American Lhasa Apso Club

Dremjong Taktru and Dremjong Tsitru
Owned by Col. Bailey - Circa early 1930s

Rescue Handbook
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This Handbook is dedicated to the memory of those Apsos that Rescue was not able to save. The resources were just not available to rehabilitate dogs who were otherwise unadoptable or their issues were too great to overcome.

If you love Apsos at all, please help be part of the solution to the problem of overbreeding and indiscriminate breeding. Pet stores and “back yard breeders” sell animals that were taken from their dam and littermates before they learned to be good dogs and were not socialized with people at all – meaning they do not have the skills to be good companion animals either. These are the types of Apsos that end up in shelters, where they frequently fail “behavior tests” because they are so afraid. They might adjust beautifully in the right home but – without enough rescuers to work with these animals – they are regrettably “put to sleep.” The “no-kill” movement has much that is commendable about it; however, it also means that shelters, humane societies, SPCAs, and animal control departments are overflowing with animals. Rescues like the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue are unable to take in these dogs in need either because we do not have enough volunteers and, specifically, foster homes to house these special-needs dogs. You are desperately needed and this handbook is to assist you in meeting the needs of these Apsos.

We also dedicate this Handbook to the many caring volunteers of our organization. It is only through their time, effort and passion for the breed that ALAC Rescue has been successful in rehoming so many of these unique and delightful little dogs who were surrendered by owners or picked up as strays.

Last, but certainly not least, this Handbook is dedicated to the ethical, responsible breeders that were “rescue” before rescue ever became mainstream. Working on their own and using personal funds, they found homes for the little ones who had been so carelessly tossed aside. It is also through their passion and efforts that the Apso – the breed we hold so dearly – has been preserved in the face of the systematic genocide which has been carried out against the Tibetan people, culture and history since the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950.
In order to truly understand the Lhasa Apso, one needs to study the rich history surrounding the breed. Recent DNA studies have shown the Lhasa Apso as belonging to the “ancient group” of dogs ... those dogs most closely related to the ancestral wolf in evolution. The Lhasa Apso survived as a landrace breed in its native Tibet for centuries as an integral part of Tibetan culture, religion and day-to-day life. As a landrace, the breed is more primitive in its behavior than developed breeds and requires an owner that can – and is willing – to provide benevolent leadership for the rescue dog. ALAC Rescue plays an important part in educating owners and potential owners regarding the breed’s need for boundaries and consistent training.

You will note we refer to Lhasa Apsos as “Apsos” throughout this Handbook. The Tibetans have called the breed “Apso Seng Kyi” or “Abso Seng Kyi” for ages upon ages and meaning “Bearded Lion Dog.” In their native land, they are simply called Apsos. Once introduced to the Western world, the breed was known as the “Bhuteer Terrier,” the “Lhassa Terrier” and, finally, the “Lhasa Apso,” referencing the capital city of Tibet. It is out of respect for the Tibetan people and culture that we use the ancient term “Apso.”

The Resource Section of this Handbook provides a wealth of information on the breed and you are urged to delve into the roots of this ancient little mountain dog.

| Time means nothing to a dog ... |
| ... it’s the love given in that time that means everything. |
All reputable breed clubs have rescues to aid in the effort to preserve the breed. Fanciers of specific breeds should assist in this effort as well. Breeding to standard, contributing health information and showing dogs are important, but aiding the dogs that have been carelessly bred is also needed on a national level. It is an unfortunate fact of life that there are many involved in breeding Apsos whose primary goal is NOT the betterment of the breed. These “breeders” include puppy mills, backyard breeders and careless owners of Apsos. The vast majority of Apsos that end up in rescue, shelters, or are euthanized are the result of a human's lack of commitment in breeding and then selling these dogs to unscreened families. It behooves those of us who do love the breed to do whatever we can to assist these unfortunate animals, to educate those interested in the breed as to what constitutes an ethical, responsible breeder and how to find one.
The purpose of the American Lhasa Apso Club (ALAC) Rescue is twofold: first, we make every effort to address the problem of homelessness of Lhasa Apsos. Second, we exist to educate the public about the Lhasa Apso breed. Counseling owners and interested individuals about breed traits and characteristics is an important responsibility of Rescue. Education and intervention can help keep many of these Apsos from losing their homes in the first place.

ALAC Rescue is a national all-volunteer agency of individuals who share a deep passion for the breed. We work to find the best possible home for the Apsos which we have rescued from owners and shelters. We are funded entirely by donations and are a 501(c)(3) organization, which means we have been granted a non-profit status by the IRS and that donations and contributions are tax-deductible.

Help is needed in all areas of the rescue process but of primary importance is the foster home. These dedicated people open their homes – and hearts – to rescue dogs to assess and rehabilitate them so they can go on to the best possible permanent home. Volunteers can assist in many other areas too. ALAC Rescue works closely with local shelters, lost pet registries, animal control agencies and veterinary offices. Information needs to flow to and from these entities so that we will be notified when a need arises. Distribution of information is necessary by attending animal fairs and adoption events. Volunteers may offer assistance in transporting Apsos to their new homes. Applications are required from adoption applicants and we need people to call the references and to do phone interviews. We also visit applicant homes before adoption to ensure the home is suitable for a small, inquisitive dog. We provide information about adoptable dogs to other networks such as PetFinder.com and PetHarbor.com. Volunteers can update information on networks, e-groups and websites.

It is regrettable that we cannot save all the Apsos in shelters that are lost or are surrendered by owners. There is no good purpose served by taking in dogs that – due to their temperament or health – cannot be considered adoptable. It is very hard to have to make decisions that, ultimately, result in the euthanasia of some of these animals, but it is necessary. Not all dogs can be saved ... not all dogs “should” be saved due to behavioral and/or health issues. ALAC Rescue simply does not have the resources or the ability to take in every Apso that needs rehoming.
Rescue Overview

Given that the Lhasa Apso is an animal which exists solely by the desire and design of man who must, therefore, take responsibility for its welfare, the Lhasa Apso Rescue Network seeks to provide guidance to its members who are willing to provide rescue and assistance to Apsos in need of emergency medical care, proper placement and owner support and education.

Rescue Network Volunteers

Daily Activists
- Watch for ads in newspapers, veterinarians' offices, circulars, local bulletin boards, etc., concerning Apsos.
- Provide animal control agencies (SPCA, Humane Societies, animal shelters), lost pet registries and veterinarians with the letter of introduction to the Rescue Network, along with your name and phone number to be contacted if an Apso is abandoned at their facility.
- Contact a Coordinator to alert the nationwide network when a Lhasa needs Rescue Network Services.
- Distribute adoption applications to potential adoptive homes.
- Participate in letter writing campaigns designed to educate people practicing irresponsible behaviors in breeding and caring for Apsos, those sponsoring anti-dog legislation, and those distributing inaccurate and/or potentially harmful information.
- Talk with Apso owners or potential Apso owners that you come in contact with and educate them on the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue as a source of information about the breed.
- Provide veterinary clinics with contact information on the American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue which they can provide to their clients interested in Apso adoption.

Mentors
- Provide follow-up support and advice to new owners.
- Distribute educational materials to new owners.
- Provide Apso owners with advice in resolving problems that they are encountering.

Rescuers
- Take custody of Apsos which have been abandoned or surrendered, those released to animal welfare agencies, or located through lost pet registries as soon as legally possible.
• Provide immediate, emergency veterinary care for rescued Apsos including necessary inoculations and worming and making arrangements for spay/neuter procedure.
• Arrange humane euthanasia for any dog diagnosed with a contagious, incurable or untreatable condition (e.g., brucellosis, metastasized cancer), or which is unadoptable for reasons of temperament.
• Provide boarding for the rescued Apso until an appropriate placement is made.
• Help screen potential adoptive homes.
• Help arrange delivery with new owners.

Relay Drivers
• Provide limited transportation for rescued Apsos.
• Arrange transfer of a rescued dog to next day relay driver or to the new owner.

Coordinators
• A “Regional Coordinator” will maintain communication with volunteers and coordinate activities within their geographic region and will work with other Regional Coordinators and the National Coordinator to organize rescues and other activities on a national basis.
• A “National Coordinator” will maintain communication with all Regional Coordinators to organize rescues and other activities on a national basis, and maintain communication with the American Lhasa Apso Board of Directors.
• Develop and distribute educational and rescue material to Network members.
• Coordinate reports of Apsos to be rescued with volunteers available in that geographic area.
• Serve as an initial screening board for adoption applications.
• Contact approved applicants and arranges placements.
• Maintain a permanent record of all rescues.
• Keep American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue and PetFinder.com listings of available dogs current.
**RESCUES**

**From animal control agencies and lost pet registries**
- Make and maintain contact with all animal control agencies and lost pet registries in your area.
- Respond as quickly as possible to all calls regarding the abandonment of an Apso.
- Claim the dog prior to euthanasia if adoptable.

**From veterinarians**
- Make and maintain contact with as many local veterinary clinics as possible.
- Respond as quickly as possible to calls regarding the abandonment of an Apso.
- Be certain that the dog has been abandoned and that the clinic signs a release of claim to the dog before you remove it from their premises.

**Directly from owners:**
- The owner must sign a release form **before** you can take possession of the dog.
- If possible, ask that the owner pay a minimum of $50.
- All registration papers and available health records should be relinquished.
- Registration papers should be sent to a Coordinator with the rescue records. New owners interested in obedience work will be assisted in obtaining an ILP number for their dog.
- Health records should be given to the Rescuer's veterinarian; upon placement, these records should be sent to a Coordinator with the rescue records; copies of all pertinent records will be mailed to the new owner.

**Lost and Found**
- Accept lost reports from owners; if a Rescuer's contacts locate this dog, it can be identified and returned to its home.
- Advise owner of search procedures they may follow: check shelters, place ads in paper, post flyers with picture at vet clinics, grooming shops and specialty dog stores.

**RESCUERS**

*Before you accept responsibility for a rescued dog, decide where it will live until placement can be made.*
In your home
• Be sure the Apso is determined by a vet to be free of communicable disease or kept in quarantine for fourteen (14) days.
• Evaluate the dog's temperament and behavior.

Foster homes
• Foster homes can be a help — be sure to check that the home is secure and clean.

In current home
• Where practical, leave dogs in the home with their current owner until an adoptive family is located.
• Work with owners on any behavioral or health issues until an adoptive family or foster home can be located.
• Encourage owners to bear the expense of bringing dogs up-to-date on immunizations and having them spayed/neutered.

VETERINARY CARE

• All rescued dogs should be checked by a veterinarian to be determined healthy and receive vaccinations if current shot record is not available. The dog's rabies tag should be registered to the rescuer's name and address.
• All dogs should be spayed/neutered before placement.
• Check with your vet for reduced prices for rescued dogs. Shop around or contact other rescue groups in your area for the best prices. Keep receipts for all expenses.
• Adoptive owners should be provided with health information.
• Any care – other than routine medical care – needs to be pre-authorized by the Regional or National Coordinator.

ADOPTION

• All potential owners must complete the application form, liability and release document, and contract and be reviewed by the local coordinator and/or rescuer.
• Applications must in good sense be matched with the rescued dog’s information. This includes assessing the adoptive family's activity level and that of the dog, as well as considering the age of each. In most cases, older dogs are an excellent match with senior
citizens as opposed to a rambunctious puppy; conversely, younger dogs tend to do well with active families that can burn off energy.

- Local rescuers can match dogs with an adoptive family and send copies to the local coordinator.
- All final placements will be contingent upon a satisfactory one- to three-month trial period. Checks should be held during the trial period and returned if the placement fails. Rescuers may increase the trial period beyond this as they deem necessary. Communication between rescuers and adoptive families is essential. Work with new families on any issues that arise with the newly placed dog and provide support to them to resolve these issues.
- The new owners will make a contribution to the Rescue Network. The suggested minimum contribution is $200-$250 (depending on the region), but more can be asked for if extensive veterinary intervention was necessary. Increased adoption fees may be warranted in areas where veterinary care is high. To encourage adoption of dogs over the age of ten (10), rescuers may suggest a minimum contribution of $175.
- Local rescuers may advertise in newspaper want ads, post listings in veterinary clinics, grooming shops, pet supply stores, or local bulletin boards under Lhasa Apso Rescue Network. Initial telephone contacts can screen people to be sent the application forms or invited to see the rescued dogs.
- Communication is essential between coordinators and local rescuers. Some areas may be able to place more rescued dogs than other areas.
YES! Count me in!

You can rely on my support as:

_____ Activist
_____ Mentor
_____ Rescuer
_____ Relay Driver

Volunteers will receive a packet of materials including an outline and all current forms.

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________   State:   ___________   ZIP:  _____________

Home Phone: _______________________   Bus. Phone:  ______________________

Email:  ______________________________________________________________

Website:  ____________________________________________________________

_____  I take responsibility for any dog of my breeding and wish to be notified if one is rescued.

The donation of a Lhasa Apso item to the Rescue Fund Auction is appreciated.  
Thank you!

Please complete and return this form to:
National Coordinator, ALAC Rescue
Go to LhasaApsoRescue.org for more information
The first and foremost tenet of ALAC Rescue is to ensure that you, your family and the other animals in your household are protected and not exposed to danger from health or behavioral issues. Accordingly, careful screening of the incoming fosters for health problems and temperament is paramount.

Only approved volunteers are authorized to act as representatives for ALAC Rescue and must have been screened and approved by the National Coordinator, a Regional Coordinator, or a State Coordinator. They will then be considered “AARV’s” or “Approved ALAC Rescue Volunteers.”

ALAC members are not automatically authorized as AARV and must complete the same forms and be approved, to be considered as such.

AARVs are able to foster and approve adoptions with the guidance and oversight of their state or regional coordinator.

Each rescue dog accepted into our program should be carefully placed in a home that is suitable for its age, health and temperament and that matches as closely as possible the environment that is best for that particular animal.

All rescue dogs in our program must be spayed or neutered before being placed in a home. Any exception would need to be approved by the Regional or State Coordinator and would only be considered for health reasons. Relative to that:

- No rescue dog should undergo a spay/neuter procedure within 30 days of being given core vaccines (if needed).

- Anyone acting as an AARV who takes in a rescue dog is personally responsible for the dog and must be able to foster the dog indefinitely if they have taken the dog in. They are never to assume ALAC Rescue has an opening without checking with a coordinator or confirming an opening with another AARV.
No AARV or foster home should have more than six (6) dogs per caretaker in the home or kennel. A caretaker can include a spouse or kennel help. Volunteers must be able to set limits on the number of dogs they take in, so they do not become overburdened thus short-changing the dogs they are responsible for. Anyone found to be over the limit set above will no longer be considered an AARV for ALAC Rescue.

ALAC Rescue’s policy regarding puppy mills and dog auctions is that we do not participate in taking dogs directly out of those environments (exception is if the mill is closing). We feel this contributes to the perpetuation of these despicable and unethical situations.

Fosters coming in from shelters and/or incoming at the closure of a puppy mill should be quarantined for fourteen (14) days. If a puppymill dog, testing for brucellosis should be undertaken as this is a zoonotic disease which can be passed to humans and other animals in the home. Coordinators will work with the Regional/State Coordinators to determine the most economical/efficient way to complete the quarantine period.

Rescue dogs that have been deemed unadoptable because of aggression issues, extreme health problems or very poor quality of life should be humanely euthanized. All AARVs should have a realistic attitude towards this part of rescue and accept the fact that not every animal can be saved.

A dog that has bitten in the past should not be automatically excluded from the program if an AARV with enough expertise is available to determine the degree of the problem and then work with the animal to rehabilitate it. Consultations with a behaviorist must be approved by a Regional or the National Coordinator prior to incurring such expense. Dogs that have bitten children are not automatically deemed unadoptable and may be placed in carefully screened homes that are “child free” and who understand the dogs’ potential aggression toward children. This understanding should be put in writing and signed by all adults in the household before approving the adoption.

At the discretion of the Regional or National Coordinator, Apsos of mixed parentage – specifically an Apso/Tzu mix – may be taken in provided (1) there is sufficient space and funding; (2) they are absolutely adoptable; and (3) have no serious medical conditions or temperament issues. Coordinators will work with the Regional/National Coordinator to determine the most likely parentage of the dog. It is quite difficult to tell in many instances whether the dog in question is a purebred, a poorly-bred purebred, or a mix of an Apso or Shih Tzu ... or a poorly-bred Tzu that looks like an Apso!
Major veterinary bills for any and all foster dogs in our program need to be approved by a State, Regional or National Coordinator before the procedures are done. General health care, such as shots, medications or the like, are not included in the above approval process and should be covered by the State or local rescue coordinator. Large outlays such as spay/neuter, dental work, or other complex or costly surgical procedures must be approved by a State coordinator or higher, before the procedures to assure funds are available to cover them.

No reimbursement of any medical bills will be made without a receipt from the veterinarian that performed the services or sold the medications. Copies of those receipts must accompany requests for reimbursements. Bills for reimbursement are to be submitted to the Regional/National coordinator within thirty (30) days of incurring the expense. The reviewing coordinator will have 30 days from date of receipt to review/approve and forward to the Rescue Treasurer. The Rescue Treasurer will process the bill(s) for reimbursement within 30 days of receipt as well.

Foster homes are responsible for the everyday needs of their rescue dogs such as food, treats, leashes/collars, bowls, bedding, crates and providing and/or picking up the expense of grooming. Regional Coordinators may, at their discretion, reimburse the foster home for food and grooming expenses.

Coordinators should consult with Regional/State coordinators before taking in older dogs, i.e., those over the age of nine (9), to assess whether or not there is foster space available or sufficient resources. Fostering an older dog who takes longer to place (or not at all) occupies valuable space which could be used for a younger, more adoptable dog.

Because of the lack of funding and available foster spaces, the taking on of “Forever Fosters” is discouraged unless the coordinator fostering the dog is willing to take responsibility for the dog’s care and medical needs for the life of the dog. While ALAC Rescue does, from time to time, receive donations in the form of sponsorships for the “Forever Fosters,” this funding is generally not enough to provide for complete care. If the dog is too old or too ill to be adopted, it should be humanely euthanized. This decision is to be made by the Regional Coordinator in consultation with the fostering home.

Puppies entering rescue must be altered before placement ... no exceptions unless due to medical issues. This exception must be approved by the Regional or National Coordinator.
We strongly encourage all volunteers to work only with veterinarians who have agreed to
discount their services (this usually doesn’t include medication discounts). Twenty
percent (20%) is a common discount although some vets discount as much as 50%. Expertise of the vet should be given high consideration as well.

All adoptive homes must be screened and all adults in the home are required to complete
and sign our Adoption Application, Contract and Liability Release. No exceptions to this policy.

Our policy is not to adopt our rescue dogs out to families with children (or that have
children visiting frequently) under the age of 12. Exceptions must be approved by a
Regional Coordinator or the National Coordinator and would be approved only for Apsos
that have been socialized properly with children and have never bitten a child. The
children themselves would need to be used to being around canines.

Long distance adoptions are strongly discouraged. Any such adoptions should be done
only under extreme circumstances, and need to be approved by the Regional or National
Coordinator. Long distance adoptions are considered more than 250 miles from where the
dog resides. If a long distance adoption does occur, our Transport Guidelines must be
adhered to (see form entitled “Transport Guidelines”).

Regional rescues should initiate/maintain contact with the ALAC breeders in their area
and refer potential adoptive families to them if Rescue doesn’t have a suitable match for
the family. Breeders often have retired champions or older show prospects that didn’t
turn out as well as hoped and which are available for rehoming. They make great
companions and as well as ambassadors for the breed. It may also prevent someone from
seeking out a backyard breeder (BYB) or purchasing a puppy from a pet store. Contact
your Regional/National Coordinator for information regarding ALAC breeders in a specific
area.

An Apso owned by, bred by, or sired by a dog owned by a member of ALAC or one of the
Regional Clubs is not a rescue dog. This dog is the responsibility of the owner, breeder or
owner of the sire. ALAC Rescue will ask the breeder, co-breeder or owner of record to
rescue and/or reimburse the rescue fund for any dog we rescue of theirs.
All our volunteers must agree to work with shelters in a respectful and professional manner at all times and should never cast a negative light on shelters that are the very places established to protect animals the most. Shelter workers are on the front lines every day at one of the hardest jobs that there is ... all your interactions with them should keep that fact in mind. Remember that without the shelter, thousands more dogs would suffer and die every day.

It is not acceptable to turn a rescue dog over to any other rescue group if we have taken responsibility for that dog and brought it into our rescue program. An exception would be if Rescue brought a dog that was discovered to not actually be an Apso, in which case, a legitimate and responsible rescue group that would be more suitable for placing the dog should be located.

ALAC Rescue is a non-profit organization and has attained a 501(c)(3) status through the IRS. Dogs are never sold, but a donation is always collected when a dog is adopted out so that we may continue our important rescue work. The standard approved adoption donation varies from region for region for dogs under age nine (9) and may be based on age, the amount of medical treatment required for a particular dog, or a flat fee for all dogs regardless of age and/or health care. The adoption fee will be determined by the Regional Coordinator overseeing the area. Each adopted dog requires an adoption fee and a discount is not given for multiple dog adoptions within one family.

Each Regional Coordinator will have a dedicated rescue checking account for the deposit of adoption fees, donations and payment/reimbursement of routine medical expenses. Coordinator requests for reimbursement of routine medical expenses should be accompanied by receipts from the vet clinic and sent to the Regional Coordinator. Routine medical expenses are as follows: rescue exam, vaccinations, worming, heartworm testing, and heartworm preventative.

Some areas of the country may also include implanting microchips as routine care. If so, registry of the microchip is to list ALAC Rescue (regional) as primary contact and the new owner as secondary contact. Expenses for major care are to be pre-authorized by the Regional or National Coordinator. In cases of non-emergencies, the cost of major treatment will be weighed against the dog’s age and the ability to rehab/rehome the dog.

Regional Coordinators with dedicated rescue checking accounts shall prepare a year-end check register report showing detailed entries regarding income/expenses/donations and forward same to the Recue Treasurer by January 31st of the following year.
For donations sent directly to a regional rescue, thank-you cards should be prepared and sent out in a timely manner, noting the organization’s name, the amount of the donation, and the regional coordinator’s name. The National Rescue Treasurer will send out thank-you cards for those donations received by or forwarded to National Rescue. Large donations to a regional rescue should be forwarded to the National Rescue Treasurer so it can be run through the national account for tax keeping purposes and whereupon it will be returned to the regional rescue.

