



ALBERTA (AB) HERDING DOG RESCUE ADOPTION APPLICATION

PLEASE READ FIRST....

We are not a shelter, nor do we have a public facility, with regular store hours where potential adopters can drop in at any time and go home with a dog of their choice. All of our animals are fostered in private homes, allowing us to properly assess their temperament and behaviour to better understand the type of family that will best suit the dog's needs. Potential adopters will be put in touch with the foster home if they would like more details on a particular dog, and/or would like to arrange a visit before starting the process, but the foster home cannot release the dog until the application has received final approval.

We will consider long-distance adoptions however, we would first recommend checking the two websites below for rescue organizations, or dogs in need of homes, in your area. Both websites are a good place to start if a flight or road trip is prohibitive to adopting one of our dogs.



www.canadasguidetodogs.com



www.petfinder.com



Please note that many of these herding breeds are pets that were owner surrendered to us because they either exhibit

1. excessive herding behaviours that many pet owners do not know how to deal with or
2. no herding behaviours that the stockmen & ranchers are looking for or
3. high intensity & drive that require an appropriate outlet, such as dog sports.

We rarely get a "couch potato" that is happy to just sit in the yard and watch the world go by. It is even rarer that we get puppies (< 1 yr old) - it is more likely that we will get a dog that was found as a stray, was chasing livestock and was in danger of being shot, was nipping the kids, is somewhat fearful of specific types of people, would shut down when worked on livestock, excessive barking, resource guarding issues or some other obsessive behaviour often manifesting into a bigger problem than the owners were able or willing to deal with. We also get dogs transferred from shelters because these breeds do not do very well in a shelter environment and thus, they do not show well at all to potential adopters. The longer they stay in a shelter, the greater the chance they may develop other unwanted behaviours due to the noise and higher states of arousal/stimulation and the less chance they have of being adopted.

Our job, first and foremost, is to help these dogs learn how to be good pets so that the general breed-knowledgeable public can adopt them and live with them. We do not expect every adopter to want to do dog sports or get involved in herding but we do expect that adopters realize that these dogs need regular physical and mental exercise to keep them happy and be easier to live with. This is often much more than most other breeds need but even so, a herding dog should also know when to work and when to relax and be able to co-exist politely in the house with the owner. Herding breeds do NOT make the best family pets, though. Children can move funny, unpredictably and often fast, which may seem chaotic to the herding dog who was bred to control and bring together the scattered livestock. If you think getting one of these breeds will be "good for the kids" or "will make a good friend for a current dog" or will "just hang out in an un-fenced yard while you are doing something else", we ask you to reconsider the breed you are looking for. A herding breed may not be the best choice.

We are looking for active pet homes that are engaged with their dogs regularly or for working/herding homes that know how to train them for the job they need and who have a safe place for them when they are not working. Hopefully you will understand that our animals' best interests are at the heart of what we do and our **ultimate goal** is to find perfect matches! We do not have an adoption quota or a timeline to meet. To that end, we will process applications for the same dog in the order we receive them but it is the **best match** (NOT 1st come, 1st served) that will get the initial approval. If, after the 30 day trial period, the dog is not the perfect match, the dog must be returned to AB Herding Dog Rescue at the adopter's expense. At that point, we will revisit any other applications received for that dog.

Having said that, if you are sure that one of our foster dogs is the perfect match for you, then please follow the steps outlined below. We require that potential adopters travel to meet our dogs as we will not ship them to places or people unknown. We will make every effort to have all stages of the process done before a trip is made so that if the Meet'n'Greet goes well, the dog can go home with you on the same day. It is important to note that the greater the distance, the longer the process may take as we will need to find and contact volunteers local to your area for home visits. If we are unable to find local volunteers, we will consider virtual home visits if technology will allow us.

