



VIVA . Volunteers for Indigent & Vulnerable Animals  
237 Rockwood Ave. 9011, PMB 386 Calexico, CA 92232 619.551.6953 •

[www.myvivasf.com](http://www.myvivasf.com)

## ADOPTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. It has been designed to help VIVA decide if you and your family are adequately prepared to discuss the level of responsibility for adopting a dog. Our primary concern is to place each dog in the best possible home for his best interest. We are asking you to make a lifetime commitment to the dog you adopt. It is very stressful for you and the dog when an adoption does not work out and the dog is returned to us. Because of this, we will ask to do a home visit, during the foster period of 2 to 4 weeks, before you permanently adopt one of our dogs.

Please Indicate the Name of the Dog you are interested in if applicable). \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Phone number and email address are required!**

### 1. Who will be responsible for the dog's care?

Check which person will have primary responsibility

Primary Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (max 500 characters) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name and city of your veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact your veterinarian regarding your current or previous pets? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

**3. Are there children who live in or regularly visit your home? (such as grandchildren and neighbor children)**

Please indicate how many in each age group

Live In:

\_\_\_\_\_ Under 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 to 3 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 to 7 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 to 12 years

\_\_\_\_\_ Older than 12 years

Visit Regularly:

\_\_\_\_\_ Under 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 to 3 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 to 7 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 8 to 12 years

\_\_\_\_\_ Older than 12 years

**4. Please tell us about your current pets and animals, including livestock.**

a) Species (dog, cat, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Primary living area? Inside or Outside    Spayed/Neutered? Yes No    Where does this animal sleep? Inside or Outside

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Species (dog, cat, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Primary living area? Inside or Outside    Spayed/Neutered? Yes No    Where does this animal sleep? Inside or Outside

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Species (dog, cat, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Primary living area? Inside or Outside    Spayed/Neutered? Yes No    Where does this animal sleep? Inside or Outside

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) Species (dog, cat, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Primary living area? Inside or Outside    Spayed/Neutered? Yes No    Where does this animal sleep? Inside or Outside

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. What happened to previous dogs you no longer have?**

a) Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition?** (Circle One) Died of natural causes; Killed in accident; Put to sleep due to illness or old age;  
Put to sleep for other reasons; Given to friend or neighbor; Sold or given to new owner;  
Turned in to an animal shelter; Lost or stolen

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition?** (Circle One) Died of natural causes; Killed in accident; Put to sleep due to illness or old age;  
Put to sleep for other reasons; Given to friend or neighbor; Sold or given to new owner;  
Turned in to an animal shelter; Lost or stolen

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Do you own or rent your home?**

\_\_\_\_ Own \_\_\_\_ Rent Please Note: If you rent a written Landlord agreement will be required

**Which best describes your residence?**

\_\_\_\_ house \_\_\_\_ condo/townhouse \_\_\_\_ apartment \_\_\_\_ farm/ranch

**7. Please describe fencing in the yard or exercise area where your dog will be outside:**

\_\_\_\_ Fenced yard \_\_\_\_ Partially fenced yard \_\_\_\_ Fenced yard area for dog  
\_\_\_\_ No fence \_\_\_\_ "Invisible" fence \_\_\_\_ Enclosed dog kennel/run \_\_\_\_ No yard

**8. How high is your fence at its lowest point? \_\_\_\_ 4' or less \_\_\_\_ 5' \_\_\_\_ 6' or higher \_\_\_\_ No fence**

**9. Do you have a swimming pool?**

\_\_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_\_ Yes – it's not fenced  
\_\_\_\_ Yes – it's fenced off from the rest of the yard

**10. Please tell us about your personal experience with dogs:**

- Never had a dog
- Never had a dog as an adult, but grew up with them
- Have spent a lot of time with dogs owned by others

**11. Please tell us about your experience training dogs. Check all that apply:**

- None
- Read books and magazines
- Attended seminars or took online courses
- Pet store classes
- Group recreational classes
- Private recreational classes
- Agility, flyball, other recreational sports classes
- Intermediate or advanced classes
- Formal advanced training for competitive obedience or dog sports
- Earned working titles
- Professional level military, service, or law enforcement work

**12. What roles do you want the dog to play in your and your family's life? Check all that apply:**

- Household pet
- Companion for adult(s)
- Companion for children
- Companion for other dogs
- Companion for pets other than dogs
- Hiking/Jogging Partner
- Personal service dog or therapy dog
- Protection
- Professional working dog (i.e., search & rescue, narcotics or bomb detection)
- Other (please explain)\_\_\_\_\_