Coordinators are encouraged to keep some type of notebook and to list phone and email contacts with details about the contact, i.e., date, what they are looking for or want to surrender, coordinator’s impression of the contact, and any other pertinent information. A “Do Not Adopt” list should be maintained as well from information disseminated by National/Regional Coordinators or by other reputable rescue groups. A listing of adoptive parents, their phone numbers and rescuers from other organizations could be included as well for quick reference.

All volunteers for ALAC Rescue must agree to abide by the policies set forth above to be considered in good standing.
The Mission of ALAC Rescue is accomplished by educating the public about the temperament and behavior of the Lhasa Apso and relieving homelessness of the Apso. In order to do these things, it is important that Rescue be a prominent part of the rescue community.

A. **Education**

1. Approved ALAC Rescue Volunteers (“AARVs”) must have a published telephone number and/or email address in order to be contacted by potential adopters, shelter personnel or current owners of Apsos.
2. Business cards and brochures should be distributed liberally.
3. Listings should be placed in appropriate guides or directories, such as Pet Lovers Companion or State Pet Gazettes.
4. ALAC Rescue will publish adoptable dogs online through the national website and at reputable sites such as Petfinder.com.
5. AARVs should attend local animal fairs or adoption events with education of the public about the breed as a priority. Adoptable dogs may also attend as representatives of the breed provided they are well behaved and under close supervision.
6. AARVs must join the Yahoo e-group, LhasaRescueNetwork, which is the communication board for members. One can apply to become a member at the website.

B. **Intake**

1. All dogs must be assessed prior to surrender from owner or when “pulled” from a shelter environment. Rescue does not have unlimited resources to rehabilitate dogs with behavior issues or dogs with serious health concerns. *Only dogs that stand a good chance of adoption should be approved for intake.*

   (a) Dogs that are deemed unadoptable because of aggression issues, extreme health problems or poor quality of life should be humanely euthanized. This decision will be made by Regional Coordinators.
(b) Dogs that have bitten in the past should not be automatically excluded from the program if there is an AARV with sufficient expertise available to rehabilitate the dog. However, great care should be taken evaluating Apsos which have bitten multiple times or bitten an adult(s) as Rescue – and the individual foster home – can be held strictly liable should the dog go on to bite and inflict physical damage.

(c) At the discretion of the Regional/National Coordinator, Apso/Tzu mixes maybe taken in provided they are absolutely adoptable, have no serious medical conditions or temperament issues, and there are available resources to care for them.

(d) Coordinators should consult with Regional/State coordinators before taking in older dogs, i.e., those over the age of nine (9), to assess whether or not there is room available or sufficient resources. Fostering an older dog who takes longer to place (or not at all) often takes up valuable space which could be used for younger, more adoptable dogs.

2. An approved foster home must be available before intake.
   (a) The foster home should be able to foster the dog indefinitely and care for the dog in accordance with ALAC Rescue Basic Guidelines.
       • Clean and comfortable housing;
       • Climate-controlled indoor environment;
       • Consistent and knowledgeable grooming;
       • Adequate and appropriate veterinary care;
       • Parasite control including heartworm & flea/tick preventative;
       • Adequate socialization with people daily including, playing, petting, loving and training; and
       • Daily fresh air and exercise.
       Anything less is not considered responsible rescue practice or dog ownership practice and will not be condoned by ALAC Rescue.
   (b) The foster home should not have more than six (6) dogs per caretaker. (A caretaker can be a spouse or kennel help).

3. Healthcare
   (a) Veterinary bills for routine health care such as rescue exams, check-ups, vaccinations and medications do not need approval in advance as long as the local/regional rescue can cover the expenses,
   (b) Spay/neuter procedures should NOT be scheduled within 30 days of being given annual vaccinations.
(c) Major veterinary bills for procedures – such as spay/neuter, dentals and costly diagnostics – **must be approved in advance by the Regional or National Coordinator.**

(d) If an emergency situation arises, the coordinator is to contact the Regional or National Coordinator for discussion and pre-approval of charges if they exceed $100.00. **Excessive or extraordinary medical bills must be approved by the Regional or National Coordinator.**

(e) Receipts for care and/or medications must accompany any requests for reimbursement.

(f) Charges for consultations with behaviorists and trainers **must be approved in advance by the Regional or National Coordinator.** Ideally, these services would be on a “donation basis” by the behaviorist or trainer. If a dog is so badly damaged as to need extensive counseling, it is highly unlikely it would be placeable with the average owner. The vast majority of applicants are looking for a nice companion ... not a major project.

C. **ADOPTION**

1. ALAC Rescue will very closely screen applicants for rescue dogs.
   (a) All applicants are required to submit an online application, plus an adoption contract and release of liability that is signed by all adult members of the family applying to adopt. (These forms are available in the **Forms Section** of the Handbook).
   (b) Applications for adoption of a rescue dog by a family with children under the age of 12 will not be given consideration. Any exceptions must be approved by the Regional Coordinator or the National Coordinator.
   (c) The applicant will be contacted as soon as possible after receipt of the application for a phone interview. At that time, the application will be carefully reviewed and additional information will be sought.
   (d) Personal references will be contacted to discuss the suitability of the applicant for adoption of a rescue Lhasa Apso.
   (e) Veterinary reference will be contacted to determine how applicant has cared for pets. If groomer has been listed, they will be contacted and asked for any information that will assist Rescue in making an informed decision about the applicant.
   (f) All prospective adoptive homes must be visited by someone representing us. This can be another breed rescue group when necessary, and a home
check sheet should be completed by that person and submitted to the AARV in charge of the adoption. We would like to encourage the use of ALAC members (members for at least five years) whenever possible for home checks due to their understanding of the breed and years of experience. A Regional Coordinator should be contacted to locate an appropriate ALAC member for this purpose.

When the applicant has requested adoption of a specific dog, we will carefully evaluate the applicant’s suitability for that particular dog so the environment closely matches the needs of that particular dog. For example, an older, shy dog would probably not thrive in a very active household. A younger more active dog should probably not be placed with a senior citizen with limited mobility.

“... We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals ... We patronize them or their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err.

For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings: they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth."

~ "The Outermost House" - Henry Beston (1888-1968)
Following is a listing of the National / Regional Coordinators, volunteers and their contact information. If help is needed in a particular area, please contact the Regional coordinator to see if there are any other available volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Loveland</td>
<td>Vickie Kuhlmann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ApsoRescue@aol.com">ApsoRescue@aol.com</a></td>
<td>970 663-5910</td>
<td>West Central Regional Coordinator CO State Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>Kim Long</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nklt@verizon.net">nklt@verizon.net</a></td>
<td>941 922-7472</td>
<td>Southeast Regional Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Mackinaw</td>
<td>Laurie Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anderla@earthlink.net">anderla@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>309 359-8975</td>
<td>Midwest Regional Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Crofton</td>
<td>Christine Hutchinson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cghutch@comcast.net">cghutch@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>410 721-0053</td>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Coordinator So. Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td>Helen Zeppenfeld Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhasas@bkvsoap.com">lhasas@bkvsoap.com</a></td>
<td>814 624-5136</td>
<td>Natnl Coordinator NE Coordinator PA Coordinator MidWest Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>Barb Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbarawatson9@yahoo.com">barbarawatson9@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>215 632-1417</td>
<td>Northeast Regional Coordinator PA Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Teresa Osborn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:luvmytzus@yahoo.com">luvmytzus@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>713 869-7189</td>
<td>TX Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>Deb Crouser</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SWLhasaRescue@yahoo.com">SWLhasaRescue@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>915 881-4431</td>
<td>Southwest Regional Coordinator (NM AZ NV &amp; So CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Snohomish</td>
<td>Becky A Hughes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:becky@wmhughes.com">becky@wmhughes.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Northwest Regional Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Mukwonago</td>
<td>Sandy Brunelli-Kornkven</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skornkven@wi.rr.com">skornkven@wi.rr.com</a></td>
<td>262 363-5567</td>
<td>Great Lakes Regional Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>E-Mail</td>
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The Lhasa Apso Rescue Network operates under the purview of the parent AKC breed club – The American Lhasa Apso Club. Coordinators are encouraged to join the parent club as it is a valuable resource concerning all things Apso. A great many of the Club members have been involved with the breed for decades upon decades and can offer advice on health and behavior as well as imparting breed history.

With the advent of the AKC sporting events, some ALAC members are active in agility, obedience and rally. These members are excellent sources of information for training questions and issues. Most will gladly work with rescue to offer suggestions and training tips/tricks for dealing with the difficult foster dog.

Many of the ALAC members have been involved with rescue in the past or have helped the Regional/State coordinators with boarding and transportation when called upon. Often times if they can’t help, they know some else who can.

Rescue coordinators are also encouraged to attend at least one National Specialty – held once a year in mid October – or contact the local specialty club and inquire as to when its two specialty show dates are scheduled. Besides the camaraderie and seeing well-bred and groomed representations of the breed in the ring, one never leaves a show without having learned something new about the breed, coat care, grooming tips and training. It is also a good way to network with those who share your passion for the Apso and meet up with other of the “dog folk.”

Membership is by application and requires the sponsorship of two ALAC members who have been members for at least one (1) year. The application can be found via the provided hyperlink or on the next three (3) pages. Your Regional/National Coordinator can provide information regarding who to contact regarding the required sponsors for membership.
AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Application Fee: $25 (non-refundable)  
Dues Year: September 1 to August 31

Annual Dues: Individual Membership $35; Family Membership $45 (Two people residing at same address) According to ALAC By-Laws, applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Dues year: Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. Applicants joining in June, July, and August are considered paid for the upcoming club year.

Postage fee:
• Canadian Applicants: Add $10 to dues listed above. Pay in US Dollars
• Applicants from countries other than the US and Canada: Add $20 to dues listed above. Pay in US dollars.

Note: If application is not accepted, dues and postal fees will be refunded. Application fee is non-refundable. Membership dues and all applicable fees must be included with the application.

Please print unless asked to sign.

Check all that apply:  _____ Fancier  _______ Exhibitor  _______ Breeder

First Applicant

Second Applicant (must reside at same address)

Street address

City ___________________________ State/Province ___________ Zip/Postal Code ___________

Country ___________ Phone _______________ Fax _______________

E-mail ___________________________ Website _____________________

Occupation(s) of Applicant(s)

Name(s) of Regional Lhasa Apso Club, All Breed Club, and/or Obedience Club to which you belong: ________________

Sponsorship is required and the sponsorship section must be filled out completely and signed by both sponsors for the application to be considered. Sponsors will be contacted to verify their sponsorship. Sponsors cannot be members of the same household or members of ALAC for less than one year.

Names and contact information of two ALAC Members who agree to sponsor this (these) applicant(s):

Printed Name ___________________________ Signature _______________________

E-mail address and phone number _______________________

Printed Name ___________________________ Signature _______________________

E-mail address and phone number _______________________

I have read the Code of Ethics. If accepted for membership, I agree to abide by the American Lhasa Apso Club By-Laws and Code of Ethics and the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Signed: ___________________________ Date ___________

Mail signed application, a $25 check or money order payable to ALAC for your application fee, and a $35 (or $45) check or money order payable to ALAC for dues to Joyce Johanson, Membership Chair, 126 W. Kurlene Drive, Macomb, IL 61455. Applicants from outside the US, remember to add the appropriate postage fee to your dues check. Applications may take two months to process. Questions?? Contact Joyce at: JK-Johanson@wiu.edu

If you wish to pay by credit card, please include the following information. (A $2 processing charge will be added.)

Visa ______ MasterCard ______ CC # __________________________ Exp date ___________

Cardholder's printed name ___________________________ Amount to be charged ___________

Cardholder's signature ___________________________
AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

The mission of the American Lhasa Apso Club is the preservation and welfare of the Lhasa Apso. This breed of dog is a product of centuries of Tibetan culture and as such deserves to be valued and protected for its historic and aesthetic merit as well as for its modern use as a companion. To this end, the American Lhasa Apso Club has defined a standard of excellence for the breed and sponsors competitions to improve the breeding population and educate breeders.

Dedicated breeders of the Lhasa Apso are distinguished from those who exploit the breed for profit by their adherence to a set of ethical principles. Our goal is to produce dogs in conformance with the official breed standard that are uniform in type, sound of mind and body, and well suited to their original purpose as small indoor guardians and companions. The welfare of individual Lhasas and the welfare of the breed as a whole govern our behavior in all aspects of breeding, exhibiting and marketing. The American Lhasa Apso Club endorses the following ethical standards for members and those who aspire to membership.

BREEDING

Members contemplating breeding a litter or providing stud service to a bitch should focus on producing Lhasa Apsos of exceptional quality. Each mating should have as a priority the improvement and preservation of the breed as well as the goal of achieving excellence according to the breed standard. Type, temperament, health and conformation of both sire and dam should be carefully considered in the planning of any future litter. This presupposes a careful study of the breed standard, pedigrees, canine health and genetics.

No Lhasa showing a serious inherited defect in type, structure, or temperament should be used for breeding. Lhasas used for breeding should be in good mental and physical health. To ensure the health of their breeding stock, responsible breeders may use a number of pre-breeding tests. Examples include, but are not limited to, brucellosis screening, hip and patella x-rays, and complete eye exams. Testing is particularly important for individual Lhasas that are having a significant genetic impact on the breed, for example popular sires.

Bitches should be bred only when they are in prime condition and fully mature. No bitch should be bred prior to eighteen months or later than nine years old. Bitches should not produce puppies more than two out of three consecutive seasons.

Owners of stud dogs should not accept for breeding any bitch lacking in merit, defined as one manifesting a serious inherited defect in type, structure or temperament, nor should they service females of unknown or uncertain background. Stud owners are responsible for ascertaining that the owner of the bitch has the knowledge and ability to provide appropriate pre- and post-natal care for the mother and her offspring. Stud owners are further obligated to ensure that any litter resulting from a service they provide will not be used in a manner detrimental to the welfare of the breed. Providing a stud service to produce litters or individual dogs to be wholesaled, brokered or sold through pet shops is a violation of this code.

Stud owners should avoid providing service to bitches owned by persons who are breeding without serious intent to improve breed quality, particularly if the resulting puppies will not be sold with limited registrations or spay/neuter contracts. It is the responsibility of all members but most particularly stud owners, to educate the public and discourage casual breeding.

If a dog or a bitch produces an offspring with serious inherited defects that impact the animal's well being and subsequently produces similar results with a different mating partner, the owner should refrain from further use of this animal for breeding.

KENNEL MANAGEMENT

Members of the American Lhasa Apso Club are required to maintain the highest possible standards of sanitation and canine health, including mental health.

Members should have the means and the facilities to provide for the physical and emotional needs of all their dogs. The extra health and nutritional requirements of brood bitches and their litters should be anticipated before breeding. Responsible breeders are familiar with local market conditions and prepared to care for puppies for several months until sold to appropriate homes.

Dogs should be kept in the home with their owners or in a permanent kennel structure where they are not exposed to climate extremes. The dogs and the facilities should be kept clean and protected from fleas and other parasites. Provisions should be made so that all dogs have regular outdoor exercise.
SALES

Because Lhasa Apsos have hair that grows continuously, coat care is of the utmost importance. Members should house only the number of dogs they are able to maintain on a regular grooming schedule. Keeping dogs in an unshaved, matted state is not considered responsible behavior for breeders or owners of Lhasa Apsos.

Lhasa Apsos are companion dogs that have traditionally lived in close proximity to people. They do best when they have the opportunity to bond with their human caregivers and proper socialization to produce sound companion puppies requires such interaction.

Pet over-population is a widespread problem and many communities are considering legislation that prohibits breeding dogs in their jurisdictions. Before deciding to breed, each breeder should carefully consider how many litters he or she is producing per year and the potential impact on the population problem in their area.

Ethical breeders are discriminating in the placement of their Lhasa Apsos. ALAC does not consider ethical any of the following practices: the consignment or sale outright to pet shops, catalogue houses, animal brokers, or other commercial sources of distribution; the donation of Lhasa Apsos as prizes for raffles, auctions, or contests; and the wholesaling or brokering of Lhasa Apso litters. Sales to persons known or suspected of such practices are considered detrimental to the breed. Sales schemes that demand a higher price for a pet Lhasa with registration papers than without registration papers are considered unethical.

Puppies should be sold in a clean and healthy condition, never less than eight weeks old. No adult or puppy should be sold without adequate protection against disease including, but not limited to, age appropriate vaccinations.

Breeders should provide instructions to all buyers on proper care and training including grooming, feeding, health, and socialization. It is the breeder's responsibility to follow up with the new owner, ensuring that the transition of the puppy to its new home is a smooth one, and be available to answer any questions that the owner might have in the future.

According to American Kennel Club rules, breeders should furnish the signed AKC registration application or transfer slip with each puppy sold unless a written agreement is made with the purchaser at the time of sale that the papers will be withheld. ALAC strongly supports the practice of accompanying the sale of all puppies or adults sold as pet quality with a "spay/neuter contract" stating that no AKC registration papers will be transferred to the buyer until the seller has received veterinary certification that surgery has been performed.

The sale of all puppies and adults is best accompanied by a written health guarantee that provides for replacement, refund or other mutually agreeable restitution. The health guarantee for puppies should include both short-term provisions for infectious diseases and longer-term provisions, minimum of one year, for hereditary or congenital conditions that would prevent a puppy from developing to the potential for which it was purchased. This includes a pet puppy that develops a hereditary condition that would not allow it to fulfill its function as a companion animal.

To increase opportunities for mentoring, ALAC encourages breeders to maintain an interest, via co-ownerships, limited registrations or other written agreements, in the show potential puppies they sell, particularly those sold to newcomers. Such agreements should be in writing and state the expectations and responsibilities of all parties.

ALAC members should endeavor to take back any Lhasa Apso that has been sold by them and subsequently displaced. If unable to do so, a member will assist ALAC Rescue or a regional club rescue in the re-homing of said Lhasa.

It best serves the breed if a Lhasa Apso puppy or adult considered to have a serious hereditary defect or a serious deviation from the standard either be sold without papers to be spayed/neutered or humanely destroyed. If sold without papers, this should be clearly understood by the buyer and both parties should sign a written agreement to that effect.

ADVERTISING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

The value and quality of the Lhasa Apso should be upheld in both advertising and selling. Advertising should not be worded to attract undesirable buyers or encourage raising dogs for profit.

Members of the American Lhasa Apso Club should show good sportsmanship at all times while maintaining the highest degree of honesty and integrity. Ethical breeders do not malign other owners or breeders by making false or misleading statements regarding their dogs, breeding practices or person.

When advertising Lhasa Apsos in any media (magazines, Internet web sites, mail, email, etc.) members should not knowingly misrepresent their dogs. They should use a picture of another owner's Lhasa Apso only with written permission and clearly identify that Lhasa and owner in the ad.

Members known to have deliberately violated American Kennel Club rules regarding registration and the exhibition of dogs should expect the consequences of being reported.

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

Members should use and maintain signed copies of written agreements detailing price, description, AKC registration number of dog (or numbers of both parents), as well as details of all additional terms and conditions. Contracts should be signed by all parties with one copy provided to the buyer and another copy retained by the seller. Applicable written agreements include co-ownership agreements, sales of companion as well as show Lhasa Apsos, stud agreements, brood matron leases, health guarantees, and any other transaction involving transfer or utilization of a Lhasa Apso.
This section contains forms for your use and information. They may be tailored to your specific region.

Please contact Vickie Kuhlmann at ApsoRescue@aol.com if you have questions or would like to request a form(s) in MS Word format.
**ALAC Foster Home Agreement**

**PURPOSE OF FOSTERING:** To allow a rescue dog to live in a home environment while awaiting permanent placement, permitting the Foster Family to evaluate the dog’s temperament and to work with it. A home environment is a lot less stressful on the animal than a boarding facility and a lot less expensive for the rescue. The additional exposure the dog gets from being treated as “one of the family” (walks, outings, etc.) often speeds up the adoption process.

**ALAC Rescue considers Foster Families essential to the welfare & proper placement of our rescues and wishes the experience to be an enjoyable one; free of misunderstandings.**

The person agreeing to foster the dog will make no decisions or actions regarding the dog’s vet care or placement without prior approval from ALAC Rescue. In case of life, threatening emergency the Foster Family agrees to get immediate medical care and contact a rescue coordinator as soon as possible.

The Foster Family agrees to provide the dog with humane care while the dog resides with them.

The Foster Family agrees to provide the dog with a fully fenced yard or other humane means of exercise. The dog shall not be kept chained or constantly outdoors.

Under no circumstances will a choke collar be used for any rescue dog accepted by this Foster Family. They may only be used to walk or train the dog and must be removed and a conventional collar used indoors.

The Foster Family agrees to provide the dog entrusted to its care with adequate, food, water, shelter, affection, socialization, exercise and medical care as they would their own dogs.

Medical expenses associated with fostering are reimbursed to the Foster Family by ALAC Rescue. These expenses are to be pre-approved by a Regional Coordinator or the National Coordinator in advance (excepting in a life-threatening emergency). Exceptions to pre-approval are: rescue exams, vaccinations, testing for heartworm and heartworm preventatives.

The dog shall reside at the Foster Family’s address.

If for any reason the Foster Family cannot keep the dog; they shall notify ALAC Rescue immediately and alternative arrangements will be made as soon as possible. The Foster Family will not undertake locating another foster home on their own.

All Foster Families must be pre-screened. In addition, the Foster Family understands that family, friends, co-workers and others interested in adoption must contact the rescue and follow appropriate procedures. Under NO circumstances may the Foster Family place the dog in any home not been approved by ALAC Rescue.
The Foster Family understands that ALAC RESCUE has limited information regarding the temperament or habits of the dog in question. The Foster Family will take all reasonable precautions (thru the use of leashes, supervision and common sense) to ensure that the dog does not run loose, become a nuisance, destroy property, cause injury to or become injured by another animal or by a person or persons.

