

## Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

### A PLACE CALLED HOME

- I Homelessness is a major problem worldwide, for both animals and people. Homeless animals probably outnumber homeless people by 5 to 1 in the United States, although it is impossible to reach an exact figure. This situation could be improved if more animal owners kept their pets in a secure area so they couldn't wander off and get lost, and provided them with proper identification in case they do.
- II Many pets, either found on the street or brought in by their owners, end up in animal shelters. Shelters receive about seven million animals a year, including nearly four million dogs. About 20% are returned to their original owners, and 20% to 30% are adopted. That still leaves many in shelters, where they often do not thrive.
- III Until recently, shelters focused on traditional methods, putting up posters around town or posting photos online to reach potential adopters. However, today some organisations are also using more innovative approaches. One Atlanta-based organisation, for example, encourages people who are thinking of adopting a dog to take one home for a sleepover. The programme has been highly successful, possibly because it allows dogs that are shy, or alternatively <sup>line</sup>12 overactive, in the shelter to be at ease and show their true colours. And even if sleepovers don't end in adoption, they give dogs a break from the institutionalised life at a shelter and can be a fun experience for the family.
- IV Another scheme is used by the Shelter Buddies Reading Program in the state of Missouri. Children aged six to 15 may attend a 10-hour programme where they are trained to read to dogs. They also learn to evaluate the animals' body language, that is to calm over-excited dogs and elicit a response from shy ones. The objective is that when potential owners walk through the shelter's doors, they will see the dogs at their best.
- V Sadly, only 10% of all homeless dogs will ever find a long-lasting home. However, it's encouraging to know that many organisations are working to increase that number.

#### 1 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 What is the writer's purpose in the text?
  - a to describe an experience
  - b to solve a problem
  - c to present an issue
- 2 An organisation in Atlanta ..... .
  - a will find suitable owners for homeless dogs
  - b offers homeless people and their dogs a place to sleep
  - c provides dogs with a break from the shelter
- 3 "True colours" in line 12 refers to a dog's ..... .
  - a fur
  - b personality
  - c age

#### 2 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Find evidence in the text to support your answers.

- 1 Most dogs in shelters are returned to their owners. ....

- 2 The programme in Atlanta allows people to try out a dog before making a final decision. ....

**3** Answer the questions.

1 Why does the writer feel that the sleepover programme is a good idea?

2 What is the purpose of reading to dogs?

**4** Rewrite the sentences without changing the original meaning.

1 It is impossible to reach an exact figure.

An .....

2 Shelters receive about seven million animals a year.

Well over six million animals .....

**5** Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

1 exceed (paragraph I) .....

2 do well (paragraph II) .....

3 relaxed (paragraph III) .....

4 permanent (paragraph V) .....