

Writing Adoption Profile Cards for Dogs with Separation Anxiety: Best Practices

How much information should we share? Will being transparent minimize the chance of adoption? What's the best information to include?

These are all common questions when thinking about writing an adoption profile card for a dog with separation anxiety, or any special care need. The most important thing to keep in mind is that it's important to give potential adopters the facts without sugar coating them, yet offer an honest and very real sense of hope. In other words, elevate separation anxiety to the status it deserves alongside other dogs that need adopters who are willing to go that extra mile. We know there are adopters out there willing to do that for a puppy with Parvo or a dog with diabetes or hind-end paralysis, and we know the same is true for separation anxiety. *Remember, this is a quality of life issue for the dog and adoptive family, which is why it's so important the adoptive family understand the dog's needs.*

Planning Tip: Consider writing adoption profiles for dogs with separation anxiety such that they are both a call to action and a call of hope. The chart below offers a few ideas for thinking about how to balance transparency with hope when writing adoption cards.

Ways to Be Transparent	Ways to Offer Hope
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain this is a panic issue.● Describe the behaviors they'll observe if the dog is left home alone.● Explain the need for having, initially, 24/7 care/companionship.● Share that patience, creativity, and dedication are key to successful training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain that separation anxiety is treatable and can be overcome.● Identify any resources already in place to help the dog.● Describe any post-adoption supports that will be offered.● Remind them they are not alone.

Adoption Profile Card Examples: There is no one "right" way to include some or all of the tips above in your adoption profile card, and the lists above are not exhaustive – there are countless ways to balance hope and transparency! We want to provide some language to inspire you and/or use and adapt as you'd like!

- His family is the most precious thing in his life; more important than food, water or comfort.
- Incredibly loving and enjoys being around people. Delights in attention and affection from their humans.
- Time and attention: They will thrive in a home where they receive plenty of love, attention, and human companionship.
- Helping the dog to overcome this issue requires patience, consistency, and potentially ongoing support from a veterinarian or behaviorist.
- Needs a patient and understanding guardian who can provide the necessary support and training to help them overcome their separation anxiety.
- Commitment to training: The adopter should be committed to providing ongoing training and support to help the dog overcome their separation anxiety.