The Foster Family agrees to be courteous, helpful and honest to potential adopters and to cooperate in accommodating those who wish to see the dog. THE FOSTER FAMILY will provide a rescue coordinator with a fair assessment of the dog’s interaction with the potential adopters and their impression of the likely success of such a placement.

The Foster Family agrees not to keep the dog confined to a crate, except for housetraining or sleeping. The dog is not to be kept crated excessively while in the Foster Family’s home. Some dogs become unduly stressed when crated or have exhibited past behavior problems because of improper use of a crate in the past. Adult dogs who are not accustomed to crating do better confined in safe rooms of the house or some other method discussed in advance with ALAC RESCUE.

In the event the Foster Family wishes to adopt a rescue in their foster care, they must contact the Regional or State Coordinator in charge of this dog and make formal arrangements. This includes, completing the adoption contract with ALAC RESCUE.

The Foster Family does hereby release, discharge and hold harmless AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE, its trustees and volunteers for damages, loss of services, actions and causes of action, belonging to the said Foster Family to any action or occurrence from the date of this agreement arising out of or in connection with the fostering of any rescue Lhasa Apsos.

AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE, trustees and volunteers do hereby release discharge and hold harmless this Foster Family from all damages to the dog including illness, death or loss that is in their care, providing the guidelines of the contract hereby agreed to are followed to the best of the Foster Family’s ability.

The undersigned Foster Family hereby acknowledges having read the terms of this agreement and does hereby agree to abide by each of the rules of fostering set forth above.

Signature, Foster Family representative: ______________________________________________
Name: ___________________________________________ Date: _________________, 20____
Address: _________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Email: ____________________________________

AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE is a 501(c)(3) and is the rescue effort of the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB and their member and non-member cooperative volunteers.

This agreement pertains to any dog taken in by the rescue effort and fostered by the above individual.

Regional/State Rescue Coordinator: ______________________________________________

Signature/Date
Thank you for considering an adoption of a rescue Lhasa Apso. Please take time to carefully read our Contract, Application, and Release of Liability forms. We ask many questions, all of which will help us decide whether you will be a good candidate for a rescue dog adoption and which rescue dog would suit your family the best. The question regarding ages of family members is important when it comes to matching dogs with people. Some dogs are accustomed to living with older people and may do better in that type of environment. Alternatively, we would not consider placing a very young dog with someone who was not interested in a dog with a very high energy level.

Our questions are simply initial guides for determining possible matches. Our rescue dogs come from every imaginable situation, including homes where they have been abused or where children have been allowed to tease or mistreat the animal. Because of this, we have a policy of not adopting to families with young children, and especially in the age range of 1- to 6-years old. This policy is for the protection of the children, our rescue dogs, and for liability reasons.

We do our best to match our dogs up with the best home for their unique personality. This usually takes time. If you are anxious to get the perfect dog tomorrow, rescue may not be your best avenue. However, it does happen quite fast sometimes. That is the nature of rescue.

To be able to provide the best service to our rescue dogs and the people interested in adopting them, we rely solely on your generous donations. If interested in a specific dog, please contact the coordinator for the area in which the dog resides to inquire as to the adoption fee. We have every dog thoroughly vetted before the adoption (this does not include dogs in areas where there is no rescue help or dogs that are in shelters). We cannot, however, guarantee the health of a rescue dog. There are no guarantees when it comes to a pet’s health ... there is always the unexpected or unforeseen.

Owning a pet can be expensive and you must be prepared for the eventual aging of your pet. People who are not prepared to take care of their dog in its old age should not consider applying. We are looking for people who understand this is a commitment for the life of the animal ... however long that may be. We actually get many dogs in who have given 7 to 10 years of their life to a family and then the family decides they no longer want the responsibility of the dog. These animals are wonderful pets that still have many years of quality life and love to give. They are the hardest to place, but often make the best pets. Please consider them, maybe even two of them!

Again, thank you for your time and patience in completing our forms and we look forward to helping you find your special Apso friend!

Yours in Rescue,

American Lhasa Apso Club - Rescue
American Lhasa Apso Club Rescue
ADOPTION APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Your Name:  Spouse/Partner Name:
Other Name Used (Maiden):  Home #:
Fax #:  Email Address:
Current street address:
City:  State:  ZIP:
Your Age:  Partner’s Age:  Other Adults in home (names):
List ages of children living with you or visiting regularly:
Will you be the sole owner of this Lhasa(s)?  YES  NO  If not, list other person adopting:
If applicable, does your companion agree to adopt an Apso?  YES  NO
Does anyone have allergies?  YES  NO  If yes, please explain:
Others in the home who will have contact with this Apso? (i.e., parents, roommates?):
Tell us about the atmosphere in your home, such as: quiet, very active, lots of kids running around, travel frequently, etc.:

Check those that apply (note: a fenced yard is not a requirement):

____ Own  ____ Single-Family Dwelling  ____ Fenced Yard (if so, what type of fencing: _______________________________)
____ Rent  ____ Condo/Apt/Duplex  ____ Pool  ____ Doggy Door  ____ Farm

Applicant Employment Information

Current employer:
Employer address:
Phone #:
Years Employed:  If less than 2 years, previous Employer:
Work Schedule (please be time specific):

Applicant References - Please list COMPLETE NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

Reference #1:  NOT A FAMILY MEMBER  Phone:
Address:
Reference #2:  NOT A FAMILY MEMBER  Phone:
Address:
Reference #3:  Phone:
Address:
Current Vet (or one used most recently):  Phone:
Vet Address:
Current Groomer (or one used most recently):  Phone:
Groomer Address:

Emergency Contact

Who will take responsibility for the Apso in case of emergency?
Name  Phone:
Current address:

Breed Knowledge

Have you ever owned an Apso before?  YES  NO
Are you familiar with breed characteristics of the Apso and if so, please list all characteristics you are aware of:
Why are you interested in obtaining an Apso at this time?

Are you aware that the Apso is considered a “high-maintenance” breed due to its grooming requirements and that grooming expenses can run $30-$50 every six to eight weeks? Are you financially able to take on such a responsibility and/or do you have other plans for the grooming requirements (please explain)?

**Pet History**

Please LIST all the dogs/cats you own or have owned in the past and what became of each of them (age died & reason for death or reason given up). **This question must be answered completely.** “Died” will not suffice, please list reason for death and age at death. (Attach additional sheet if necessary to include all prior dogs /cats owned).

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<tr>
<th>#1 Name:</th>
<th>Dog/Cat/Breed:</th>
<th>Gender (M/F):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spayed/Neutered:</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where is the pet now?</td>
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<td>Reason for death:</td>
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<td>Age Now:</td>
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<td>Years Owned:</td>
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<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where is the pet now?</td>
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<td>Reason for death:</td>
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<td>Age at death:</td>
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<td>Spayed/Neutered:</td>
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<td>Where is the pet now?</td>
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<td>Reason for death:</td>
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<td>Age Now:</td>
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<td>Spayed/Neutered:</td>
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<td>Where is the pet now?</td>
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<td>Years Owned:</td>
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<td>Age at death:</td>
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**Additional Pet Information:**

**Additional Information**

Please specify your preferences **

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<tr>
<th>Preferred Sex (M/F):</th>
<th>Consider either sex?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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Age Range of Apso: **

Flexible with age? YES NO

Other considerations:

Would you consider a dog with mild health care needs? YES NO

Would you consider a dog with a disability (i.e. limited sight or hearing)? YES NO

Would you be willing to take your Apso to obedience training? YES NO

How often and how will the dog be exercised per day? (let out in yard and/or walked — please be specific)

Why do you think you would make a good home for a rescue Apso?

Do you understand that dogs bite out of fear and distrust: YES NO

How will you deal with behavior problems like snapping or biting?

Where will the Apso stay when you are out? (Check applicable answers)

- Free run of house
- Gated in small area
- Kennel/Crate
- Other (Explain):

Have you ever given an animal to a shelter? YES NO If yes, please explain:
Have you ever been denied adoption by a shelter or other rescue or humane group?  YES  NO  If yes, please explain:

What would cause you to give up your pet?

- Housetraining mistakes
- Biting
- Barking
- Moving
- Allergies
- Other (Explain):

Please check those you think are important:

- Vaccinations
- Heartworm testing/preventative
- Dental care
- Obedience training
- Grooming
- Flea prevention
- High-quality dog food
- Microchip

What would happen if your dog got very sick and you were looking at spending thousands of dollars to cure the illness?

**Lhasa Apso Rescue**

How did you become acquainted with Apso rescue?

Check if you have any ownership or are (or have been in the past) engaged in the following:

- Pet Shop
- Commercial breeding where dogs are bred for pet shops
- Buying dogs for resale

Would you be willing to give your new pet at least 60 days to adapt to your home and family?  YES  NO

Who will be responsible for the Apso when on vacation?

What would happen to the Apso if there were family life changes (i.e., divorce, relocation, death, etc.)?

Did you know even housetrained dogs may have accidents when uprooted and moved to a new environment?  YES  NO

Are you willing to deal with that eventuality?  YES  NO

How will you housetrain your dog?

Have you ever been convicted of cruelty to animals?  YES  NO

Are you under suspension from any purebred dog association such as the American Kennel Club?  YES  NO

I understand that should I ever be unable to care for this adopted dog, it is to be returned to AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE.  Please initial ________

I have read the adoption Contract completely and understand how Lhasa Apso Rescue expects the adoptive dog to be maintained.  Please initial ________

Any additional information to add:

Do You Agree To The Mission Statement/Volunteer Promise and the Policies and Guidelines of AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE?

I have located and read the Mission Statement/Volunteer Promise and the Policies and Guidelines of AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE on the website. As an adopter: I understand and agree with your policies. As a Volunteer: I understand and agree to abide by all the stated policies and guidelines and to work to uphold the Mission Statement (I understand this is printed right on my copy of the application and is a legal binding agreement in a court of law).

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SIGN & DATE BELOW

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Signature of Applicant:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature of Applicant:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please email completed application to _________________________________________, noting the dog’s name in the subject/reference line. Your typed name and date in the signature block constitutes signature and submission of Application by email. You will be asked to submit the original signed Contract and Release of Liability at a later time - please read them over so you are familiar with the documents and the terms contained therein. Applications can also be mailed to: _______________________________________________________________.

**PLEASE** consider carefully whether you are willing to be flexible regarding these preferences for an Apso (age, sex, etc.). We find everyone wants a very young female, these are RARE in rescue. If you specify this, you may not be contacted. Unfortunately, most people mistakenly believe that females are sweeter … this is not the case. In our experience, males are often more affectionate and companionable. Apsos live very long lives and a 5- to 8-year old is still quite young for this breed. Neutered males are as easy to housetrain as females.
ALAC Contract

THIS CONTRACT IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE ADOPTIVE APSO FROM EVER BEING HOMELESS, MISTREATED OR PUT IN JEOPARDY IN ANY WAY. WE HOPE YOU AGREE THAT THIS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE DOG.

Please complete all questions, sign, and mail or deliver to:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

I/We hereby make application to the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE. I/We agree to have my/our name(s) added to the waiting list for the purpose of giving an Apso a permanent home. I/We understand there is a minimum adoption fee/donation of $150 on up to $400 to defray the cost of preparing the Apso for adoption (adoption fees for dogs 7 years and older start at $175). We understand that when I/We receive the Apso it will have:

- Been spayed or neutered.
- Had a thorough checkup from a licensed veterinarian, including current vaccinations.
- Had any necessary health care treatment(s) as determined by AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE.

I/We understand that the Apso may not be sold or otherwise given by myself/ourselves to any other person or organization without the written permission from AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE.

I/We will have an identification tag on the animal at all times with our current address & phone number. Further, by giving the Apso a permanent home, I/We accept full responsibility for the care of the Apso and agree to:

a) In the event I/We adopt an Apso and for any reason can no longer care for or keep the Apso, we agree to immediately RETURN the Apso to AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE. If this occurs, I/We will sign the necessary papers for the surrender of the Apso.

b) Notify AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE within 24 hours in case the Apso is lost or stolen and make every effort to locate the Apso.

c) Never take this Apso to an animal shelter for the purpose of surrender.

d) Never abuse, hit, or mistreat this animal.

e) Properly house, feed, water and care for this Apso.

f) Exercise proper control and restraint over this Apso at all times and not permit this Apso to run at large.
g) Comply with all state and local ordinances relating to the keeping of this dog, including leash and license laws.

h) Not use this animal for any type of experimental or breeding purpose.

i) Provide regular veterinary care, including vaccinations, a heartworm preventative, parasite checks, dental care and regular grooming.

j) Provide exercise, adequate companionship and love.

k) **Will not leave dog alone in fenced yard unless gate has been locked. Will not stake or tie the dog outside unattended. (**We hear of instances where pets are taken out of fenced yards or stolen off of tie-outs while their owners are home! Many small breeds are used for training Pit bulls to kill or in occult killings).**

l) Ensure this Apso is maintained predominantly as an inside dog as the Apso is not equipped to live outside all the time. I/We agree to keep the dog inside the house when no one is at home, and agree that the dog will sleep inside the house at night.

m) Agree that should we move residence, whether in state, out-of-state, or out of country, we will keep AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE informed of our current address. If we must move out of the area and we find we are for any reason unable to keep this Apso, we will immediately contact AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE so we can be referred to a local rescue group associated with National Lhasa Rescue and work with said group to find an appropriate home for the Apso.

n) Never abandoned this Apso.

o) To allow representatives of AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE to periodically check on the Apso to assure compliance with these items listed (a through n).

I/We have read the foregoing and agree with all the provisions and stipulations stated herein. The AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE reserves the right to refuse any applicant. If the above statements are found to be fraudulent or untrue: WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REPOSSESS THE APSO AND ALL LIABILITIES ARE WAIVED. THIS IS A BINDING CONTRACT, ENFORCEABLE BY CIVIL LAW. ADOPTION APPLICANT(S): Must be signed by ALL ADULTS in household responsible for this Apso.

Signature: _____________________________________________ Date: ____________________
Signature: _____________________________________________ Date: ____________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
Phone (home): _____________________________ Phone (work): __________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________________________________________________

Agent, AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE:
__________________________________________ Date: ____________________, 20___
ALAC Release of Liability & Indemnification

Please print out, sign and mail or deliver to (releases cannot be emailed):

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

In consideration of the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE allowing me/us to adopt this Lhasa as my pet, I/we agree to be solely responsible for this animal and to indemnify and hold harmless AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE and its board of directors, members, officers, and agents from any and all claims of liability by myself/ourselves or third parties for the conduct of this Lhasa on or after the date of this adoption.

The undersigned further agree[s] and intend[s] that this RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION shall apply to any damages resulting from my/our adoption, ownership, and/or control of such Lhasa.

This document incorporates all the information provided in the Adoption Application and Contract. I/We have read the foregoing and agree with all provisions and stipulations stated herein.

THIS IS A BINDING CONTRACT, ENFORCEABLE BY CIVIL LAW. If the above statements are found to be fraudulent or untrue, we reserve the right to repossess the dog and all liabilities are waived.

SIGNATURE (must be signed by all adults in household responsible for this Lhasa):

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________
Name (print): __________________________________________ Date: ________________
Address: ___________________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
City: ___________________________________________ Phone (work): __________
Phone (home): ___________________________________________ License Plate#:
Driver’s License #: ___________________________________________ License Plate#:

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________
Name (print): __________________________________________ Date: ________________
Address: ___________________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________
City: ___________________________________________ Phone (work): __________
Phone (home): ___________________________________________ License Plate#:
Driver’s License #: ___________________________________________ License Plate#:

Agent, AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE:

________________________________________________________________________ Date: ________________, 20___
**ALAC Surrender Letter**

**Please note this Surrender Letter is specific to ALAC Rescue – Colorado. Before utilizing this letter, it will need to be tailored to your region through the Regional or State Coordinator.**

A little about our organization and how we operate ... we are the rescue division of the American Lhasa Apso Club (ALAC), which is the parent breed club for the American Kennel Club (AKC). As ambassadors for ALAC, we hold very high standards for the care and placement of our fosters while working with surrendering owners in a professional manner.

All new fosters are evaluated by a vet, brought up-to-date on vaccinations, tested for heartworm/placed on HW preventative, implanted with a microchip, and spayed/neutered if necessary. Fosters are evaluated in-home a minimum of 4 weeks before being offered for adoption on our public websites. Generally, fosters stay 2-3 months. During that time, we deal with any medical issues that might arise (i.e., dentals, ear infections, altering, etc.), work on manners (including house training), and any behavioral problems they may have.

We do ask that you make a donation for surrender. We don't set an amount ... it is whatever you feel is fair and appropriate for your financial situation and the level of care to be provided to your dog. All adoption fees/donations are deposited into a dedicated rescue account and are used strictly for medical care on fosters. We provide – out of our own pockets – food, treats, bedding, collars/leashes, toys, dental chews, grooming, etc., ... basically anything that has to do with day-to-day care. Unless a dog is current on heartworm testing, on a HW preventative and has a microchip, our initial vetting expense generally runs $80 to $125. Any left-over funds from your donation will remain in the rescue medical account to assist the next surrender or stray that finds itself in need of rescue. Besides having enough available fosters homes, funding is always an issue and donations are gratefully accepted.

We screen prospective adoptive homes very carefully and do not operate on a "first come-first served" basis. The dog is placed in the home most appropriate for the dog. Our goal is placing the right dog in the right home the first time around ... we've been very successful as we have yet to have a dog returned because he or she "didn't fit." If you'd like references from adopting families, I can provide contact information so you can inquire about our organization and their adoption experience with us. All prospective adopting families submit an application, provide vet and personal references and, finally, undergo a home check. If for any reason an adoptive family can no longer care for their dog (divorce, death, moving, etc.), they are required to return the dog to rescue. We also provide assistance after the adoption if the new
owners need help with training or behavioral issues, including in-home consultations if necessary.

Our relinquishment process includes a surrender form filled out by you, the owner, so we have as much information as possible on the dog, i.e., its likes/dislikes, behaviors, sleeping arrangements, training, medical issues, nutrition, etc., etc. **If available, we would like copies of vet records on the dog.**

We also request that you have the dog groomed prior to surrender if at all possible. The stress of moving to new surroundings is difficult enough without subjecting them to a full grooming the minute they arrive in rescue. This also allows us time to assess and bond with the dog before undertaking the dreaded bath, clip and nail trim.

If you have any questions or want to discuss any of our procedures, please do contact me. I can be reached by email ([ApsoRescue@aol.com](mailto:ApsoRescue@aol.com)) or by phone at (970) 663-5910.

**Vickie Kuhlmann**  
WestCentral Coordinator  
American Lhasa Apso Club - Rescue  
[ApsoRescueColorado.org](http://ApsoRescueColorado.org)  
[LhasaApsoRescue.org](http://LhasaApsoRescue.org)
ALAC SURRENDER FORM

Apso’s Full Name: ____________________________________________________________

Owner’s Full Name: __________________________________________________________

We are dedicated to finding the best possible home for your Lhasa Apso. To do this effectively, we rely on you to provide us with as much information as possible about the pet. Please fill in this form completely and please print legibly. Include a good photo of your dog, this helps speed up the placement process. The more complete and accurate your information, the faster we will be able to successfully place the pet in a new home. Please include copies of health and shot records.

_____ Male _____ Neutered _____ Female _____ Spayed

Dog’s color: ____________________________  Dog’s weight: ________________________

Age of this dog: ________________________  Birth date: ___________________________

Your Address: ________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________  State:  ________________   Zip:  __________

Home Phone: _______________________  Work phone:  _____________________________

Email Address:  _______________________________________________________________

Why are you surrendering this Apso? Please explain fully (use extra sheet if necessary):

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Has this Apso ever bitten a human or other animal? _____ Yes _____ No

(If yes, please be specific and use extra sheet to describe the circumstances completely. If the dog has bitten, this does not necessarily mean we will reject the dog. However, we must know the degree of the aggression and what caused it, so please be honest and detailed in your description. Failure to honestly disclose this dog’s biting history may cause you to be legally liable for future damages caused by this animal to any individual.)

How did you obtain this dog?

Pet store (name, city, state):  __________________________________________________________

Breeder (name, city, state, phone):  ________________________________________________________

Newspaper ad (city/state/any other details you have about seller or breeder):  ________________________________

Other (be specific please):  ______________________________________________________________________

I have AKC Papers for this Apso:  _____ Yes  _____ No  If yes, please include.

(We do not pass papers to adoptive homes but we do keep track of the origins of dogs coming in to rescue.)
Please describe the schedule this dog is currently on, such as when it is accustomed to going outside, where & how long: ____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

When is it fed: _______ AM _______ PM _______ Both
Brand name of food: ____________________________________________________________________________
Wet or dry: _______________________________________________________________________
Amount fed: ____________________________________________________________________________

**Describe how the dog reacts to:** *(and please be specific)*

Children: ___________________________________________________________________________
Strangers: ___________________________________________________________________________
Cats: ______________________________________________________________________________
Other dogs: _______________________________________________________________________
Being alone in the house: _______________________________________________________________
Being alone in a fenced yard: ___________________________________________________________
Grooming: __________________________________________________________________________
Vet visits: __________________________________________________________________________
Walking on a lead: ___________________________________________________________________
What does this Apso dislike: _____________________________________________________________
Fear: _______________________________________________________________________________
Like best: ___________________________________________________________________________
Where does this Apso sleep: _____________________________________________________________
Where does this Apso spend the day: _____________________________________________________
Current medications: ___________________________________________________________________

**Ever attended formal training?:** __________________________________________________________
If yes, give specifics and history: __________________________________________________________________________
Please list specific commands that your Lhasa knows and responds to: _________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Favorite toys or plaything *(please donate)*: ________________________________________________
Bad or unusual habits: ___________________________________________________________________
Any abuse that you are aware of toward this animal at any time: ______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please use the space below and, if necessary, the back of this form, to describe what you would consider a suitable home for this Apso *(describe best scenario and give reasoning please)*.
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

**Health Section:**
Is your pet up to date on all annual shots including rabies? ___ YES  ___ NO
*(If yes, please include a copy of the vet records showing this)*
If no, will you bring the pet up-to-date?: ___________________________________________________
Is your pet on heartworm preventative?: ___________________________________________________
What type?: __________________________________________________________________________

** Please attach copies of current health records from your veterinarian. Include shot history, type of shot, date last given, Rabies date last given. Also include copy of Rabies Certification.

