

**GUIDELINES** Do not reveal to the person being interviewed what you are looking for in a pet owner. Some people may then tell you only what you want to hear. At the same time, don't "grill" them. Instead, make conversation and you will be surprised at what they reveal about themselves.

You are looking for a general background on the person and an idea of what kind of environment might be provided for the dog by the person. The prospective adopters set the tone right away when they describe what they are looking for in a pet. It could be a companion for a lonely person, playmate for their children, buddy for another pet or an act of kindness in providing a home for an unfortunate animal. The number of adults and children in the home and their ages will indicate to you whether the dog would be suitable or not, since you should be familiar with the animal's personality.

How long they have lived at their present location usually gives you some idea of their stability. If they have moved into their neighborhood recently, ask how long they lived at their last residence. The location of the prospective home may also help you in the decision making process in many ways. For instance, the community they live in determines how many animals may be kept on the property. Don't let them adopt an animal if it puts them over their legal limit! If they disapprove of using a crate for a dog, you should educate them on the benefits of this type of training. Give them literature if you have it, explain how the dog perceives the crate as its den, that it is not cruel and that, until it is trained, it is in the dog's best interest to be confined when you are not at home.

In all cases, do not make a snap decision while on the telephone. Tell them that other people are on your prospective list and that you will call them back. Then review your notes and compare them with other prospects. If you feel that you have found a good home, call them back and make arrangements for them to see the dog and for you to visit their home. This screening form should be used in conjunction with other techniques, such as face-to-face interviews, home visits and conversations with the person's friends and references. None of the conditions in this screening form are absolute.

They are guidelines and should not be used alone to make a definitive decision regarding someone's suitability as an adopter. Careful thought and common sense are required to be successful in this process. Also, it is necessary to be flexible, keep an open mind and use your good judgment.