

FRR Home Visit Report Example – Section 4: Exterior House

Please share what you have learned from a potential adopter's home visit.

Adopter name(s)	Kriss
City	Los Angeles
Date	1/9/2021
Completed by	HV Volunteer Jim

Describe the street the applicant lives on:

Very quiet residential street with sidewalks, saw no passing traffic at all.

Describe front yard and entry:

Small area of grass with two large shade trees, cement driveway leads from street to two car garage and also to gate to left side yard. Cement paver path leads from sidewalk, along driveway, to front door. Two short steps up to porch and front door. Front yard is well manicured. No entry to right side yard from front of home.

Describe the shape and size of the back yard in feet/yards (include where the dog will do its business)

Entry to back yard is through a set of French doors from the family room, on to a paved patio, down one short step. No dog door. The square back yard is approx. 55' wide and 50' deep. Left side yard is approx. 10' wide and 45' long. Right side yard varies in width (width of the house varies slightly here) from approx. 2 feet to 5 feet, and is about 45' long. When asked where a dog would do its business, applicant stated "Wherever it wants, we just clean up wherever it is needed." Since two goldens but no dog waste was seen anywhere, they apparently do so.

Describe back yard layout and condition (hardscape, grass, plantings, hazards to a dog, well-kept or overgrown, are the owners worried about a dog damaging anything, is waste picked up if there is a resident dog):

Left side yard is a combination of gravel and large paving stones which lead to a locked wooden gate at the front corner of the house. Right side yard is largely gravel, with cement pads for air conditioners. This side yard has no gate to the front yard (only fence). Back yard has a free-form, unenclosed pool with a wide cement coping/path adjacent to a cement patio which take up approx. 50% of the back yard. There are well-manicured planting beds along all perimeter fences of the back yard, with a few trees. Pool equipment is completely enclosed by an approx. 5' wooden fence in good condition. No plant hazards to dogs, no potential launch points, with the exception of a covered barbecue (positioned about a foot from the back yard side fence) and several approx. 3 ½' high trash bins, which are positioned against the left side yard fence. These bins would only be launch points for a high-jumping dog, and could easily be located against the house, rather than the fence. Those areas of the back yard that are not patio/pool/pool equipment are composed of artificial turf. There are enough areas of shade that a dog can avoid the artificial turf (which can become extremely hot in the sun). Patio has some outdoor furniture, and is uncluttered. No dog waste was visualized (with two goldens walking around). Crawl space entries were seen on both sides of the home, both securely covered with screens.

Describe yard security/fencing (fence height, material, condition, places to dig or jump over):

The entry to the left side yard has a wooden, latched and padlocked gate approx. 6' high. Left side yard has a continuous wooden fence at least 6' high that extends from the front of the home to the back wall of the back yard, which is block concrete (but is completely covered with climbing vegetation). Right side of back yard and the right side yard have a continuation of the at least 6' wood fence, which extends to the front corner of the house. All fencing was in excellent condition, without evidence of breaks or areas under which a dog could dig, although the vast majority of fencing was completely covered with vines and therefore unable to be directly visualized. The applicant assured me that all fencing that I could not see was in excellent condition.

Are gates padlocked? How are meters read? How are dogs contained when gardener/pool guy come? Is there a housekeeper or nanny?

The only gate (entry to left side yard, at front corner of home) is both latched and dead bolted. Meters are in the side yards, behind the gate and fence, and are read when the applicant receives a letter in the mail notifying her that meter readers will need access into her yard when someone in the family will be present. Gardener and pool service people come once a week, someone in the home keeps any dogs inside when they are present. Same for housekeeper.

If there is a swimming pool or spa, how will the owner train the dog about pool safety?

Swimming pool/spa noted above has two separate sets of entry/exit underwater steps. Applicant has had many dogs, and is experienced making them pool safe. Dogs are rarely in the backyard unsupervised. As we discussed pool safety further, and since dogs already in the pool are not able to see the underwater steps, I suggested that a large flowerpot or planter be positioned on the pool deck adjacent to the locations of the steps. This would give any new dog that might be in the pool a sight line to exactly where the steps are located, until such time as they learn where they are. The applicant thought this was a great idea.

What should have been asked further about/put in report: Applicant stated that she waits for a dog to fall in and then intervenes showing the dog where to exit. More questions about the reason for being reactive rather than proactive might have revealed information about similar responses to activities that could be hazardous.