Please check any health conditions that are applicable and explain circumstances or attach an extra sheet to give us a complete overview of the health issues the pet has.
Ear infections: _______________________________________________________________________
Eye problems: _______________________________________________________________________
Hip dysplasia: _______________________________________________________________________
Renal problems: _____________________________________________________________________
Skin problems: ______________________________________________________________________
Other (explain): ____________________________________________________________________

Name of current veterinarian (or last vet that saw dog). Include city, state and telephone number please!!
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

I attest that I am the legal owner of this Lhasa Apso and I hereby surrender this Lhasa Apso to the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE for placement in an appropriate home, to be determined by our group. (The information you provide us with is critical to that process.) I do this freely and by my own choice. I further understand that I am relinquishing all rights of ownership to this Lhasa Apso once it is turned over to rescue. I also understand that, upon relinquishment, I may place no demands upon Rescue as to maintaining contact with this Lhasa Apso or requesting information as to the new owner(s). All information I have included in this form is truthful and accurate.

(I understand that a foster spot is not always available and I may need to hold on to the dog until one is found. I further understand that I do not relinquish ownership rights until the dog is physically turned over to a rescue representative.)

I understand that the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE is a non-profit organization that depends on funding from those seeking to find responsible, loving homes for their pet, as well as from those adopting the dogs. I would like to show my thanks by making the following monetary contribution to the organization to help the valuable work that it does: $___________________.

Owner’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________, 20___

Date Apso turned over to Rescue: ______________________________________________________

Please complete and return this form to: 
___________________________________________________________________________________
ALAC Reference Interview Form

This is ______________________ with the AMERICAN LHASA APSO CLUB RESCUE organization and I’m completing a personal reference check for __________________________________________ as part of the adoption process for one of our foster dogs. This is just one step in the entire process and any information you can share would be very helpful.

I am going to direct my questions as to what you “know to be true” about the potential adopter. Please answer them to the best of your knowledge.

1. Do you have, or ever had, dogs of your own?

2. What kind of dog parents would they be?

3. Have they ever had a Lhasa Apso before and are they familiar with the temperament and characteristics?

4. What do they know about training a dog?

5. Would they seek veterinary care when appropriate and follow the vet’s instructions?

6. Is there a fenced yard at the home? What type? Do the gates have locks?

7. In the yard, is there a pool or spa? Is it fenced?

8. Is there a doggy door and, if so, does it go directly out into the yard or is it routed through the garage?

9. Are there children in the home now? Do children visit? How often? What are their ages? How do the children get along with any pets in the home?

10. What animals do they have in the home now?

11. Were there ever any “red flags” or complaints as to the care and well-being of any of their animals?

12. Would you leave your pets with them?
ALAC Home Check Form

Name:
Phone:
Address:

Type of Dwelling:
Single Family Home
Townhouse
Garden Apartment
Condo Community
High Rise Apartment
Row House

Size of Home (estimated square footage, if possible):

Setting (check all that apply):
Rural
Semi-rural
Suburban
Semi-urban
Urban Wooded
Open Acreage
Waterfront
Highway Frontage
Neighborhood Street Frontage
Country Road Frontage
City Environment
Property Bordering on Park/Field

Condition of Home (check all that apply):
Immaculate
Well-Kept
Lived in but clean
Exterior Untidy
Interior Untidy
Exterior Unkempt/Poorly Maintained
Interior Trashed/Dirty

Describe home interior, including type of furnishings, flooring, and general appearance. For example, include comments such as "antiques with museum atmosphere", "shabby furniture", "brand new furniture and/or carpet", "badly stained carpet", "hardwood/vinyl flooring with some carpet/rugs", etc.

Describe accommodations the home has for a dog and where the dog will be left when owners are not at home. For example, "crate in kitchen/laundry room", "baby gate across kitchen door, no crate planned", "pen in basement", "pen in garage", "outdoor run". Include complete description of any pen or kennel (chain link run, dirt run with chicken wire, etc.)
Will the dog ever be left chained or left unattended in a fenced-in yard? Describe fencing, if any, and condition/security of fence:

**Children:** Give ages of children, if any, and pay special attention to the behavior of the children, the parents responses and method of discipline, and the children’s interactions with other pets. Note whether parents always supervise young children with other pets and if the parents seem to expect the child/children to "be responsible" for the care of the pets.

**Other pets:** Describe number, type, age and gender of other pets and give complete description of their apparent health and well being: Things to note would be skin or flea problems on other animals, overweight or underweight, type of collar and ID other pets have, etc.

Owner interaction with other pets:

Conclusion:

**Approve Adoption:**

**Do Not Approve Adoption:**

Adopt after additional counseling of owners and/or modifications to the home environment (describe):

Additional Comments:

**Additional Suggestions to Home Evaluator:** If you need to take notes during the visit, please do so discreetly on a small notepad, rather than on this form. It is preferred to have the adoption applicant(s) feel at ease with you and be themselves. Complete this form after the visit is over, when you are not in the presence of the prospective adopter(s). Qualities to note are sincerity, commitment, tolerance of normal dog behavior, honest representation of the home environment, children’s behavior with other pets and expected role of children in pet care. Obtain explanations about the absence of any family member during the home visit. DO NOT make any promises to the adoption applicants or indicate whether or not they will be approved to adopt a dog. Please refrain from discussing any particular dogs presently in rescue who may be coming available for adoption. Your opinions about which dog might be "perfect" should be discussed with participants and not the potential adopter. Of course, you are encouraged to be complimentary and enthusiastic about a wonderful home and family, but please do not make any commitments or promises. In the case of a home you do not wish to recommend, be as polite and noncommittal as possible. Do not attempt to make corrective suggestions or impose philosophies on applicants with home environments that do not meet our basic standards. If follow up education or counseling regarding basic dog ownership and dog care might be indicated, discuss this with the co-op group so that a joint decision can be made about how to proceed.

Please forward this completed form to the rescuer who is considering placement of a rescue dog in this home. Your input will be welcomed and very strongly considered, but please remember that the final decision to adopt will rest with the person who is responsible for the dog. If you are considering this home environment for a dog in your care, you are encouraged to discuss the results of the home visit with other participants.

This form developed 6/97 by Myra Soden, Appalachian Mountain Border Collie Rescue Cooperative (Virginia), c/o Knollviewe, 1091 Freshwater Cove Lane, Lovingston, VA 22949. This form may be copied and/or adapted for use by other rescue groups after obtaining permission from the author.
# ALAC Home Check Form (Alternative)

## Volunteer Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>[ ]</th>
<th>[ ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Email Address: | [ ] | [ ] |
| Phone Number: | [ ] | [ ] |

## Adopter Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>[ ]</th>
<th>[ ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Email Address: | [ ] | [ ] |
| Phone Number: | [ ] | [ ] |

| Name of Dog: | [ ] | [ ] |

## Home Description

### Please check one (If applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storm doors close?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latches functional?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs in house?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to house by dogs?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas in house closed to dogs?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House plants – Poisonous?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grooming equipment?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet first aid kit?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage for dog food?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage area secure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Descriptions/Comments

## Fencing & Yard Description

### Descriptions/Comments

| Describe fencing materials: | |

| Is fencing secure? | Yes | No |
| Explain: | |

| Describe surface of yard: | |

| Will digging create a problem with landscaping? | Yes | No |
| Explain: | |
Are there places the dog could leap off a deck or porch and injure itself?  
Yes ☐ No ☐  
Explain:  

Are there potential escape routes (low places in fence, evidence of digging, holes in fencing, loose or too-high gates)?  
Yes ☐ No ☐  
Explain:  

When pointed out to the adopter, how do they react?  

Do you think they will fix the problem?  
Yes ☐ No ☐  
Are there locks on the gates (against children & thieves)?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Arrangements</th>
<th>Descriptions/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where will the dog be when company comes?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where will the dog spend the night?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where will the dog spend the day?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check the day area for beds, gates or crates?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is waste removed?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does the area look recently cleaned?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazards to Dog Indoors</th>
<th>Please check one (If applicable)</th>
<th>Descriptions/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Is there evidence of small children?  
(Remind adopter that dog could destroy toys if not put away) | Yes ☐ No ☐  |
| At dog level, are there sewing kits? | Yes ☐ No ☐  |
| Bobby pins? | Yes ☐ No ☐  |
| Small trash cans? | Yes ☐ No ☐  |
| At counter level?  
(Point them out to adopter) | Yes ☐ No ☐  |
Are there exposed electrical cords (Point them out to adopter) Yes __ No __ ______________________

Are there chemicals in the garage, basement or storage areas? (Point them out to adopter) Yes __ No __ ______________________

Does the dog have access to these areas? Yes __ No __ ______________________

Do the furnishings of the house appear to be dog proof (glass objects or dried flowers at low levels, expensive rugs or furniture that could be knocked over easily)? If so, point these out to adopter. Yes __ No __ ______________________

How is trash handled in the home? ______________________

Can the dogs get into the cans? If so, point out to adopter Yes __ No __ ______________________

Ask how long it takes to get to the nearest emergency hospital: ______________________

Interaction with Current Pets

Are current pets well socialized? Yes __ No __ N/A __ ______________________
Are they reasonable clean? Yes __ No __ N/A __ ______________________
Are they hand shy in any way? Yes __ No __ N/A __ ______________________
Can you touch ears & tails? Yes __ No __ N/A __ ______________________
Are they friendly? Yes __ No __ N/A __ ______________________

How do they react towards their owners? ______________________

Do they respond to commands? Yes __ No __ N/A __
If not, how does the owner handle it? ______________________

Do you feel the adopter will love & care for the dog properly? Yes __ No __ ______________________
Do you feel this home will provide a permanent home for the dog? Yes __ No __
If no, why? ______________________
If this were your dog, would you do this adoption?  Yes ___  No ___
If no, why?

Since we have yet to regret turning down an adopter, does this adoption “feel” right?

Any further comments or observations?

_______________________________________________      ___________________, 20___
Signature of Person Performing Homecheck       Date

Please email completed form to: _______________________________
ALAC Rescue Transport Guidelines

... are fashioned after CUR’s (Canine Underground Railroad). CUR is the most responsible transport group that I am aware of operating within the U.S. Our policies regarding transport will be revised as needed. All people working within our organization are expected to adhere to these policies at all times.

1. **A State or Regional Coordinator with ALAC Rescue must have given the authorization to transport a dog from one state to another.** We would like to avoid long distance, out-of-state transports if a foster or permanent home can be found within the state where the dog currently resides.

2. There must be one designated transport coordinator for every transport. That individual will be available throughout the time the transport takes place and will be the point of contact for anyone who is having difficulties or issues during the transport. She/he will have a list of every single individual involved in the transport and it will include:

   (a) Complete name of transporter and name of dog being transported  
   (b) Complete U.S. mail address of transporter  
   (c) City, State, Zip  
   (d) Home phone  
   (e) Work phone  
   (f) Cell phone and alternate cell phone if applicable  
   (g) Email address  
   (h) Make and model and color of transport vehicle  
   (i) License plate number of transport vehicle  
   (j) Physical description of transporter  
   (k) Exact departure point and time  
   (l) Exact meeting point and time  
   (m) Name and number of transport coordinator  
   (n) Date transport begins and a timeline to the end  
   (o) Dog’s health certificate  
   (p) Dogs medical records and shot records  
   (q) Complete biography of dog as known

3. Everyone who is participating in a transport for ALAC Rescue must have given the above information (in blue) to the transport coordinator. The coordinator will then make up a final transport list that includes all the info of every member as well as the coordinators contact info (blue and red above). Each member of the transport must have the complete list before leaving the house.

4. **A confirmation phone call to each transporter, conducted like a phone tree, must occur the day the transport begins, beginning with the coordinator and ending with the final transporter.**
5. If one individual on the transport list is unreachable, the transport is postponed. Whoever is unable to reach that individual is responsible for informing the people in front of her and the person after her. That next person then passes that information on down the line in phone tree fashion. The coordinator is responsible for re-coordinating another transport. *It is important that each individual who commits to a transport understand that everyone is relying on them, and we need everyone to take their responsibility to each other and the animal very seriously. Do not join a transport if you cannot make the commitment. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into any long distance transport of an animal.*

6. Dogs being transported must be a rescue, under the authority of our rescue organization. If you are working independently with another rescue group, oversight for the transport does not fall to ALAC Rescue and is not applicable.

7. Dog must be accompanied by a current rabies certificate (not just a collar tag), or written note from a vet indicating why this is not advisable (due to age, medical condition). Transporters are instructed to refuse transfer of a dog that is not accompanied by a rabies certificate. Check documents before accepting the relay!

8. Dog must be spayed or neutered. There are two exceptions:
   (a) If traveling from one rescue region to another rescue region for foster care and placement (and the next region has arranged for spay/neuter in advance for the incoming dog), and
   (b) If the dog is accompanied by a written note from a vet indicating why this is not advisable (due to young/old age or medical condition). **NOTE:** A spay/neuter contract with the adopting owner is NOT sufficient.

9. Dog must be free of contagious medical conditions.

10. Dog must be of generally sound temperament. Special cases may be considered on certain behavior risks (such as a cat chaser, for example) if precautions are in place and runners are experienced dog handlers, but **in no case** should ALAC Rescue be transporting any truly people-aggressive animals.

11. No puppies under 12 weeks should be transported.

12. All dogs must be transported in crates or safety seat harnesses.

13. A health certificate from the vet where the dog originated must be with the dog.

14. In all run requests, provide as much detail as possible about the dog so that volunteers can make an informed choice to participate, and be prepared to answer questions/engage in discussion, whether about that specific animal or other related issues that arise.
ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR TRANSPORTS

- Extra leash and collar
- Paper towels
- Blanket or large beach towel(s)
- Water and bowls
- Tags with rescue phone # (both home and cell, if applicable)
- Sweater or coat for dog
- Seatbelt harness
- Crate
- Baby wipes or Pet wipes
- First-Aid Kit with Dramamine and anti-diarrhea meds
- Poop bags
- Grocery sacks for trash bags
- Snacks for humans/dogs
- Leather gloves
- Muzzle
- Cleaning solution (something w/bleach ... Clorox wipes)
- Spray air freshener
- Rescue Remedy and/or D.A.P. spray (Comfort Zone)
- Hand sanitizer
- Map to destination
- Contact information for all parties involved

Notes:

______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

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Resources

This section contains a wealth of information regarding the breed and training. Please feel free to share these articles with your adoptive families!
Recommended Reading

This Is the Lhasa Apso  J. Brearly
How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso  P. Chenoweth & T. Chenoweth
All About The Lhasa Apso  J. Cunliffe
Lhasa Apsos: All About America’s Favorite Dogs  published by Dog Fancy Magazine
The New Complete Lhasa Apso  Norman Herbel & Carolyn Herbel
Guide to Owning A Lhasa Apso  S. Kennedy and J. Zeppi
Lhasa Apso  D. McCarty
The Lhasa Apso  A.K. Nicholas
A New Owner’s Guide To Lhasa Apsos  Nancy Plunkett
Lhasa Apsos  S. Wehrmann and S. Vanderslip
East Asiatic Breeds  Elisabeth Legal-Jacobsson
Your Lhasa Apso  Robert J. Berndt
Dogs of Tibet  Ann Lindsay Wynyard
A Brief Account of Tibetan Dogs  The Apso Committee, Tibet House, New Delhi
The Lhasa Apso  Frances Sefton

Tomu from Tibet  Ronald Cardew Duncan
Among the Tibetans  Isabella L. Bird
The Fire Fox and Other Years  Suydam Cutting

Daughter of the Mountains  Louise Rankin
DID YOU KNOW? The Lhasa Apso is from Tibet. The Lhasa Apso was accepted for registration by the American Kennel Club in 1935. The Lhasa Apso was originally shown in the Terrier Group, then reassigned to the Non-Sporting Group in 1959.

SO YOU WANT TO OWN A LHASA APSO? The Lhasa Apso is known in Tibet as “Bark Lion Sentinel Dog” or “Bearded Lion Dog.” His primary function was that of a palace watchdog. His keen intelligence and acute hearing and instincts for identifying friends from strangers made him uniquely suited for the role of a watchdog.

A "low-shedding" breed, the Lhasa Apso's coat needs regular grooming. Due to his small size the Lhasa Apso makes an ideal companion for the apartment dweller.

HISTORY: Beyond the northern boundary of India, where the mighty Mount Everest stands like a guardian sentinel, is the mysterious land of Tibet. It is a country of huge mountains and deep valleys, with a climate of intense cold and great heat, a country where conditions are hard on man and beast. This is the home of the Lhasa Apso, known in that land as Abso Seng Kye, the “Bark Lion Sentinel Dog.” Small wonder, then, that these members of dogdom should be of such hardy and vigorous constitution.

Since danger threatened from without and within this strange land, a huge Mastiff was chained to a post beside the outer door to prevent intruders from entering, while Lhasa Apsos were kept as special guards inside the dwellings. For this work the little dogs were peculiarly adapted by their intelligence, quick hearing, and finely developed instinct for distinguishing intimates from strangers.

The Lhasa Apso, from the lamaseries and villages around the sacred city of Lhasa, is one of three breeds native to Tibet that are in the Non-Sporting Group. The others are the Tibetan Terrier and the Tibetan Spaniel. The breeds have two characteristics in common, namely, the heavy coat of hair to protect them from the rigors of the climate and the tail up-curl over the back. Of the three, the Lhasa was the first admitted to AKC registration - in 1935. It was originally shown in the Terrier Group, then reassigned to the Non-Sporting Group in 1959.

C. Suydam Cutting, naturalist, world traveler, and compatriot to some of the more noteworthy men of his generation, is singularly credited with the establishment and reputation of the Lhasa Apso in America. During a trip to Tibet, Mr. Cutting was able to arrange an audience with the then 13th Dalai Lama, and a lasting friendship was formed. The Cuttings' first pair of Lhasas arrived in 1933 as a gift from the Dalai Lama.
The little Lhasa Apso has never lost his characteristic of keen watchfulness, nor has he lost his hardy nature. These two features should always be developed, since they are of outstanding merit. We have found that these dogs are easily trained and responsive to kindness. To anyone they trust they are most obedient, and their beautiful dark eyes are certainly appealing as they wait for some mark of appreciation for their efforts. The Lhasa Apso can be successfully integrated into homes with very small children, but it often takes more time, effort and knowledge than most owners are willing to invest. Accordingly, many Apsos often end up in rescue with "child" issues.

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**BREED STANDARD ...**

**CHARACTER:** Gay and assertive, but chary of strangers.

**SIZE:** Variable, but about 10 inches or 11 inches at shoulder for dogs, bitches slightly smaller.

**COLOR:** All colors equally acceptable with or without dark tips to ears and beard.

**BODY SHAPE:** The length from point of shoulders to point of buttocks longer than height at withers, well ribbed up, strong loin, well-developed quarters and thighs.

**COAT:** Heavy, straight, hard, not woolly nor silky, of good length, and very dense.

**MOUTH AND MUZZLE:** The preferred bite is either level or slightly undershot. Muzzle of medium length; a square muzzle is objectionable.

**HEAD:** Heavy head furnishings with good fall over eyes, good whiskers and beard; skull narrow, falling away behind the eyes in a marked degree, not quite flat, but not domed or apple-shaped; straight foreface of fair length. Nose black, the length from tip of nose to eye to be roughly about one-third of the total length from nose to back of skull.

**EYES:** Dark brown, neither very large and full, nor very small and sunk.

**EARS:** Pendant, heavily feathered.

**LEGS:** Forelegs straight; both forelegs and hind legs heavily furnished with hair.

**FEET:** Well feathered, should be round and catlike, with good pads.

**TAIL AND CARRIAGE:** Well feathered, should be carried well over back in a screw; there may be a kink at the end. A low carriage of stern is a serious fault.

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Approved July 11, 1978 - American Lhasa Apso Club
**Apsos Anatomy**

Diagram showing the skeleton and specific bone locations such as:
- Skull
- Muzzle
- Body length
- Wither
- Shoulder blade (Scapula)
- Point of shoulder
- Humerus (Upper Arm)
- Radius & Ulna (Forearm)
- Hock
- Tibia & Fibula (Lower Thigh)
- Pelvis
- Loin
- Point of buttocks
- Front leg bones (Femur - Upper Thigh, Hock, Tibia & Fibula - Lower Thigh)
The following photos show an Apso clipped down and the same dog in full coat ...

Justice, courtesy of Nancy Plunkett, Tabu PA
CONGRATULATIONS 
ON YOUR NEW LHASA APSO

History
The Lhasa Apso originated in the isolated reaches of the Himalayan Mountains hundreds of years ago. Referred to in Tibet as *Apsos Seng Kyi*, best translated as “Bearded Lion Dog,” the Lhasa’s primary function was that of a household sentinel.

In 1933, C. Suydam Cutting introduced the first Lhasa Apsos to the United States. His dogs were gifts from the 13th Dalai Lama. The breed was admitted to AKC registration in 1935 and is shown in the Non-Sporting Group.

General Information
Lhasas are a small, hardy breed, measuring about 10-11” tall at the shoulder, weighing between 12-18 lbs. The breed comes in many colors from very light blonde to black. As a puppy ages, his coat color may lighten. Black tipplings on ears and face are common features. Pigment around a Lhasa’s eyes should be black. The nose should also be black.

Distinguishing features of the breed include the coat, tail, and eyes. Parted in the middle, the Lhasa’s beautiful cloak of hair drapes over each side of the body from head to tail. The tail should be carried over the back in a screw or in a curl lying to the side. A kink in the tail is common and was once considered a sign of luck. A Lhasa’s dark brown eyes should be of medium size and oval in shape.

A slow maturing breed, Lhasas do not reach their prime until well into their third or fourth year. Lhasas age gracefully, keeping a youthful appearance and attitude well into their teens. The average lifespan of the breed is 12 to 15 years, although many have lived to be much older.

Personality
The Lhasa temperament is unique: joyful, mischievous and clown-like, as well as regal, dignified and aloof. A very independent breed, the Lhasa’s goal in life is not necessarily to please its master. Lhasa puppies are very busy, full of energy and curiosity, becoming calmer and dignified, yet still playful, as adults. Bred as indoor watchdogs for hundreds of years, Lhasas are often suspicious of strangers. They are guardians of their domain but are usually less protective away from home. To overcome the breed’s natural tendency to be wary of strangers, early socialization is critical.

