



SKYPE HOMECHECK PROTOCOL

Why do we Skype and not physically visit?

The reason we skype home check is that we previously used two independent volunteer home check groups but we found that the majority of home checkers had no bull breed experience and the home checks themselves were very inconsistent which made it hard to judge one candidate against another.

Our applicants are based all over Great Britain so this also makes it hard as we do not restrict applicants to be in a certain distance of the foster home. Unfortunately, the last straw was when we had a home checker inform one applicant not to bother getting a dog from us as she had puppies they could buy from her so we took the decision to look at alternative methods and embracing technology we decided to conduct Skype Home checks.

Why do you not use members of your rescue Facebook group?

We are a small rescue with a team of four volunteers who all work full time so to manage a volunteer network would not be possible. The majority of the members of the rescue Facebook group have no experience of the breed or of doing home checks so we would have lots of situations where we would shortlist to 5 applicants then be struggling to find volunteers and again there would be an inconsistency to the home checks. We have tried this way before and it did not work for us.

How long have we been using SKYPE method?

Since March 2016

Who are the homecheckers ?

A charity trustee, who also fosters for the rescue and has over 30 years' experience of the bull breeds, and volunteering for other rescues doing transporting, fostering and homechecks.

A fosterer who has had dogs for over 20 years the last few with French Bulldogs and worked with various rescues

What checks are there in place to ensure the person lives at the property and they are who they say they are?

All applicants are asked to email over a copy of photo ID , either passport or driving licence

A utility bill in their name and the address they have used dated in the last two months has to be supplied

If the property is rented a letter from or copy of the rental agreement advising they can have pets at the property. We also require phone number and email address for the landlord to confirm these details.

What happens prior to the SKYPE interview

The home checker will read through the application and check the identification documents supplied

They will do a check on the electoral roll register and look through social media

Google Earth/maps will be checked for the location which will be viewed and the home address identified

What happens during the SKYPE interview?

The first stage of the interview is to take the home checker on a visual tour of the property, DON'T panic its not to check whether you have dusted or hoovered its for us to get to know the environment that the dog will be living in.

We will ask you to show us the front of the property, the street you live on and the rear garden areas with any side gates etc

We will also ask to look at any pets in the household

We will ask to meet all the members of the family and that they are present for the interview questions

The interview section will then commence with 21 questions

What happens next?

The information will be submitted to the management team and any follow ups with landlords etc. will be completed. All of the completed home checks will then be reviewed by the Trustees who will choose the most suitable home for the dog advertised. All of the applicants will be informed of the outcome of this process within 7 day.

Not sure how to set up SKYPE ? Please click or copy & paste the link

<http://www.wikihow.com/Set-up-a-Skype-Account>