

## **GENERAL ADOPTION POLICIES**

If you are considering adopting one of our dogs or puppies, please note our policies regarding placement. CARE takes its responsibility to each dog's future very seriously. Each animal we serve has come to us seeking a permanent home. In many cases the dogs have been affected by lack of security, consistency, training and basic needs. Our responsibility is to ensure the proper placement of each dog for their future well-being, and our interaction with the dog, our veterinarians, and our policies govern the decisions that we make as a committee.

**INITIAL VISIT** - Before we start any adoption procedure, interested families are required to visit an adoption stand and meet our dogs. Adoption stands are held every weekend. During the week our dogs are housed in private homes and kennels to which the public is not invited. CARE believes that the decision to adopt a particular dog needs to be made with thoughtful deliberation that cannot take place simply from viewing a picture or talking about the dog on the phone or through email. Nothing replaces seeing the animal with one's own eyes, interacting with it and making sure there is a connection with it.

**FENCING** - Adoption requirements may vary based upon a dog's individual needs. However, we always seek homes with a constructed fenced yard, and require it for 99% of our adoptions. Waivers may be given to people living in apartments or condominiums where fencing is not provided to residents. We do not consider invisible fencing products adequate or appropriate, believing that constructed fences serve several purposes. Primary of those is to help eliminate unwanted people and animals from your dog's environment. This extra layer of security is very important in the initial month or two after adoption when dogs are likely to look for opportunities to run out of doors around the legs and feet of their owners or visitors to the home. We will require, at all times, a fenced yard for adoptive homes with children, or homes where children frequently visit.

**VETERINARY REFERENCE** - We ask for, and strongly consider, a veterinary reference. Your current or previous vet can tell us that you are a responsible pet owner, that you keep your animals' vaccines and heart worm prevention up-to-date, have them spayed or neutered, and maintain

their health as recommended. We do not adopt to persons under 21 years of age, in homeless situations, or to those who are not totally self-sufficient.

**PUPPY POLICY** - For small dogs and puppies, we require homes without larger animals or preschool aged children. We cannot risk accidental injury to our vulnerable friends. Puppies are adopted only to homes with adults who are home most of each day for socialization and training. A family who works away from the home 40+ hours a week cannot provide consistent socialization and training for a puppy, and studies prove that puppies have stronger mental and emotional skills when given this type of early intervention.

**HOME VISITS** - A home visit is required for all adoptions. Our goal is to find responsible pet owners with safe environments for their families and animals. We reserve the right to refuse an adoption based upon any factor we deem as unsatisfactory for our rescued animals.

**MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS** - 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. Be aware that the animals available for adoption are rescue animals who have often been exposed to a variety of diseases in shelters and on transports. 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.

All of our adoptable animals receive the following medical care prior to adoption (based upon their age and our veterinarians' recommendations):

- Health screening and veterinary examination
- Spay/Neuter
- Distemper combination vaccinations
- Rabies vaccination
- Microchip
- Heartworm test and preventative medication
- Deworming for intestinal parasites

**ADOPTION FEES** - Adoption Fees vary by animal. Adoption fees for adult mixed-breed dogs are \$200, pure-bred dogs and puppies are \$350. Senior

dogs are \$50 to \$100. Our vets are consulted and assign breed and age designations. Neither can be guaranteed.