

Q: Will I receive an acknowledgement when I send in my application?

A: Yes, if you included an email address with your application you will receive an automated response from the server with a copy of your application. You should retain this as sometimes an application does not come through. If you would like to confirm receipt of your application, please contact any ABMR volunteer coordinator or state coordinator. Valerie Lussier at malinoisrescuemichigan@yahoo.com, Mary Gorman at gor9266@aol.com, or Mo Eppley at mitymo.malawhat@gmail.com are the volunteer coordinators. In addition to the automated response you will receive a personalized Welcome email with additional information.

Q: What steps are required to complete my application with ABMR?

A: Each application will require 2 personal references to be interviewed, 1 vet reference to be interviewed, and a home visit to be conducted.

Q: What are the minimum veterinary requirements for an applicant's existing pets?

A: Minimum requirements for an applicant's current pets include Rabies vaccine, Distemper vaccine, and Parvo vaccine or the use of titers, Heartworm test within one year and proof of the use of Heartworm preventative. Exceptions may be made based on a confirmed recommendation from your veterinarian for either your specific dog or your geographic location. Additional services may be required based on your specific vets' recommendations and policies.

Q: How long does it take to process my adoption application?

A: ABMR is completely operated by volunteers. A volunteer(s) will be assigned to process your application. On average applications are processed between 2 and 8 weeks. Many factors impact this timing which include time to locate a home visit volunteer, the speed to which your references can be contacted, a release of records for your vet in advance, and the overall number of applications being received at the time your app was submitted. Please feel free to follow up on your app to any state coordinator or the contacts listed in the first question of this document.

Q: Do we adopt out of state from the foster home?

A: Yes, we do. We prefer to adopt out to local homes but will adopt out to a perfect home outside of the state the dog is currently being fostered. We do not generally adopt dogs out to homes on the West Coast or in Idaho or Montana because we do not have an ABMR network in those areas. We do require that the adoptive family be willing to travel halfway to meet transport.

Q: How can I get my adopted canine if they are not located near me?

A: ABMR does offer transport assistance through our volunteer network. However, adoptive homes are required to drive half the distance of the transport. Please keep this in mind when reviewing and selecting a canine.

Q: What is the fee to adopt a Malinois from ABMR?

A: As of January 1, 2019, fees range anywhere from \$ 300 to \$ 375 depending on age. Puppies are at the higher range of the fees and also require a \$ 500 spay deposit if they are adopted out prior to 4 months of age. The deposit is refunded when proof of spay is provided, All puppies must be spayed/neutered at 6 months. The schedule of fees may change at any time.

Q: Why is there a fee on Malinois who need homes?

A: ABMR Malinois are completely updated on vaccines, spay/neuter, and any ailments. The typical cost for vet work exceeds the fee in most cases. The average cost for veterinary care per dog ranges between \$ 400 and \$ 550. ABMR does take in many Malinois that have medical needs and cost run substantially higher to help these canines. In addition, ABMR incurs many other fees related to the rescue of a canine which includes fees paid to shelters for the release of animals into our organization, care for canines in foster homes, training when needed, preventative medications for canines in foster homes.

Q: Does ABMR adopt to homes that have cats?

A: Yes, ABMR will adopt to homes with cats and other pets, however, it will take substantially longer to find a suitable match for homes with smaller pets. Most Malinois have extremely high prey drive and can't be placed in homes with cats or other smaller pets.

Q: Sometimes, available dogs on the ABMR rescue site are stated as inappropriate for adoptive homes who have cats. If so, would this warning apply also to homes with small dogs? (Or is cat-safety considering a completely different trait from friendliness with fellow dogs?)

A: A rescued Malinois that is listed as being inappropriate for homes with cats, most likely would also not do well with small dogs. Some Malinois may be too rough for a small dog. Of course, there will be exceptions to this, each dog is unique. Our foster homes try to evaluate their foster dogs with cats, small dogs and large dogs. They can determine if the dog they are fostering has a lot of prey drive or is more laid back. If you are interested in adopting a particular rescued Malinois, please tell the foster home what type of pets you have and ask them if they think their fostered dog will fit into your home. Please read each dog's profile.

