

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ADOPTING FROM COASTAL ANIMAL RESCUE

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Linda and I am the Volunteer Coordinator at Coastal Animal Rescue. Below, is information regarding adopting a cat or dog from us as well as the adoption process.

HOW CATS AND DOGS COME TO BE AT THE SHELTER:

There are two ways animals come to us: Owner Surrender or Stray/Abandoned Surrender.

OWNER SURRENDER: Means that the actual owner of the dog or cat for a number of reasons can no longer take care of their pet. They sign an “Owner Surrender Form”. This means that they have given ownership of their animal to Coastal Animal Rescue. We ask for detailed information on the cat or dog; breed, behavior issues, health issues, date of birth or approximate age of the animal, if the cat/dog gets along well with children, dogs, cats, other types of animals, is the cat/dog up to date on shots, has cat/dog been spayed or neutered. We depend on honest and accurate information so that we can place this dog/cat into a suitable home.

STRAY OR ABANDONED SURRENDER: Means that someone has found this animal. They do not know any history on the animal. They sign a “Stray or Abandoned Surrender Form”. We ask where the cat/dog was found, condition of the cat/dog when found.

Unlike an “owner surrenders” where we get detail on the animal, a “stray or abandoned surrenders” are a little more difficult. To the best of our ability we estimate age, breed and temperament of the animal. Our knowledge of the temperament may or may not change as we continue to observe the animal while in the shelter. When an animal comes in as a stray or abandoned surrender, we place a 7-day hold on the animal to attempt find the owner of the animal before we put the pet up for adoption. We check an animal immediately when brought in as a stray or abandoned to see if the animal has been micro-chipped. If so, we contact the owner information found on the chip. If there is no chip, we post the animal on Craigslist and at our website on facebook. We do not post pictures because we want detailed descriptions and pictures from the owner. **We do this to protect the animals from going to someone who may want to cause harm or initiate the animal in an illegal manner.** If we have get no response within 7 days, the animal then becomes adoptable to a suitable home.

MEETING ANIMALS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

PETSMART: We are in Petsmart once a month. There you can meet some of our cats. You can speak with the volunteer there at that time and fill out an application on the cat that you are interested in. You can hold the cats to see if there is a connection.

AT THE SHELTER: You may call the adoption center at 652-0196. We will ask specific questions as to what type of animal you are looking for. Those questions will include; age preference, breed preference, sex preference, short hair, long hair, do you have children if so what are the ages, etc. We ask these questions so that we don't show you animals that you will not be interested in. If we have an animal that meets your description, we will then set up an appointment for you to come meet the animals. If we do not, we will take your name and telephone number so that if one should come to the shelter we can contact you.

THE ADOPTION PROCESS:

First you must be **21** years of age to adopt from Coastal Animal Rescue. You will be asked to fill out an application. Coastal Animal Rescue will do a "vet check" to be sure that the pets currently owned are up to date on their shots and if your pet has been spayed or neutered. If you rent, Coastal Animal Rescue will check with your landlord to verify that you are permitted to own pets. Your application will be reviewed by our adoption committee and must unanimously approved. **APPLICATIONS ARE NOT APPROVED ON A FIRST COME BASIS.** If approved, you will be called and asked to come back to the shelter at which time you will be asked to sign an "adoption agreement" and if needed a "pre-spay/neuter agreement". If the cat or dog you have been approved for has not been spayed or neutered, we will set an appointment for this to be done. Please note, that if this appointment is not kept, we will call to inquire the appointment was not kept and will re-schedule.

The adoption process usually will take 2-3 days.

ADOPTION FEE:

Our adoption fee is \$75.00. This fee includes: Up to date shots, spay or neuter and micro-chipping.

THE ADOPTION CENTER:

You can reach the adoption center at 843-652-0196. Volunteers man the adoption center and although we try to have someone there Mon – Sat, it is not always possible. We sincerely try to return calls within 24 hours. Your patience is greatly appreciated.