
POINTERS IN NEED

Founded 2016

Registered Charity No: 1196922

Patron: Freya North, Author

www.pointersinneed.org.uk

email: info@pointersinneed.org.uk



HOME CHECK QUESTIONNAIRE

Guidance for Home-checker

Thank you for agreeing to carrying out this Home Check. This is a vital process for **Pointers In Need** (the **Charity**); you are our eyes and ears. The best measure we can give you to establish a potential adopter's suitability, is, would you be happy leaving your Pointer(s) in that home with that family?

Spend as much time as possible getting to know the adopters and their family/home set-up and specific Pointer requirements. We would suggest that anything less than about a 60-minute meeting is probably insufficient unless it is clear that they are not going to be suitable.

Please take the time to explain the adoption process and that **Charity** retains ownership of the dog, in keeping with the majority of other rescue organisations. Explain that the **Charity** will always be on hand for help and advice throughout the dog's life.

When arranging to meet the prospective adopter, please explain that in order to complete the home-check you will need to meet everyone in the household who is going to be involved in looking after the dog.

Please push on any vague answers/explanations given, we need to know the full story. In writing your report, we need to gain a complete picture of the adopters, including your own perspective on the following:

- Does everyone want the dog?
- Do they have a practical, realistic expectation of what life with a rescue Pointer is like or is it an idealised view?
- In your view, are they prepared to take on the work if there are challenges, for example, with possessiveness, separation anxiety or recall?

If you are not happy about any aspect of the visit, please report this. Do not give any acceptance or rejection decision to the adopters – this is a **Charity** Team decision in conjunction with your report and recommendations.

It is important to stress the time and patience needed in taking on a rescue. We state in the Adoption Agreement:

Finally, before you commit and sign this agreement; It is very important to give time to these Pointers. Your ability to put aside busy schedules/ chaotic living and commit to taking on a rescue is a pre-requisite to this agreement, if you cannot commit to this then it probably is not the right time to adopt. It could take a week, a month, or even a year for these Pointers to fit into family life. Please be honest with yourself, and ask how much time can you really give to the Pointer who may be needy?

Please make sure that the prospective adopter can commit to this.

Please send to us your detailed report using the template below and please use a separate piece of paper if

necessary and mark it with the name of the prospective adopter.

Part One of Report (pages 3 to 6) to be completed at the property.

Part Two of Report (page 7) to be completed after your visit.

Children and dogs - IMPORTANT

Please discuss this section with the adopters if children are in the household or are regular visitors.

If children are at the property, we need you to help the family learn about children and rescue dogs sharing the same space. It is vital that everyone in the household has a very clear understanding of the responsibilities and challenges of adopting a rescue Pointer.

Emphasise that rescue dogs are by the nature of their circumstances carrying some sort of emotional trauma, in varying degrees. Put in the mix aggravating circumstances such as a noisy child, over hot atmosphere, possessiveness about food or toys, toothache or any kind of pain and you have the potential for a dog to react in the only way it knows; fight or flight.

A dog cannot intellectualise or explain, it can only react physically.

There will always be warning signs; growling or snarling; showing teeth; raised hackles. Sometimes the signs are more subtle – yawning, licking of lips or trying to remove itself from the source of the stress. A dog will always try to tell you that something is wrong.

Educate both the adult AND the child.

Teach the child that the dog is a relative of a wild animal, strong and with big teeth and strong jaws. Teach the child not to fear the dog but to respect it.

Teach the child to not antagonise or annoy the dog. Teach the children not to startle or frighten the dog.

Keep dogs and children apart when either are eating food, including snacks. And remember to teach the child to let sleeping dogs lie.

There are many books and online resources available to help families learn more about dog behaviour. One example, specifically with children in mind, is *The Canine Commandments* by Kendal Shepherd.

Homecheck Report (Part 1)

Prospective

Adopters:

Dog if known:

Address:

Telephone no:

Email address:

Date of Check:

Who was met:

