

IS A RESCUE PUG RIGHT FOR YOU?

by Roxane R. Fritz

If pug rescue groups had a dollar for every time they heard the request for a “young, healthy, fawn, female pug”, there would probably no longer be a need for fundraising. Unfortunately, some people think of rescue as a place to get an “inexpensive” pug that is already housebroken and up to date on all of their shots and medical checks. Unrealistic expectations waste the already taxed time of rescue volunteers and frustrates the person who has contacted the rescue group. Here are some common things that people ask about rescue pugs, and the reality for most rescue groups. Hopefully this can help you decide if a rescue pug is right for you.

Request: I want a young pug so I can have it for many years.

Reality: Pugs and pug mixes end up in rescue for many “reasons”. It is very rare for a person to turn a cute, cuddly, purebred pug puppy into rescue unless it has significant medical issues, such as a loss of eyesight or hearing, mange, or a need for surgery. If it was a “spur of the moment” purchase that is now regretted, even a backyard breeder will usually take back a healthy puppy and resell it. And of course a reputable breeder will always welcome back their dog, no matter what the age or problem. There are no guarantees of longevity of life of any creature on this earth. PDE is a fatal disease that generally strikes pugs before the age of five. If a young, healthy pug is of prime importance to you, please contact a reputable breeder (you can contact your local Pug Dog Club for information on finding someone near you). A breeder that has studied the pedigree of the dog, done adequate physical testing, and knows the health histories of the mother and father (sire and dam) and offers a health guarantee is what would probably suit you best. If you are adamant about wanting a young (and by young, I mean under the age of 2) healthy female pug from rescue, be prepared for a long wait. Many rescues have a waiting list of 2 years or more for a young female pug.

Request: Having a healthy dog is important to me since I don't want to be running up a lot of vet bills.

Reality: Many of the pugs that end up in rescue were found as strays or turned in to pounds or shelters. They do not come with medical records indicating problems that the dog had in the past or may have in the future. Many rescues did not receive the best of vet care or nutrition at their former homes. While the rescue group will have a vet check the dog, and many groups will have known medical conditions taken care of before adoption, if they have the finances, there is no way to predict the future health of the dog. If a healthy dog is your primary concern, again, contacting a breeder who offers a health guarantee is probably a wise choice.

Request: I think a pug is the breed of dog that I want, but I'm not sure.

Reality: Dogs who are adopted through rescue have already been displaced at least once in their lives. Some pugs come into rescue after having been in many homes. It is important to the rescue organization that the home the pug goes into is its “forever home” if at all possible. You might want to volunteer to be a foster home for a rescue group. This way you get to see the true personality of a rescue pug and if it is the right breed for you. If you find out that you do love pugs, from there adopting a pug is probably easier since the rescue group already knows all about you.

Request: I will adopt an adult pug, but I expect it to be totally housebroken.

Reality: Many pugs that are turned into rescue have been kept outside most of their lives, or in the case of many males, were not neutered before coming into rescue. Even if the pug was kept indoors, any time a dog is getting used to a new environment and a new schedule, there will likely be accidents. If it is a male dog who has just recently been neutered, there may be a period of marking for a few more weeks. Be prepared to work with a rescue dog and be gentle and patient. The dog may also have been abused and have submission issues that the new home needs to work with. If you want a dog who never has an accident, a rescue pug is probably not for you. In fact, pugs as a breed may not be right for you

Request: I want a pug that doesn't shed/bark/snore/spray me with snot.

Reality: Uh, FAO Schwarz toy store has a lovely stuffed pug. TY also makes a pug Beanie Baby. I think this is the best type of pug for you, as this is the only pug I know of who doesn't shed, bark, snore and spray snot!

Request: I love older dogs who are more mellow than young dogs.

Reality: Rescue is a wonderful place to find an older dog from age 4 to 14. Many of these dogs have had a difficult time of life and are very grateful to have a good, loving home. They will show you their gratitude daily. An older dog is usually not as hyper as a puppy or young pug, and will do better in a small house or apartment. No matter what their age, they still have plenty of love to give!