Grooming
Unless the coat is kept very short all the time, the Lhasa is a breed that requires weekly routine grooming. While nearly everyone who sees a Lhasa in show coat admires its beauty, most pet owners find it more practical to keep the coat trimmed. Lhasas do not shed like other breeds. Their hair tangles and mats, making the dog miserable if the matting is ignored. In addition to keeping the coat mat-free, a regular grooming regimen is a great way to get a puppy used to being handled. It also allows an owner to become familiar with his/her Lhasa’s body, helpful in the early detection of a physical problem that may need veterinary attention. Grooming is an easily learned task and not necessarily time consuming when done regularly. However, many pet owners prefer to take their Lhasas to a professional groomer every few weeks for routine brushing and bathing.

Training
While Lhasas can be trained successfully in obedience, the breed is not a naturally obedient one. The Lhasa resists harsh or strict discipline, responding best to
positive reinforcement training. Most Lhasas will do just about anything for treats. Because they are smart, they are easily bored with rote obedience work. Training sessions should be kept short and exercises varied to maintain the Lhasa’s attention. Many Lhasas prefer the challenges of agility training to the routine of obedience training.

Having keen intelligence and reasoning ability, Lhasas can be somewhat manipulative. Therefore, consistency is a crucial element in their training. If a Lhasa owner does not establish him/herself as the “leader of the pack,” then without a doubt the Lhasa will assume that role!

**Lhasas and Children**

Lhasas generally prefer to interact with adults. They tend to be cautious and sometimes fearful of very young children who are unsteady on their feet, move quickly, and do things unexpectedly. Responsible breeders are careful about placing Lhasa puppies in families with small children. An outgoing, active puppy is better acclimated to an active household than is a quiet, timid puppy.

Parents should impress upon children that the puppy should be handled respectfully. Interactions between Lhasa puppies and young children should be *closely supervised* by a responsible adult. Children should never be allowed to tease or physically or verbally abuse the puppy. Activities that may injure the puppy, as well as chasing, teasing, or tug-of-war games that encourage a puppy to bite, should not be allowed. Hide and seek, fetch, or similar activities help young kids and puppies learn to trust each other and should be encouraged.

**Spaying and Neutering**

The American Lhasa Apso Club (ALAC) strongly recommends that pet owners spay or neuter their Lhasas. Neutered animals are healthier and tend to live longer. Spayed females have a lower chance of developing breast cancer and cannot develop uterine or ovarian cancer. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of prostate cancer. Responsible breeders sell Lhasa companion pets with spay/neuter contracts.

**Health Concerns**

Common health problems in the breed include KCS (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca or “dry eye”), cherry eye, luxating patellas, renal dysplasia, and allergies. Many Lhasa owners individually or collectively support health research for Lhasa Apsos through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help your breed, see www.akcchf.org or call toll-free 1-888-682-9696.

**Safety**

Make sure your Lhasa is identified with tags, tattoo, or microchip in case it is lost. The AKC® Companion Animal Recovery Corporation (CAR) program offers a free dog tag with recovery information and the AKC CAR 24/7 phone number with AKC Registration. Whatever the method, be sure to register the microchip, tattoo, or tag number with CAR for lifetime recovery protection. For more information see [www.akecar.org](http://www.akecar.org) or call 1-800-252-7894.

**American Lhasa Apso Club**

Find more information about the Lhasa Apso by visiting the American Lhasa Apso Club’s website at [www.lhasaapso.org](http://www.lhasaapso.org).

**Lhasa Apso Rescue**

Information about the Lhasa Apso Rescue Network is available at [www.lhasaapsorescue.org](http://www.lhasaapsorescue.org). The organization seeks foster and adoptive families, provides adoption information, and offers a virtual adoption option.

**Lhasa Apso Resources**

Links to the [Lhasa Apso Breed Standard](http://www.lhasaapso.org/BreedStandard/breed_info.html) and ALAC’s [Verbal and Illustrated Guides to the Standard](http://www.lhasaapso.org/BreedStandard/breed_info.html) are found at:

- *Your Lhasa Apso* by R. Berndt
- *This Is the Lhasa Apso* by J. Brearly
- *How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso* by P. Chenoweth & T. Chenoweth
- *All About The Lhasa Apso* by J. Cunliffe
- *Lhasa Apsos: All About America’s Favorite Dogs* published by Dog Fancy Magazine
- *The New Complete Lhasa Apso* by N. Herbel & C. Herbel
- *Guide to Owning A Lhasa Apso* by S. Kennedy and J. Zeppi
- *Lhasa Apso* by D. McCarty
- *The Lhasa Apso* by A.K. Nicholas
- *An Owner’s Guide To The Lhasa Apso* by N. Plunkett
- *Lhasa Apsos: Everything About Purchase, Care, Nutrition Breeding, and Diseases* by S. Wehrmann and M.M. Vriends
- *Lhasa Apsos* by S. Wehrmann and S. Vanderslip
Feel free to print this page! Go to file-print or press Ctrl+P on your PC or Apple+P on your Mac.

Make sure that the print LAYOUT is LANDSCAPE!!!
The table may not print correctly otherwise!

Ctrl+click on the breed name for a more complete breed description with photos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Coat</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Eyes</th>
<th>Bite</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maltese</strong></td>
<td>Single Silky</td>
<td>10 inches; 4-6 lbs</td>
<td>Dark, Round</td>
<td>Scissors or level</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bichon</strong></td>
<td>Double-coated, Curly, soft</td>
<td>9½ -11½ inches 10-18 lbs (gen)</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Scissor</td>
<td>White w/ buff or cream (on ears)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Havanese</strong></td>
<td>Double-coated; curly, straight, or wavy</td>
<td>8½ -11½ inches 7-16 lbs</td>
<td>Almond</td>
<td>Scissor</td>
<td>White, Champagne, Black, Cream, Gold, Chocolate, Silver, Blue, Parti-colors, Tri-color, Pied, Sable, Brindle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poodles</strong></td>
<td>Curly, naturally harsh</td>
<td>Toy: under 10” Miniature: 10-15”</td>
<td>Dark, oval</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
<td>Blues, grays, silvers, brown, apricot, cream, white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed</td>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Bite</td>
<td>Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lhasa Apso</strong></td>
<td>Hard, straight, double coated, dense</td>
<td>10-11 inches 13-16 lbs</td>
<td>Almond</td>
<td>Level or undershot</td>
<td>All colors, including blue and liver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shih Tzu</strong></td>
<td>Double. Dense. Not curly</td>
<td>8-11 inches 9-16 lbs</td>
<td>Large, round</td>
<td>Undershot</td>
<td>All colors. White marking on forehead &amp; tip of tail is common.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chinese Crested</strong></td>
<td>Straight outer coat, silky undercoat, powder puff (coated) variety</td>
<td>9-13 inches 5-12 lbs</td>
<td>Almond; wide set apart</td>
<td>Scissors or level</td>
<td>Any color or combination of colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tibetan Terriers</strong></td>
<td>Double. Wavy or straight</td>
<td>14-17 inches 18-30 lbs</td>
<td>Large &amp; dark, set fairly wide apart</td>
<td>Scissors, level, reverse scissors or slightly undershot</td>
<td>Black, white, silver, cream, golden and sable in solid, parti-color, and tri-color combinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coton de Tulear</strong></td>
<td>Like cotton if clean. Straight or wavy. Not silky</td>
<td>9-11 inches 9-15 lbs</td>
<td>Round and dark</td>
<td>Level or scissors</td>
<td>Puppies have strong black or brown markings that fade w/ age. Adults may retain patches of grey, black, brown or champagne often on ears, face or back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lowchen</strong></td>
<td>Dense, moderately soft. Slight-moderate wavy</td>
<td>12-14 inches 8-18 lbs</td>
<td>Large, dark, round</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
<td>All colors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undesirable behavior can be caused by many things, including undetected illness. No behavior modification program should begin without first taking the dog to a vet for a complete physical examination. While you're there, give your vet a printed copy of this page and ask if it would be an appropriate technique for you to try. The NILIF program is an accepted standard in dog training/behavior but it is not, and is not intended to be, a substitute for an in-person, professional evaluation of your dog's behavior. This technique is intended for dogs in good health and of sound mind and stable temperament.

The NILIF program is remarkable because it's effective for such a wide variety of problems. A shy, timid dog becomes more relaxed knowing that he has nothing to worry about, his owner is in charge of all things. A dog that's pushing too hard to become "top dog" learns that the position is not available and that his life is far more enjoyable without the title.

It is equally successful with dogs that fall anywhere between those two extremes. The program is not difficult to put into effect and it's not time consuming if the dog already knows a few basic obedience commands. I've never seen this technique fail to bring about a positive change in behavior, however, the change can be more profound in some dogs than others. Most owners use this program in conjunction with other behavior modification techniques such as coping with fear or treatment for aggression. It is a perfectly suitable technique for the dog with no major behavior problems that just needs some fine tuning.

**ATTENTION ON DEMAND**

The program begins by eliminating attention on demand. When your dog comes to you and nudges your hand, saying "pet me! pet me!" ignore him. Don't tell him "no", don't push him away. Simply pretend you don't notice him. This has worked for him before, so don't be surprised if he tries harder to get your attention. When he figures out that this no longer works, he'll stop. In a pack situation, the top ranking dogs can demand attention from the lower ranking ones, not the other way around. When you give your dog attention on demand you're telling him that he has more status in the pack than you do. Timid dogs become stressed by having this power and may become clingy. They're never sure when you'll be in charge so they can't relax. What if something scary happens, like a stranger coming in the house? Who will handle that? The timid dog that is demanding of attention can be on edge a lot of the time because he has more responsibility than he can handle.

Some dogs see their ability to demand attention as confirmation that they are the "alpha", then become difficult to handle when told to "sit" or "down" or some other demand is placed on
them. It is not their leadership status that stresses them out, it's the lack of consistency. They may or may not actually be alpha material, but having no one in the pack that is clearly the leader is a bigger problem than having the dog assume that role full time. Dogs are happiest when the pack order is stable. Tension is created by a constant fluctuation of pack leadership.

**EXTINCTION BURSTS**

Your dog already knows that he can demand your attention and he knows what works to get that to happen. As of today, it no longer works, but he doesn't know that yet. We all try harder at something we know works when it stops working. If I gave you a twenty dollar bill every time you clapped your hands together, you'd clap a lot. But, if I suddenly stopped handing you money, even though you were still clapping, you'd clap more and clap louder. You might even get closer to me to make sure I was noticing that you were clapping. You might even shout at me "Hey! I'm clapping like crazy over here, where's the money?". If I didn't respond at all, in any way, you'd stop. It wasn't working anymore. That last try -- that loud, frequent clapping is an extinction burst. If, however, during that extinction burst, I gave you another twenty dollar bill you'd be right back in it. It would take a lot longer to get you to stop clapping because you just learned that if you try hard enough, it will work.

When your dog learns that the behaviors that used to get him your attention don't work anymore, he's going to try harder and he's going to have an extinction burst. If you give him attention during that time you will have to work that much harder to get him turned around again. Telling him "no" or pushing him away is not the kind of attention he's after, but its still attention. Completely ignoring him will work faster and better.

**YOU HAVE THE POWER**

As the human and as his owner you have control of all things that are wonderful in his life. This is the backbone of the NILIF program. You control all of the resources. Playing, attention, food, walks, going in and out of the door, going for a ride in the car, going to the dog park. Anything and everything that your dog wants comes from you. If he's been getting most of these things for free there is no real reason for him to respect your leadership or your ownership of these things. Again, a timid dog is going to be stressed by this situation, a pushy dog is going to be difficult to handle. Both of them would prefer to have you in charge.

To implement the NILIF program you simply have to have your dog earn his use of your resources. He's hungry? No problem, he simply has to sit before his bowl is put down. He wants to play fetch? Great! He has to "down" before you throw the ball. Want to go for a walk or a ride? He has to sit to get his lead snapped on and has to sit while the front door is opened. He has to sit and wait while the car door is opened and listen for the word (I use "OK") that means "get into the car". When you return he has to wait for the word that means "get out of the car" even if the door is wide open. Don't be too hard on him. He's already learned that he can make all of these decisions on his own. He has a strong history of being in control of when he gets these resources. Enforce the new rules, but keep in mind that he's only doing what he's been taught to do and he's going to need some time to get the hang of it all.
You're going to have to pay attention to things that you probably haven't noticed before. If you feed your dog from your plate do you just toss him a green bean? No more. He has to earn it. You don't have to use standard obedience commands, any kind of action will do. If your dog knows "shake" or "spin around" or "speak" use those commands. Does your dog sleep on your bed? Teach him that he has to wait for you to say "OK" to get on the bed and he has to get down when you say "off". Teach him to go to his bed, or other designated spot, on command. When he goes to his spot and lays down tell him "stay" and then release him with a treat reward. Having a particular spot where he stays is very helpful for when you have guests or otherwise need him out of the way for a while. It also teaches him that free run of the house is a resource that you control. There are probably many things that your dog sees as valuable resources that I haven't mentioned here.

The NILIF program should not be a long, drawn out process. All you need to do is enforce a simple command before allowing him access to what he wants. Dinner, for example, should be a two or three second encounter that consists of nothing more than saying "sit", then "good dog!", then putting the bowl down and walking away.

**Attention and Play**

Now that your dog is no longer calling the shots you will have to make an extra effort to provide him with attention and play time. Call him to you, have him "sit" and then lavish him with as much attention as you want. Have him go get his favorite toy and play as long as you both have the energy. The difference is that now you will be the one initiating the attention and beginning the play time. He's going to depend on you now, a lot more than before, to see that he gets what he needs. What he needs most is quality time with you. This would be a good time to enroll in a group obedience class. If his basic obedience is top notch, see about joining an agility class or fly ball team.

**NILIF Does *NOT* Mean that You Have to Restrict the Amount of Attention You Give to Your Dog.** The NILIF concept speaks to who initiates the attention (you!), not the amount of attention. Go ahead and call your dog to you 100 times a day for hugs and kisses!! You can demand his attention, he can no longer demand yours!

Within a day or two your dog will see you in a whole new light and will be eager to learn more. Use this time to teach new things, such as 'roll over' or learn the specific names of different toys.

If you have a shy dog, you'll see a more relaxed dog. There is no longer any reason to worry about much of anything. He now has complete faith in you as his protector and guide. If you have a pushy dog he'll be glad that the fight for leadership is over and his new role is that of devoted and adored pet.

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Whether a new pup or an older addition to the family, one of the most important aspects of pet ownership is housetraining (notice I use the term house “training” as opposed to house “breaking”). I’ll start out with suggestions for a pup which can also be used on an adult Apso new to the home. Adopting an older Apso (be it 10 months or 5 years) gives you an edge in that it has a larger bladder to start with and has more focus on matters at hand. Apso puppies are silly little things ... flitting here, flying there ... peeing before you even know what happened because their legs are so short you didn’t even realize they were squatting ...

** For clarification: unless specifically noted, “Apso” is used when referring to a puppy or an older dog.

- First and foremost, you have a puppy, a baby (an infant, if you will) living with you now. It has a very small bladder and no control over its bladder or bowels. As the pup matures, it will gain more control over these bodily functions. Also, please bear in mind it is not uncommon for an older Apso to have some training issues until it learns (1) what is and what isn’t appropriate, (2) what the normal household routine is, and (3) where its place is in the pack order. Until such time, I suggest utilizing the crate/tether/gate method as a training tool for all ages. If your Apso isn’t in its crate, it is tethered to you by means of a 4-6 foot leash (called “tether training”). If it’s not crated or tethered, it is gated (or penned) in a small area with its toys, food and bedding for short supervised periods of time. With Apsos older than 8 months, I suggest using a crate/tether at all times. By keeping your Apso in close proximity, you will learn its “I gotta go potty” body language and can move to get it outside. Apsos generally will not soil a crate unless: (1) the crate is too large, (2) if they are left for unreasonable periods of time, or (3) have a gastrointestinal “bug.”

- Puppies should be taken out every 30-45 minutes to the same area; dogs over a year can go out every 1-2 hours. Pick a cue word or phrase and use it every time, i.e., “Get with it! “Hurry up!” etc., etc. For every appropriate potty behavior, lavish praise and a special treat are in order. You want to make a big production of it so he/she knows you are extremely pleased with its behavior. I suggest a special, irresistible treat reserved just for potty training along a happy, high-pitched voice just oozing praises ... and never mind what the neighbors think. Puppies should also be taken out: (1) first thing out of the crate, (2) right after every meal, (3) in the middle of a long play session, and (4) just before bedtime [in addition to the every 30-45 minutes ... oh yes, puppies are lots of work!!]. As the pup matures, you can extend the time between potty breaks.

- Please bear in mind that when you get your new pup outside, it is going to want to jump, play, explore, run, and mouth everything it can find (an older, new dog will want to sniff and check everything out) ... anything but go potty. In other words, you’ll have to spend some time with it for every potty run to begin with. You want to give it plenty of time to go (but don’t play with him/her) and then be on hand when it does so you can treat/praise lavishly. If, after a reasonable amount of time, your Apso still hasn’t gone potty, put him/her in its crate. Wait 10-15 minutes and take outside again. You may have to do this several times before getting the desired results ... elimination outside! I guarantee the minute you decide your Apso doesn’t have to go and is allowed access to the carpet, it will unload the nanosecond your back is turned or it gets out of your line-of-sight behind the leg of the coffee table.
If your Apso has an accident, do not scold unless you catch it in the act!! Clean up the accident quickly, quietly and out of his/her sight, if at all possible. Apsos do not take kindly to physical punishment or yelling. A simple “bad boy/girl” in a low voice accompanied by a frown is sufficient ... and only if you catch your Apso in the act. Immediately take it outside ... if it manages to eliminate outside ~ even a drop ~ after having an accident inside, you want to praise heartily and treat immediately. A rolled-up newspaper should only be used to hit yourself in the head because you were not watching your Apso close enough. Scolding a Apso after the fact only teaches it is “bad to go potty” at any time ... then you’ll have a Apso sneaking off and eliminating somewhere else in the house where you can’t see it (another good reason for tethering training). BOTTOM LINE: if your Apso is having accidents in the house, it’s your fault for not watching him/her close enough and anticipating its elimination needs.

Buy an enzymatic cleaner and use it correctly. Both canines and felines are drawn back to the same elimination area by smell (and they will return to the same area again and again, if allowed). These cleaners have enzymes in them that “eat” stains and odors. Nature’s Miracle and Simple Solution are two of the most popular and can be purchased at Petsmart, Petco, or the local pet supply place. Don’t bother with the quart ... the gallon size is much more economical and I guarantee you will be using it. Works on urine, feces, vomit and blood. I’m finding that some folks buy Nature’s Miracle (wonderful product) and then use it incorrectly. Once the initial feces/urine is cleaned/wiped up, the cleaner should be used to soak the whole area and then left to dry. No blotting up allowed!! The enzymes can’t work if they’re being drawn back out of the carpet and pad. When steam cleaning carpets, I use the enzymatic cleaner in a 50/50 mixture in my big Hoover steam cleaner (50% water, 50% enzymatic cleaner). Also works great on ceramic kitchen tile and grout as it penetrates the grout and eliminates stains/odors. For tough or old stains, you may have to apply and let dry several times over several days. Can also be used to muck out crates. Like I said ... buy the gallon size (and if the store is across town, buy 2 gallons!).

If you’re lucky enough to be installing new carpet before a new pet arrives, invest in “PetPad” carpet padding. It is special carpet padding that has a waterproof layer bonded directly to the top of the pad. If there are any accidents or spills, it keeps the liquid from soaking completely through the padding to the sub flooring ... which makes it much easier to clean and remove stains/odors from the carpet. The additional cost is nominal and well worth the investment.

The most serious training blunders an owner can make are (1) allowing the Apso access to other areas of the house before he/she has earned it by displaying appropriate potty habits and (2) by not monitoring his/her every move. Granted, there will be accidents ... doodoo happens. However, if you are watching your Apso carefully (tethering), confining it to a specific area (crate/gate), and giving it ample opportunity to eliminate outside accompanied by lavish praise/treats, it will all come together ... but not overnight and it varies with each Apso. Some will “get it” at six months ... others won’t until they are older and possibly close to being 12 months old. Until they do get it, consistency and communicating to them what is expected are priorities. I find with older Apsos it generally takes anywhere from 1-4 months after arriving in the home to be deemed totally reliable (some less, some more ... depends on the dog). And remember, each dog is an individual and what works for one, may not work on another. You have to take into consideration the Apso, background, temperament, and what other problems need to be dealt with first.

I use a 60-day “rule of thumb” when house training. Each day that goes by without an accident is counted, i.e., Day 1, Day 2, etc., etc. An accident bumps us back to “Day 1” again. When an Apso has
gone a full consecutive 60 days with no accidents, I deem it as being “reliable.” In the event of a relapse, we revert to the crate/tether/gate method to whatever degree I feel is necessary ... it may be a full tether, or just a baby gate placed across the door to the room that I am in with the Apso, or crating when unsupervised ... or all three methods and counting from Day 1 again.

- Finally!!! ... Your Apso has figured out that going potty outdoors has its own rewards and will “Get with it!” on command. How do you go from annoying the neighbors with your incessant chant at all hours to getting your Apso to “tell” you it needs to go?? There are two generally-recognized methods you can utilize for this. The first is the “bell” method: Hang a small string of bells (saved from Christmas or purchased at a craft store) by the back door at the Apso’s level. Each time you take your Apso outside, physically take its nose or paw and “ring” the bells (accompanied by praise, of course). One day, your Apso will run to the door and ring the bells!! (And you’d better hope you’re not at the other end of the house where you can’t hear them.) Only problem with bells ... (1) they can’t be heard all over the house, (2) if you’re visiting other homes, you’ll need to bring your bells along, and (3) some Apsos don’t like bells and won’t go near them. I prefer teaching them to “speak” on command using treats. Once your Apso has mastered “speaking,” start cuing it at the door during a normal potty run ... “Frankie, you need to go outside?? What do you say?? Can you speak?” When he/she “speaks,” the door is opened and access to the yard is allowed. Same cue to open the door to get back inside. “Telling” you they have to go outside (or want back inside) works anywhere, anytime and is easily transferable to any outside door. Don’t be surprised if you find yourself designated “doorperson” for an Apso that enjoys the yard. If you know the pooch in question really doesn’t have to go, i.e., was just outside and just went potty (which means you are still monitoring his/her toilet habits), you can deny access, should you choose. Many smart little Apsos will play the “I go outside, I get a cookie/treat” game if allowed ... and then you end up with a smart, fat little Apso. As a side note, some Apsos will refuse to “tell” you they have to go outside. You are expected to read their minds and know that “I’m sitting here staring at the door,” means, “I gotta go potty.” These are the dogs that I run out of the house every 1-2 hours or so ... just in case.

