

What to Look for When Doing a Yard/Home Check

Ideally, try to make the appointment for the yard check at time when you can meet everyone who lives there. It should be daylight hours. Before leaving to do the yard check, tell someone when and where you are going and leave the address with them. Print this page and take it with you, make notes on it so you can report back to the foster carer.

When you get there, look for the following:

- Secure fences and gates:
 - missing palings
 - sufficient height
 - gaps underneath
 - soft soil where dog could dig out
- Gates:
 - lock, closing mechanism that won't rattle open
 - recommend padlock against theft, kids opening gates, and visitors
- No furniture, pots, BBQs, garbage bins, or other things which a dog could hop onto then climb over the fence.
- Are there other dogs living in the adjoining properties? Large or small? Friendly?
- View where the dog will sleep. If outside, is there a kennel, bed, verandah?
- Is there shade/shelter in the yard from the summer sun and winter winds?
- Is the yard clean and tidy? Is the lawn mown? Are buildings well maintained?
- Are the children clean and tidy and well behaved?
- If there are other pets:
 - Are they in good condition?
 - Are they friendly towards people and other dogs?
 - Are they desexed, vaccinated? What vet do they go to?
 - Have they been trained?
- Ask how often the dog will be allowed inside.
- If the dog is going to be allowed inside, then ask to go inside. View the areas the dog will be allowed to be in, and where the dog will sleep. Is the house clean and tidy? Is there a dog bed?
- Ask to see anything they already have for the dog, such as kennel, collar or bed.
- Who else lives in the house?
 - Are they all keen to get a dog?
- Who is going to primarily care for the dog? Do they have time, given their other commitments, to children, job, etc to properly care for a pet?
- Take photos if you think it would be helpful in reporting back to the dog's foster carer.
- Ask to see photo ID to prove their correct name and that they actually live there.

Result

If you are doing the yard check on behalf of someone else (ie: you're not the foster carer), then don't say if the yard check is ok or not. Just say that you will report back to the foster carer and someone will get back to them.