



FAQ regarding adoption of dogs at the SPCA
demystifying the myths



1. Why do you make it so hard to get a dog from the SPCA, don't you want them to find homes?

Yes, we do want to find them homes, but we want it to be a home where they are going to stay for the rest of their lives. If the home and the dog don't match up it can mean heartbreak for the adopting family, for the SPCA staff and the dog is returned to the SPCA. The adult dogs who are surrendered to the SPCA have already established patterns of behaviour, they've been house dogs, or outside, met children, cats, other dogs. We have to look for a home for these animals taking this into consideration, It is also important that we consider your needs and expectations and match a dog that will best suit you and your family.

2. I've had dogs all my life and I've never had a problem with them wandering, my dog is with me all the time.

It's not practical to have your dog with you all the time. When you go shopping in summer, visit to the hospital, when you're doing housework or even sitting watching tv in the evenings, back door is open and the dog goes outside. You need a secure area as there are times when they need to be confined – i.e visitors who are afraid of dogs. It means you can relax and enjoy your dog and know that she is not being a nuisance to someone else (not everyone loves dogs like we do)

3. If I'm the first person to put my name on a dog at the SPCA that means that the dog will be mine?

As we want this partnership to be a lifelong one we consider many factors when rehoming our dogs. We look at the dog's history and needs along with your family structure and needs. We are looking for the best situation for this particular dog, one where the partnership is likely to succeed. Sometimes it is not the first person on the list, this doesn't mean that we think they are not going to be a great home for a dog, but the better the match of owner and dog the more successful it is for all involved

4. Why do I have to bring my dog in to meet the puppy/new dog?

When you are introducing a new dog to the family who already has an existing dog they need to meet first. Dogs, like people, have different personalities and behaviours and it is important they get on otherwise it can be a stressful and difficult time for the new owners and animals.

5. What are the fencing requirements? My property check failed and I've got 7 wire farm fencing right around the house!

When we come out to do a property check we are looking for fencing that will keep the dog on the property. The height of the fencing needed depends on the dog, how big it is going to grow, what breed (some breeds are extremely agile). 7 wire farm fencing is very effective at keeping stock in the paddocks, but it's not designed to stop a dog from going through it. You need to have a place where the dog is safe, is not going to be a nuisance to the neighbours (chasing cats/stock/chickens), is not going to be injured or cause a traffic hazard on the roads. Many of the dogs that come to us have spent much of their lifetime tied on a chain, this is not a situation we want them going back out to so a chain and a kennel instead of a fence as a means of permanent or long term restraint will not be approved.

6. I work full time, is that going to be a problem if I want to adopt a puppy?

It's very important for pups under 6 months old to have company during the day, this is a critical socializing period of their lives and they need small regular meals. Pups who are left alone for long periods often spend the time barking, digging holes, pulling washing off the line, you need to be there to teach them what is acceptable behaviour, what is not.

7. The puppy I want is a working dog and you said it's not suitable to have it in town.

Working dogs are extremely active, intelligent dogs who need more exercise/training than the average town home can give them. We get a lot of these type of dogs surrendered to the SPCA as they have a natural instinct to 'work' and therefore get bored very easily, if bored they can develop destructive patterns of behaviour. If you are very active or looking at obedience/agility then these breeds can be ideal.

We are always happy to discuss any concerns you may have and we will do all we can to facilitate a successful and lifelong union.

For a full list of the requirements please check out our Dog Adoption Questionnaire on our Dog Adoption Page at www.whangareispc.co.nz



Cricket with his new Mum and Ani (SPCA staff member) on his way out to his new forever home