

Old Dog Haven Adopters Questionnaire

This information will help us (and you) assess how appropriate your home would be for this senior dog, and vice versa as well. All information is treated as confidential.

Name:

Dog of interest:

Address:

City, state, zip

Home phone:

Cell phone:

Email address:

Work phone:

What qualities are you most looking for in a dog:

Have you had a dog before: Tell us about him (or them!)

Household members-- Please list all adults and children living in your home, with relationship to you:

Ages of any children who visit regularly:

Dogs in the household-- Please list with age, breed or size, sex (spayed/neutered?)

Cats in the household:

Other animals in the household or on the property that the dog might come into contact with:

Housing-- Do you own or rent?

If you rent, do you have landlord's permission for a dog?

Do you live in a house, townhome, condo, apartment, mobile home?

Are there restrictions on the size or breed of dog allowed?

Do you have a fenced yard?

What kind of fence and how tall, and is it truly dogproof?

Do you have a dogdoor?

Your occupation?

How long would the dog be left alone daily?

Where would you leave him while you're gone?

If gone more than 6 hours, what provision can you make for potty breaks?

Who would care for him if you need to be away?

Do you have stairs (indoors or outdoors) that the dog would have to climb?
How much of your house would you allow him to access?
Where would the dog sleep?

How do you plan to exercise your dog, and how active do you want him to be with you?

Veterinary care:

Name/phone number of current or prior vet clinic who can provide a reference (please provide that clinic with authorization to release information to an ODH representative):

Clinic you are planning to use for this dog, if different:

Things to think about:

We have tried to send the dogs in our care into new homes in as good health as possible, and to disclose all known health issues. Our dogs have had complete bloodwork, exams, dentals if needed, vaccinations, and any other care recommended. (We do not make any claims about the health of dogs not in ODH care.) However, most of our dogs are getting old.

Are you prepared to provide more frequent potty breaks and less strenuous exercise as he ages?
Are you prepared to provide medications, supplements, regular exams or care for more serious problems?
Are you able to make the financial commitment to care for this dog if he has medical problems?
Can you commit to keep this dog until the end of his life, even if you move or your schedule changes?
Can you face making the decision to put him to sleep when it becomes necessary?

How did you hear about ODH or this particular dog?

A note from Old Dog Haven:

We make adoption decisions based on many factors, including but not limited to the compatibility of the family and home to the individual dog, as well as other questionnaires received. ODH reserves the right to decide which home is most appropriate and to decline any application.

By submitting this questionnaire, I am agreeing to take personal responsibility for any harm done to myself, my family or companions while in the presence of any dog in Old Dog Haven's care, and I waive the right to hold Old Dog Haven responsible for any mishap while in the presence of an Old Dog Haven dog.

Please initial here to indicate your acceptance of this responsibility: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Dogs belonging to ODH have had vaccinations, a blood panel, a dental if needed, and a complete vet exam. A minimum donation of \$95 is requested.

Thank you for your time and interest!

**Old Dog Haven
PMB A4
621 SR9 NE
Lake Stevens WA 98258**

360-653-0311

olddoghaven@verizon.net
www.olddoghaven.org

When you have completed the questionnaire, you can get it to us several ways:

1. Email

Save this document and email as an attachment to olddoghaven@verizon.net.
This is the most useful method for us.

2. Fax

Fax the completed application to 360-653-0311.

3. Mail

Print the completed application and mail to:

**Old Dog Haven
PMB A-4
621 SR9 NE
Lake Stevens WA 98258**

4. Give us a call

Call Old Dog haven at 360.653.0311 and a volunteer will return your call to go through your answers.

Please remember to let us know if you are interested in a particular dog, or if you would like us to recommend one or more that might be suitable for you. We enjoy matchmaking!

INTRODUCING A "NEW" OLD DOG TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD

An old dog coming to a new home is most likely shell-shocked, will withdraw for a while and then slowly figure out that it's OK and will then be quite needy for a while. Here's some guidelines:

- For at least two days keep him on a leash (see below about dog introductions) except in a VERY securely fenced yard. Remember that a frightened or confused dog may bolt from a strange place. **This is particularly true in the first couple of hours after arrival.** Keep him on a leash even in the house if he seems agitated or wants to pace (or confront the cats or mark his territory!). No off-leash parks or romps for at least a couple of weeks.
- As soon as you have him home, show him the acceptable potty place. Take him out there first thing in the morning, last thing at night, before or after meals, midday. Presume that he may not be used to your routine, or that he may be so stressed that he can't help it, and keep a close eye on him. Praise him for going in the right place, don't correct an accident unless you catch him IN THE ACT. Often a well-housetrained dog in your family will just show him the ropes, given a bit of time. Use Nature's Miracle or some enzyme cleaner on any accident spots or the smell will attract him back.
- Next, show him around the house (on a leash). If he doesn't see or hear well, go slowly and let him sniff. Then, try to sit down quietly and read or watch TV and let him absorb it all for a while.
- At night, use a crate if you wish (placed in the bedroom or right outside it so he feels part of the pack) or show him his bed and leave him there for the first night. He'll want to be near one of the humans, don't shut him away.
- Feed small amounts for the first day or two, using any food that came with him and gradually mixing in whatever you choose to feed. He may vomit from nerves, don't panic.
- Avoid unnecessary stress until he feels safe with you, wait for the groomer or a party.
- What takes patience is letting him get used to a new routine, showing him what's expected without putting too much pressure on. DON'T HOVER, don't shower him with attention, let him relax and work his way into the family. You need to be the leader and he will find his place with time.

*INTRODUCING TO THE OTHER DOG(S)

- If your existing dog tends to be territorial, it's best to let the dogs meet in a neutral place (not in your yard or home). It's often good to just put them both on a leash and go for a brisk walk together, 5-10 minutes should do. Put one on either side of you or get help.
- If your dog is good with others, it works well to let them meet WITHOUT LEASHES in a very safe spot, not too small – leave room for maneuvering. Don't worry if they play-skirmish a bit, they have to work out who is who. Try to ignore them and not referee.
- After the meeting, the most important thing is: PAY MOST ATTENTION TO THE RESIDENT DOG, pretty much ignore the new dog. This is the best way to avoid jealousy and let the new dog work into the pecking order. It's tough but it's very important! and will go far to keep the new dog safe from bullying. Try to keep life the same for your existing dog.
- Remember that you don't have to treat all the dogs in your family alike. Each may have some different privileges. Take some with you, take walks with some, let some on the bed, etc. As long as each KNOWS ITS PLACE IN THE ORDER it will be fine. Don't let those eyes make you feel guilty!

This all takes some effort for the first 2-3 days, but most old dogs very easily slip into the family and routine, asking little but to sleep and eat and be near you. You'll feel how happy they become.