- Having your Apso on a set feeding and toileting routine is extremely beneficial when house training. You learn his/her schedule and can anticipate its needs for elimination as most dogs will eliminate within 30-45 minutes of a meal. I generally feed twice a day – morning and evening – with several “potty” treats during the day. The twice-daily feedings and treats help stave off the dreaded “yellow foamies.” However, should the smaller, more frequent meals or additional treats throughout the day not take care of the “foamy” problem, please have your Apso evaluated by a vet!! The “yellow foam” is actually bile being thrown up and can be a sign of a much more serious problem, i.e., an upper GI tract inflammation that can become very serious ... even life threatening ... if ignored.

- Learn to use “cues,” like a having one outside spot designated as a potty area ... even if it means picking up a poop in the house and carrying it outside to the potty area for that newly-arrived Apso. If you have another housetrained dog, enlist its aid to help train your new arrival (once you’ve determined the two are compatible). Every time the older or established dog goes outside for potty, send the little buddy out too. (On the other hand, if you have a dog that isn’t fully housetrained, it will also be teaching its little buddy where to toilet in the house ...).

- Some Apsos will engage in “coprophagia” ... in other words, they eat their own poop. There are many theories why this happens, none of which makes it any more palatable to us humans. If your Apso starts this unpleasant snacking activity, you can do the “swoop and scoop,” getting it out of their reach as soon as possible. Some owners have good results mixing green beans or pineapple in with their regular food. Others employ commercial products such as “Deter” or “Forbid” which are
sprinkled on regular food. Still others swear by Tabasco sauce dashed on the “delicacy.” You’ll just have to experiment and see what works best for you and your dog. Some Apsos will also raid the cat’s litter box given half a chance ... a medical disaster waiting to happen if you use clay-based litter. Keep litter boxes out of reach or inaccessible.

- If you have an Apso (or any pet, canine or feline) suddenly “lose” its house training when it has been reliable for a long time, please have it thoroughly evaluated by your vet. It may have an underlying medical condition causing it to lose its training, i.e., bladder/kidney stones, urinary tract infection, diabetes, Cushing’s or Addison’s disease, cognitive difficulties, epileptic seizures, liver disease or kidney failure. Neutered males or spayed females may also develop incontinence, which can easily be controlled with medication. Any deviation from established habits is good reason for going to the vet ... and not just assuming your Apso is being “stubborn” or “vengeful” or “getting old.”

- Apsos recovering from bladder or kidney stones have their own set of problems, especially if surgery was involved. Until the bladder/kidney heals, they may have some leakage or little control. Please be patient with your Apso and consult with your vet if it doesn’t appear to be improving.

- Males & Marking: Some male dogs will engage in “marking” behaviors. By urinating a little on whatever they pass by, they are telling other dogs that “this is mine and I’m willing to defend it.” One of the best ways to prevent this is to have your male neutered at an early age (4-6 months old), and the sooner the better. Many early-neutered males never lift their legs and they’ll never come up with testicular cancer or one of the other related problems. If you’ve an older male with marking problems, you can purchase “belly bands” which work well in conjunction with tether training (here’s that word again!). A belly band is a strip of cloth that is wrapped around the dog’s middle which fastens with Velcro. Inside the belly band is an owner-supplied incontinence pad (Depends, Serenity, etc.). As the dog goes along “marking,” the urine is contained within the pad. At the same time, you can issue a correction, i.e., a short, sharp pull on the leash and the command “no mark!” Until such time as the dog learns marking is not acceptable behavior, the furnishings are protected. Obviously, when running the dog outside, the belly band needs to be removed. If you can’t find belly bands in your area, you can make your own or go online with one of the search engines and locate an outlet for them (Google.com is the premium search engine with well over 8 billion websites referenced). Occasionally, females will also engage in this marking of territory. Again, tether training is your best bet to teach her this is unacceptable behavior in a home setting. Early spaying of a female will decrease the likelihood of this behavior, in addition to greatly reducing her risk of getting mammary cancer. And a spayed female will never have an unplanned pregnancy or the often fatal pyometra (infection of the uterus).

If you’ve found this article to be helpful, please consider making a donation to Lhasa Apso Rescue (... or, better yet, becoming a volunteer!). Information regarding donations and/or volunteer opportunities may be found at – ApsoRescueColorado.org – under the “Foster Program” button.

Congrats on your new Apso ... we wish you “Lhasa” happy, healthy years together!!

Vickie Kuhlmann
ALAC Rescue ~ Colorado ___ ApsoRescue@aol.com
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You may never know the past of the new adoptee in your life, but that isn't necessary. His new life starts the day you bring him home. What he needs most is for you to limit his stress, while increasing structure in the form of routines, training and confinement. Offering daily stress-release outlets, in the form of play, exercise, toys and positive training also helps.

**Limit Stress**

Bring your new friend home during a relatively calm time (not during the holidays, for example). Keep things as quiet as you can. The first week is not the time to introduce him to the Boy Scout Troop or all your neighbors. Remember, he has no clue as to who you are or how you will behave. Give him time to settle in to his new life.

On a more basic level, feed him whatever he has been eating. If you don't know his diet, choose a name-brand dog food and mix it half and half with cooked white rice (not the instant kind). This will limit diarrhea, which is something both he and you will appreciate.

**Structure**

Being social animals, dogs fare best when there is order in their group. Order is demonstrated through clear, calm leadership. Simple things really – having him "Sit" before you open the door, having him "Wait" when you let him out of his crate, practicing "Leave It" a few minutes each day. These little things go a long way to making your new dog feel secure and comfortable.

**Routine**

Few things help an anxious dog like a routine. The more routine, the better. A biscuit before bed, a walk first thing in the morning, a little romp during commercials -- make up routines. Figure out ways you can make his world make sense to him; he'd thank you if he could.

**Training**

I say training, but what I mean is building trust, forming a relationship, creating communication. Again, what you teach him to do is less important than how you teach him to do it. Teach him tricks; make him a pet therapy dog, work on agility. Do what thrills you both. Think, "This animal wants to please me; it is my job to show him how." And when he doesn't, it is because he does not understand, not that he is being difficult. Such an attitude is an enormous gift to anyone, but particularly sweet to a dog that has had much disappointment and confusion in his life already.

**Confinement**

Give him a room of his own. Many adopted dogs thrive on a confinement schedule partly because it limits their decisions. When in the crate, all is well. Crating also prevents stress-related behaviors like chewing or housetraining mistakes.
Ten Tips for a Well-Behaved Apso

By: Leslie Bauman – Former ALAC President

1. Start training your Lhasa puppy right away. While older dogs can be taught many new tricks, what’s learned earliest is often learned easiest. “Un-learning” bad habits takes time; an ounce of prevention is certainly worth a pound of cure!

2. Train your Lhasa gently and humanely. Teach him using positive, motivational methods. Keep obedience sessions short and upbeat so that the training process is enjoyable for both you and your puppy. Lhasas respond well to food rewards and “play training” using non-adversarial games.

3. Be a firm, patient and consistent leader for your Lhasa. In return, he will treat you like royalty. Never “ask” a Lhasa if he wants to go outside to go potty, “tell” him that it is time to go potty. Life should be a democracy for your Lhasa. You (and other family members) should eat dinner first, go through doorways ahead of your puppy, and never allow the dog to sleep in bed at night.

4. Crate training is useful to keep a Lhasa puppy safe when you can’t watch him. It is also an essential tool for house training. Give your puppy treats and toys for going willingly into his crate. Never let him out when he is barking.

5. Some Lhasas become over stimulated and upset by too much stroking and petting. Others may perceive your petting as a sign of your subservience to him. By all means, pet your puppy, especially as a reward for good behavior, but keep it brief. If you want to initiate petting, call your Lhasa to you, don’t go to him.

6. You can’t teach a puppy if you don’t have his attention. Encourage the puppy to pay attention to you by rewarding eye contact with treats. Show the puppy a treat in your hand and then hold it off to the side. Give the puppy the treat as soon as he looks away from the food towards you. A brief glance is good enough to start but gradually you should expect the puppy to focus for longer periods of time.

7. Lhasas have sensitive hearing and your tone of voice is very important. High-pitched baby talk can actually trigger prey drive in a Lhasa. Always speak to your dog in a warm, conversational tone. When giving your Lhasa a command, avoid using a loud voice. Don’t beg or scream; be calm and authoritative. Repeating commands over and over teaches your Lhasa to tune you out. Also, avoid giving your Lhasa a command that you know you can’t enforce, as he will start assuming that all your commands are optional.
8. Alpha rolls and physical punishment don’t work well with Lhasas. Many inappropriate attention-getting behaviors (jumping up, nipping) can be suppressed by using “time-out.” For instance, if your Lhasa persists on nipping at you to get your attention, pick him up (don’t say anything or look at the puppy while you carry him) and put him in a small room where he has no food, no toys, and no stimulation. A bathroom or utility room closed off by a baby gate usually works well. Leave the dog in the time out space for five to ten minutes (depending on the severity of the infraction). After you let your Lhasa out, continue to ignore him for at least another five to ten minutes.

9. Many Lhasa owners complain that their dogs are stubborn. This is particularly true with house training problems. Before blaming your puppy, think about whether: (a) the dog really knows what is expected, (b) the dog knows how to comply, and (c) he is not behaving properly due to stress or confusion.

10. Good behavior begins at home. Are you a human gymnasium while sitting on the couch watching TV? Does your Lhasa beg at the table? Jump up on visitors? Ignore your commands? If your dog doesn’t listen to you at home where distractions are minimal, he certainly won’t respond to you properly in strange places where he may be stressed, frightened, or totally distracted by new sights and smells.
First and foremost – **RESEARCH THE BREED** you are interested in to see if it is compatible with your lifestyle. Keep in mind the dog’s exercise requirements, grooming needs, behavioral issues of the breed and that one is making a **lifetime** commitment when adopting a companion. They are not to be given away (or abandoned) when the owner’s lifestyle changes, the dog isn't fun anymore, grows old and/or requires extensive medical care, etc.

A lifetime of care costs money and, in some cases, lots of money! Even with pet insurance, regular care can be expensive as it includes flea/tick/heartworm preventatives, vaccinations, dentals, and annual physicals (never mind any emergencies that may arise ... ka-ching, ka-ching). As the dog ages, the amount of money needed for medical care will increase and owners should be prepared for additional expenses as well. Grooming requirements should be considered (especially for the low-shedding, long-haired and/or double-coated breeds) since all dogs need baths, ear cleaning and/or nail clipping on a regular basis.

**RESEARCH THE RESCUE** – Keep in mind all rescues are not ethical and/or reputable. A 501(c)(3) designation means only that a particular rescue has filed the appropriate paperwork ... it does not mean that they adhere to the practices attributed to the management of an ethical rescue (and/or standards which may be set forth by a particular breed’s parent AKC club). Ask for references – contact numbers for adoptive families and the rescue's vet – and use the following questions (and the answers specific to our rescue) as a screening process:

- **What does the application process consist of and how do you determine if a dog is suitable for our family?** We require an e-application, vet/reference checks and, finally, a home check. This process allows us to assess whether or not a particular dog is a good match, taking into consideration the needs of the dog and the applicant. Our goal with each dog is to place him/her in the home where he/she will live out their life so screening and placement is paramount.

- **What pre-rescue screening is performed on the dog?** A sad fact of rescue is that not every dog can be saved. Owners surrendering dogs should be questioned as to behavior and health issues (even calling their vet and confirming this information); shelters should be questioned as to how/why the dog is there, what information was provided with the dog, as well as an in-person assessment. I’m not going to take in the dog that has separation anxiety so severe he chews through drywall or a dog that’s bitten multiple times. I’m not equipped to handle this type of situation nor would I expect a pet owner to take on a problem of this magnitude.
What pre-adoption vetting is performed on the dog? One should expect that: (1) the dog has undergone a rescue exam, (2) the dog be up-to-date on vaccinations, and (3) any medical needs have been addressed, i.e., spay/neuter, dental, clearing up an ear infection, etc. Our dogs are also microchipped before placement and you will receive information regarding the microchip registration.

What pre-adoption training is undertaken? Fosters are not released from rescue without being reliably housetrained, having behavioral issues addressed, and having undergone leash and crate training.

Where are the dogs are housed, how they are cared for, where can I see them, etc.? With our particular rescue, one can view the foster home after the application has been processed and one has been approved. The reason for this protocol: there is no point in wasting your time (or ours) if the dog you’re applying for isn’t a good fit with your family – and we won’t have an idea if the dog will be a good match until we’ve processed your application. All our rescues are fostered in-home and loved/cared for in exactly the same manner as our own family pets.

How many dogs have been returned to a particular rescue and for what reason(s)? Dogs should not be placed on a first come/first served basis ... they should be placed with the family most appropriate for the dog and his/her particular needs and requirements. We want the dog to be happy and we want you to be happy with the dog. Many of our dogs have had multiple homes prior to landing in rescue – and with each subsequent home come the risk of picking up undesirable behaviors and issues. Inquire as to whether none have been returned because they are still with their adoptive families ... or whether it’s the rescue’s policy to not allow returns. In other words, how successful have they been with screening and placement?

How long are rescues kept with foster families before being released for adoption? I’m aware of rescues that intake large amounts of dogs and, as a result, aren’t particularly careful about placement because of the numbers involved. Our dogs are not released for adoption until all medical and behavioral issues have been addressed. Therefore, we do not take in more dogs than we can properly care and provide for ... this includes medical care, grooming, training and one-on-one socialization, as well as being able to provide a structured, loving environment. My minimum, self-mandated foster period is 4-6 weeks as a dog’s true nature/behavior often doesn’t come out until they’ve had a chance to settle in and feel comfortable – which means I get to see the “real” dog. Our dogs stay in foster care until an appropriate home can be found, however long that might take.

What is the rescue’s spay/neuter policy and pre-adoption healthcare protocols, if any? A reputable rescue does not place animals intact. Placing an animal with only a certificate to have a spay or neuter performed is not a reliable means of birth control. None of our fosters leave rescue intact and puppies are held until they are old enough
to be altered; every dog undergoes an intake rescue exam with our vet shortly after entering rescue.

- **What kind of follow-up does the rescue perform after adoption?** We contact the adoptive families at regular intervals after the adoption to see if all is well, if there are any issues that need to be addressed, etc. The families also know they can call me regarding literally anything that might arise in all areas of dog care including: medical, grooming tips/tricks, behavioral, vaccinations protocols, food/supplement recommendations, allergy issues, etc., etc., ... for as long as they need.

- **What are my options if the adopted dog is not working out?** Our contract states you must return the dog to us. If returned within four weeks of the adoption date, we will refund the adoption fee.

- **What are my options if I can no longer keep the adopted dog, i.e., divorce, moving, death, etc.?** While we would hope that an owner would do everything possible to keep their companion, we recognize some circumstances are beyond one’s control. Our contract states you must return the dog to us if you can no longer care for the dog, for whatever reason. In the event of the death of the owner, we will work with extended family should they wish to keep the dog (depending on circumstances, this may include an application and a homecheck).

- **What kind of issues can I expect with a particular dog?** A rescue should be able to provide a detailed written biography on the dog, as well as a health history, even if just from day one in rescue. In addition to an extensive behavioral bio on the dog, we provide an adoption packet which includes a photo(s), specific medical documentation (vaccine and treatment records, microchip registration), as well as various articles on training and breed information. The foster is also sent to its new home with a small supply of dog food, a favorite toy, a matching leash/collar and any medications it may be taking.

- **Is the rescue available for consultation after the adoption?** Your adopted dog will have an adjustment period coming into the new home. It may lose its house training, be very shy, submissively urinate, not sleep quietly through the night, come with thunderstorm phobias, have separation anxiety, etc. The rescue should be available to help you work through any issues that arise (and be able to tell you what to expect of the dog). I am available by phone, email and will do in-home consultations if necessary to address an adopted dog’s issues. There are no perfect dogs and rescue dogs are no exception ... they will have some baggage which you, as the new owner, will have to deal with. Keep in mind the more information you have on the dog as provided by the foster home, the better equipped you are to integrate the rescue into your home.

- **What is the adoption fee and how is it used by the rescue?** A rescue may schedule fees in a number of ways – the age of the dog, the amount of medical treatment required for
a particular dog, or a flat fee for all dogs regardless of age and/or care. We set our fees using the age/care combination, but generally our fees run $250 (fees may also vary depending on where you are located). Funds are deposited to a dedicated non-profit rescue checking account and are used exclusively for medical treatment. An initial rescue exam – including bringing vaccinations up to date, a heartworm test, beginning a heartworm preventative, and implanting a microchip – generally runs $125 to $175. Any unused adoption fees are kept in the rescue account and used for medical care as the need arises (neuter/spay, dentals, ear/eye issues, bladder infections, emergencies, etc.). Some dogs need only minimal care while others require extensive treatment well in excess of the adoption fee. Any unused portion of an adoption fee is used to help the next dog that needs care (we must keep a balance in the account in order to provide medical care as each dog enters rescue). Food, treats, supplements, toys, bedding, cleaning supplies, etc., are provided out-of-pocket by the foster home. In our group, we are all unpaid volunteers and working rescue is truly a labor of love, reflecting a deep passion for the breed.

What is the rescue coordinator’s experience with the breed? Your breed-specific rescuer should have extensive working knowledge with a particular breed, having owned and/or rescued them for a number of years. They should be a wealth of information regarding diseases affecting the breed as well as behavior/training issues and be able to provide web-based links, printed handouts or/or references for research. They may also be a member of the national breed club rescue organization, the national breed club, and be active in the breed in areas other than rescue.

What if I decide in the middle of the adoption process that this isn’t really for me? By all means, let your rescue contact know!! It is far better to admit that you’ve given it further thought than to wait until after the adoption has been completed and have the poor dog go through yet another upheaval. Your rescue contact will thank you for your honesty and taking the time to fully consider the commitment of bring a dog into your life.

What happens if I get turned down? Please do not take it personally … with our rescue it generally means the dog being considered for placement is not a good candidate for your lifestyle, activity level or family situation (rescued dogs in our breed tend to have “child issues”). Ask your rescue contact if you can be placed on their waiting list, if they have suggestions for another breed that may be better suited to your circumstances, or if there are other rescues in the area they would recommend.

One man’s trash ... is another man’s treasure. Dogs entering rescue generally fall into three categories ... owner turn in (OTIs), shelter pulls (the rescue goes to the shelter and removes the dog) and strays (surrenders by folks who have found a dog). Because they are in rescue does not mean they are “defective” or that “something is wrong with them.” Without fail, my owner-surrendered fosters have landed in rescue because the owners didn’t take the time to properly socialize them, supervise them with children, or address behavioral and/or medical
issues. Each has gone on to a permanent home where they are well-behaved and beloved family members. Basically, gems in the rough – they just needed a little attention and polish to shine. This is why it is so important to connect with a rescue that carefully screens dogs for behavioral/medical problems.

If one has a particular breed in mind, do seek out a breed-specific rescue as these folks are generally more experienced with the issues and temperaments of a certain breed. Contact the AKC parent breed club to see if they have a national rescue organization and/or coordinators in your area. Ask if the parent breed club has guidelines which they recommend to be followed for operation of a rescue within that breed.

Keep in mind that the rescue dog noted as a certain breed may not match the standard breed description. In other words, you most likely are not getting a dog that’s been bred to standard.

A rescuer experienced with a particular breed should be able to provide referrals to ethical, responsible breeders who breed to standard with health/temperament being a priority. These breeders will be utilizing the most current genetic testing and recommended breed-specific exams (CERF, BAER, von Willebrand, renal dysplasia, heart scans, etc., etc.) to ensure parents are not passing on genetic diseases to offspring. In other words, just having a vet state the dog is healthy to be bred is not sufficient. Ethical, responsible breeders will also be involved with the breed in other venues other than just breeding, i.e., exhibiting dogs in conformation, entering working trials, performance events, member of the local show club, member of the national club, etc. A rescuer should know the difference between “pure bred” and “well bred” and what constitutes an ethical, responsible breeder (miller vs. backyard breeder [a/k/a BYB] vs. hobby breeder) … and an informed adopter should as well. Additionally, a rescuer should be able to provide information on the various registries, including those that have cropped up in an effort to circumvent the AKC’s recent DNA requirements. These questionable registries include: APRI, CKC (Continental Kennel Club), ACR, ACA, DRI, UKCI, APR, UABR, WWCK, WKC, ARU, NKC, CRCS.

A reputable rescue does not operate from a storefront. The hallmarks of a reputable rescue are neutering/spaying dogs before placement – no exceptions, regardless of the age of the dog – and screening potential adopters carefully. A rescue is not in the business of making money. Purchasing from a store front typically does not entail undergoing a screening process. How do you know you’re getting the dog that best suits your lifestyle/circumstances if the only “requirement” is funding?
**JUST WHAT IS A PUPPY MILL?**

A puppy mill is ...

- The dilemma
- Evolution of high-volume kennels
- The Animal Welfare Act
- *Dog Owner’s Guide (DOG)* definitions

**The dilemma**

Twenty years ago, people knew that a "puppy mill" was a substandard kennel where unhealthy, over-bred dogs were kept in horrendous conditions.