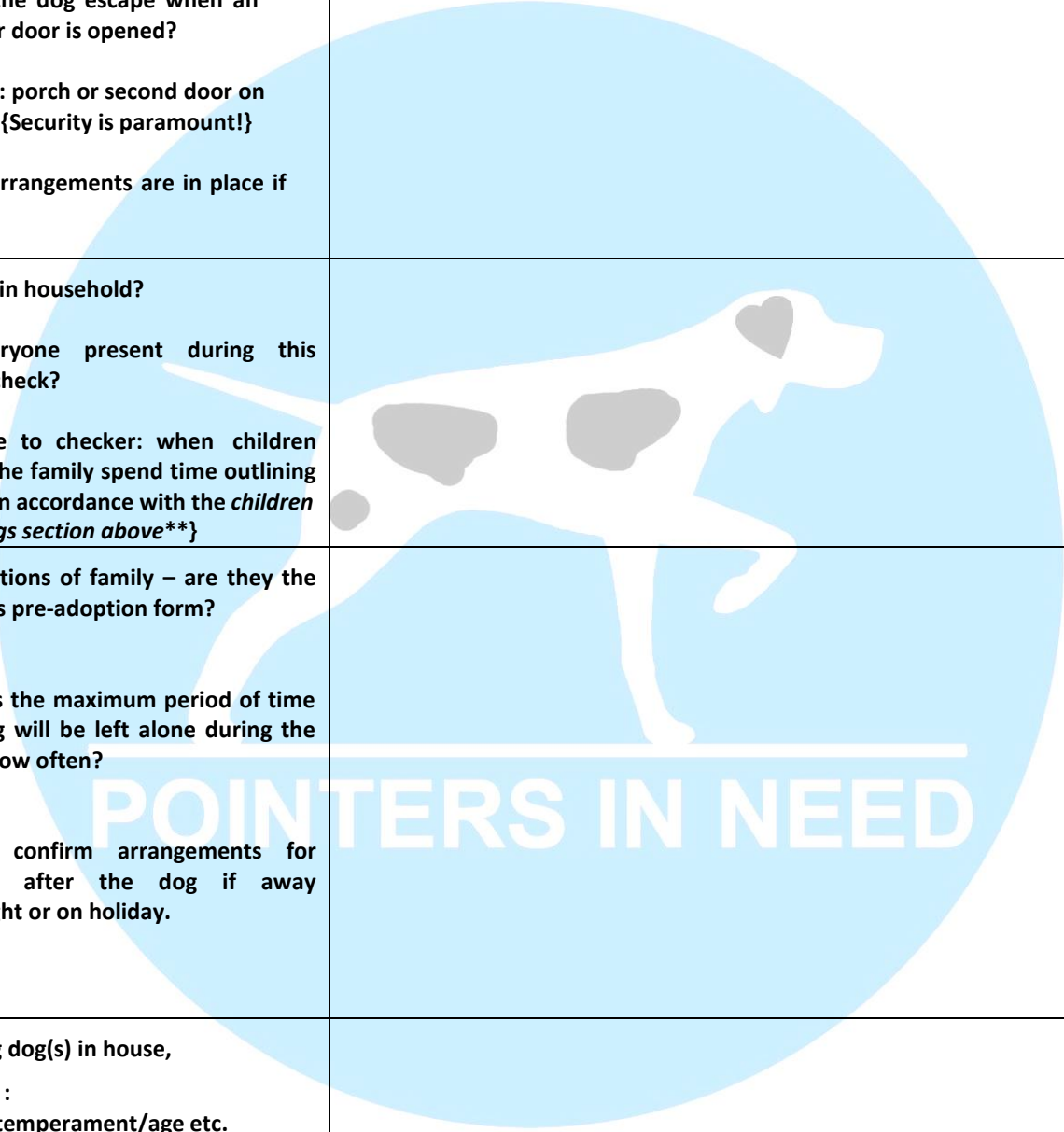
Questions:

