How to Evaluate a Dog's Potential New Home by George Hasenberg

An animal rescue director and [dog breeder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_breeding‎) as well as a business consultant, George Hasenberg has carefully assessed homes for numerous animals. George Hasenberg stands out as the driving force behind South Jersey Labrador Retriever Rescue; in this role he has found homes for dogs of varying ages.  
  
When finding a new home for a dog, one becomes that dog's advocate. By agreeing to re-home an animal, a person assumes responsibility for finding a place where that dog will thrive. The first step is to be sure that the potential new owner has the right intentions. Unfortunately, many people search the Internet and other listings for dogs that then become experiment subjects, fighting animals, or worse. Asking the right questions can help avoid such a fate for a vulnerable animal.  
  
First, most experts recommend requesting a fee for the dog. This tends to drive away those who are interested in abusing or taking advantage of the animal. Once a potential pet owner has been found, the individual re-homing the dog must make sure that it will be well cared for. Asking about previous pets and their stories can identify an owner that is likely to let the dog run away or become lax with veterinary care.   
  
In addition one must make sure that the dog is going to a home where it will get along with any other pets. For the most part, pets of the same size tend to live best together. Finally, the individual placing the pet should ask for references and request a home visit, to be sure that all potential family members and the home environment suit the dog well.