



A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation

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Information Sheet

A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation (AFH) is a non-profit organization that works to find loving “Forever Homes” for cats and dogs in need in the Washington Metropolitan area. AFH operates strictly on our adoption fees and the generous donations of the public. All donations go directly to the benefit of the animals in our care – please give generously!

IMPORTANT

We do not guarantee the health of any animals offered for adoption. Any time you adopt an animal, you should take it to a licensed veterinarian as soon as possible. Your animal is, to the best of our knowledge, healthy, but will need to be started immediately on a program of preventative veterinary care.

Please be aware that the animals available for adoption are rescue animals and, as such, have often been exposed to a variety of diseases. Like human illnesses, these disorders can have an incubation period of up to several weeks. If the animal you adopt shows signs of illness at any point, please take it promptly to the vet for treatment.

The following statement is required by Virginia law: STERILIZATION OF ANY ADOPTED ANIMAL IS REQUIRED BY TITLE 3.1, CHAPTER 27.4, ARTICLE 6.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA. THE ADOPTER AGREES TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 3.1-796.126:1-7, WHICH PERTAIN TO THE TIMELY STERILIZATION OF THE ADOPTED PET. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO CIVIL PENALTY. THE NEW OWNER MAY BE COMPELLED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

Conditions of Adoption

- **AFH makes every effort to ensure the health of our pets, but we *do not* guarantee their health.**
- **You must accept full responsibility for your adoptive pet immediately upon receipt. All routine and emergency veterinary care and typical “maintenance” costs (food, litter, etc.) are your responsibility.**
- All adult members of your household must be aware of and involved in the selection of your new pet.
- AFH charges a \$325.00 non-refundable adoption fee for dogs & puppies and a \$125.00 adoption fee for cats & kittens.
- A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation is searching for “Forever Homes” for the pets we place. If you are not prepared to accept a lifetime of loving commitment (**companion animals can live 15 – 20 years**) to an adoptive pet, please look elsewhere.
- Puppies, especially, are prone to having intestinal parasites (worms). Your puppy has been treated, at least once, for these parasites, but will likely require additional treatments.
- If you are renting, we will need to see a copy of your lease that shows that you are permitted to have a pet.
- We reserve the right to make routine home visits both before and after you take possession of your new pet.
- We reserve the right to contact your veterinarian both before and after you take possession of your new pet.
- Checks returned by the issuer’s bank for any reason are subject to the maximum penalties allowed under the laws of Virginia.

Benefits of Adoption

- By adopting a rescue animal, you are directly helping to control the serious problem of pet overpopulation. Every year, millions of unwanted cats and dogs are euthanized in the United States.
- You are helping people in your neighborhood. Many of the pets that we offer for adoption have been given up by their owners who could no longer care for them.
- You will receive a pet that is already up-to-date on its vaccinations and, if age appropriate, already spayed or neutered. This can be a significant savings – many vets in the area charge \$300 or more to spay a 50 pound dog.

The process for adopting a pet from A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation (AFH) is as follows:

1. Review this Adoption Information Sheet for important information concerning adopting from A Forever Home Rescue Foundation.
2. You will not be taking your new pet home with you from the adoption event. Please continue reading for further details.
3. Complete the appropriate Adoption Questionnaire: Cat Adoption Questionnaire or Dog Adoption Questionnaire. You can fax your completed application to 703-814-8543 or you may submit your questionnaire in person at one of our adoption events.
4. Complete two interviews with AFH volunteer adoption counselors. This is the same interview - conducted twice, once by each of two counselors - as part of our quality control mechanism. These interviews are each conducted at our adoption events and usually on the same day.
5. AFH will complete a veterinarian reference check for any animals that you have been responsible for as an adult.
6. AFH will conduct a home visit. At the home visit, we are looking to ensure that you can provide a safe, comfortable home for your new pet.

NOTE: AFH makes every attempt to schedule home visits in a timely manner. Please understand that we are all volunteers who have families, jobs, pets, etc. that may impact our ability to conduct your home visit as quickly as you would like! It is our goal to place the newly adopted pets as quickly as possible - we feel this is best for both the pet and the adoptive family (not to mention that it frees up a space for us to save another animal!). Please be patient!

7. Complete the Adoption Contract (Cat Adoption Contract or Dog Adoption Contract) and, if appropriate, the Spay/Neuter Agreement, and pay the appropriate non-refundable adoption fee (\$150 for Cats, \$325 for Dogs). While not necessary and totally optional, AFH welcomes tax-deductible donations that can be made in addition to the adoption fee.
8. Upon completion of the required paperwork, you will be told how to coordinate with the foster home to take possession of your new pet. Once you have taken possession of your new pet, you are 100% responsible for all aspects of your pet's care.

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9. By Virginia law, all animals that are adopted from a rescue/shelter/SPCA must be spayed/neutered by the age of six months. If the animal you adopt is not altered, you will be required to complete the Spay/Neuter Agreement. This form requires you to have your adoptive pet altered, at your own expense, by the age of six months. You are also required to submit the completed Spay/Neuter Agreement to AFH as verification that the sterilization has been completed. AFH is very serious about the Spaying/Neutering of all adopted pets; failure to comply with these requirements can result in the forfeiture of your pet and civil prosecution to the maximum extent of the law.
10. By adopting from us, you will be entering into a legal and binding contract with A Forever Home Rescue Foundation. In the event of a violation of our Adoption Contract or our Spay/Neuter Agreement, you agree to pay a minimum of \$500.00 in damages. Additionally, in order to facilitate the collection of damages for breach of contract, you will waive any challenge to venue and agree that the appropriate venue for this matter is the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the County of Fairfax. Furthermore, you will agree to accept service of process by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided on your adoption contract, and you will specifically waive any right to receive personal service.
11. Enjoy your new pet! This is the good part - you've been looking forward to making an addition to your family, now it's finally happening - your new pet is living with you! Please follow through and take the time to get to know your pet. For dogs, obedience training is absolutely essential! We cannot over-emphasize the value of taking your newly adopted dog to a series of quality obedience lessons. This will provide you with the tools necessary to manage behavioral issues before they become behavioral problems. We find that families who follow through with even basic obedience training have a much more enjoyable relationship with their pets.