

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 a more 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 intent to frustrate you. Rather, everything we do is for the best interests of the animals in our care, and is aimed at giving them the best possible chance of finding a permanent home.

HERE ARE THE STEPS YOU'LL GO THROUGH IN THE ADOPTION PROCESS:

- Before you can see (that is pet, cuddle, walk, and get to know) any animal in our center, we'll ask you to complete some paperwork. This paperwork must be completed first in order to minimize stress for you and the animals. It also helps to ensure that a great pet/parent connection is made. Our process includes asking questions, asking to see proof of identity, asking for references and a personality/lifestyle traits questionnaire to assign you a "color".
- Once the paperwork is completed you may handle and visit any of the animals that match your color. You'll have a counseling session with a knowledgeable member of our staff who will fill you in on the history and needs of any animals you have selected, as well as feeding and exercise requirements. You can ask your counselor any questions about training, scratching (in cats), veterinary care, how to deal with fleas and 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 the care and veterinary services your pet has received at the shelter.

PLEASE NOTE: As a general rule, we cannot hold animals for anyone. Unfortunately, because of the tremendous demands on our kennel space, all adoptions must be done on a first come, first served basis, and the first good, properly qualified prospective home will get the pet.

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 devastation – for the animals, for our staff, and most importantly, for you when adoptions don't work out and pets have to come back to us. And a bad adoption experience can sour some people on dogs or 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 policy – for all of us.

THANK YOU