Today it's not so easy. In the last decade of the 20th Century, activist groups began to broaden the term to cover just about any kennel that they didn't like. As a result, commercial kennels and hobby breeders with more than an arbitrary number of dogs or litters have become targets for anti-breeding groups that lobby for laws to restrict these law-abiding operations. These organizations stir up public support for breeding restrictions and high license fees by deliberately blurring the lines between responsible breeding operations and real puppy mills. They use emotional rhetoric and pictures of dirty kennels and sickly dogs to imply that most or all breeders will subject their dogs to abusive lives unless they are regulated.

Shelter and rescue workers who receive dogs from raids on squalid kennels often lead the fight for laws restricting or regulating breeding in an effort to close kennels they label as puppy mills. Some responsible breeders are so incensed at the existence of substandard kennels that they are willing to accept these punitive licensing schemes even though the costs may limit or destroy their breeding programs.

Lawmakers who write bills aimed at preventing puppy mills leave the definitions up to those who lobby for the laws. As a result, publicity campaigns highlight kennels where dozens or hundreds of dogs are kept in poor conditions, but the bills themselves often target responsible hobby and commercial breeders with far fewer breeding dogs.

So, how do we evaluate those bills and make sure that substandard kennels are cleaned up? First we have to define "puppy mill." Is it ...

- A dirty, trashy place where one or several breeds of dogs are kept in deplorable conditions with little or no medical care and puppies are always available?
- Any high-volume kennel?
- A clean place where several breeds of dogs are raised in adequate conditions and the breeder usually or always has puppies for sale?
• A place where a single breed of dog is raised in acceptable conditions and puppies are usually or often available?
• A place where lots of dogs are raised, where breeding is done solely for financial gain rather than protection of breed integrity, and where puppies are sold to brokers or to pet stores?

The answer depends on who you ask …

A hobby breeder dedicated to promoting and protecting a particular breed or two might consider all of the above kennels to be puppy mills. Animal shelter and rescue workers who deal daily with abandoned, neglected, or abused dogs might agree. Operators of clean commercial kennels, licensed by the US Department of Agriculture or by state law, will strongly disagree, for the very mention of "puppy mill" damages their business and that of the pet stores they deal with.

John Q Dog Owner probably thinks of puppy mills as those places exposed on 20/20, Dateline, or Geraldo or pictured on fundraising pamphlets by the Humane Society of the US and other animal rights charities. He has seen the cameras pan back and forth over trash, piles of feces, dogs with runny noses and oozing sores, dogs crammed into shopping carts and tiny coops, rats sharing dirty food bowls and dry dishes. He has seen the kennel owner captured on tape – dirty, barely articulate, and ignorant of dog care, temperament, genetic health, or proper nutrition. But is the television crew simply seeking the sensational and applying these appalling conditions to the entire dog producing industry? Are the photos on the fundraising appeals accurate depictions of the majority of high volume kennels or are they used to generate disgust for breeders and dollars for treasuries?

To be clear, we at Dog Owner's Guide believe that kennel conditions and dog health, not numbers or profit motive, determine whether a kennel should be called a puppy mill.

Evolution of high-volume kennels

The post-war boom of the late 1940s led to more leisure time and greater amounts of disposable income. At the same time, farmers, mostly in the Midwest, were seeking alternative crops. Available money met with available supply, and the result was the development of commercial puppy businesses. Retail pet outlets grew in numbers as the supply of puppies increased, and puppy production was on its way. Retail giants such as Sears Roebuck sold puppies in their pet departments and pet store chains were born.

Unfortunately, many puppy farmers had little knowledge of canine husbandry and often began their ventures with little money and ramshackle conditions. They housed their dogs in the chicken coops and rabbit hutches they already had, provided little socialization because they didn't know that puppies needed this exposure, and often skipped veterinary care because they
couldn't afford to pay. Organizations such as the HSUS (before it joined the animal rights movement) investigated conditions at these farms and eventually were successful in focusing national attention on the repulsive conditions at breeding kennels they labeled as "puppy mills."

The substandard conditions highlighted in this campaign were a major force for passage of the national Animal Welfare Act. "Puppy mill" first became synonymous with horrible conditions, then was used to indict any breeder who breeds lots of dogs, no matter what the conditions of the kennel or the health of the puppies. HSUS, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and other animal rights groups planted and cultivated this "most kennels are puppy mills" idea in the public consciousness to legitimize themselves in the eyes of animal lovers and to collect tens of millions of dollars in donations.

The Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act is administered by the US Department of Agriculture. The act lists several categories of businesses that handle dogs:

- **Pet dealers** who import, buy, sell, trade or transport pets in wholesale channels;
- **Pet breeders** who breed for the wholesale trade, whether for selling animals to other breeders or selling to brokers or directly to pet stores or laboratories; and
- **Laboratory animal dealers**, breeders, bunchers, auction operators and promoters of contests in which animals are given as prizes.
- **Hobby breeders** who sell directly to pet stores are exempt from licensing if they gross less than $500 per year and if they own no more than three breeding females.

The AWA does not define either "commercial kennel" or "puppy mill." The American Kennel Club also avoids defining "puppy mill" but does label a commercial breeder as one who "breeds dogs as a business, for profit" and a hobby breeder as "one who breeds purebred dogs occasionally to justifiably improve the breed, not for purposes of primary income."

AKC does not license breeders, but they do inspect breeders who sell AKC-registered litters. [More on AKC registration] The USDA issues licenses under the Animal Welfare Act after inspecting kennels to determine whether or not applicants meet minimum standards for housing and care. Among the requirements are a minimum amount of space for each dog, shelter, a feeding and veterinary care program, fresh water every 24 hours, proper drainage of the kennel, and appropriate sanitary procedures to assure cleanliness.

USDA licenses more than 4,500 animal dealers, the bulk of them dealing in wholesale breeding and distribution of dogs and cats. The AWA does not cover commercial breeders who sell directly to the public, and many animal welfare advocates believe that additional regulations are needed to assure buyers that breeding dogs and puppies are treated properly in these.
kennels. Some states have passed kennel licensing and inspection laws, but several attempts to amend the federal AWA have failed because they placed a huge burden on responsible breeders.

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*Dog Owner’s Guide (DOG) definitions...*

It’s deceptively easy to say that John Jones or Mary Smith runs a puppy mill or that pet store puppies come from puppy mills, but the label is tossed about so frequently and with so little regard for accuracy that each prospective dog owner should ascertain for himself whether or not he wishes to buy a dog from John Jones, Mary Smith, a pet store, or a hobby breeder. Here are our *Dog Owner’s Guide* definitions to help you decide:

**Hobby breeder:** A breed fancier who has a breed or two (or even three); follows a breeding plan to preserve and protect each breed; produces a limited number of litters each year; breeds only when a litter will enhance the breed and the breeding program; raises the puppies with plenty of environmental stimulation and human contact; has a contract that protects breeder, puppy, and buyer; raises dog in the house or runs a small, clean kennel; screens breeding stock to eliminate hereditary defects; works with a breed club or kennel club to promote and protect the breed; and cares that each and every puppy is placed in the best home possible.

**Commercial breeder:** One who usually has several breeds of dogs with profit as the primary motive for existence. Commercial breeders that are inspected by USDA, state agencies, or the American Kennel Club should have adequate conditions. Commercial breeders that sell directly to the public fall through the regulatory cracks unless they do business in a state that licenses commercial kennels. Dogs in these kennels may be healthy or not and their conditions may be acceptable or not. The dogs are probably not screened for genetic diseases, and the breeding stock may or may not be selected for resemblance to the breed standard or for good temperment.

**Broker:** One who buys puppies from commercial kennels and sells to retail outlets or other kennels. Brokers ship puppies on airlines or by truckload throughout the country. Brokers must be licensed by USDA and must abide by the shipping regulations in the Animal Welfare Act.

**Buncher:** One who collects dogs of unknown origin for sale to laboratories or other bunchers or brokers. Bunchers are considered lower on the evolutionary scale than puppy mill operators, for there is much suspicion that they buy stolen pets, collect pets advertised as "Free to a good home," and adopt unwanted pets from animal shelters for sale to research laboratories. USDA licenses and inspects bunchers to make sure that they abide by the AWA.

**Amateur breeder:** A dog owner whose pet either gets bred by accident or who breeds on purpose for a variety of reasons. This breeder may be ignorant of the breed standard, genetics,
behavior, and good health practices. An amateur breeder can very easily become a hobby breeder or a commercial breeder, depending on his level of interest or need for income.

**A real puppy mill:** A breeder who produces puppies with no breeding program, little attention to puppy placement, and poor health and socialization practices. Conditions in puppy mills are generally substandard and may be deplorable, and puppies and adult dogs may be malnourished, sickly, and of poor temperament.

Prospective buyers should keep these definitions in mind when seeking a puppy to add to their lives. For more advice on selecting a breeder, see "Finding a responsible breeder" and "Go to the source, directly to the source, to get that special puppy."

If you think you've found a real puppy mill with trashy conditions and sickly puppies and wish to report it, see "How to stop a puppy mill."

~ Norma Bennett Woolf

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<th>A COMPARISON OF:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRAITS OF</strong></td>
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<td>RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS</td>
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<td><strong>BACKYARD BREEDERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Into&quot; Dogs (shows, training, clubs, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belongs to dog clubs and organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proves quality of dogs and suitability for breeding by competing for titles and certificates in conformation, obedience, agility, field trialing, Schutzhund, herding, tracking, Earthdog trials, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pups' pedigrees are filled with dogs who have obtained show titles/working certificates; never breeds dogs without &quot;papers&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supports rescue groups; knows his actions inevitably play some part in pet overpopulation and euthanasia (one of every four dogs in shelters is purebred). Even with all his efforts to stem over-population, he knows &quot;cracks&quot; will lead to canine deaths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledgeable in every facet of breed, including that of health issues/defects; researches genetics when choosing mates</td>
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<td>Knowledgeable about house breaking, training, socializing, breeding, health; constantly reads dog-related materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can and will help and educate puppy buyers re these issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willing to give you his references</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knows his puppies' ancestry</td>
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<td>Follows up on puppies' well-being; collects health information affecting his dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeds to improve his own dogs, his bloodlines and the breed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rarely breeds as he does not use dog breeding as a business and strives for quality, not quantity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rarely repeats a breeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeds only dogs which meet breed standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeds only dogs with stable temperaments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeds only dogs over 2 years old, and a limited number of times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mate choice could be anywhere in the country (almost never breeds his own males to his own females)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does all genetic testing and will provide proof; does not breed animals with genetic defects or which are carriers of defects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puppies are sold from waiting list created before breeding even takes place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pet-quality pups generally cost $500-600+ (show-quality costs more)</td>
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<td>Puppies are sold with health guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puppies are sold with contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requires pups back if new homes don't work out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogs on property are friendly, socialized, trained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does not own more dogs than he has room, time or money for; Dogs are groomed, exercised, healthy, happy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will show you pups' parents if available, or if not, will have pictures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raises puppies indoors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stays home to care for puppies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feeds only premium dog food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors remove shoes and wash hands to prevent spread of parvovirus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keeps pups with mom and litter a minimum of 49 days to ensure sibling socialization and important lessons from pups' mother</td>
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<td>Socializes pups by systematically handling them and exposing them to various noises, children and other animals before sending them to new homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests pups to match their temperaments and drives with buyers' personalities and lifestyles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can honestly evaluate pups' quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never sells to &quot;impulse&quot; buyers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never sells two pups at the same time to a novice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews prospective buyers, checks home and references, refuses to sell to substandard homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wants to meet whole family; won't sell if children are abusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sells only to buyers with disposable income (AKC reports it costs $1327 per year to properly care for a dog)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waits for buyers who offer lifelong homes (Knows that only 30 percent of all dogs stay in one home throughout their lives)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understands dogs are &quot;pack&quot; animals; sells pets only to buyers wanting to make pup an indoor dog and part of the family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sells only to buyers who make pup's safety a priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encourages or requires buyers to spay/neuter pet-quality pups</td>
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</table>
Encourages buyers to train pups; refers to good trainer
Shows no concern for pups after sale; knows no trainers

Makes sure buyers understand pup's considerable need for time, attention, exercise and training
Does not provide even his own dogs with enough time, attention, exercise or training

| RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS | IMPROVE THE BREED |
| BACKYARD BREEDERS | DAMAGE THE BREED |

USE THIS GUIDE TO OBTAIN A QUALITY PUPPY FROM A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

And be aware that dogs are not "things." They are living creatures who, by no choice of their own, are totally dependent upon us - and are at our mercy - for their very survival, not to mention quality of life. As pack animals, their mental health is dependent upon being with their pack. That may be other animals, or it may be us. It is very cruel to leave a dog alone all day. Dogs need a lot of attention. They need regular, systematic aerobic exercise for at least 20-30 minutes, at least 3-4 times a week, just to be healthy. Few dogs get the exercise they need for good physical and mental health. Lack of exercise is the number one reason, (then lack of training), that dogs become mischievous and burdensome, and are then blamed, then dumped, and too often, killed. ("A tired dog is a good dog.") Having a yard is not sufficient. Dogs do not exercise themselves unless chasing something along the fence line, and that, in and of itself, is a problem. To make good pets, they need training. And most importantly, to be safe pets, they need early socialization. Lack of socialization the first 4-6 months of a dog's life creates shy dogs, which too-often become fear-biters, which, along with those who were simply born with poor temperaments, are responsible for the majority of the 4.7 million dog bites annually. (Sixty percent of victims are children; half of all kids 12 and under have been bitten by a dog; every day more than 900 people are hospitalized with dog bites; every year 25 people are killed by dogs.)

If you cannot be a responsible dog owner, please wait until you can be.

And please don't breed out of greed or ego or for any reason other than to improve the breed (i.e., to make the puppies better than their parents). Most purebred dogs, and of course, all mixed-breed dogs, should not be bred. The majority of dogs have some defect (in structure, temperament, health) that should not be perpetuated. Dogs used for breeding should be free of all defects - that's the definition of quality. ("Papers" mean nothing; they are simply, and nothing more than, birth certificates. Plenty of dogs have "papers," but are so poorly bred they actually look like mutts.) And no human should ever breed any dog without veterinary, genetic,
laboratory testing and pedigree research to be sure that dog is free of (and not a carrier of) genetic defects.

FAILURE TO TEST/SEARCH FOR INHERITABLE HEALTH PROBLEMS IS THE NUMBER ONE MARK OF A BACKYARD BREEDER. IT IS ALSO THE MOST DAMAGING TO CANINES, AND THE MOST HEARTBREAKING TO PUPPY-BUYERS, WHO END UP WITH YET ANOTHER GENERATION OF POOR-QUALITY DOGS WHO TOO OFTEN DEVELOP EXPENSIVE, EARLY HEALTH PROBLEMS AND OFTEN DIE PREMATURELY.

We have a severe pet-overpopulation crisis in the US; we slaughter thousands of beautiful, vital, healthy dogs every single day. (Twenty-five percent of shelter dogs are purebred.) Every puppy produced by a **backyard** breeder and placed in a home takes the place of one killed in a shelter because no one adopted it. And every puppy produced by a backyard breeder can make more puppies, and those puppies can make more puppies and so on. (And of course, backyard breeders, through their encouragement and the dispersal of misinformation, have a knack for turning uneducated buyers into yet more backyard breeders.) There just are not enough homes (not to mention "good" homes) available for all these puppies. No matter how hard one tries, only 30 percent of all dogs (and their pups and their pups and so on) live their entire lives in the home to which they went after weaning. Seventy percent will be given away or abandoned or dumped along the way for one reason or another. (Common excuses are, "We didn't have time for him," "He was too much trouble," "He kept jumping on us," "He bit my child," "We couldn't afford him," "We had to move." None of these were good homes to begin with. The buyers failed to socialize or train, or they lacked time, money or commitment. Again, there just are not enough "good" homes for all the puppies born.) Why not leave breeding dogs to those with the ability and desire and quality animals to do so at a "professional" level?

If everyone bred only dogs with excellent conformation, and stable, correct temperaments, working titles and clean health, we would have top-quality dogs in this country. Get your dog evaluated by judges and trainers. If he meets breed standard, and is healthy, and has the correct temperament and drives, show him, work him, and get him titled. If you feel you have what it takes to be a "professional" breeder, educate yourself, and with enough experience in dogs, maybe you, too, could make a positive contribution to your breed. But if your dog's only credentials are that it is a great pet, then love it, socialize it, train it, exercise it, give it the best in feed, comfort and veterinary care, but for its own good (including better health - ask your vet!), and for the sake of puppy buyers, society, and all canines, get it spayed or neutered.

**RESIST THE GREED**

**DON'T SUPPORT BACKYARD BREEDERS ... AND CERTAINLY DON'T BECOME ONE!**

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Many people, once they've decided to get a dog or puppy, turn to the newspaper as a means of finding a local breeder. Though they are convenient, newspaper classifieds may not be the best place to locate a quality puppy from a reputable breeder. This is a guide for you to use to separate the "good" advertisements from the "bad" ones. Keep in mind that this is only a guide to determine which ads would warrant further investigation, and should never be used as the end-all for finding a good breeder. Always use your best judgment when determining whether or not a breeder is responsible.

**BE CAUTIOUS OF BREEDERS WHO ADVERTISE:**

"AKC/CKC/UKC Registered" or "With Papers" – Any puppy that comes from a responsible breeder should be registerable. "Registration" does not translate into "quality." The only thing that it proves is that the puppy's parents are both of the same breed. Most registries do not limit the breeding of the dogs they register only to those that are healthy, temperamentally sound, and free of genetic defects. Anyone can breed a registered dog and get registered puppies, but I would avoid any breeder who uses registration as his or her biggest selling point.

"Purebred, no papers" – At the risk of sounding repetitious, any responsibly-bred puppy should be registerable with a reputable registry. If a dog is not registered, you have no definitive proof that it is purebred. Many breeders only sell pet quality puppies on limited registration (meaning that their offspring cannot be registered), however, this does not discourage some people from breeding the dogs and just not registering the puppies (or the puppies are registered with a bogus "papermill" registry such as the American Pet Registry). Some people have even been known to make a profit from adopting seemingly purebred dogs from shelters and breeding them. This is even more abhorrent because nothing is known about the genetic background of the parents, their health, or temperament. Such ads may also indicate that the breeding was an accident between "Fluffy" and the neighbor's sneaky little dog.

"Champion Bloodlines" – All this means is that somewhere in the puppy's pedigree is a dog that was a show champion and does not necessarily suggest that your puppy is of show potential. It says nothing about the quality of the puppy's parents, unless the parents are champions themselves. Look instead for ads that advertise "champion parents" or "champion sired."

"Ready for Christmas," "Surprise Your Valentine," "Just in Time for Easter," etc. – These types of advertisements indicate that these puppies were bred with the sole intention of making a profit. Such breeders prey on people's emotions by suggesting giving puppies as gifts. Most responsible breeders will not allow puppies to go to their new homes around the holidays as there are too many hazards to curious young puppies and people tend to be too
busy to watch them during this time. Also, once the novelty wears off, many of these breeders would not be willing to take the dog back. Again, if this is the breeder's biggest selling point, you would be better off avoiding him/her.

"Rare Colors, Sizes, etc." – Many "rare" colors advertised by some breeders are also disqualifying characteristics for the breed because they are associated with genetic health problems (ex. solid white being linked to deafness in some breeds). Dogs of either extreme in size can also be prone to health problems related to size. Breeders often advertise these so-called "rarities" as such so that they can make them seem more desirable and charge more for them. Also, be wary of any breeder who advertises "rare hybrids" or mixes such as Peek-A-Poos, Labradoodles, and the like. Despite what they’d want you to believe, these are not actual breeds and shelters and rescues are already full of mixed breed dogs and puppies needing homes.

"Cheap, Affordable, Low Prices, etc." – The saying "you get what you pay for" definitely applies here. The reason why puppies from responsible breeders cost more than those from BYBs is because of the cost incurred by breeding properly (health testing for parents, caring for mother through pregnancy, caring for puppies until they can be placed in new homes, unexpected emergencies, etc). Responsible breeders put more money into the care of their dogs and rarely ever make enough money from selling their puppies to break even on the breeding costs. You would be better off paying more for a better quality puppy now rather than paying hundreds or thousands of dollars to treat a health or behavior problem that is a result of bad breeding later on.

"Both Parents on Site" – Although it is recommended that you meet both of your puppy's parents, having both parents on the premises does not necessarily mean that the puppies were thoughtfully produced. In an effort to improve their breed, reputable breeders often use stud dogs from other kennels that best compliment their own lines. Both parents being on the premises could imply that the breeder chose to breed the two of them solely out of convenience and not because they have anything wonderful to contribute to the breed.

**Consider Breeders Who Advertise:**

"Health Guarantee" – This suggests that the breeder is willing to stand behind the puppies she/he produces. Be careful, however, to read the health guarantee thoroughly before purchasing a puppy. Some breeders will only guarantee against viral and bacterial diseases up to 48 or 72 hours after purchase and will not guarantee against genetic disease. It should guarantee against genetic disease for the life of the dog as some genetic conditions do not show up until the dog is older. In order for the guarantee to be effective, you must have the puppy examined by a vet as soon as possible after purchasing it. Also, be sure to get it in writing before any money is exchanged.

"Interview or Application Required" – This is an indication that the breeder cares about the future of his or her puppies. You can expect any responsible breeder to interview potential puppy buyers and ask for references. I would be wary of any breeder who considers any buyer willing to hand over cash a suitable home for one of his/her puppies.
"Signed Contract Required" – Another indication that the breeder cares about the future of his or her puppies. Most reputable breeders require some sort of contract with puppy buyers. Contracts usually require that all pet quality puppies be spayed/neutered as soon as possible and that the dog be brought back to them should the new owners decide that they are no longer able to care for it, among other things.

"Parents CERF, OFA, BAER, etc. tested" – This means that the parents have been tested for hereditary eye disorders, orthopedic disorders (such as hip and elbow dysplasia), and deafness and proves that the breeder is dedicated to producing healthy, quality puppies. Be sure to ask for proof that the tests have been done as well as the results. Some breeders have been known to give false information regarding health testing in order to seem more credible.

"Champion Parents" or "Champion Sired" – As stated before, this means that one or both parents have earned their championship title(s). All it means is that the parents conform to the breed standard and are outstanding examples of the breed in that respect. It does not, however, indicate that they are healthy and temperamentally sound.

