have a dog for its entire life. Know that if the dog does have to be given up, the dog **MUST** come back to us. This is in the contract. And you will need to make arrangements to bring the dog to us no matter how far you roam.

Thank you for reading this information and making sure you have done all you can to know the breed and make sure that it is the right dog for you **BEFORE** you apply and adopt.