Please sign & return to:

Alberta (AB) Herding Dog Rescue

swineyc@xplornet.ca

OUR ADOPTION PROCESS

- Fill it out this application as completely as possible, sign and email it back to swineyc@xplornet.ca.
 - Please **include 3 written references**, or have your references email swineyc@xplornet.ca directly with information that will support your application.
 - Please have them include what they know about your life style, your knowledge of the breed(s) & training methods (if possible), as well as the general wellbeing of any current pets.
 - Simply saying that you would make good pet owners does not tell us enough.
 - *Including or emailing written references will greatly speed up the process.*
 - You can snail mail it to the address on the last page, although this would likely be less reliable and take longer. ***We do NOT have a fax number.***
- If there are any questions or concerns about the application, we will contact you for clarification.
- Once we can line up a volunteer to do the home visit, we will introduce you to them by email so that you can arrange a time convenient to you both. Generally, except during high vacation seasons (summer & Christmas), this step can be done within a week of receiving your application.
- If there are specific requirements for some dogs (for ex: deaf dogs will require a secure, fenced yard), they are there for a reason and the home visit is primarily to ensure us that you can provide what the dogs need and will keep them safe.
- Once the home visit is complete, arrangements are then made with the foster home for a Meet'n'Greet. At that point, if it goes well, the adoption contract is signed and we transfer the dog over to you.
 - Visits with the dogs can be arranged prior to the home visit, to ensure which dog it is that interests you, but they cannot go home with you at that point.
- **Adoption fees are due upon the transfer of the dog to the adopter for the 30 day trial period.**
 - If the adopter requests a delay in the transfer to a date of their convenience, a \$100 deposit is required. The deposit will be forfeit IF the adopter abandons the process prior to the trial adoption period.
 - If, during the 30 day trial adoption period, the dog is not a good match, the entire adoption fee will be returned upon the dog's return to our rescue (or applied to a different dog that may be a better match).
- If, for any reason, the adopter can no longer keep or care for the dog they adopted from us, we will ALWAYS take them back as long as we continue to operate.

Please print or type.

1. Name(s): _____

Are you 18 years old or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If 'No', your parent or guardian must agree to this application by signing for you.)

2. Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

3. Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

4. Other family members in the same household *(please include ages of children)*: _____

5. Occupation of applicant? _____ Occupation of spouse? _____

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6. Are all members of your household aware and approve that you are considering adopting a pet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Do you own your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Dwelling Type: ☐ Detached House or Mobile Trailer ☐ Duplex or Townhouse ☐ Condo or Apt

If you are renting, or live in a Condominium/Apartment unit, are you prepared to provide a letter from your landlord/Board stating that tenants are allowed to have animals? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Is your yard fenced? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', are you prepared to fence the yard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If 'No' to #9, do you have a dog run? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', are you prepared to build or buy one? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. If 'No' to #9 and/or #10, what do you plan to do when the dog needs to go outside? _____

(Note: A fence is not a deal breaker if the dog will always be with the adopters or always supervised when outside. However, if the dogs are to be staked/tethered outside unsupervised or if they are expected to hang around an un-fenced acreage/farm yard unsupervised - especially breeds that are prone to finding cars or livestock to chase when bored - we will not put our dogs in what could be a potentially dangerous or fatal environment.)

12. Are you familiar with the animal regulations and bylaws in your area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Is anyone in your house allergic to pets? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Is anyone in your house afraid of dogs? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was there a "situation" to cause this fear? *(Please explain.)* _____

What has been done, if anything, to alleviate this fear? *(Please explain.)* _____

15. What pets do you currently have in your household *(check all that apply)*? Please list ages of dogs and/or cats.

☐ Dogs ☐ Cats ☐ Birds ☐ Rodents/Small Animals ☐ Reptiles ☐ Other _____

16. If no current pets, have you owned dogs previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'Yes', what breed(s)? _____

How long ago? _____

What happened to your previous pets? _____

Have you ever had a pet euthanized due to behaviour problems? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain. _____

17. What kind of training did you do with your current or previous dog(s)? _____

18. What kind of after work and/or outdoor activities are you involved in? _____

How many days/week, and how many hours/day, are you involved in these activities? _____

Will the dog be joining in on these activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', where will the dog be expected to stay while you are at these activities? _____

19. Which herding breed are you most interested in adopting? *(Please check one.)*

☐ Border Collie ☐ Australian Cattle Dog/Heeler ☐ German Shepherd

☐ Australian Kelpie ☐ Belgian Malinois *(or other Belgian Shepherd varieties)*

☐ Australian Shepherd ☐ Other _____

☐ Shetland Sheepdog *(If interested in a Sheltie, please check out www.albertasheltierescue.ca)*

20. What do you know about this particular breed? _____

21. Do you prefer:

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ No preference

☐ Puppy (< 1yr old) ☐ Young (> 1yr < 4yrs) ☐ Mature (> 4yrs < 8yrs) ☐ Senior (> 8yrs)

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22. What kind of temperament are you looking for?

