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BEYOND THE SHELTER / TAKE-HOME RECAP

# Shelter Dog Labels: Ask What They Actually Mean



## THE SHORT ANSWER

"Dog selective" on a shelter dog's profile means the dog gets along with some dogs but not every dog. A dog selective label describes a picky social style, not a dangerous dog or a dog who hates all dogs. Adopters with a resident dog should ask shelter staff which playmates the dog liked and what those dogs had in common.

## FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Treat profile labels as conversation starters. Ask who observed the behavior, where it happened and when notes were recorded.
2. For dog-selective or only-dog labels, ask about actual interactions and compatible playmates. Arrange staff-guided matching; do not assume compatibility.
3. Clarify experienced-home, no-cats and no-kids requirements through specific history. Do not dismiss restrictions or automatically infer a bite history.
4. For resource guarding, ask what is guarded, from whom and how intensely. Discuss separate feeding and other management needs.

## YOUR NEXT STEP

Choose one unclear label and ask the adoption counselor for the observations and management requirements behind it.

**Read the full article and sources:**

https://letthembedog.com/blog/shelter-dog-labels

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