



Adoption Process

Fill out the application completely

- List every person 18 years and older that resides within the house, even if temporarily living there.
- If you do not own the home, the homeowner or landlord must provide written permission before adoption.
- To speed our screening process, please include ALL requested information on the application. Failure to provide all information will result in a delay in processing your application, as we will need to contact you for missing information before processing can be complete.
- The Stafford SPCA reserves the right to deny placement of animals (especially puppies and kittens) into homes with children under five years of age.

Our veterinary reference check

- Vet references must be listed for any animal that you have owned within the last five years.
- All current pets must be spayed/neutered, unless there is a documented medical reason the alteration could not be performed.
- We call your vet to confirm that the animals you own currently or have owned in the past have gotten attentive, regular vet care while under your ownership.

Dog-specific information

- Dog adoptions require a fenced backyard, with a minimum height of four feet. (Requirements may vary by breed.) We make exceptions for dogs suited to apartment living without a backyard only in **rare** circumstances. Fences must be designed to reasonably contain a dog and keep out unwanted intruders or predators.
- We do not adopt into homes using invisible fences as the sole means of containment, with no exceptions.
- All current dogs must be up to date on all vaccinations, be negative for heartworm, and taking a heartworm preventative.

Cat-specific information

- Existing cats in the home must be negative for Feline Aids and Feline Leukemia and up to date on vaccinations.
- Declawing of cats is STRICTLY forbidden.
- We do not adopt indoor/outdoor cats. Our cats are indoor only except in rare circumstances when we have barn cats looking for homes.

Once we receive your application, please be patient with us as we process it.

We are a new and growing rescue, and we work as quickly as we can with a small but dedicated staff. After we have processed your application, we will contact you.

Your meet and greet appointment

- Meet and greet appointments will be scheduled at our shelter (or at the foster home if the pet is under the care of a foster family) as soon as possible. We ask that, whenever possible, ALL members of the household attend the meet and greet.
- If you own a dog, and wish to adopt a second, we will facilitate a proper introduction at our facility. If your current dog has anxiety or temperament issues, please let us know ahead of time so we can tailor our introduction to his/her specific needs.

The home visit process

- We will arrange for a home check **either** before adoption day or on adoption day, depending on circumstances. The home visit is done to ensure your home (and fence, for dog adopters) is safe and adequate for the animal you wish to adopt.
- On adoption day, if we have determined that your home and family will provide a good, loving, safe, lifetime placement for all people and pets concerned, we enter into our adoption contract, collect the adoption fee, and provide all the vet records and transitional materials for your new forever family member.

Follow-ups

- Adopters agree to take their new family member to their vet within the first 30 days of ownership for a general health checkup.
- If not already altered, any animal adopted must be spayed/neutered within 30 days or by six months of age.

*Everything we do, we do because we are looking for
FOREVER homes and FOREVER families!*