



*Welcome to the Delaware SPCA and thank you for your interest in adopting! This questionnaire is designed to assist you in finding an animal that is the best fit for your family and lifestyle. Please review the Adoption Policy below and fill out the questionnaire in its entirety.*

## **ADOPTION POLICY**

- \*Adopters must be 18 years or older and present government-issued **photo ID with current address**, as well as one additional proof of address (e.g. piece of mail or bill with name and address).
- \*Renters must provide **written proof** that pets are allowed in the residence. Homeownership may be verified by parcel search. Adopters living with family members or in a private rental must obtain written authorization from the homeowner allowing a pet to join the home.
- \*Any family members under the age of 10 **must** meet the animal before the adoption is approved. We highly recommend all family members meet the animal; we want to ensure that the animal you select is a good fit for everyone!
- \*If you are applying to adopt a dog and you already have a dog, we will set up a meet and greet at the SPCA. You must bring their current rabies certificate for the meet and greet.
- \*Applications must be completed and approved prior to adopting an animal. If approved, the adopter will sign a contract to adopt the animal which outlines the responsibilities of the shelter and adopter.
- \* Please be prepared to pay the adoption fee at the time of adoption. This fee offsets our cost to care for homeless animals and get them ready for adoption.
- \*We reserve the right to contact your veterinarian for current/past pets and to perform a home inspection prior to the adoption.
- \*Adopters must be willing to accept follow-up contact by SPCA staff either by phone or in person.
- \*The primary adoption area is within 100 miles of the shelter.

# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTERS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of animal(s) you'd like to adopt \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Co-applicants are roommates whose names are on the lease or the name of the homeowner if you are living in a home you do not own)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing type: \_\_\_\_\_ OWN \_\_\_\_\_ RENT \_\_\_\_\_ LIVE WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT HOUSING

Number of people in the home? \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s) of children living in home: \_\_\_\_\_

If you rent, are pets allowed? \_\_\_\_\_ Are there size and breed restrictions?: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to provide proof that your pet fee has been paid (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Landlord and phone number (if applicable)? \_\_\_\_\_

## List current and past pets:

PET NAME	DOG or CAT	BREED	Spayed/neutered?	Where are they now?

Name of Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

# FOR DOG APPLICANTS

Why do you want a dog? \_\_\_ Guard dog \_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_ Companion for child \_\_\_ Companion for yourself

Qualities and personality you're looking for in a pet:

If adopting a puppy, how long has it been since you've had a puppy?

Behaviors you find unacceptable and difficult to manage:

Method of training you will use to correct unacceptable behaviors:

Crates provide a safe, secure place for a new dog or puppy to retreat and to decompress from living in the shelter environment. Crates are useful, necessary equipment when adopting a puppy.

Are you familiar with crate training?

Do you have a crate?

A tired dog is a happy dog! Exercising your dog regularly will help ensure they're able to relax and enjoy their new home. Pent up energy from not being exercised can lead to difficult behaviors. How do you plan on exercising your dog?

Do you have a fenced yard?

Where will your dog/puppy be kept when you are away from home?

Where will your dog/puppy be kept at night?

What will you do if your new dog does not get along with your resident dog?

What questions do you have about adopting this dog that we can help you with?

Your new dog needs time to adjust. It can take 2 weeks or more for them to understand that you will protect and provide for them. You can help them by showing compassion while giving clear directions and having realistic expectations. When you get your new dog home, give them a brief tour of their primary living area or places they will be most often. Do not allow them to wander through your home unattended! Remember that they have been living in a shelter where they went potty on the floor!

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# FOR CAT APPLICANTS

Why do you want a cat? \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Companion for child \_\_\_\_\_ Mouser/Barn Cat \_\_\_\_\_ Companion for yourself

If adopting a kitten, how long has it been since you've had a kitten?

Scratching and climbing are behaviors that are instinctive for cats, you can NOT teach a cat to stop climbing and scratching! You can provide a cat tree with low pile carpet and lots of twine/sisal: these will meet both the need to climb and scratch. What will you do if your cat climbs on counters or scratching your belongings?

Behaviors you find unacceptable and difficult to manage:

Method of training you will use to correct unacceptable behaviors:

Where will the cat be kept at night?

Where will the cat be kept during the day?

What will you do if your cat doesn't get along with your resident pet?

Where will you place the litter box?

What concerns do you have about adopting a cat that we can help you with today?

A new cat may take several months to adjust to a new home. They will decompress from living in the shelter if you slowly grow their world. What steps will you take to help your cat get used to their new environment?