

CIGR HOME VISIT GUIDELINES

Dear Home Visitor,

Thank you for volunteering your time to conduct a home visit so that a CIGR rescue dog may find a safe and loving home! Enclosed is a copy of the Home Visit Guidelines and Procedures and a Report Form to use in conducting the home visit.

The home visit is a critical part of the application process. The CIGR Main Area Rep will request the home visit as the last stage of the application process.

Therefore, the applicant has already met with the CIGR Rep/Foster Care Provider and dog, has had their references checked, and has had their written application approved.

However, applications, vet references and a single visit cannot always inform us about whether the prospective adopters will be good owners or that their home is dog safe. We are relying on, and value, 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.

Please email your Report Form back to the Main Area Rep who requested the home check. If anything seems "off" or not quite right, please call us immediately!

Thank you so much for your time and commitment. Home visits are a chance to meet other people who love dogs and are usually fun!

CIGRescue Home Visit Guidelines and Procedures

1. CIGR Main Area Rep contacts the Home Visitor and requests a home visit. If the Home Visitor is available the Main Area Rep gives the contact information to the Home Visitor. CIGR informs the applicant to expect a home visit, and that the Home Visitor will contact them to schedule the visit.
2. The Home Visitor contacts the applicant and makes an appointment to visit them at their home. When the Home Visitor calls they should identify themselves as a Home Visitor for CIGR. Please ask that all family members and pets be present for at least part of the home visit, and that the primary applicant of the dog be present for the entire visit.
3. Please let your Main Area Rep know when your appointment is set for and be sure to take a friend with you.
5. If there are only minor concerns, such as a cord that could be tripped over or no window screens, please advise them that cords should be moved or that windows should not be left open wide enough for an IG to jump through.

5. After the visit, the Home Visitor reports back to CIGR and emails the completed Home Visit Report to the CIGR rep who requested the home check.

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. CIGR essentially wants to know:

- 1.) Would you be comfortable leaving your dog with this applicant?
- 2.) 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 appropriateness and safety of their home for an Italian Greyhound. It is usually easy to start off a conversation after that by saying, "So, you're thinking about adopting a Italian Greyhound..." 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 entire house, including the yard, basement, garage and living areas.

In the house, check to see whether the living quarters is dog friendly:

- 1) Are there any small objects, exposed cords, houseplants, etc. that the dog may chew?
- 2) Are there any power/lamp/stereo cords the dog might trip over?
- 3) Are the cleaning materials secured in the cabinets?
- 4) Is the house reasonably neat and clean?
- 5) Are there any balconies the dog could jump over or squeeze through?
- 6) Are there screens on the windows?

In the yard: Check the condition of the fence.

- 1) Is it in good repair?
- 2) Is the yard totally enclosed?
- 3) Is there any way a dog could escape?
- 4) Are gates secure?
- 5) Are there areas where the dog could injure himself?
- 6) Is the house situated on a busy road?

In the basement and garage:

- 1) Will the dog have access to these areas?
- 2) Are there hazards present?

Talk to the applicants. Don't make this a formal interview! Engage the applicant in conversation about the dog they want to adopt. Observe their behavior. Get a sense of how they would be as dog owners.

- 1) How do they interact with each other?
- 2) Do they express basic considerations and caring to spouses, children and other pets?
- 3) Do the children seem like they would be respectful to pets?
- 4) Will the adults monitor the children's behavior with the dog?
- 5) Do the applicants have a basic understanding of the dog's needs and behaviors?
- 6) Are there other pets in the house?
- 7) How will they introduce the new dog to the other pets?
- 8) Do they understand that sometimes rescues go through a period of adjustment? How will they handle this?
- 9) Where will the dog stay when all humans are out of the home?

Although we may be 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 and should therefore consider an older dog.

Not every home is right for every dog so even great people can be wrong for a specific dog.

When the meeting is over don't tell the person whether or not they are approved but do tell them that the Main Area Rep or Foster Care Provider will contact them. The information is then relayed back to the Main Area Rep.

The Home Visit Report is on the next page.

CIGR Home Visit Report / Home Visit Date:

Applicant:

Address:.

City & State:

Tel:

cell:

E-mail:

1. Describe the street: Busy Quiet In-Between
2. Describe the setting: Rural Suburban Urban
3. Is there a yard: Yes No
4. Is the yard fenced: Yes, fully Yes, Partially No
5. Describe the fence (height, type, condition):

6. Describe the condition of the home, for example, in good repair, clean, neat, DOG PROOF, electric cords are tucked away.

7. Do the windows have screens?

8. Are there balconies or stair railing that the dog could jump from?

9. Will the dog have access to the basement?

10. Describe the basement, for example, in good repair, clean, neat, no debris on the floor, and hazardous substances out of reach of dog.

11 Will the dog have access to the garage?

12. Describe the garage, for example, in good repair, clean, no debris on the floor, and hazardous substances out of reach of the dog.

13. Describe the behavior of adults among themselves, and to any other pets or children - respectful, hectic, loud, quiet, commanding.

14. Describe behavior of children in relation to adults, to other children and to any pets?

15. Do other pets appear to be well groomed and under control?

16. Any special needs, unusual circumstances or concerns that we should consider?

17. Would you feel comfortable leaving your dog with the applicant? Please explain.

18. Additional Comments?