

We've been getting some questions lately about our policies regarding appointments, applications, and meeting the animals, so we thought we'd take this opportunity to explain them.

Why do you prefer an appointment to come to the adoption center? Why can't I just stop by and see the animals?

When people drop in without appointments, it seems that most people come at the same time. We don't know why, but that's the way it works out! By setting appointments, we can control the flow of people so that we don't have large numbers here at the same time. People naturally have questions and want more information on the animal(s) they are interested in when they come to the center to look at animals. By scheduling an appointment, we can make sure that someone is available to answer your questions. If everyone shows up at the same time, we may not have enough people available to answer everyone's questions in a timely manner.

Why do you prefer that I have an approved application to come and meet the animals?

By having an approved application, you won't have to wait to adopt when you meet the right animal. If you don't have an approved application, you will have to complete one and it must be approved before you can adopt. It generally takes us 24 to 48 hours to process an application, and we process them on Tuesdays – Fridays. This means that you will have to make a separate trip to adopt the animal if your application is approved. We do not have the staff/volunteers available to process applications "on the spot", so having an approved application before you meet the animal(s) is more convenient for you (one trip instead of two). And frankly, it's a little easier for us too!

Having an approved application does not commit you to adopt. We strive to make sure that the animal you are adopting is the right fit for you and your family. Sometimes, the connection isn't there, and that's fine. An approved application is good for 6 months, so if you don't find the right one, just keep looking! We're always getting new animals in, and you won't have to complete another application if you find one later that you love!

Why can't I go outside and look at the dogs?

Most of our adult dogs do not show well in the kennel. Many get agitated or excited when strangers approach. However, when we bring these dogs out individually to meet people in the lobby or play yard, their behavior is entirely different. Seeing a dog in a more natural home environment, not in a kennel, will give you a better idea of that dog's personality and make it easier for you to decide if that dog is right for you.

With puppies, it's a different story. If we have puppies available and they are in the puppy room, you are welcome to go in and see them. And you are also free to go into the cat and kitten rooms!