

Adoption Process Information Sheet



Why is there an adoption process?

The animals in our program are being given a second chance on life so we are committed to find the best opportunity for each of them to thrive. In order to accomplish this goal, we put great effort into screening and educating applicants prior to any adoptions. Applicants are not chosen on a first come, first serve basis; but rather, the best applicant for each particular pet is chosen. This process is not for everyone, but from our experience, those individuals that are patient with the process will better understand the implications of adding a new pet to their family, be willing to learn, and be prepared in order to adopt a pet from EARS. Accordingly, if any problems arise later with the adopted pet, the adopter has the tools to properly address and handle the situation or know to seek help to address the situation. EARS always continues to be a resource for the adopters, including doing follow-up contacts with the adopter at certain periods after the adoption to make sure everyone is settling in properly and no issues have arisen.

What is the adoption process?

Below is a general overview of the steps involved in the adoption process.

- Potential adopters must fully complete and submit an adoption application. This application will enable EARS to learn about the potential adopter's past interaction with pets, the healthcare and treatment of any current pets (including a veterinary reference), their living environment, the traits they are looking for in a pet, and the method of care and training they plan on using for a new pet.
- An EARS volunteer reviews the application and corresponds via email and/or phone with the potential adopter regarding the pet in which the adopter is interested to see if there is a potential match.
- If the pet seems like it might be a good fit, an EARS volunteer will coordinate with the potential adopter to meet the pet. At this meeting, the EARS volunteer will provide a packet of information containing educational material regarding proper animal care, training, expectations, and necessary steps to bring a new pet into the family.
- If both EARS and the potential adopter are comfortable moving forward, an EARS volunteer will visit the potential adopter's home. During the home visit, the EARS volunteer will help identify and suggest remedies if there are any safety concerns in the living environment that may pose a risk to the pet.
- As part of the education process, an EARS volunteer will meet with a potential adopter at a pet store to walk through the store to discuss and educate the adopter on different products including food, treats, grooming supplies, crates, harnesses, etc., that are necessary to care for the animal. This allows the adopter to gain the knowledge to understand and choose which products to use for a new pet.
- Lastly, the adopter is given time to gather all the necessary supplies and the formal adoption and placement is complete by signing an adoption contract between EARS and the adopter.