

West Chester Animal Shelter

ADOPTING AN ANIMAL

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Adopting an animal is a huge commitment. Please be sure that you have considered the impact to you and your family before beginning the adoption process. Pets require regular exercise, attention, training and medical care. You also need to consider the environment where the pet will be housed. Will there be children around? Do you have enough room for a large breed dog? Are there already pets in the house?

ADOPTION PROCESS

All adoption applications and references are reviewed thoroughly. Adoption applications will be approved based on the placement best suited for the animal and the adopter. We reserve the right to disapprove any application.

Here are the steps you will go through in the adoption process:

1. Our process includes asking questions, asking to see proof of identity and checking veterinary references, particularly when you have other animals at home.
2. You will 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/her feeding and exercise requirements.
3. You will be asked to sign an adoption contract and pay an adoption fee. There is a schedule of fees, which begin at \$50. The adoption fee covers the veterinary care, deworming, and vaccines your pet receives at the shelter. All animals adopted from our shelter are spayed/neutered.

ADOPTION POLICY

1. Animals are available for adoption to persons approved by Adoption Staff. All persons living in the household are encouraged to be involved in the selection of the pet.
2. Permission of the landlord is required of persons living on rental property.

3. Animals will be placed with adults of legal age, to be kept as household pets and not work to serve only as guards, hunters, or mousers.
4. All animals that we release for adoption must be spayed/neutered, and must be current on their vaccinations.
5. Owners are required to provide each companion animal with adequate food, water, shelter, space, exercise, treatment, and veterinary care.
6. No animal will be adopted as a gift for another person.
7. No animal will be adopted to persons having an extensive history of losing, giving away, selling, or having animals injured or killed by moving vehicles.
8. Animals that exhibit serious behavioral disorders are not available for adoption.
9. If this animal's health is inadequately maintained (vaccinations, food, water, housing, and minimal physical grooming); if the animal creates a problem by running loose; or if the animal threatens or injures people or other animals, the Humane Society may reclaim it.

FOSTERING

At our shelter, there are animals that we want to save, but which must be kept apart from our general animal population.

There are several reasons why we send some animals to foster care before we give them up for regular adoption. Our foster animal caregivers are experienced animal caretakers who have had, or still have, other animals. They take care of special animals that need this extra care for a while. Here are some reasons why animals may need foster care.

- Very young puppies and kittens, even those with their mothers, are more susceptible to disease that is present in an institutional setting like an animal shelter. If these puppies and kittens can be removed from the shelter until they are ready for adoption, they are less likely to get sick.
- Some animals have behavior problems, perhaps caused by mistreatment at a previous home. We avoid sending aggressive animals to foster care.
- At certain times of the year, our shelter becomes overloaded with animals. Our foster families have helped us out by taking some animals out of the shelter to ease the crowding until others have been adopted, freeing space for the foster animals to return.

If you are interested in providing foster care for puppies or kittens, please get in touch. You must be prepared to take care of young animals. You should have experience as an animal caretaker, but you do not need special training.