

# SHDR Adoption Process Overview

1. Apply - Application processing/vet verification can take a couple of weeks. Be sure to include vet records as this can decrease processing time.

2. Home visit – We will schedule a visit in your home, perform a quick inspection of the potential environment the dog will live in and do a question and answer session with ALL of the residents of the home. You will receive more details about the adoption process and have a chance to ask any questions you may have.

3. Approval/Group membership – UPON APPROVAL OF YOUR APPLICATION - Upon approval you will be invited to join our Facebook Community and have the chance to learn more about all of the available dogs. You get to 'meet the dogs' and learn about them, a vital step in the Best Match process. Foster parents post regular updates in the community as the dog's progress – this allows you to learn more about them and decide if you would like to be considered for a match. Follow posts from the dogs you are interested in. Ask questions by replying to the posts. Fosters & Board Members will answer ASAP. (We do it publicly because those answers and questions help EVERYONE who is interested)

4. Matching - We strive for the Best Fit so that our dogs and their humans have a chance at their best lives together. We are NOT a first come, first served operation.

When a foster is ready for adoption, SHDR will take the Evaluation Form (completed by the Foster Family) and the Match List for the dog, and choose 'best potential matches'.

The Board will consider the dog's evaluation and the Home Visit for each interested family when deciding on a Best Match.

THEN we have the Foster Family contact those adopters for a heart to heart call before final decisions are made.

5. Since we are a very widespread organization, we cannot guarantee that meet and greets prior to adoption will be an option. We have fosters as far as Virginia and Louisiana, and logistics do not always allow adopters to meet a dog until the day they are ready to be transported to them.

6. Yes, this process takes time. **This is all about ensuring forever matches** - the best dog for you, the best home for the dog.

If you are in a huge rush, we recommend your local shelter.

7. If you are looking for a service dog, please check out the following resources:

<https://canine.org/>

<https://neads.org/>

<https://www.servicedogsalabama.org/>

<https://littleangelsservicedogs.org/>

8. Donations/application fees are non-refundable – Please be sure you are ready to commit to a forever family member and are willing to have the patience necessary for the process. We will not shortcut the process.