



## HOME SAFETY CHECK

*To the home evaluator: This form is for use when doing a home visit to evaluate a potential home for a rescued cocker. Adoption or foster applicants you are visiting have met preliminary criteria by having application accepted. Please complete the form, with as much detail as possible, as soon as possible after the home safety check. Tips for performing the home visit are at the end of this form.*

### 1. OBG Volunteer / Homechecker Information

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Applicant's Information

Date of home safety check: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of home safety check: \_\_\_\_\_

Who was present (adults and children)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which OBG dog(s) are they considering (if known)? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Home

- Applicant lives on a: \_\_\_Busy street    \_\_\_Residential street    \_\_\_Cul-de-sac    \_\_\_Country road
- Home setting:    \_\_\_Urban    \_\_\_Suburban    \_\_\_Semi-rural    \_\_\_Rural
- Home condition: \_\_\_Immaculate    \_\_\_Well-kept    \_\_\_Lived-in but clean    \_\_\_Untidy    \_\_\_Dirty/trashed

Describe the home interior, including general size, type of furnishings, flooring, and general appearance. (For example: open or closed floor plan, type of flooring, amount of clutter, ability to close-off rooms.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any stairs, including inside the home and stairs up to the front or back door. Material? Runners? Railings?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the areas where the dog will spend the most time. Are there any areas the dog won't be allowed to go?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Describe accommodations the home has for a dog and where the dog will be left when the owners are not at home.  
(For example: crate in kitchen/laundry room, baby gate in kitchen, no crate planned, pen in basement etc.)

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**4. Yard**

Describe the size and landscape of the yard (grass, pavers, wooded, bushes etc.)

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Is there a fence? Describe the fencing (material, height) and condition/security of the fence, including any areas that might allow for escape. This applies to both front and back yard fences (anywhere the dog might be off-leash).

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**5. Other Pets**

Does the applicant have other pets? If yes, what types?

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Describe the health and well being of any other pet(s). (For example: healthy coat, skin problems, overweight or underweight, type of collar, ID tag etc.)

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Describe the behavior of the other pets and the interaction of family members with the pets:

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**6. Miscellaneous**

Explain that re-homing is stressful for the dog. The rescued dog will take time to settle in – days to weeks. The dog may have training accidents, even if they are housebroken in their present home. How would the applicant react to the new dog having an accident and what would they do?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any additional information about the home environment that you feel is pertinent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything in general or specifically that would cause you to feel uncomfortable about placing a dog in this home? If so, what? "Gut feelings" are considered important:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Recommendation**

Do you approve the applicant's home safety check?

Yes     Yes, with applicant counseling or mods to home     No

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Quick Tips for performing a home visit:***

- *Try to bring a friend or another rescue volunteer with you on the home visit, both for the purpose of having another pair of eyes and ears to assist you in making a complete evaluation, and for personal safety.*
- *Feel free to ask leading questions to begin productive conversation. Often good conversation will reveal far more than questions.*
- *If you need to take notes during the visit, please do so discreetly on a small notepad. It is preferred to have the applicants feel at ease with you and to be themselves.*
- *Complete the form after the visit is over, when you are not in the presence of the applicants.*
- *Qualities to note are sincerity, commitment, tolerance of normal animal behavior, honest representation of the home environment, children's behavior with other pets, and expected role of the children in pet care.*
- *Do not make any promises to the applicants or indicate whether or not they will be approved to adopt or foster.*
- *In the case of a home you do not wish to recommend, be as polite and noncommittal as possible. Do not attempt to make corrective suggestions. If follow up education or counseling regarding basic pet ownership and care might be indicated, discuss this with the Adoption Coordinator so that a joint decision on how to proceed can be made.*
- *For your own protection, please do not give the applicant information that would allow them to contact you directly after the evaluation is complete.*