"Raised in Home" – Puppies that have been raised in the home tend to be better adjusted than those that have been isolated to a kennel. They are used to being around people and are generally more social. They are also already accustomed to things that one would normally find in the house such as carpeting and tile flooring, vacuum cleaners, telephones, etc. Puppies that have been raised in a kennel environment with minimal handling tend to be shy and submissive and have greater difficulty adjusting to a new environment.

Here are some examples of ads that have appeared in our local newspaper in addition to descriptions of what makes them good or bad. They are copied exactly as they appeared in the newspaper (typos included), but the telephone numbers have been omitted.

"AKC Bichons, Maltese, Yorkies, Saints, Silkies, Cairns, Pug, Poodles, etc., $295 up." What makes this ad so disturbing to me is not the listing of numerous breeds, but the "et cetera" that follows it. Offering this many breeds would suggest that this breeder is operating as a small scale puppymill or a puppy broker (someone who buys puppies from other breeders & resells them at a sizeable profit). A responsible breeder would have to be superhuman to be able to care for that many dogs and litters at one time, not to mention go broke from all the expenses. This breeder definitely doesn't have the best interest of any of these breeds at heart, just filling his/her pockets and the local rescues and shelters.

"Basset Hounds AKC, tri-colored, ready for Valentine's Day. $200." I wonder if this breeder planned this or it just happened to be that his/her puppies would be ready just in time for Valentine's Day. What about health guarantees? Vaccinations? Vet checks? Temperament?
"Chihuahuas AKC Tiny teacups."
Once again, a breeder trying to capitalize on peoples' desire to have seemingly rare and highly desirable things. These so-called "teacups" of any breed do not exist. That's right. They are actually given the name "teacup" by some BYBs in an attempt to make them seem unique and more valuable. Not only do these puppies come with a higher price tag, but they can also be prone to many health problems. Also, a puppy that is unusually tiny is at greater risk for injury. It is also not uncommon for these tiny puppies to have sudden growth spurts at top out at 5-6 pounds, which is average weight for the Chihuahua breed.

"Cocker Spaniel Pups, AKC champ bloodlines, small, yr. guar. $300."
Here's an example of an ad for puppies with "champion bloodlines." All this means is that there is a dog somewhere in their pedigree with a championship. Also, this breeder only offers a year guarantee. Some genetic problems don't show up until the dog is much older, sometimes five or six-years old.

"Cocker Spaniels, AKC, Exceptional pups bred for quality. Care kit & guarantee $300."
The puppies advertised here have the same price tag as those in the ad above, but I would be much more likely to investigate this one further. Why? They advertise puppies that are bred for quality and offer a guarantee. It doesn't say anything about vaccinations, health checks, or temperament, but I would be sure to ask when calling for more information.

"Lab Pups AKC- 6wks, Choc, M/F, shots, wormed, breeder for 16 yrs. $250."
This person has been a breeder for 16 years and doesn't know that puppies are better off left with their mother and siblings until they are at least eight weeks old. During this time, puppies are developing socially and need to be with their siblings in order to do so effectively. Many puppies are also just being weaned at this stage. In fact, it is illegal in some states to sell a puppy that is less than 8 weeks old.

"Rottweiler Pups - Looking for the best family dog? We have it! AKC, OFA, hips guaranteed, temperament cannot be beat."
If I were looking for a Rottweiler, I'd definitely consider this ad in my list of possibilities. The breeder shows commitment to the breed by advertising exceptional health and temperament as well as OFA testing for orthopedic disorders and offers a guarantee. The ad does not specify the full extent of the guarantee (whether it guarantees solely against hip dysplasia or other genetic disorders as well), nor does it say anything about vaccinations, vet checks, what venue(s) the parents have been proven in, etc. When calling for more information, I would be sure to ask about these things.

~ Jennifer Chappell
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**Human Meds - Canine Doses**

1. Buffered Aspirin (enteric coated) – 5 mg per pound every 12 hours for pain relief; anti-inflammatory. [Maximum dosage – one 325 mg tablet / 33 lbs (max 2) every 12 hours. For small dogs you might want to use "HalfPrin" which is an enteric coated aspirin with only 81mg.] 
   **Note - acetaminophen is poisonous to most animals**

2. **Pepto Bismol – 1 tsp per 5 pounds every 6 hours for relief of vomiting, stomach gas or diarrhea.**

3. Di Gel Liquid – up to 4 tbsp every 8 hours for antacid and anti-gas (feline dosage - up to 2 tbs. every 8 hours).

4. **Kaopectate – 1 ml per pound every 2 hours for diarrhea (feline dosage – same as canine).**

5. Mineral Oil – up to 4 tbsp daily to eliminate constipation (feline dosage – up to 2 tps daily).

6. Imodium AD 2mg – 1 caplet per 30 lbs every 8 hours to relieve diarrhea. *(Don’t forget plain canned pumpkin works well for diarrhea and constipation – start with 1 tsp for small dogs).*

7. Benadryl – up to 2 mg per pound every 8 hours to treat allergies, itching, etc. Can also be used as a tranquilizer when the dosage is reduced (feline dosage – same as canine dosage).

8. Dramamine – up to 50 mg every 8 hours to reduce motion sickness (feline dosage – up to 10 mg every 8 hours).

9. Peroxide – 10 ml mixed with 10 ml of water every 15 minutes to induce vomiting in animals that have ingested a non-caustic poison (syrup of ipecac is not always effective for animals but should be included for humans).

10. Numbers for the Animal Poison Hotline & Poison Control for Pets (800/548-2423 or 900/680-0000 both numbers charge a fee).

**Before using Pepto Bismol or Kaopectate, please note that each formulation now contains salicylates, the active ingredient in aspirin. Please read the following article before administering to dogs or cats ... Pepto/Kaopectate Warning.**
... and puppy dog tails! Or – more to the point – why one should consider adding a male dog instead of insisting on a female.

Growing up in a pet-friendly family in the late '50s, the mindset was you always wanted a female because the males "marked." I’m sure they did as neutering, training and responsible pet-ownership (including not allowing the dogs to run the neighborhood at large) were not the norm. Vaccinations were not widespread and distemper claimed many a pet. What a difference 50+ years has made in companion animal care!

"Marking" is the act of releasing small amounts of urine to claim an area as their own. Both males and females will engage in this territorial behavior; however, it is with intact males that this generally becomes more noticeable ... and especially when they bring this behavior into the home. Basically, they're saying "this is mine and I'm willing to fight for it." And when one considers the focus of an intact male dog -- food, fighting and, ummm, well, fornicating -- they generally don't make the ideal pet for the average owner. Take away the last two parts to that equation ... fighting and fornicating ... by neutering and you have a dog that's focused on you. One that's not climbing over the fence at the first whiff of a female in heat. One that's totally content being your velcro dog, following you from room to room. Some females will do that as well, but the males are just ... sweeter. And, let's face it. They don't call 'em "bitches" for nothing. Their job, if you will, is to raise the pups and at all costs.

Many of the male dogs arriving in rescue are intact and with little or no housetraining. First order is business is an immediate neuter. During the recovery period, they're enrolled in Housetraining 101. We also utilize a tether (a 4-6 foot leash) and belly bands if the dog arriving was previously neutered. Why belly bands? For several reasons -- (1) you know exactly if they are "getting" the concept of housetraining (the incontinence pad in the band is either dry or wet), (2) it protects your furnishings during the training period, and (3) many dogs do not like the wet feel and that's a deterrent in and of itself. The tether is used as a means of supervision (he's right there with you) and as a means of issuing a correction (short, sharp jerk of the tether and a verbal command "no mark!"). With consistency, patience and clear guidance on what is and isn't appropriate behavior, most males quickly adapt to toileting outside.
Another "tool" for training is the crate. Dogs are innately clean creatures who will not usually soil their eating and sleeping areas. That hardwired behavior can be used to your benefit when housetraining by confining them to a crate when unable to supervise and giving them ample opportunity to toilet in a designated area (with lots of immediate praise/treats for appropriate behavior).

Regarding the belly bands at the link provided above ... I find the adjustable bands are much more comfortable for the boys. Just the shape alone is more form-fitting and allows for greater freedom of movement. One of the straps is adjustable so it can be used on dogs close to the same size in diameter (for multiple male households). I also find the buckle easier/quicker to use on dogs with longer hair. Velcro and longer hair do not mix. The only "issue" with using belly bands: one must remember to remove them prior to sending the dog outside to potty!

So, if you're seriously thinking about adding an Apso to your household, please don't rule out a male based on gender alone. They truly are delightful little creatures who easily adapt with consistent training and the right tools ... and will become your best buddy in the process!
The Apso is an ancient breed originating in the vaporous atmosphere of the Himalayan mountains. As a landrace, its physical characteristics were developed by the very country it lived in ... form following function. The following article, first published in 1977, weaves an intricate picture of the breed.

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**I am a Lhasa Apso ...**

By Ellie Baumann  
Lhasa Tales – Nov 1977  
Reprinted w/permission

I am a small dog whose ancestors managed to adapt to the rigors of the Himalayan plateau. The fittest survived, prospered and, eventually, some of the descendants reached this country in the early Thirties. I am descended from this stock. Adverse conditions high in the mountains of Tibet forced my evolution to follow paths on which other high altitude dwellers were also embarked. Since the area from which I came is an especially cold one with killing frosts as early as August, my body structure had to adapt to the cold as well as to the height of my homeland. I have a shorter tail, shorter limbs, and shorter ears than dogs who live in the tropics. My body is very sturdy and solid with short, heavy bones. I look as if I could go long distances and not tire easily.

Under my coat is a sound body that is quite heavy for its size. People are surprised when they find that under all that hair is an animal who is put together like a tank. I need heavy construction to stand the stress of cold and altitude.

I have not been in this country too long compared to some other dogs you see at a dog show, but those who already know what I look like will probably remember very clearly where you first ran into me. I am not like any other dog that you would meet on a city street or a county lane.

I have a long coat that stretches down to the ground and completely covers my feet. Some people call me the “Jelly Bean” dog because I come in all colors. I can be one solid color or a blending of several colors. I can be plain, or I can be spotted. Of course, with a long-haired spotted dog, the coat just keeps growing and the spot stretches out into a stripe instead. If that happens, I’m called a parti-color. I’m even brindled but again, as the coat grows longer and longer, those brindle lines all run together and you have something like layers of different colors – an overlay.

My head is a little hard to see sometimes for there is so much hair on it. I have a beard. Yes even our ladies are bearded – and my ears blend right into the beard and all the rest of the coat. And, unless the hair is out of my eyes, you wouldn’t know that I could actually see you for...
my eyes are well hidden by what my owner calls the “head fall.” My tail is generally up, carried in a curl over my back and it’s often hard to know if I really do indeed have a tail. It can be held so tight to my back that you don’t know that it is really there, until I straighten it out and stretch it out on the ground behind me when I sit down …

Sometimes I can be found in a pet shop, but I hope that if you go looking for a Lhasa, you will go to a breeder who is trying to produce the perfect dog rather than the one who is out to sell a litter a month or so many dozen puppies a year.

I am a breed that was raised to be an indoor dog. In Lhasa – the capitol of Tibet – I used to live in the palace of the Dalai Lama before the Communists took over, and in almost every big monastery in Tibet there were a lot of my relatives living right there with the monks. Some people call me the “The Holy Dog of Asia” because of this, but all that I really did was to keep the monks company in their lonely and cold cells. Some people say that I am the faithful dog who followed the Lord Buddha around and who could be turned into a ferocious lion in the twinkling of his eye. I guess that is why so many call me the “Lion Dog.”

The AKC Standard calls for me to be the golden colors of the lion, but the Tibetans say that their lion is the mythical snow lion who is always white with a blue mane. I haven’t seen any white Lhasa with a blue mane so far, so I guess we’ll just have to stick with the western idea of how a lion should be colored.

I can live a long time if you care for me properly and my breed generally outlives the great big dogs, like the Saints and the Danes, or the little ones like the Chihuahuas and the Pomeranians.

There aren’t any bad personality traits in my breed that have to be beaten out or trained out of me in order for me to live in close contact with all kinds of people. I have an even, obliging disposition.

Of course, when I’m going to a dog show, then I look super beautiful because that is first of all, a beauty contest, and I want to look my very best. But with general care and brushing, I can stop traffic on any street, for I am a beautiful, graceful and elegant animal.

After all, I AM A LHASA APSO!!

Editorial note: Dog shows were originally started in the mid 1800s in England as a means of evaluating breeding stock … a process which continues today. It is not a “beauty contest” as noted above … although some might argue otherwise. Dogs shown in conformation events are not being judged against each other. They are judged against the written standard which outlines the “ideal” dog for that particular breed. If interested in learning more about the dog show, AKC has an excellent resource … A Beginner’s Guide to Dog Shows.
RESOURCE GUARDING

Below is an excellent article (used w/permission) published by the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS-SPCA.org) on the subject of dealing with a dog that resource guards.

Your dog’s guarding behavior might be subtle or might involve him snarling when you get close to his food bowl or snapping when you or your child try to take his favorite toy away. These behaviors can be threatening or downright scary. If any guarding behaviors are left untreated — even the subtle ones — they are only reinforced and can easily and quickly become more problematic over time.

RESOURCE GUARDING:

Wolves work very hard for scarce pieces of food; when they’ve attained even a tiny morsel, they don’t let go easily. Food is high on the list of things guarded by dogs too. But don’t forget that today’s modern dog can extend this territoriality to more than just food; couches, toys, blankets, even aunt Rita, can all be considered valued resources worth guarding. Once you realize dogs are genetically programmed to do so, with no hidden agenda or malice, then working toward ridding them of this perceived threat becomes much easier. The key is teaching them that it’s no big deal. In fact, they want you and others hanging around “their” stuff, since it means only good things for them in return. Without meaning to, we tend to teach dogs that food = alone time. We feed them big meals in a dish, and then promptly leave. Dogs quickly learn then that food time is a time to be enjoyed alone. Going from this to suddenly having a screaming toddler sit in your kibble can be quite the adjustment for any dog.

Instead, start hanging around him when he eats. Make it a family affair. Also, until your dog is perfectly trained in your eyes, why not eliminate the food dish altogether and hand-feed his meal? You can reserve your dog’s daily diet in installments to be fed out during training (ie-loose-leash training on walks), behavior modification (i.e—getting him to like the mailman), or times spent alone inside of toys and puzzle feeders (so as to avoid separation anxiety or destruction of your favorite shoes). This way, your dog learns you’re in control of the food resources, but you’re happy to share when he’s behaving nicely. It gives him a great incentive to learn and keeps him physically and mentally stimulated throughout the day, even when you’re gone! Additionally, allowing him to approach you and accept food from your hand (or conversely, allowing him to go away if he’s afraid) immediately alters the atmosphere, making both dog and owner much more relaxed from the get-go.
TURN FEEDING TIME INTO A TRAINING EXERCISE:
Practice “come” and “sit” for each handful of food. After a few rounds of this, ask your dog for a sit, and when she does, put down her food dish with a few pieces of her kibble as her reward. Stand there as she laps it up. Once she’s done and looking to you for a refill, (perfect! She wants you near her dish!) bend down and toss another few pieces of kibble into the dish. If at any point she is already nervous, take a step back and allow her to get away. However, she also doesn’t get any food for backing away. If she seems relaxed with your proximity, hand feed a piece of kibble to your dog as you pick up her empty dish. Then ask for a behavior; if she does it, set it down again with some kibble but don’t take your hand off of it. Add another handful of food to the dish, and as your dog is eating remain there with your hand on the dish, adding a few pieces of kibble or “high value” treats such as small pieces of cooked chicken or cheese cubes, as she’s eating. So far so good. Now you can release the dish. After she’s finished the contents, tell your dog to “sit” as you approach her bowl. When she sits, give her a treat, while reaching down to take the bowl. After a few seconds, give dish back to her, and again add a few morsels of food. Whenever you take something away, try to follow it up with a “trade”, a piece of food from your hand that’s equally tasty. If that goes well, she gets her dish back. Every now and then, put her dish down empty as though, silly human that you are, you forgot her food. When she looks at you with an “um, you FORGOT something” look then reward her with a handful of something tasty. This can also be done with non-food items. Start by offering an item to your dog such as a chew toy, but keeping hold of one end not allowing your dog to take it. If she tries to yank it away from you, hold on tight and see if you can pull it away from her. If you’re successful in having her drop it, reward her with a trade (food) so she’s being rewarded for the correct behavior which, in this case, is dropping the item. If she really put up a fight, put the item away and end the session, she gets nothing for now.

If your dog does show signs of discomfort when you approach him while he has a toy or food, simply take a step back, to the point where he stops growling. You want to find that moment before which he begins to growl, and work from there. From that comfort zone, you can ask for a command, such as a “sit” and if he completes it, toss him a piece of food. If not, you walk away, and he doesn’t get the rest of his breakfast.

Go slow. All too often, owners rush this process. It’s important to keep in mind that every time the dog growls, you’re setting back his progress and you must take a few steps back yourself.

WHAT NOT TO DO:
Physically reprimanding a dog who growls when you’ve penetrated their comfort distance around resources will only confirm their fears of you as a threat and escalate their response toward you until they find what works. This can mean that a dog who simply growled initially, may resort to biting if he learns the growling does nothing to ward you off. Take those growls as what they are – warnings, and heed them. Next time around, set up the environment so that the outcome is in your favor. Hand feed your dog breakfast, allowing him several pieces of kibble for every “sit” or “down stay” until he’s finished the entire ration. This way, he learns you’re in control of the resources, but that you’re more than happy to share provided he’s asked for it nicely.
MANAGE THE SITUATION.

Take control of the resources. Until you’re able to ascertain what situations and objects elicit your dog’s guarding response, take precautions when feeding them or giving them objects, and keep in mind who’s around when doing so. Don’t leave objects lying around the house for your dog to find and develop an affinity for. All objects should be ones that you intend to give to your dog. If you know that having certain things, such as rawhides or cell phones, consistently leads them to growl and snap when you approach, then don’t give them rawhides or cell phones. Or if you do, leave your dog and the item in a safe confined area of the house where no one will approach, until he’s eaten or destroyed the entire thing (note, we don’t recommend giving your dog a cell phone). At the very least, you can manage the situation until you get further behavioral help.

Though all dogs undergo possession testing at the shelter, many may not exhibit guarding signs until they’re comfortable in a new home. If your dog shows any signs, please contact our behavior department for help.

There are different guarding levels amongst dogs with food and toys. Some are not aggressive and will simply hold onto their valuables without relinquishing. Others will become aggressive. Here are some signs to look for:

- **Dog quickens his eating, or turns his head and avoids your hand or he moves the food or toy further away or to another room. These are mild possession signs.**
- **Dog plunges his face into his bowl, or stiffens and with a hard stare (lots of white around the eyes) pushes the bowl away from your hand when you reach for it.**
- **He stares at you intently while quickly eating, or grabs a toy without letting you have it. You may have in the past forced him to let it go.**
- **Dog protects food or toys within a radius of several feet, sometimes simply being in the same room is all it takes for them to begin snapping and growling. This is extreme possession.**
Crate-training is easiest in puppyhood, but at times it’s both necessary and feasible to train an adult dog to rest calmly in a crate. It’s important to note, though, that not all dogs can be crate trained. Some will panic and can hurt themselves.

It’s possible to create the panic problem by how crate-training is attempted. If the puppy or dog gets the idea that making a fuss will cause you to come to the rescue, you can accidentally create a dog who becomes hysterical when confined to a crate, a dangerous situation for the dog.

But most dogs can be crate-trained, especially when it’s not a crisis and you can take your time. Plus, with a mature dog who is not a chewer, you can put bedding in the crate and make it a cozy place to sleep. That’s often unwise with chewing pups or young dogs who will chew and possibly swallow bedding.

Evaluate your mature, non-chewing dog as to whether you’ll best use cool bedding or warm bedding. Blankets can be too hot under furry dogs. Cold-natured dogs, on the other hand, need warmer bedding. So customize that aspect for your dog’s body. Ideally, you want your dog friend to like the bedding enough to go in there for a nap with the door open.

Then, with the crate door open, start giving your dog treats in the crate, feeding some meals in there, and generally making it positive and pleasant. Never overdo the length of time a dog is in a crate. While you might be able to regain the dog’s trust with a slow process of building up from short times again, some dogs will never forget.

The length of time to continue work on positive conditioning to the crate with the door open will vary according to your dog’s history and how your dog feels about the crate. Take it slowly.

As the dog gets completely happy about the crate with the door open, start closing the door briefly with the same pleasant things going on. Build the time gradually, staying in the room. Next, start leaving the room for short periods. Then gradually lengthen the periods of time you are gone.

Eventually you’ll be up to the time periods you need. Eight hours is the top limit for crating at any one time. A dog who can sleep 8 hours in a crate cannot necessarily go 8 hours at other times. During sleep, the dog’s body quiets bowels and bladder. When the dog wakes up, the body has to compensate for having held this waste.

If your dog can’t handle the crate for some reason, often a small area of the house works equally well. Another option is to use baby-gates to keep the dog out of certain sensitive areas
of the house. You may need to do this while conditioning the dog to the crate, since you would ruin the conditioning by suddenly leaving the dog in the crate for longer than the time you’ve conditioned.

Other options for managing your dog until the training is complete would be doggy day care or day boarding with your veterinarian. You might also be able to find a friend, relative, neighbor or professional to dog-sit while you’re out.

Managing a dog is an interesting and creative activity! Dogs change, our circumstances change, and we often have to rethink what “always worked before” but now doesn’t. Communicate with your veterinarian to stay aware of any issues that affect your dog’s ability to cope with crating or with the current schedule. Various medications, medical conditions, and body changes with age can mean a dog simply can’t handle what worked fine when the dog was younger.

Dogs differ, too, in their temperaments, ability to hold bowels and bladder, past experiences, and many other factors that affect crating. What one dog takes in stride can be just too much for another dog.

The ability to rest calmly in a crate has saved dogs’ lives during crisis times. If you have to cope with a situation such as evacuating in an emergency or keeping your dog on restricted activity for several weeks after an orthopedic surgery, crate-training can make a huge difference in how the dog will do. Be sure to allow plenty of time for your dog to learn to feel safe, secure, and comfortable in a crate.
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