- ☐ Calm/Laid Back ☐ Active/Eager ☐ Drivey/Energetic ☐ Crazy/Over the Top ☐ Herdy

23. Is there are particular dog in our care that you are considering? _____

a. Have you read the detailed profile of this particular dog if available?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Are you willing to work with their known issues and/or consult with a trainer/behaviourist if necessary?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

c. What training techniques are you familiar with and how do you plan to apply them to help this dog with their known issues? _____

24. What kind of activities are you interested in doing with the dog? *(Check all that apply.)*

- ☐ Walks/Hikes ☐ Agility ☐ Flyball/Scent Hurdle ☐ Disc Dog ☐ Obedience
- ☐ Rally-O ☐ Herding ☐ Dock Dogs ☐ Schutzhund/French Ring Sport
- ☐ Nose/Scent Work ☐ Search & Rescue ☐ Other _____

25. Who is going to be primarily responsible for the training, exercising and grooming of the dog? _____

26. How many hours per day are you prepared to be engaged with a dog? This is **actual training time** that you are physically interacting and mentally engaged with the dog. This does not include the time you are at home but leave the dog to his own devices. _____

27. If necessary, are you prepared to enroll the dog in formal classes that use reward based training methods?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

28. If behaviour problems develop in the dog, how would you deal with them? _____

29. What circumstances, or for what reasons, would you consider valid for "getting rid" of a dog? _____

30. What ways, in your mind, are acceptable methods of "getting rid" of a dog?

- ☐ Sell it ☐ Give it away/Re-home it ☐ Surrender to Humane Society or Rescue ☐ Euthanasia

31. How many hours per day will the dog be left alone? _____

32. What do you plan to do with the dog when it is left alone? *(Please check all that apply.)*

- ☐ Crated in the house ☐ Loose in the house ☐ Outside, in kennel run ☐ Outside, loose in yard

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☐ Outside, tied up ☐ Other _____

33. Where is the dog going to spend the majority of its time?

☐ In the house with the family. ☐ Outside by itself

34. What do you intend to do with a dog when you go away for extended periods of time (such as holidays or work related trips)? _____

35. Are you willing to allow a Rescue representative to visit your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'No', please explain. _____

36. Do you understand that all rescue dogs are normally spayed/neutered prior to adoption? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(In some cases, especially known sport homes, the spay/neuter may be postponed until growth plates close.)

37. Do you accept that there is an adoption fee with each dog to help cover the costs of food, microchip, veterinary care & basic training while in foster care? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Puppies (≤ 6 months old) **\$600.00**

Puppies (> 6 months, ≤ 18 months) **\$425.00**

(If the spay/neuter is postponed, ABHDR will reimburse \$150 when presented with proof of the operation.)

Young Adult dogs (> 18 months, ≤ 4 years) **\$375.00**

Mature/Adult dogs (> 4 years, ≤ 8 years) **\$325.00**

Senior dogs (> 8 years) **\$250.00**

NOTE: We operate as a not-for-profit but we cannot help dogs in need if we are operating in the negative. If extensive veterinary care is required, fees may increase to help defray our costs. If one of our dogs has the talent & work ethic to be working livestock, the cost of training that dog will be added to the adoption fee as we have to pay the trainer. AB-HDR reserves the right to waive adoption fees on a case-by-case basis and foster families have always had first right of refusal on adopting their foster dogs, because of all the work they do with them.

38. Do you accept that if you are approved as an adoption home, that you will be responsible for any travel costs to pick up the dog and, if necessary, return the dog to ABHDR? ☐ Yes ☐ No

39. To help expedite the process, please attach **3 written (or emailed)** references from friends, family, dog trainer(s), veterinarian(s), or others who can attest to the suitability of your family to the dog of interest.