Request: I have a special place in my heart for a dog who may have been neglected or abused or who has special medical needs.

Reality: Bless you! These are the majority of rescue dogs. Understanding that these dogs have some history behind them is critical in welcoming a rescued dog into your home. There are literally thousands of pugs and pug mixes who end up in rescue each year. Many have suffered physical abuse or have been severely neglected. These dogs need a patient person or family, willing to work with them in healing their bodies and spirits. Those who have adopted a rescue pug will attest that it can be one of life's most rewarding experiences.

Request: I support the concept of rescue, but I have all the pugs I can handle right now. What else can I do?

Reality: There are other ways you can help your rescue organization. You can do home checks or transport dogs. Volunteer your time with doing mailings or a newsletter or maintaining a web page. Help with special events or throw a special party to raise money for the group. And the most important thing that rescue organizations need is financial support. If you can't make a large donation, consider a small monthly donation, like \$10 or \$25. This can help pay for medicine to prevent a rescue pug from heartworm, or keep a dog flea and tick free for another month. All of these things greatly help rescue. As an added bonus, you will get a great feeling when you see the happy pug faces that your contributions helped on their way to their forever home.

Hug A Pug

Dog Rescue and Adoption

Adoption/Foster Application

Note: The purpose of this application is not to make adopting a pug difficult, but to ensure that the right person is chosen for the right pug. Since these animals have already experienced a traumatic situation when they lost their previous home, we feel strongly about being completely thorough with our applicants. Thank you for your understanding.

Interested in: Adoption Fostering Volunteering (fill out volunteer form)

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

How long have you been at this address? _____

Driver's License #: _____

Birth date: _____

Primary Contact Phone #: _____ Best time to call? _____

Secondary Contact Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Do you actively check your e-mail? Yes No

What is your preferred method of contact? _____

How did you hear about Hug A Pug? _____

Home Information

Family Structure ___# adults ___# children ___# dogs ___# cats ___# other

Housing type

Owned house

Rented house

Mobile home

Owned condo

Rented apartment

Other _____

(If you do not own your home, a copy of your lease which states you are allowed to have pets and/or a letter of approval from your landlord will be required before adoption.)

Where will the Pug be kept? (Check all that apply)

Indoor only Outdoor only Both indoor/outdoor

Where will the Pug be kept while you are at work or out of the house?

In the yard In a crate In the garage
In the house confined to an area In an outdoor dog run/pen
In the house not confined to an area In the house with a doggie door

Is your yard fenced? Yes No

If yard is not fenced, do you have a plan to insure that the dog is safe and gets exercise?

Do you have a pool/spa? Yes No If yes, is it fenced? Yes No

Do you have stairs? Yes No If yes, are they opened back? Yes No

Where will the Pug sleep? (Check all that apply)

Pet bed My bed Confined to an area Anywhere desired Outside

How many hours a day will the Pug be left alone?

4 or less 4-6 hours 6-8 hours 8 or more

Due you or anyone in your household have any medical condition which may prevent you from caring for a pug placed in your home? Yes No

If you answered yes, please explain. _____

Pug Information

Will you foster/adopt a rescue with any of the following conditions? Please check all that may apply.

Male	Hates nails cut (visits to groomer/vet every month)
Female	Separation anxiety (cannot be left alone)
Fawn	Handicap (arthritis, deaf, blind, wheeled cart)
Black	Dominance behaviors
Kennel cough	Not leash trained (pulls on leash)
Behavior problems	Does not get along with children
Injured	Does not get along with other dogs
Aggressive dogs	Does not get along with cats
Mother & Puppies	Extremely shy (requires quiet home)
Puppies	Requires ongoing medication/vet care
Not housebroken	Uncontrolled bladder due to medical condition
Seniors	Was physically abused (may have irrational behavior)
Barks or howls	Overweight (calorie controlled diet)
Not crate trained	Underweight (extra feedings/supplements)
Cross bred pug	Pair of inseparable pugs
24 hrs, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year of shedding, snorts and pug spray	

If a rescue Pug is matched to your family, how much notice do you require before picking him/her up?

Immediately 24 hours 48 hours One week

Are you willing to do home checks for potential adoptive parents in your area if the need arises?

Yes No

If fostering, please mark what you are able to provide for your foster dog:

Food	Crate	Harness/Leash
Shampoo	Toys	Unconditional love

If fostering, how long do you foresee being able to care for a foster pug?

3 months 6 months 1 year Indefinitely

Hug A Pug adopts/rescues Pugs which no longer have homes. These Pugs come from individuals who surrender their Pugs, from PACC (Pima Animal Care Center), from puppy mills and other situations that require a new home.

Sometimes these dogs are scared, unhealthy, and have behavior issues. Hug A Pug offers these Pugs to loving homes that are best suited for each individual Pug. Pugs are not necessarily placed on a first come, first serve basis. Hug A Pug reserves the right to place Pugs in homes best matched to the rescue Pug and reserves the right to refuse to place a rescue Pug in any home without a written or verbal reason.

I understand that if I am approved, and a Pug is placed with me, Hug A Pug may contact me periodically to assess how I and my Pug are adjusting to each other and to assist me with any problems I may be experiencing. I also understand and authorize an inspection of my home by an authorized Hug A Pug representative for the purpose of evaluating this application.

IMPORTANT: All adopted Pugs are to be returned to Hug A Pug if they can no longer stay in their adoptive homes. They are not allowed, under any circumstances, to be placed in a second home by the adoptive family. Adoptive families are responsible for food, shelter, veterinary care, love, etc...

By signing this form, I/we acknowledge that all information on this form is true and correct. I/we understand that any misrepresentation of fact may result in Hug a Pug refusing adoption privileges to me/us. If my/our request for adoption is approved and later Hug a Pug discovers the above information is not true or correct, Hug a Pug reserves the right to remove the adopted dog from my home/farm.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** How long does the application process take?
A: The process can be shortened by the effort you put into filling out your application. Answering all questions thoroughly and honestly allows Hug A Pug to match you with the right Pug without the need to request clarification of your answers.
- Q:** When will I know the status of my application?
A: When your application is reviewed, and a decision is made, you will receive a call or email from a Hug A Pug representative who will let you know what the status is.
- Q:** Can I come see the Pugs before I complete my application?
A: We do not have a single shelter building where the Pugs are housed. Each of our Pugs are in a foster home, generally with other Pugs where they are evaluated to determine the best type of home that they should be placed in. We respect their privacy and do not allow prospective adopters to visit their homes.
- Q:** What happens if the Pug I was applying for has already been adopted?
A: If approved, you will have the option of being put onto our waiting list. When a Pug comes in matching your criteria, you will be notified.
- Q:** How much are adoption fees?
A: The adoption fees range from \$100-\$300 based on the age, health and purity of each Pug.
- Q:** Why is the cost to adopt so much?
A: Every Pug that comes to Hug A Pug is examined by our veterinarian. Rabies, distemper, corona and bordetella vaccines are brought up to date when necessary. Pugs that are unaltered are spayed or neutered. Pugs are given a blood and fecal analysis and dental care is provided if determined necessary by our vet. Although some of the Pugs that come to Hug A Pug do not need all of these treatments, there are other Pugs that need extensive medical care. If you have ever owned an animal you are certainly aware of these costs. In order for Hug A Pug to continue rescuing Pugs, our adoption donations and fund raising efforts **must** cover these costs. Hug A Pug carefully analyzes these costs to keep the adoption donations as low as possible while providing the care each Pug needs.
- Q:** Once my application is approved, how long will I have to wait before I get a Pug?
A: The wait time may vary, at times we have a lot of pugs in need of homes, and other times we may not have any pugs available, and you may have to wait until a Match comes along. We do not work on a first come, first serve basis, our goal is to match the right pug with the right people.