Q: Does ABMR adopt to applicants that live in apartments and condos?

A: Yes, ABMR does adopt to people who live in all types of households. This is done on a case by case basis and involves many factors related to the actual dog, the background of the applicant, and the policies of any landlords involved. We require a letter from your landlord indicating that you are allowed to own a Belgian Malinois in your rental. We also require a copy of your Home Owners Association rules if they have any restrictions on dog ownership.

Q: Where do the Malinois you have up for adoption come from?

A: Usually county/city/town/municipal shelters and humane societies located all over the United States. Some are found as strays. Others are surrendered to shelters or directly to ABMR by owners.

Q: Who will do my Home Check?

A: A volunteer from our volunteer network will be located and will perform your home visit. The volunteer, as well as the applicant, will receive instructions and guidelines on the requirements of a home visit. Our volunteers are primarily Malinois owners and we encourage them to bring their dog with them to the home visit.

Q: When can I expect my Home Visit to be conducted?

A: In most cases a volunteer is located and able to schedule the visit in 2-5 weeks after your application is submitted.

Q: Who needs to be involved in the Home Visit?

A: All residents of the household must be home and participate in the visit. This includes all adults and children that reside in the home.

Q: Why does a Home Check need to be done?

1. A home visit is not a white glove test. The purpose is to confirm that the applications are correct/accurate (own home, fence etc.)
2. To confirm that the people are familiar with the breed and have done their homework.
3. To confirm that all family members want a new dog.
4. To allow our applicants to meet a Malinois or Belgian in person.
5. To ensure that your home is a good candidate for one of our rescued Malinois.

Q: Can I do protection work, protection training, Schutzhund, or IPO Training with my newly adopted ABMR Canine?

A: No, ABMR can't accept dogs into our program with protection training. Since all ABMR dogs must be returned to ABMR if for any reason the adoptive home can no longer keep their dog, our dogs can't be trained in protection or protection sports.

Q: Can I do E-Collar training with my ABMR canine.

A: No, ABMR does not allow the use of e-collars with any of our canines.

Q: If I apply for a specific dog does that mean that is the dog, I will be able to adopt?

A: Available dogs are matched as closely as possible with the adoptive home to insure each placement is "permanent". Every effort is made to determine if the dog you are applying to adopt suits you, your living conditions and family make-up. This means that occasionally during one or another of the stages of the adoption process it is possible the temperament/personality of the Malinois you've chosen will be deemed unsuitable for your lifestyle. Should that happen you are welcome to complete the steps of the approval process and then wait until a Malinois that does *fit* your family and lifestyle becomes available. Every dog posted on our website receives many applications. Many applicants work with a coordinator and are matched with another one of our rescues, many of which have yet to be posted. It is the best course of action to submit an application and complete the process so that you are ready to adopt the right dog when it comes into our program.

Q: Why do we require that the dogs be spayed/neutered?

A: We do not want to be part of the problem. Some of our dogs come from shelters where they were turned in by breeders who could not find homes for the puppies. Also, we do not know what the background is on most of our rescue dogs. These are not dogs that should be bred. Breeding should only be done by educated breeders and with dogs that have a full health history and known pedigree.

Q: Do we require a fenced yard?

A: ABMR does strongly recommend a fenced yard for most of our dogs. Placements are on a case by case basis. Each dog will be evaluated for its particular need. Most of our canines do require fences and even fences that meet certain guidelines. We discourage the use of Invisible Fencing for Belgian Malinois due primarily to their strong prey drive.

Q: How do we select who gets to adopt which dog?

A: Dogs are placed based on their individual need and how well suited they are to an applicant. Dogs are not based on a first come first served basis.

Q: What happens if I adopt and the dog isn't a good match?

A: ABMR stands by all of its dogs and will always take a dog back. Our contract states that ABMR dogs must be returned to us and they cannot be sold or given away. We ask adoptive homes to be patient with us while we work out transport to move the dog to a foster home. Applicants should reach out to their coordinator as soon as possible if they are having any problems with the dog they adopted.