



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): _____
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? _____

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 a 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 accept that there is an adoption fee with each dog to help cover the costs of food, microchip, veterinary care (spays/neuters are mandatory) & basic training while in foster care? Yes No

Puppies (\leq 12 months)	\$600.00
Older Puppies ($>$ 12 months, \leq 24 months)	\$425.00
Young Adult dogs ($>$ 2 year, \leq 4 years)	\$375.00
Mature Adult dogs ($>$ 4 years, \leq 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.

37. 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

38. 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: _____

39. 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): _____

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