

DOG ADOPTION SURVEY



First name:	Last name:	Date:
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Address:	Apt. #
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City:	State:	Zip code:
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Phone number(s):	Email:
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1	I have owned a dog before...	YES	NO			Currently
2	The last time had a dog was...	2-10 years ago	10 years +			Within the last year
3	My new dog needs to get along with other dogs.... <i>If yes, list names, ages, genders and breeds :</i>	NO				YES
4	My dog needs to be good with: (check all that apply)	Children over 8 years old	Children under 8 years old	Elderly People		Cats Animals other than dogs & cats
5	My dog will primarily be an...	Inside dog				Outside dog
6	How many hours will your dog spend outside per day?					_____ hours
7	My dog needs to be able to be alone (per day)...	4 hours or less	8-10 hours 4-8 hours		2 hours or less	12 hours
8	When I'm at home, I want my dog to be by my side...		All of the time	Some of the time	Little of the time	
9	When I'm not at home, my dog will spend his/her time...	In the garage In a crate in the house	In the yard			Loose in the house Confined to one room in the house
10	I want a guard dog...	NO				YES
11	I want my dog to hunt or herd with me...	NO				YES
12	I want my dog to be enthusiastic in the way he shows love to people...		Not at all	Somewhat	Very	
13	I want my dog to be playful...		Not at all	Somewhat	Very	
14	I want my dog to be laid back...		Very	Somewhat	Not at all	
15	I'm comfortable doing training with my dog to improve manners such as jumping & pulling on leash...		No training	Some training	A lot of training	
16	I (or family member) want to participate in Agility or Obedience with our dog...		NO		YES	
17	I'm interested in a dog with "special needs" (medical/behavioral)...		NO		YES	
18	It's most important to me that my dog:					

HSWM OFFICE USE ONLY!

6. I will not sell or give away animal(s) I adopt from Humane Society of West Michigan (HSWM). As long as I live in the service area of HSWM, I agree to return the animal(s) to HSWM in the event I cannot keep or chose not to keep the animal(s). If I move from the area, I agree to take the animal(s) to the local humane society or comparable local animal welfare organization. You may return the animal to HSWM within 1 year of adoption at no charge. During that time, you may exchange for another animal. After 1 year, you will be assessed a transfer of care fee of \$30 and will not be offered an exchange.

7. I understand that the handling of animals that I may meet may place me in a hazardous situation and could result in injury to me or my personal property. On behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives and assigns, I hereby release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless the Humane Society of West Michigan and its directors, employees, and agents from any and all claims, causes of action and demands of any nature, whether known or unknown, arising out of or in connection with my meeting an animal for the purpose of adoption.

Applicant's Signature

Date

COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS TO WATCH FOR IN DOGS

Distemper:

Distemper is a very contagious virus that can be transmitted from dog to dog by toys, bowls, bedding, our clothing/shoes or even our hands. The disease begins with runny eyes and nasal discharge, fever, poor appetite, coughing and development of pneumonia. The virus will then cause vomiting, diarrhea, a hardening of the nose and foot pads, eventually progressing to seizures or other neurological symptoms and death. Distemper is difficult to treat, therefore the best defense is regular and proper vaccinations through a veterinarian.

"Kennel Cough"

Kennel cough is a term used to cover the large number of viruses that cause upper respiratory issues like coughing, sneezing, and eye discharge. The symptoms in any particular dog may be caused by one or more of these viruses, all of which are airborne and very contagious. Since these are viruses, antibiotics will not help the patient get better faster but in some cases they are needed to treat secondary infections. If you suspect kennel cough your regular veterinarian will be able to help you. Vaccines are available for some of the viruses, but not all.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a severe contagious intestinal disease that causes intense vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and fever. The onset can be sudden and requires veterinary care immediately. Proper vaccinations are the only protection from this virus which is fatal most of the time. Puppies and elderly dogs that are not current on their vaccines are the most likely to become infected.

Heartworm

Heartworms are exactly what they sound like, worms that live in a dog's heart. They are transmitted by mosquitos. As they grow larger in the heart, lungs and major blood vessels (they can be up to 14 inches long!), they restrict blood flow to other important organs such as the liver, kidneys and brain. Signs of heartworm disease can vary greatly; weakness, coughing, lethargy, and labored breathing. Untreated heartworm disease is fatal. Treatment can be both expensive and very hard on the dog's body. There is no guarantee that the treatment itself won't be fatal. Therefore the best option is to prevent heartworms is with a monthly pill or topical given every 30 days, year round, for the life of the dog.

THE DOG YOU MAY WANT TO ADOPT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO VIRUSES, PERHAPS BEFORE HE WAS BROUGHT HERE, BUT MOST CERTAINLY AFTER HE ARRIVED. We receive owned and stray animals and rescue sick, injured, and abandoned ones. For some of the owned animals, we will have veterinary records. However, most of the dogs we receive will have no medical or veterinary records with them. In effort to keep the dogs healthy while here, we maintain a clean kennel, keep fresh air circulating throughout the animal housing area, and give the dogs protective shots. Each dog receives a DA2PP, which attempts to protect him from Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parvovirus, and Parainfluenza. He also receives a Bordatella vaccine that further protects against one strain of Kennel Cough. However, even an inoculated dog could become ill with any of the above conditions because inoculations do not provide immediate protection and because the dog may have been incubating the condition before being admitted to the shelter.

THERE IS SIMPLY NO GUARANTEE THAT THE ANIMAL YOU ADOPT MAY NOT BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL AFTER YOU HAVE TAKEN IT HOME.

In their incubation stage, viruses are not detectable. Therefore, an adopted animal may look healthy on the day of adoption and begin to show symptoms of his illness a few days later – at your home.

Apart from the measures we take in trying to keep shelter animals healthy, there are no other reasonable, affordable precautions that we can take to prevent your pet from becoming ill after adoption. We want you to be forewarned that there is a chance the animal you adopt may require extensive post-adoption veterinary care.

Please read and sign the following STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

I understand that the animal I am interested in adopting has the potential to require medical treatment that could result in significant veterinary medical bills. I will not hold Humane Society of West Michigan accountable for the cost of such treatment as the dog may require after adoption.

Applicant's Signature

Date