**13. What kinds of activities do you want to participate in with your dog? Check all that apply:**

- Neighborhood walks, backyard games
- Visits to dog parks (off leash with other dogs)
- Hiking, jogging, or running
- Day trips (e.g., to the beach)
- Horseback riding
- Structured obedience, canine good citizen
- Recreational dog sports (agility, flyball, etc.)
- Competitive dog sports (obedience, rally agility, herding, tracking, Schutzhund)
- Volunteer working activities (search and rescue, therapy)
- Professional working activities (security, protection, narcotics or bomb detection, human remains detection, personal service dog, law enforcement)
- Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**14. How long will your dog be alone during the typical weekday?**

- Rarely     2-4 hours     4-7 hours     7-10 hours     More than 10 hours

**15. Where do you want your dog to spend its time?**

- Inside fulltime, outside rarely
- Inside most of the time with access to outside, sleeps inside
- Inside when you're home, outside when you're gone
- Mostly outside in yard, rarely in house, sleeps in garage or dog house
- Outside only

**16. What type of dog would you prefer?**

**Gender:**  male  Female  no preference

**Age:** (check all that apply)

- puppy (Under 6 months)
- puppy (6 months – 1 year)
- young adult (1 - 3 years)
- adult (3 - 5 years)
- adult (5 – 7 years)
- senior (older than 7 years)

**17. Do you have any additional comments to help us find the right dog for you?**

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**18. Would you be interested in joining our team of foster parents and helping a Rescue Dog / Puppy?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I'd like to learn more.

\_\_\_\_\_ No thanks

**19. How did you hear about VIVA?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Friend

\_\_\_\_\_ Adoption day or other event

\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper

\_\_\_\_\_ Web Search

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterinarian

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain)e \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost of caring for our dogs, including shelter fees, spaying/neutering, veterinary care, boarding and feeding exceeds \$650 per dog. We ask for a minimum adoption fee of \$ 250 for a dog or puppy to help cover these costs. Any additional contribution you are able to make will be much appreciated. This will allow us to continue to help others.**

**Volunteers For Indigent & Vulnerable Animals is a California Copr. And a 501 c (3) non-profit all-volunteer organization.**

**We thank you for your interest in VIVA!**

Veterinarian Reduced Fee for Spay & Neuter Surgeries visit: <http://www.sddac.com/docs/vetinfo.pdf>

I have read this application and I understand the questions, the policies and the process. Volunteers for Indigent Vulnerable Animals reserves the right to refuse to adopt a dog to any person.

If I am adopting a puppy less than 3 months old I am aware that it may not spayed or neutered. I agree that this will be done at the appropriate time and \$50.00 of my initial deposit will be returned.

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Foster or Adopter

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Foster or Adopter

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
VIVA Adoption Coordinator



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## Explanation of the Dog Levels

### 1 – “Fireplace dog”

Couch potato, super easy, low energy and no issues. This level of dog would do well in any home regardless of owner experience. (We rarely come across this level of dog.)

### 2 – “Easy Large Breed Companion Dog”

Low to moderate energy, needs some exercise but it is not a daily requirement. This dog will do well in most homes. The dog gets along with most other dogs, gets along with most other people and have been successfully been around children. The dog has no real behavioral issues that need to be managed or dealt with on a daily basis. This dog is an easy family dog.

### 3 – “Standard Large Breed Dog”

Moderate energy, needs daily exercise of some sort to thrive and stay happy. This dog will do well in many types of homes, but some situations will not work for this dog. This dog may not get along with some types of dogs. This dog may be reactive to some other dogs while on leash. It may have too much energy to be around small children while unattended, and may have some behavioral issues that will require formal training or daily monitoring for the dog to successfully live happily in a family. These issues are normally minor such as fence climbing, prey drive, minor separation anxiety, nervousness in crowds, or other minor behavioral traits. A Potential Adopter for a level 3 dog must have prior, recent large breed dog experience and be able to demonstrate the ability to successfully deal with the level 3 dog that they wish to adopt.

### 4 – “Experienced Ownership Required”

Moderate, high or very high energy/drive. Needs an experienced owner familiar with working breed behavior to provide direct leadership and proper management. Level 4 dogs typically have a challenging behavior, but are good dogs. These dogs might be dog-reactive with most other dogs or dog-aggressive, may have to be an only animal in the home, maybe have moderate separation anxiety. The dog normally needs daily physical and mental stimulation, etc. This level of dog is not an average pet. (We try to limit the number of level 4 dogs in our program.) A Potential Adopter for a level 4 dog must be able to demonstrate the experience and ability to safely manage and care for a level 4 dog.

### 5 – “Competitive or Working Dog”

This is a dog that has an intense focus to ‘work’. It could be a dog that provides Search and Rescue services, could be a competitive Flyball or Agility dog, or has other working abilities. These dogs can be strong, pushy, dominant, and/or have extreme energy/drive. They need a professional handler or an owner who has the experience to provide a demonstrated commitment to the dog’s ‘working ability’. A Potential Adopter for a level 5 dog must be able to demonstrate the experience and ability to safely manage and care for a level 5 dog.