

HOPE For PETS

Adoption Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
Our History	3
Our Mission: RESCUE, REUNITE, RE-HOME	3
HOW TO ADOPT AN ANIMAL	4
Steps to Adoption	4
Adoption Qualifications	4
THE ADOPTION PROCESS	5
Selecting an Animal to Adopt	5
Our Expectations	5
Housing Requirements	5
Documentation	6
Maintaining Good Health	6
Returning an Animal	6

Introduction

Welcome to Hope for Pets. HfP would not exist without compassionate animal lovers like you! Rescue animals can make wonderful, life-long companions if only given the chance. Adopting a rescued animal is a great way to save a life and do your part in combating pet overpopulation. In return, you'll be rewarded with the unconditional love only a pet can give. It is a fulfilling experience to know that you played a hand in ensuring a happy, healthy life for a pet in need.

This handbook is designed to give guidance so that your adoption experience with HfP is a pleasant one. Thank you for your interest in saving a life!

Our History

In August 2012, Hope for Pets was founded by numerous volunteers and members of the community. The organization was created in response to the community's urgent need for a solution to the problems with animal cruelty and overpopulation of stray companion animals within East Texas.

Our Mission: RESCUE, REUNITE, RE-HOME

Hope for Pets is a volunteer-run animal rescue dedicated to the reduction of homeless and mistreated companion pets in East Texas by finding loving forever homes for those currently in need, spaying and neutering existing adoptable animals to prevent future litters, returning lost animals to their owners, and reaching out to the community and educating the public. Hope for Pets will never use euthanasia as a means of population control.

How to Adopt an Animal

Congratulations on your decision to adopt a new pet! Bringing an animal into your home (and your life) is a big commitment, one that comes with many benefits and joys. Rescuing an animal is a wonderful way to give him or her a second chance at life, and find you a new best friend!

Steps to Adoption

1. Read this handbook, and complete and submit the attached adoption application. A HfP representative will contact you to review the application and address any questions.
2. Schedule a meet and greet to determine if there is an animal that you would like to adopt.
3. Review and sign the Adoption Commitment Contract.
4. Schedule a home check to ensure you meet the minimum requirements to adopt a pet as outlined in the handbook. Pictures of the home may be taken for our records.
5. Prepare your home and have your new pet come for his/her first contact visit.
6. Love and care for your new pet!

Adoption Qualifications

Any person at least 18 years of age may apply to adopt an animal. Applicants between the ages of 18 and 21 must either have parental approval (if living with or supported by parents) or provide proof of emancipation. A photo ID must be submitted at the time of application to verify age and physical address. All members of the applicant's household must be agreeable to adopting a pet. HfP reserves the right to reject any application for any reason.

The Adoption Process

Selecting an Animal to Adopt

Once you've been approved to adopt an animal from HfP, we will move on to the process of finding an animal that will best fit your home. We will take into consideration your preference (species, breed, size, age, etc.), as well as the needs of the animals in our program. We will allow you to interact with the animal under HfP supervision before completing the selection process to ensure both you and the animal are comfortable with the arrangement.

Our Expectations

Accepting any pet into your home is a big responsibility. When you adopt an animal, we expect you to treat the animal with love and respect. Some of these animals may have been abandoned, abused, or neglected, and they may have issues due to these circumstances. We ask you to be understanding and patient with these animals.

We will do our best to assess the animals before sending them to their forever homes and will disclose any issues to the best of our ability. Please realize that the complete history of these animals may not be known and unexpected issues may arise. By agreeing to adopt these animals, you agree to help them deal with these issues to the best of your ability.

Housing Requirements

All adopting homes must provide a safe place for its animals to thrive. Pets need to have enough space to play in a safe & healthy environment. Animals must be provided with food and fresh water daily. Additionally, animals need to be given human contact and positive attention daily.

Homes with children and/or other pets can be wonderful opportunities to socialize your pets, but sometimes problems can arise in these situations. For houses with children, it's important to select an animal that is age appropriate for your children. You must also be diligent about providing guidance, instructions and rules to your children about how to treat and care for an animal.

For houses with other pets, keep in mind that there are always risks when exposing your pets to other animals. The health risk is minimal if your animals are current on their vaccinations, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and are not elderly or very young.

Documentation

During their stay with HfP, all animals have record books where we document facts and events in the animal's life to the best of our ability. When the animal is adopted, you will be given a copy of all of the animal's medical records, event logs, and other important information.

Maintaining Good Health

If you or someone in your household is immune-compromised, consult your doctor before adopting a pet. Proper hygiene, preventative measures and an understanding of these illnesses can reduce the risk of disease. HfP is not responsible for illness contracted by an adopter's resident pets, children, or adults.

At the time of adoption, your pet will be up-to-date on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Unless there is a special circumstance, such as age or health restrictions, your pet will also be spayed or neutered and receive flea/tick and heartworm preventative before being released for adoption. If the animal is not already sterilized, we will provide you with a spay/neuter voucher. Finally, all animals we place in forever homes are microchipped prior to adoption.

We do our best to ensure that you are receiving a happy, healthy pet. Unfortunately, we cannot assess every animal for every disease. You are responsible for scheduling a wellness check with your veterinarian immediately after the adoption is complete. Should you find that the animal has a disease or condition for which you are unable or unwilling to provide care, you have two weeks from the adoption date to return the animal for a full refund of adoption fees or exchange the animal for a different one in our program.

Returning an Animal

While we do our best to help you find a pet that will be a good fit for your family and other pets, it doesn't always work out. If you find that you can no longer keep an animal adopted from us, Hope for Pets will take the animal back no matter how long it has been.

At the time of adoption, you will be presented with and asked to sign our current Return Policy. This document outlines our refund policy and will help you understand what fees might be assessed in the event of a return. Please read this policy carefully. We will provide you with a copy of the policy upon request.