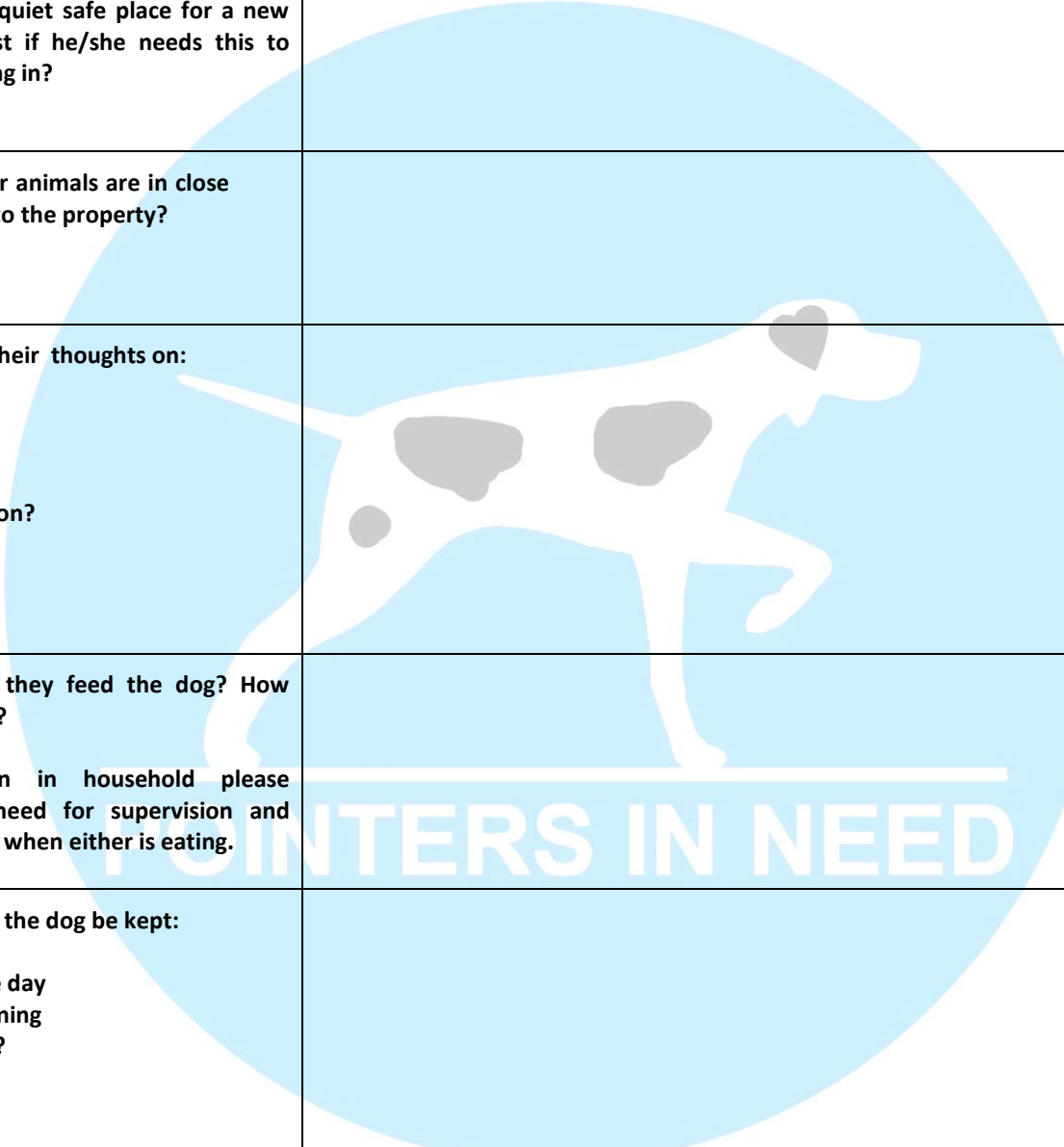
Response/Details:

Overall Summary of Property.
Include: proximity to roads/rail lines
etc

POINTERS IN NEED

Is property: owned, leased, rented?
If not owned, what is lease/rental
period?
Does landlord allow dogs? Evidence?

