

Open Your Heart to Rescue!



Name of MAESSR Interviewer:

Application Received on:

1st Contact _____

2nd Contact _____

Final Contact _____

Telephone Interview Questionnaire & Checklist

Applicant Name: _____

Address*: _____

*if address is PO/RR or RD box, we need SOME KIND of street address, even an approximate one

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I. Family & Lifestyle

Who are the adults that live in your home and what are their ages?

Have all adults in the household agreed on wanting to adopt a Springer? _____ Yes _____ No

Why do you want to adopt a Springer at this time?

Who will be the primary person responsible for the care of your new Springer?

Does anyone in the household have pet allergies? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how do you plan to control them if you adopt a Springer?

Does anyone in the household have any medical conditions or special needs? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please specify:

Are there any children that live with you or visit regularly? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, what are their ages? _____ Have they been exposed to dogs? _____ Yes _____ No

Are any of them afraid of dogs? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how do you plan to introduce the dog to the child?

Are you planning to have any children within the next ten years? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how do you plan to introduce the dog to the newborn?
Is anyone at home during the day? ____ Yes ____ No

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If not, about how many hours would the dog be alone during the day?

Would you classify your household as calm & quiet, moderately active or active & noisy?

II. Home Environment

Do you live in the: ____ City ____ Country ____ Suburbs

Is your home close to or on a main street or highway? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, how do you plan on keeping the dog away from the street?

Do you own or rent your home, or is it a condo or trailer? ____ Own ____ Rent ____ Condo/Trailer ____

(Landlord approval and written verification required for rentals and trailers owned by applicant but not situated on land owned by applicant i.e., in a commercial trailer park. For condominiums, we require a copy of the buyer's agreement that covers the condominium's pet policy)

What is the approximate size of your home?

Do you have a yard? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, how big is it?

Is it fenced-in? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, what kind of fence and how high is it?

If not fenced, do you have access to a fenced-in area for your Springer to run around? ____ Yes ____ No

Do you have a doggy door? ____ Yes ____ No Do you have a dog run? ____ Yes ____ No

Do you have a pool or spa? Yes No

III. Other Pets

What pets do you currently own and what are their sexes and ages? If cat, declawed?

Do they have experience w/ (other) dogs, & how do they behave around them? If cat, is there a place in the house cat can go to get away from dog if it wants to?

What pets have you owned in the past? If dogs, what breed(s)?

If you have never owned a Springer, what do you know about them?

Are all your pets spayed or neutered ____ Yes ____ No Are vaccinations current? ____ Yes ____ No

Are they on heartworm preventative? ____ Yes ____ No Are they on flea/tick preventative? ____ Yes ____ No

Have you ever adopted a dog before from a rescue group or a shelter? ____ Yes ____ No

If you have a dog now, is it aggressive towards other dogs? Yes No

Do you know the proper way to introduce a new dog into a pack? Yes No

Are you familiar with dominance behavior between dogs? Yes No

Have you ever given up a dog in the past? Yes No If yes, what were the circumstances?

Are you prepared to work with your rescued Springer to overcome behavioral issues?

Have you ever euthanized a dog in the past? Yes No If yes, what were the circumstances?

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IV. Caring for Your New Springer

Are you aware that Springers are high-energy dogs and require a great deal of exercise? Yes No

Are you familiar with the grooming needs of Springers (ear cleaning, clipping, brushing, etc.)? Yes No

Do you intend to keep your dog for its entire lifetime? Yes No

Are you aware that the typical life expectancy for a Springer is about 13 years? Yes No

Under what circumstances would you give up your Springer? (ex. new baby, moving, new job, etc.)

Are you willing to take on the financial responsibility of owning a dog, such as food, vet costs, grooming, etc? Yes No

How do you plan on exercising your Springer?

How *often* do you plan on exercising your Springer?

Would the dog ever be allowed off-lead outside the house? Yes No

If yes, under what circumstances (please be thorough)?

Where will your dog be kept **during the day**, indoors or outdoors?

(if outdoors, it **must** have access to home through a doggy door) Indoors Outdoors

Do you close off the doggie door when you are not at home? Yes No

When the dog is outside, will he/she be supervised? Yes No

Will the dog ever be chained? Yes No

If a "tie out" will be used, please specify under what circumstances and for how long:

Where will the dog be kept **at night**, indoors or outdoors? Indoors Outdoors

Where will the dog sleep at night? (ex. floor, pillow, bed, crate, etc.)

