

SPCA Eastern Shore Adoption Procedure

When you are thinking of adding a four-legged member to your family, we hope you'll think of checking out the pets we have for adoption. We normally have kittens and cats, puppies and dogs, in all sizes, shapes, and colors.

We want very much to make a good match for your family and for our available pets. Most dogs will live 12 years or longer, and cats can easily live close to 20 years and more. We want you to be happy with your selection for the lifetime of your pet and we try to make sure the chosen pet fits with your lifestyle and your family.

Active families usually don't want a couch potato dog, and some families are looking for the kitty that loves to be in your lap. Working together, we have better chances of it being the lasting commitment you want it to be.

Thank you for choosing to adopt a pet and giving a much deserving animal a second chance at a lifetime home.

To speed up the application process:

- (1) be sure that you've thoroughly researched the personality, energy level and requirements of the breed of dog you hope to adopt.
- (2) call your vet to let them know we'll be calling them.
- (3) take pictures of your home & yard in anticipation of our "virtual" home tour.

We ask anyone considering adoption from the Eastern Shore SPCA to come to our shelter to see our available animals. We cannot take applications over the phone. You will need to see and interact with the pet you are looking at adopting. The adoption counselor showing the pet can answer many questions about personality and habits of the pet.

If you think the pet is right for you, you can fill out our adoption application. Our adoption fee is \$150.00 for puppies and dogs, \$120 for kittens up to 1 year old and \$75 for cats over 1 year old. This covers the cost of spay/neuter, any tests that have been done, vaccines, wormings, flea and heartworm prevention, as well as a microchip ID implanted in the pet. We accept credit cards, cash or personal check. We are required to get a copy of picture identification with birthday, usually a driver's license.

If your adoption application is approved, you will be able to take your pet home the next day. That gives us the time to do the required paperwork to finalize the adoption and implant the microchip. We also like to give dogs a bath prior to going home.

When you come to sign the adoption contract, we will provide you with information on the microchip, the vaccination record, and take a family photo for our bulletin board.

We try to make this a pleasurable experience for everyone; as an adoptive parent of one of the pets we've cared for sometimes for many months, you are part of our extended family. We will always be just a phone call away to discuss any questions or concerns you may have in the beginning of this new relationship. We want to help make the adjustment period as smooth as possible for you.