



ALBERT'S DOG LOUNGE ADOPTION COUNSELOR CHECKLIST

PLEASE REMEMBER AN ADOPTION PHOTO!

FOSTERS: You are REQUIRED to review all of this information with adopters.

1. Decompression

This is the #1 most important thing to discuss. It is vitally important that ALL adopters understand that dogs require decompression for an adoption to be successful.

- It is perfectly okay (and not mean—in fact, it's the opposite) to give them a quiet space alone. The dog adopters see today will not be the same dog in 3 days, and not the same dog in 2 weeks. Proper decompression helps ease this transition.
 - During this time, new people, situations, and animals must be introduced VERY SLOWLY. Ideally, nothing new should be introduced during the first week or so. This means no parks, no visitors, no new dogs, and no trips to the vet or pet store unless medically necessary. Dogs need time to decompress.
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2. Dogs' Age

Albert's Dog Lounge does not assign an exact age unless there is documented proof of birthdate. Instead, each dog is evaluated as an individual based on personality and needs.

Age categories:

- Puppy – Under 6 months
 - Young Adult – 6 months to 2 years
 - Adult – 2 years to 8 years
 - Senior – 8 years to 12 years
 - Golden Oldie – 12+ years
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3. Heartworm Preventatives

Preventatives should be given YEAR-ROUND.

- It typically takes about 6 months from the time a dog is bitten by an infected mosquito to test positive. Preventatives kill microfilaria (baby heartworms) and prevent their development.
 - Milder winters mean mosquitoes are surviving longer, even in northern states, so dogs can still become infected during winter months.
 - Preventatives cost about \$10–\$15 per month. Heartworm treatment can exceed \$2,000 and is physically taxing. Dogs undergo injections with harsh chemicals, must remain inactive for weeks, and some do not survive treatment.
 - Alternatives to monthly pills include 6-month and 12-month injections.
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4. Name/ID Tags

The Albert's Dog Lounge ID tag should remain on the dog until the adopter gets their own tag.

- If the dog gets loose, the finder can contact Albert's Dog Lounge and quickly reunite the dog with the owner.
- Once a new tag is obtained, encourage adopters to mail the Albert's tag back for reuse.
 - A tag (without the O-ring) can be mailed with a standard stamp.
 - Including the O-ring requires additional postage.



5. Rabies Tags

Rabies tags are not required by law in several states or by some shelters.

Albert's Dog Lounge has confirmed with the Wisconsin state veterinarian and Department of Agriculture that the rabies certificate provided is sufficient for licensing and proof of vaccination.

- Tags simply help officials quickly identify ownership and vaccination status if a dog is at large and bites someone.
- Until the next rabies vaccine (when a tag is issued), dogs should always wear ID tags, and owners should keep a copy of the rabies certificate available.

6. Microchip

Point out the chip number on the **front of the health cover sheet**.

- The dog will be registered for FREE for life using FI Nano.
- Adopters should watch for a confirmation email from FiNano.
- If no email is received, check spam. If still missing, contact albertsdoglounge@gmail.com.

7. Food

Recommend quality dog food without endorsing a specific brand.

- Avoid foods where primary ingredients are corn, wheat, soy, or by-products.
- This helps prevent digestive upset when switching foods.

8. Health Cover Sheet

This sheet lists vaccines, due dates, and medical details.

- Review this at a high level with adopters.
- Point out next heartworm preventative date and any medications.

If the dog was previously heartworm positive and treated:

- Do NOT retest until 9 months after the last injection.
- It takes about 9 months for adult heartworms to die and be absorbed.
- Dogs must remain on preventatives during this time to avoid reinfection. Treatment success rates exceed 96% when protocols are followed.

9. Petcademy

Adopters will receive a text immediately after the adoption contract is signed.

- Review the flyer in the folder.
- Petcademy provides customized training and behavioral support free for 30 days, with an option to extend to one year.

10. Remaining Medical Documents / Vet Records

- Ensure adopters review these documents.
- These should be provided to their veterinarian for medical history records.

11. New Vet Appointment

- Schedule after the first 2 weeks unless medically necessary.
- This allows the dog to settle in before additional stress.
- The vet needs records to establish care and prescribe preventatives.

IMPORTANT: If medical care is needed, it should not be delayed for decompression.



12. Housebreaking

Regardless of what the bio says—PLAN ON ACCIDENTS.

- Dogs are adjusting to a completely new environment, including climate, surfaces, smells, people, and routines.
- Accidents are expected until they learn the home and expectations.
 - Belly bands (for males) and diapers (for females) can help during this period.
 - Adopters must be patient while the dog acclimates.

13. Other Documents

Folders include articles and a flyer for the private Facebook group.

- Encourage adopters to read all materials thoroughly.
- These include guidance on decompression and introductions (if applicable).
- The dog's success depends heavily on adopter patience.
- Encourage joining the Facebook group for support.
 - It includes access to a groomer, pet supply store owner (for nutrition), and a trainer.

14. Trial Period

All dogs have a two-week trial period per the adoption contract.

- If returned within 14 days, the adoption fee is refunded in full once the dog is returned to the designated foster home.
- After 14 days, fees are non-refundable.
- Decisions should not be based on money—only on the best fit.
- If nearing the end of the trial with uncertainty, email albertsdoglounge@gmail.com to discuss a possible extension (case-by-case, not guaranteed).

15. Post-Adoption Emails

After completion, adopters will receive an email from shelterluv.com titled:

“Important Documents from Albert’s Dog Lounge.”

This includes:

- Adoption receipt
- Adoption contract
- Health cover sheet (medical history)
- Donations will also appear on the receipt for tax purposes.

16. Decompression (Reinforcement)

Revisit this topic—it is critical. Proper decompression is essential for a successful transition and long-term success in the home.