



DIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Animal Control
1458 Somerset Ave.
Dighton, MA 02715
Phone: 508.669.6711



Home Inspection Sheet

___ Proximity of home to busy roadways.

___ Screen, storm and sliding glass doors: Check all latches and require repair if needed. Advise that even small dogs can pop open doors. Warn that dogs can easily tear through screens.

___ Doors: Relate the dog/doorknob advice: "Before someone opens a door, locate the dog and make sure she can't dash out."

___ Front door: Suggest optional places to install a baby gate or other barrier to prevent escapes.

___ Windows: A dog may jump through a screen - or even window - to chase an animal. Close windows; block access to low-lying windows.

___ Windows: Move/remove cords in which a pet can get tangled or strangled.

___ Look for open-structure stairs, and open railings often found on upper levels of homes. These may need to be screened or blocked so a small dog can't fall through.

___ Ask where the dog will be when the people aren't home. How long will the dog be left alone on workdays? Ask where they will place a crate or baby gates; make suggestions (such as kitchen). Advise not to confine in dark, lonely areas such as basements or laundry rooms. (Dogs kept in basements usually have housebreaking problems.)

___ Ask where will dog eat, drink, sleep, go potty, exercise.

___ Kitchen: Floor-level cabinets should be secured; keep toxic cleaners out of the dog's reach. Keep dishwashers closed -- pets can climb in or ingest detergent.

___ Suggest use of Bitter Apple™ on furniture, moldings and other items dogs might chew.

___ Bathrooms: Don't confine there. Dogs have been injured slipping off tubs or turning on faucets.

___ Look for cords/wires on which dogs might chew and get electrocuted. Conceal or unplug.

___ Space heaters and electric appliances: Remove from floor.

___ Power strips: Cover open outlet holes so pets can't stick claws or tongues in them.

___ Valuables: A dog may knock over items, or may seek to chew your knick-knacks. Move them to higher ground. Remove glass, ornaments and window candles that a dog may knock over.

___ Bathmats and scatter rugs: Dogs may chew on them.

___ If they have other pets: Do they look healthy? Observe water bowls, toys, bedding. How clean is the kitty litter box, dog crate or bird cage? Is the litter box and cat food out of the dog's reach?

___ Doggie doors: Advise to block them when the dog is left alone in house. Never leave dogs outside when you're not home for safety and liability reasons.

___ Balconies and decks: For small dogs, require the applicant to install chicken-fencing or other barriers to prevent the dog from slipping through. Re-inspect before adoption. Most areas have laws against leaving pets unattended on balconies/decks.

___ Basements: Check for hazards -- tools, cords, items a dog can get hurt on. Block access to sump-pumps, furnaces, appliances.

___ Garages, workshops, sheds: Tell people not to allow dogs in these areas, where they can get hurt or die from exposure to tools, loose nails, poisons -- and antifreeze. Pets love the taste of antifreeze, but one lick can kill a dog.

___ Fence advice: Adopters should watch a dog when in the yard for safety and liability reasons.

___ If there's a gap under a fence, a dog can quickly dig his way out. Block escape routes, pile up sod, or construct a sunken barrier at the fence-line (bricks work well).

___ Chain-link fences: Warn that many dogs can learn to climb over them.

___ Picket fences: If the boards face out, many dogs can push them out. Have the applicant reinforce as needed for the particular dog with extra nails and cross-beams.

___ Gaps: Dogs can push through gaps. Advise applicant to line the fence interior with chicken wire. Require fixing and re-inspect before adoption.

___ A/C and electrical units: Shield wires to prevent dogs from getting electrocuted.

___ Window wells: Cover them so dogs don't fall in.

___ Pools: To prevent drowning, the adopter will need to keep the pool securely fenced off and/or covered with a sturdy pool cover when not in use. Also, there must be graded steps out of the pool, not just a ladder. Adopters should carefully train the dog how to get out of the pool.

___ When a dog is brought on the visit, observe the people's responses to the dog being in the home.

___ Before approving an adoption, ask yourself if you would entrust your dog to these people.

Dighton Animal Control Officer: _____

Date: _____