

So How Does This Adoption Process Work Anyway?

Chicago English Bulldog Rescue: 10 Principles of Rescue

Before you apply to adopt, please read about how our process works. We get dozens of emails and calls each day with questions about our process. We can't answer each one individually, so we are hoping that by sharing our process with you, you will be enlightened and take this decision seriously. We also ask you to be respectful of our volunteers' time. Reading and accepting the principles below is the first step.

Principle #1: First and foremost, you should know that we receive at **many, many applications for every dog we adopt**. This allows us to be very selective. If you are not chosen to adopt, please do not be angry. We work in the best interests of the dogs and we know what they need best. This doesn't mean you don't have a good home. It just means there is a better fit in our applicant base.

Principle #2: **We only adopt to a specified area.** This includes Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, Northern Illinois, Northwest Indiana, the Rockford area, and Southeast Wisconsin including Milwaukee. Please see the next page for a map of our coverage area. We **will not make exceptions if you are outside of our adoption area.**

The benefit of adopting in a clearly defined area is that we provide a large amount of follow-up support to our adopters and we know the local veterinarians, boarding facilities and trainers, and understand the local resources available to make for successful love connections. In addition, we have a wealth of qualified homes right here in our backyard. If you are out of area, we encourage you to please try another rescue. Please note that not all areas are covered by a bulldog rescue. You can find other bully rescues at rescuebulldogs.org. Unfortunately, despite your best intentions, the following statements will not persuade us to change our minds:

-  I can drive to pick up the dog.
-  We have a family member in Illinois so we are always in the area.
-  I will fly in to meet you.
-  I have a vet or a friend or a rescue group who can vouch for me.
-  I can show you pictures of my home.
-  I know I am outside of your area but I will pay you more than your listed adoption fee.

Principle #3: **We will only consider a home or answer questions about our bullies via email or phone if your application is on file.** It typically takes about 1 month to be approved to adopt. Please fill out our application by visiting www.ebullymatch.com and clicking on **Apply to Adopt**.

Principle #4: **You do not necessarily apply to adopt a particular bully.** You are applying to adopt "a bulldog" from us. We welcome your interest in a particular dog that may steal your heart but please remember that we are reviewing your application in general, not for a specific dog. We will certainly evaluate your application for the dog you indicated an interest in, but many times, through the process, we both come to the conclusion that there is a better fit for you and your home. We do a great job matching beautiful bullies to their perfect homes.

Principle #5: **Our application review process typically takes about 30 days.** We will contact you within 1 week of receiving your application with an indication of the progression or decline of your application. We try very hard to keep the application review process speedy and will strive to work through the entire review-to-approval within a 30 day time period. Of course we ask for a bit of patience as our volunteers all have full time jobs and families too. The faster you respond to our requests via email or phone, the faster your application will move along. We are not "first-come, first-serve" but rather match the needs of the dog with the perfect family. We try to be respectful of the applicants waiting for the longest amount of time when determining one adopter over another.

Principle #6: Not all homes are right for rescued bulldogs. Each application is put through a rigorous review process. It must meet several important criteria through our review. Currently we are not considering the following types of applications:

- 👉 Incomplete applications. This includes leaving out info such as landlord contact or prior vet contact.
- 👉 Homes that already have many pets. Rescue bullies need lots of attention.
- 👉 Homes with children under 8 years old and no dog experience as a family. Please trust us on this. We have enough experience to know why this type of family isn't a great fit for the dog or the family. We are happy to direct you to qualified breeders or other rescue groups.
- 👉 College students, teenagers, or any applicant not gainfully employed.
- 👉 Homes that don't meet our minimum income requirements.
- 👉 Homes without air conditioning. We will check.
- 👉 And in some instances, homes without prior dog or bully experience.

Principle #7: The bullies posted on our site today will most likely go to homes of applicants that applied 30 days ago. This isn't always the case, but it happens more often than not. As we work through your application you will move up in the queue. We are not "first-come, first-serve" but rather match the needs of the dog with the perfect family. We try to be respectful of the applicants waiting for the longest amount of time when determining one adopter over another.

Principle #8: We do not have a facility. Unfortunately you will be unable to see all of our dogs at once. However, we do host meet-n-greets once a month where we bring several rescues to meet potential adopters. At these events we also provide volunteers to answer your questions about our adoption process or just share information on bullies in general. Please check our Website and the Events page to stay abreast of our upcoming meet-n-greets.

Typically we do not have all of adoptive dogs together in one location as we are a large and spread out network of foster homes. We make our "love connections" via pictures and profiles on our Website and extensive conversations between our Adoption Manager and foster homes and the potential adopter. We are not looking for homes that want to pick the color of their dog, or the 'cute factor,' or change the dog's name, but are looking for families that accept that they are rescuing a dog and accept the dog's history. Rescue bullies are not a "clean slate" but come with a lifetime of both good and sometimes some difficulties as well.

Principle #9: We think quite highly of homes that are willing to take on "mature" bullies over 6 years of age and will move those applications most quickly. We understand that everyone wants to enjoy the fullest and longest lifetime with their new bully companion. But consider how happy you will make a 7 or 8 year old bully who was just given up by the only family he or she has ever known. Don't they deserve just as much love as a 3 year old? For those homes that adopt one of our mature or special needs bullies, when the sad time comes that they pass, those homes move to the "front of the line" for another rescue bully.

Principle #10: The most important of them all. You are applying to RESCUE a bulldog. We ask that you really think about what this means. Rescue bullies do not come with a "clean slate" but come with a lifetime of both good traits and often difficulties. If you are thinking that when you rescue you will be able to choose the color of your new bully, or select a certain bully that looks like your late bully and you want to relive that, or one bully has the 'cute factor,' or you can not tolerate behavioral and/or medical issues, rescue may not be right for you.

We look for homes that accept that they are rescuing a dog and accept the dog's history.