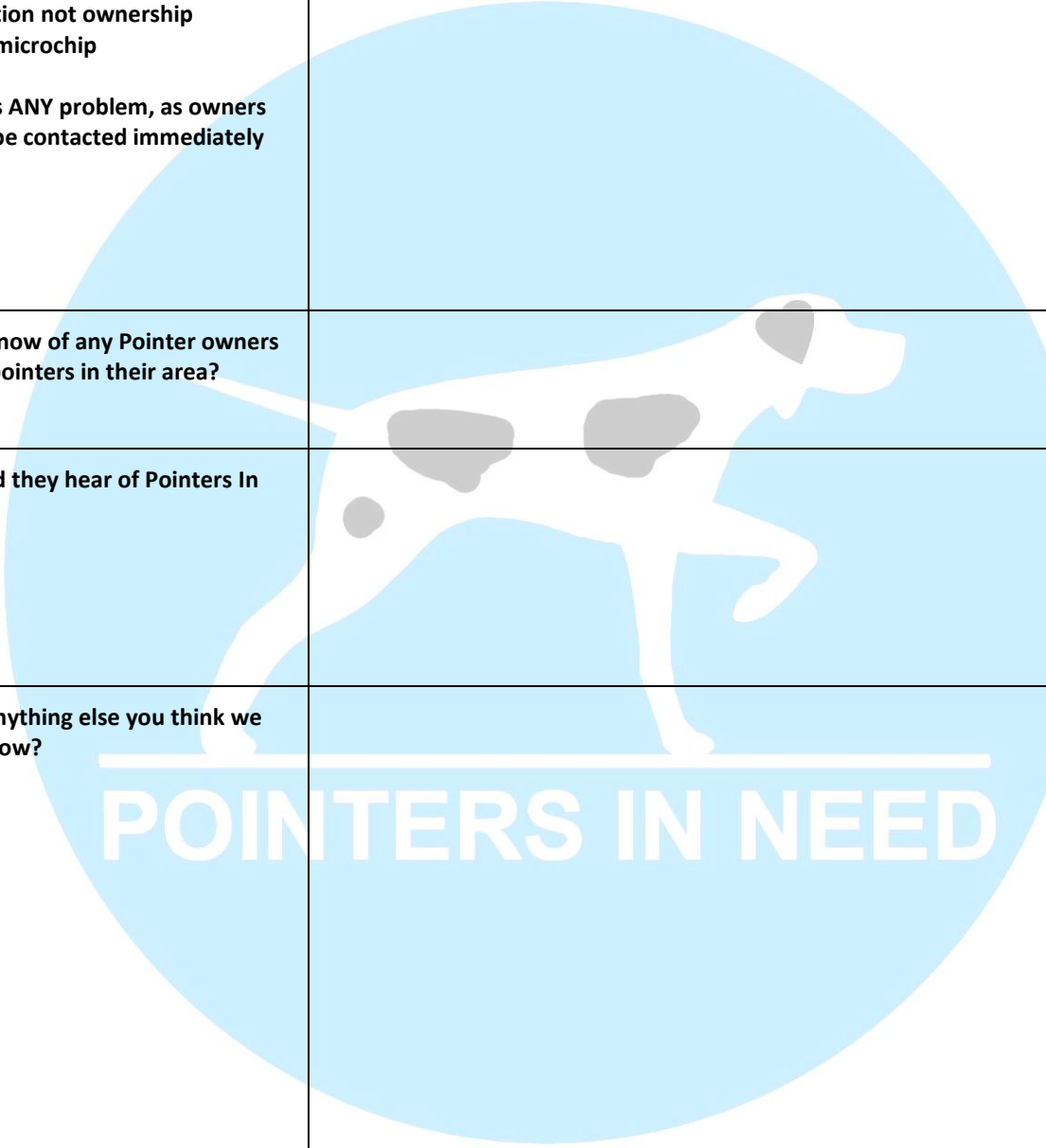
<p>Garden (front and back): Include: approx size / fences / walls / gates. Height of lowest fence. Are they jumpable? Diggable? Any gaps? Any possible escape routes?</p> <p>Is there a pond or any other potential hazards?</p>	
<p>Could the dog escape when an exterior door is opened?</p> <p>Include: porch or second door on entry? {Security is paramount!}</p> <p>What arrangements are in place if not?</p>	
<p>Who is in household?</p> <p>Is everyone present during this home-check?</p> <p>{**Note to checker: when children are in the family spend time outlining safety in accordance with the <i>children and dogs section above**}</i></p>	
<p>Occupations of family – are they the same as pre-adoption form?</p> <p>What is the maximum period of time the dog will be left alone during the day? How often?</p> <p>Please confirm arrangements for looking after the dog if away overnight or on holiday.</p>	
<p>Existing dog(s) in house, include : breed/temperament/age etc.</p> <p>Acceptance of other dogs?</p> <p>Are they neutered?</p>	
<p>Are there any other animals in the household (e.g. cats, rabbits, guinea pigs etc) living inside or out?</p>	

<p>Adopters prior experience of dogs Include what happened to previous dog(s)? (if applicable)</p>	
<p>Will they insure the dog? If not, what financial precautions are in place to pay for vet bills?</p>	
<p>Is there a quiet safe place for a new dog to rest if he/she needs this to help settling in?</p>	
<p>What other animals are in close proximity to the property?</p>	
<p>What are their thoughts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -exercise -training -play -socialisation? 	
<p>What will they feed the dog? How frequently?</p> <p>If children in household please highlight need for supervision and separation when either is eating.</p>	
<p>Where will the dog be kept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -during the day -in the evening -overnight? 	
<p>What appeals to adopters about a Pointer?</p> <p>What research have they done?</p> <p>Does everyone in the household want a Pointer?</p> <p>Who will mainly look after the dog?</p>	

What are their expectations of a rescue Pointer?

If applicable, please outline the challenges of a dog that may have been abused, abandoned, starved etc. e.g. separation anxiety, possessiveness around toys/food/people. Reactive to loud noise, sudden movement etc.



<p>Have they or any members of the household or their immediate family ever been convicted of abusing or being cruel to an animal?</p>	
<p>Are they clear about the terms of adopting a dog with the Charity?</p> <p>-Eg, adoption not ownership -Need to microchip</p> <p>-If there is ANY problem, as owners we must be contacted immediately</p>	
<p>Do they know of any Pointer owners or other pointers in their area?</p>	
<p>Where did they hear of Pointers In Need?</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you think we should know?</p>	

Homecheck Report (Part 2)

HOME CHECKERS ONLY - please ensure you have read the notes at the top of this form before compiling this report.

Outline adopter's general attitude, approach and suitability:

What are your recommendations, caveats or concerns?

Taking into account the above, is this a suitable home?

If no, please explain.

Home Check Carried out by:

Date and signature

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*Please scan fully completed form and forward to info@pointersinneed.org.uk.
If you can't scan, contact a member of the team who will tell you where to post*