



## how to become a SAFER™ certified assessor

To become certified, ideally you would attend a two-day SAFER™ workshop taught by ASPCA SAFER facilitators, or purchase and review the SAFER manual and training guide and SAFER instructional DVD. Once trained, record your assessment technique with three dogs in your specific assessment area, as described in the steps below.

1. Record three (3) full assessments per SAFER Assessor and submit to the ASPCA via DVD, electronic video clip, or You Tube

During the assessment:

- Be sure to conduct the Dog-to-Dog Behavior Item even if the agency you work for does not require the item. This **MUST** be included for certification.
  - Interact as you normally would with your Observer. An important part of the assessment is interaction and objective observation from both individuals. This includes audible conversation on video that results in the choice of a score for each assessment item.
  - We are certifying the Assessor, so the final decision regarding observation of behavior of each dog should be made by the Assessor.
2. Complete the SAFER worksheets for the three (3) dogs, and be sure to include the following information:
    - Name of the Assessor and the Observer, and the name of the facility
    - Physical description of each dog
    - Where on the DVD each dog is (for example, first dog on DVD, fifth dog on DVD) or clearly labeled video clips if submitted electronically
    - Any health information, adoption recommendations, or other information you feel would be helpful in evaluating the assessment being demonstrated
  3. Submit the video, completed worksheets and completed submission form, with a check (payable to the ASPCA) for \$30 (per submission for each person requesting certification) to:  
Wanda Echevarria, Community Outreach Office Manager, ASPCA  
424 East 92nd Street, New York, New York 10128

**NOTE:** Be sure to complete the Submission for Certification form and include it with your submission. If you choose to submit your video electronically, please send it to [meetyourmatch@aspc.org](mailto:meetyourmatch@aspc.org) and include in the email the Assessor's name, the agency name, and time-line for submitting paperwork and submission check to the ASPCA's New York offices. Your video will not be reviewed until all the proper paperwork and check has been processed.

Your submission will be evaluated by an ASPCA SAFER facilitator, and you will receive a written response to your submission within four weeks. If your technique and ability to assess behavior are appropriate and lead to valid and predictive assessments, you will become a certified SAFER Assessor.

If you need assistance with technique, you will receive a report identifying areas that need refinement. After you implement those changes in your technique, you can then submit a new video and set of worksheets for certification. A \$30 fee is required for each certification attempt.

**Certification is good for one year.** When your certification expires, you can submit a recent video of three assessments as described above to be recertified.

If you have questions about the SAFER certification process, please contact us at [meetyourmatch@aspc.org](mailto:meetyourmatch@aspc.org). Thank you.



## submission for SAFER™ certification

Please complete a separate form for each person requesting certification. Include this form with your video tape or DVD, SAFER assessment worksheets, and a check for the certification fee (\$30, payable to the ASPCA) when you send these materials to the ASPCA.

**name** \_\_\_\_\_

**organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**address** \_\_\_\_\_

**phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**if you attended a SAFER two-day workshop:** where (city and state) \_\_\_\_\_

when (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

**date of workshop** \_\_\_\_\_

**check one**    **initial certification**    **renew certification**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> first submission  | <input type="checkbox"/> first submission  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> second submission | <input type="checkbox"/> second submission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> third submission  | <input type="checkbox"/> third submission  |

Submit the DVD, completed worksheets, this completed submission form, and a check for \$30 payable to the ASPCA to:

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ASCPA  
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New York, New York 10128

Email electronic video to [meetyourmatch@aspc.org](mailto:meetyourmatch@aspc.org) along with Assessor's name and agency.