Are you familiar with crate training? Yes No

Would you like to crate train your Springer? Yes No

If not using a crate, and no one is home, will the dog have full access to the house, or will it be restricted to one room?

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Do you plan on taking your new dog to obedience classes or hiring a trainer? Yes No

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How will you discipline your dog when it does something wrong?

Will you maintain appropriate limits? (ex. not overfeed, limit treats, discipline when necessary, etc.) Yes No

Do you know never to leave a dog in an unlocked car? Yes No

Do you know never to leave a dog in a car during the summer? Yes No

Are you aware of things that are harmful, even fatal, to dogs, such as chocolate, antifreeze, rat poison, etc? Yes No

Who will care for your Springer while you're away on vacation?

What steps would you take to find your dog if it was lost or stolen?

Will you keep ID on the dog at all times? Yes No

All dogs are micro chipped prior to adoption. Will you register your dog and keep the information current? Yes No

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If required by local ordinance, will you license your dog? Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of animal cruelty, abuse, and/or abandonment pursuant to any past and/or present laws of the State(s) or municipality(ies) where you have lived in the past or currently reside? Yes No

If Yes please explain

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V. Springer Preferences and Adoption (Please encourage applicants to be as flexible as possible)

Age? _____ **Sex?** M F Either **Color?** L/W B/W Either

Breed? Field Bench Either **Energy Level?** Low Moderate High

Would you be willing to care for a dog with treatable health problems, such as allergies, ear infections, arthritis, etc? Yes No

How soon are you prepared to adopt?

Are you aware of our adoption fees? Yes No

Are you willing to travel at least two hours to pick up a dog? Yes No

VI. References

(Inform applicants that they are not approved until a satisfactory reference is obtained)

Veterinarian Reference _____ This is my current vet _____ This is my previous vet

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Personal References (If no vet reference is available, applicant must provide two personal references)

Name #1 _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Relationship _____ How long have you known this person? _____

Name #2 _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Relationship _____ How long have you known this person? _____

VIII. Interview Comments & Concerns:

Checklist of Items to Discuss with Applicant

_____ **Adoption Fee:** As of May 1, 2009: Puppies up to 6 months of age - \$350; Seven months to age 3 - \$300; Between ages 4 and 8 - \$225; 9 years and up - \$150 Adoption fees are non-refundable. Explain that MAESSR does not make a profit—all fees go to caring for Springers that we rescue.

_____ **Obedience Classes:** If a family adopts a MAESSR dog that is under 1 year old, we require the family to enroll the dog in obedience classes within 6 months of the adoption. If stated on the contract some dogs older than one may have the same requirement.

_____ **Contract:** Explain that they will be required to sign an adoption contract when they take possession of a MAESSR dog.

_____ **Dog Collar, Leash, & Tag Requirement:** These items **MUST** be brought with them when they go to pick up a dog. The tag does not have to have the pet's name, but it must have a phone number or address on it.

_____ Explain where our Springers come from (shelters and owner relinquishments). We do not breed dogs for placement. Availability of new dogs changes frequently.

_____ **Temperament Testing:** Explain that MAESSR temperament tests all dogs before placement and that we will not place any dogs that have a known history of biting.

_____ **Toddler Homes:** We will only place a dog in a home with toddlers if we know the dog's history and know that the dog is good around toddlers. We will not place a dog into a toddler home that was rescued as a stray from a shelter.

_____ **Homes with Cats:** We will only place cat-temperament-tested dogs in homes with cats.

_____ Families should wait at least 6 months after adopting another dog to adopt a dog from MAESSR. Likewise, we expect families not to adopt another dog less than 6 months after adopting a MAESSR dog.

_____ Explain that dogs adopted from MAESSR are indoor dogs and are not permitted to be outside unattended for hours at a time, tied up, or left outside at night.

_____ **Transportation:** Explain that MAESSR will assist with transportation whenever possible, but that the adopting family must also commit to driving at least 2 hours to pick up a dog.

_____ Explain that some dogs have a tendency to act up for a few weeks after placement and that they should expect an adjustment period. MAESSR is available to help families with any behavioral problems or training questions.

