

Review Directions for the Adoption Family of Customs Retired Service Dog

1. In pursuit of the maximum well-being for retired service dogs, ensuring a supportive environment in their later years, and establishing standardized procedures for the application, review, inspection, and evaluation of adoptive families for retired service dogs, these Directions are hereby formulated.

2. The term "retired service dog" in these Directions refers to dogs that have reached the statutory service years or, due to illness or disability, are no longer suitable for service. Such dogs have been assessed by trainers, confirming a decline in their detection abilities, rendering them incapable of performing duties such as drug detection, tobacco detection, and explosive detection.

Prior to completing the adoption process, retired service dogs may be temporarily cared for by families approved for the fostering of drug detection dogs, in accordance with the guidelines for the foster family management and socialization training of detector dogs.

3. Retired service dogs can be adopted by persons in the following order:

(1) Former handlers of the retired service dog.

(2) Former foster families of the retired service dog, other puppy foster families, or families that have temporarily cared for retired service dogs for over six months, subject to approval.

(3) Families with a yard, experience in raising dogs, and the ability to care for a dog until its old age, consisting of current military or government employees or retired military or government employees receiving monthly pensions. Applicants are required to fill out the Adoption Application of Retired Service Dog (Attachment I), which will be reviewed, inspected, and evaluated by the Detector Dog Breeding and Training Center of Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance (hereinafter referred to as the Center). However, applicants who are former handlers or former foster families are exempt from the review, inspection, and evaluation process.

4. The Center will conduct a document review for adoptive families of retired service dogs based on the following regulations:

(1) After receiving the application form for adopting retired service dogs, the Center should first confirm whether the applicant has correctly filled in details such as name, national ID number, date of birth, and address, and investigate whether the applicant has a criminal record.

(2) The Center will call the applicant to confirm the receipt of the application form and inquire about the following:

1. Whether the home environment is suitable for raising a large dog.

2. Whether the applicant has experience and enthusiasm for raising dogs.

3. Whether the applicant has the financial capability to raise a dog.

4. Whether the applicant has the physical and mental ability to take the dog out for activities.

Applicants whose family conditions and environment do not meet the requirements

of Subparagraph 2 of the preceding paragraph, or who have a criminal record according to an investigation by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, will be informed of the rejection of their application by phone.

5. After passing the document review, the Center may arrange for on-site environmental inspections.

Inspection officers will visit the applicant's home environment, wearing Customs uniforms or displaying Customs staff identification.

Inspection officers will check and photograph the following items one by one:

- (1) The type of housing and the surrounding environment of the applicant.
- (2) The dog's activity space (yard, indoors, etc.) and resting places (sunshade, doghouse, etc.).
- (3) The height of the fence around the dog's activity space.
- (4) Areas that do not meet the requirements or need improvement.

Inspection officers will discuss the following items with the applicant and make summarized records:

- (1) Dog care plan (diet, daily walks, frequency of exercise, etc.).
- (2) Whether all family members agree to the adoption.
- (3) Experience and ability to care for the dog (the physical and mental capabilities of the applicant or their family members, and whether there is a regular cooperating veterinary clinic, etc.).
- (4) Other matters that need attention or improvement.

6. Following on-site inspections, inspection officers shall prepare an inspection report based on the provisions of Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the preceding article, and attach photos taken during the inspection to the end of the report.

7. After on-site inspections, if there are multiple applicants who meet the adoption conditions, the Center shall conduct evaluations according to the following criteria:

(1) Based on applicant information and on-site inspection reports, assign scores from one to four points for each of the following items (one point: not suitable, two points: basic suitability, three points: very suitable, four points: highly suitable):

1. Whether the home environment is suitable for raising a large dog.
2. Whether the applicant has experience and enthusiasm for raising dogs.
3. Whether the applicant has the financial capability to raise a dog.
4. Whether the applicant has the physical and mental ability to take the dog out for activities.

(2) After summing up the scores for the items in the preceding subparagraph, the applicant with the highest total score will be selected as the adoptive family for the retired service dog.

(3) In the case of a tie in total scores, a public lottery will be conducted to determine the adoptive family.

8. After the review and evaluation, applicants selected as adoptive families and families temporarily caring for retired service dogs for over six months shall sign an adoption

contract (Attachment II) with Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance. After notarization according to the law, the Center shall proceed with the accounting procedures. Applicants selected as adoptive families are required to register their pets with the competent authority of the municipality or county (city) or a designated private organization or group. The notarization fees for the above shall be borne by Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance.