**Questions to ask new potential owners.**

A responsible pet owner knows that keeping a pet is a long term commitment-and by adopting a pet we keep in mind that it is for keeps-and not just for a season. However, there are genuine reasons when pet owners can no longer offer their animal the attention/ proper care it deserves and will take the responsible steps in trying to find it a loving new home.

Before giving your pet up for adoption, please do your research and ask the potential interested owners the following questions. You want your pet to go to the right home so never feel shy to ask away!

**Questions to ask a potential new owner**:

1-Have you owned a pet before? Do you have experience in taking care of this breed / type of animal?

2-Do you currently have any other animals ? How would my pet fit in? (Reject people who have animals that are incompatible with your pet) Giving your hamster to someone who only owns snakes? No thanks!

3-Have you ever owned a pet only to give it away afterwards? Why and what happened?

4-Do you have any children? Live with anyone else? How do they feel about you owning a new pet?

5-Who will be the primary caretaker? (Anyone who says they have a maid or driver to take on the responsibilities-think twice!)

6-Where do you intend on keeping your new pet? (Indoors / outdoors?-Be wary of people who say they have a cat / dog 'farm' where they would stay)

7-What will happen if you travel? What arrangements would you make?

8-Why do you want to adopt my pet? (A simple yet good question to ask if there are many interested new owners. Be wary of their answers.(I would never give up my pet just because someone thinks it's 'cute'.)

9-Do you live in an apartment / house does it have a garden / proper environment for the pet? (A 'special' room designated just for animal needs to be seen. I have personally come across a puppy being kept in a large closet as its 'special' room.)

10-Are you or anyone in your family allergic to pets? (Surprisingly this is something that no one thinks about until the pet moves in.)

11-Are you prepared to take on the financial responsibility of your new pet? (Owning a pet can be expensive. Vet bills, treatments, food cost money and is one of the common reasons that after some time they are given away).

12-Does your lifestyle conveniently allow keeping a pet? (If someone keeps travelling what will happen to the pet?)

13-Can I come visit to check up on the pet? (New owners should NOT have a problem with you coming to check up and visit Fido whenever you want. Animal lovers understand this and shouldn't have a problem with you coming to visit)

I strongly suggest that you actually go and check the premise and new home yourself. It's very easy to hand over your pet without knowing where or how it will be cared for. You have every right to see where and what your new pets' home will be like. Above all trust your instincts. If there is something that doesn't sound right, feel right or look right, don't leave your pet there.

 Your actions should reflect the best interest of the animal.