



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, *it's important Therefore 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. We are not first come, first serve. All applications will be reviewed and whomever we feel is best for that particular will be able to adopt that animal.

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

- You will be taken in back by one of our kennel staff and shown the animals. You may take as much time as you wish. We have rooms where you may spend some time with the animals you might be interested in or you may take your choice of a pet outside to our play yard. Please take your time in choosing. You are choosing a lifetime companion.
- Once you choose a "forever friend" you must fill out an adoption application. Once all of the paper work has been satisfactorily completed, 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. The adoption process may take 24 to 48 hours to complete. Yard and home checks may be required.
- 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