Just so we know who to expect emails from or who to contact if not received, please fill this area in.

a) Name: _____ E-mail: _____

b) Name: _____ E-mail: _____

c) Name: _____ E-mail: _____

40. How did you hear about Alberta Herding Dog Rescue? _____

By signing below I am attesting to the truthfulness of my answers. I understand that any falsification of any of the above information, or an incomplete application, will be grounds for refusing the adoption of a rescue dog.

Signature: _____ Date (mm/dd/yy): _____
Please sign & return to: Alberta (AB) Herding Dog Rescue swineyc@xplornet.ca

ALBERTA (AB) HERDING DOG RESCUE ADOPTION AGREEMENT

I/We hereby acknowledge that I am/we are 18 years of age or older OR have completed this application with the permission and assistance of a parent or legal guardian. I/We understand and agree that submitting this application form does not automatically approve my/our application to adopt from Alberta (AB) Herding Dog Rescue, and that there are certain processes to complete, such as the Home Visit and the Meet n Greet with the dog(s) of interest, before I am/we are approved.

I/We acknowledge and understand that if my/our application is approved, I/we shall be entitled to a **one month trial period** (minimum) with the dog(s), to determine the suitability of the dog(s) to my/our family and lifestyle. At any time during this trial period should I/we determine the dog(s) is not a suitable match, I/we shall immediately notify AB-HDR and arrange to return the dog(s) to AB-HDR, and the adoption fee shall be returned to me/us. Other than the adoption fee, I/we shall not be entitled to reimbursement for any expenses incurred by me/us on behalf of the dog during the trial period, including, but not limited to food, medical expenses, training class fees, licensing, etc.

I/We agree to abide by any and all local bylaws with respect to dog ownership, including, but not limited, to all licensing and kenneling requirements as well as provide adequate food, water, shelter and exercise necessary to maintain the proper health of the dog. At no time shall I/we allow the dog to roam at will, keep the dog tied/chained outside on a permanent basis or leave the dog outside, unsupervised, during my/our absence. I/We further agree that the dog shall not be allowed to ride loose in the back of any open truck bed.

In the event that I/We decide to enrol the dog in training classes, I/we agree that I/we will only enrol the dog in classes where the instructors promote and use positive reward based training methods. I/We will NOT enrol the dog in classes where the instructors use punishment, harsh corrections and intimidation in the training of the dogs, and use (or promote the use of) aversive tools such as prong, pinch or electric shock collars.

I/We agree to ensure that the dog receives the appropriate vaccinations or titres, including but not limited to Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus as recommended by my/our veterinarian. In the event of injury or sickness, I/we shall have the dog(s) checked by a Veterinarian. In the event the injury or sickness is life threatening or the dog(s) requires extensive/cost prohibitive treatment, I/we shall contact AB-HDR, if only to inform AB-HDR of a decision to euthanize.

In the event that I/we, for whatever reason, am/are unable to keep the dog at any time, I/we agree to return the dog to AB Herding Dog Rescue at my/our expense. Alternatively, in the event that a Third Party has expressed an interest in owning the dog, written approval from AB Herding Dog Rescue is required before Ownership of the dog shall be transferred to the Third Party. Such approval from AB Herding Dog Rescue shall not be unreasonably withheld.

I/We acknowledge that I/we will be (or have been) advised of any physical limitations, mental conditions or behaviour problems, should they exist, either in written or verbal communication throughout the application process and that AB Herding Dog Rescue (and/or Cindy Swiney) makes no warranty as to the future conduct of the dog(s). In addition, it does not make any warranty that the dog(s) is/are free from any genetic health problems.

I/We agree to assume sole responsibility and liability for the dog. In doing so, I/we agree to indemnify and save harmless AB-HDR – its members, officers, and directors - from any and all losses and expenses (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law or claims of any other nature whatsoever related to the actions of the dog.

In the event that I am/we are in breach of any of the conditions of this contract, AB Herding Dog Rescue shall have the right to remove the dog from my/our care and control or, if necessary, authorize the appropriate authority to seize the dog and return the dog to the care and control of AB Herding Dog Rescue.