_____ Refer them to our FAQ web page and ask them to subscribe to the MAESSR e-mail list for updates on available dogs.

_____ **Waiting Period:** Tell them what the current waiting period is for adopting a dog.

_____ **Approval:** Tell them how they will be informed if approved for adoption. Explain to families that, once approved, our Adoption Coordinator will contact them when an appropriate dog is available. Ask them not to e-mail us about particular dogs on the website until they have received notification that they have been approved. (After they are approved they can email the appropriated Application Coordinator with interest in dogs on the list.

_____ **Offers:** Dogs are offered to the most appropriate family that has been waiting the longest. Families that are willing to adopt seniors or special needs dogs will be given priority. When families express an interest in a specific dog their application will be considered when it comes time to offer that dog but there is no guarantee about placement.

_____ **E-mail:** Ask them to check e-mail regularly for messages from us while waiting to adopt and to let us know if they will be away for extended periods of time.

_____ **Follow-up:** Adoptive families will be contacted by a volunteer post adoption. Please encourage families to keep contact information up to date (address, telephone & email) by sending any changes to maessrapps@yahoo.com or springerssq@yahoo.com.

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Interview Summary Sample

Interview Summary

Applicant: Tina Fry

Date: July 23, 2003

Family & Lifestyle

Tina (33) & Michael (50) Fry live with their 7 year old daughter Lauren, 10 year old cat Moe & 7 month old ESS Max. Tina works from home so is there during the day. Lauren has been around dogs and is not afraid of them. She is looking forward to the day when Max is old enough to sleep in her room. No one in the household has any medical conditions or special needs.

Home Environment

The Fry's will be moving Aug. 8th. Their new home (which they will own) is a 5000 square foot house with a finished basement. The stairs down to the basement are carpeted but the stairs to the bedroom are not. They are planning to have a runner installed on those stairs. The home is in a rural area that is not close to a major road or highway. There is about ½ acre of the property that is fenced in with 4 - 4 1/2 foot fencing. They also have a pool that is completely fenced but separate from this fenced area that will be used for the dogs.

Other Pets

Max is a 7-month-old intact male ESS that they got as an 8-week-old puppy. He is scheduled to be neutered in September. He is good with other dogs & Tina has neighborhood dogs over to play with Max in her fenced in area. The Fry's also have a 10-11 year old indoor cat named Moe that they rescued from a shelter. He has only his back claws. He loves dogs. His litter box will be kept in the garage & they are installing a cat door (which they have in their current house). Tina says there are plenty of places for the cat to go if he needs to get away from the dogs. In the past the Fry's had a Chocolate Lab that had to be PTS at age 16 (old age) & a Rottweiler/Lab mix that also was PTS at age 15 (cancer). They have never given up a pet.

Both of the pets are current on shots. Max is on heartworm & flea/tick preventative. Max is currently going to obedience classes (he has been through puppy classes) and Tina has asked the instructor for hints on introducing a new dog in to the family.

Caring for Your Springer

Tina is aware of the needs of a Springer. They plan to exercise the new Springer along with Max at least twice a day by walking, playing ball or Frisbee and chasing around in the yard. Tina said she thinks of her pets as her children and cannot imagine giving one up. The dogs will always be leashed when off property. During the day, the dogs will be in the office with Tina or in the yard, which she is able to see from her office. They will only be out when someone is home to watch them. At night they will be in the finished basements in their crates. They plan to take the new Springer to obedience classes. Their philosophy on discipline is to reward good behavior and use a stern voice when necessary. Max is chipped and the new dog will be as well.

Springer Preferences

The Fry's dream dog would be a high energy, liver & white female between the ages of 1-3. They prefer a younger dog because of losing their other two dogs not that long ago. They are ready to adopt at any time.

My Two Cents

What a wonderful family. I think this would be a great home. It is obvious from talking to Tina that she is just thrilled with Max and wants a playmate for him. Max had to have eye surgery so she is delaying having him neutered until September (she didn't want both ends to hurt at the same time) but will push that up if his being intact would delay their getting a MAESSR dog. Their daughter Lauren has been around dogs all her life, not only their own dogs, but also neighbor's & other family member's dogs. Tina says she is very good with them. The Fry's seem to be very responsible pet owners and since they are used to having 2 dogs I don't think they will be overwhelmed by a new addition. I have no reservations about recommending them for adoption.

Reference

I received a positive reference back from their vet Dr. Carol Swartz.