



Our Adoption Process

And Why We Do It This Way

Please take a few moments to read the following explanation of our adoption policies and the steps that make up the process. You may be surprised to find that adopting an animal is more of an involved process than you expected, or that it means you can't have immediate access to an animal you are interested in. Therefore, it's important to understand two things: 1) the process is the same for everyone, and 2) it's not our intention to frustrate you. Rather, everything we do is for the best interests of the animals in our care, and it is aimed at giving them the best possible chance of finding a permanent home.

HERE ARE THE STEPS YOU WILL GO THROUGH IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS:

- Before you can see (that is, pet, cuddle, walk, and get to know) any animal you've seen in our kennel, we'll ask you to complete some paperwork. This paperwork must be completed first in order to minimize stress for you and the animals. Our process includes asking questions, asking to see proof of identity and, frequently asking veterinary references, particularly when you have other animals at home. This is simply to protect the health of adoption candidates and the pets you already have.
- Once all of the paper work has been satisfactorily completed, you may handle and visit the animal you are interested in. You'll have a counseling session with a knowledgeable member of our staff who will fill you in on the history and needs of that animal, and his feeding and exercise requirements. You will be required to view a DVD on either dog or cat training and afterwards you can ask the counselor any questions about spaying or neutering, housetraining, obedience training, scratching (in cats), veterinary care, how to deal with fleas or ticks, and anything else you can think of.
- You will be asked to sign an adoption contract and pay an adoption fee. This fee covers spaying or neutering, and the deworming, heartworm test, and vaccines your pet has received at the shelter. It also covers a lifetime I.D. tag, sample of pet food, leash and the DVD that you viewed.

PLEASE NOTE: As a general rule we cannot hold animals for anyone. We do not adopt out on a first come, first serve basis. We adopt the animal to the home that we feel best suits the needs of that animal.

LET US REPEAT: We don't ever mean to be frustrating to or evasive with you. We want you to understand that it's stressful and upsetting - in fact downright devastating - for the animals, for the staff, and most importantly, for you when the adoptions don't work and pets have to come back to us. And a bad adoption experience can sour some people on dogs and cats - or on shelter animals - for life.

So try to bear with us and be patient. And understand that going through the process the way we do really is the best policyfor all of us.

THANK YOU