



ADOPTION PROCEDURES

We Don't Sell Pets ~ We Adopt Them Into Loving Families!

We are dedicated to finding the best homes possible for the animals in our care. They often come to us because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Sometimes a person who couldn't care for them appropriately surrendered them. But, because they were lucky enough to find themselves at the CAHS, these animals have a second chance. They've already had a hard life, so we owe it to them to screen their new families very carefully - and we take our screening process very seriously. **We want these animals' adoptive homes to be safe, loving, and permanent!**

Our adoption program strives to place animals in kind and responsible homes where we are confident that they will receive proper care and attention throughout their lifetime. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that fewer and fewer animals become tragic statistics in the communities that we serve. You may be surprised to find that adopting an animal is a more involved process than you expected. It is important to understand that the process is the same for everyone and it is not our intent to frustrate potential adopters. **Everything we do is for the best interest of the animals in our care.**

You must be eighteen years of age or older to adopt an animal. **We do not adopt pets to anyone on their initial visit.** The adoption process may take up to 48 hours.

Our adoption screening process includes:

- **Completing a thorough compatibility survey**
- **Providing proof of address/residence**
- **Providing requested references**
- **Allowing us to do a home check if necessary**

Our goal is to facilitate the best match for you and your new best friend. The compatibility survey you are asked to complete will help our matchmakers help you find the companion animal of your dreams. We will verify your residence, contacting landlords/property managers as necessary. We will also contact your veterinarian as a reference.

Adopting an animal is a long-term commitment that should not be made hastily, so take your time in making the decision to adopt. Carefully consider the time, money, and energy it takes to care for a four-legged family member. Consider adopting an older animal, instead of a puppy or kitten. Or caring for a pet with special needs. Or taking two playmates together. We have dozens of great companion animals that need good homes.

We do not adopt animals as gifts or presents. Gift certificates are available, and that person can then come to the CAHS to be matched with the right animal for them. They must complete a compatibility survey and be approved for adoption.

Once your compatibility survey has been completed, you will meet with CAHS matchmakers to review it and discuss the animals you are interested in adopting. Please take this time to ask any questions you may have.

Please be aware that we do not approve every adoption application we receive. If we believe there is good cause, or it is not in the best interest of the animal to be adopted to an individual/family, we will deny the application. The intent of the CAHS is to provide good matches for all involved.

It's stressful for the animals, for our staff, and most importantly, for the adopter when adoptions don't work out and pets have to come back to us. A bad adoption experience can sour some people on dogs or cats, or on shelter animals for life. So please understand that going through the process the way we do is really the best policy for all of us.



ADOPTION POLICIES

- Animals must be adopted primarily as **household companion animals only.**
- Think about why you and your family want a pet. **Do you have time for a pet?** They cannot be ignored because you are tired or busy. They require food, water, exercise, care, and companionship every day of the year. **Can you afford a pet?** The costs of pet ownership can be quite high. Veterinary care, licenses, training classes, grooming, food, toys, kitty litter, and other expenses add up quickly. **Are you prepared to deal with special problems that only a pet can cause?** Flea infestations, scratched furniture, chewing, accidents from animals not yet housebroken, and unexpected medical emergencies are unfortunate but common aspects of pet ownership.
- No dogs will be placed as guard or attack dogs. Dogs will be part of a family and not chained outside. Dogs should have an adequately fenced yard (or underground fence system), a trolley system, or a large kennel. Dogs **MUST** have some form of restraint and shelter when outside unattended. **Daily exercise is required for dogs.**
- No cats as mousers only. **We prefer cats be kept indoors,** the lifespan of an outdoor cat is 18 months, and indoor cat 14 years.
- **All dogs and cats adopted from the CAHS will be spayed or neutered,** unless they are of an age that it is not healthy. At that time, a contract will be signed that the animal will be altered by a specific date and the CAHS will enforce that contract.
- All currently owned animals must be up to date on all vaccines and spayed/neutered. **Your veterinarian will be contacted to verify your pets' records.**
- If the adopter is no longer able to keep or care for the animal, the adopter must contact the Conway Area Humane Society.
- We do not adopt any animals under 8 weeks of age. If there are children under 6 years of age in a home, we recommend adopting a puppy or kitten over the age of 4 months. If no one is home during the day, adoption of a very young animal is discouraged.
- **All adopters must be 18 or older.** Identification and proof of physical address is required to adopt any pet.
- If an adopter lives in a rental unit, or in a community with specific guidelines concerning pets, we must be provided with the landlords/property manager's name and phone number. **Permission is required from the landlord/property manager.**
- **Animals cannot be adopted as gifts** for another person. Gift Certificates are available.

- We encourage all family members to be present at the time of adoption. **All household members must want this pet. All dogs in the household must meet this pet.**
- The adopter **must provide medical care** and treatment needed by the animal. This includes at least one yearly medical checkup and vaccinations indicated by your veterinarian and preventative heartworm medication.
- Some animals in our care may have restrictions. Some may not be allowed to go to a home with children, or a home with other animals. Some animals may have other types of restrictions. Restrictions are not negotiable.



Conway Area Humane Society ~ Dog Compatibility Survey

Thank you for coming to the Conway Area Humane Society. Please fill out this form completely so

we may help you find your paw-fect match.

_____ CAHS# _____ DATE _____
 Name of Animal(s) you are interested in adopting

Getting to know you . . .

Name _____ Drivers License # _____ State _____

Spouse/Partner's Name _____

Physical Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell/Other Phone _____

Email Address _____

How long have you lived at this address? [] <6 months [] 6 mos - 2 yrs [] 2-5 yrs [] 5+ yrs

Do you plan on moving within the next year? [] yes [] no

If yes, what will you do with your new pet? _____

Do you live in a: [] house [] apartment [] condo
 [] mobile on own land [] mobile in a park

Do you: [] own [] rent [] live with family [] live with friends/roommates

Are you at least 18 years old? [] Yes [] No

Please describe your neighborhood: _____

Is your yard fenced in? Yes No If yes, how high is the fence? _____

We want to ensure that your new pet will be welcome and secure in its new home. Moving and landlord issues are two of the top five reasons pets are relinquished to shelters. Therefore the owner of the home, or property manager of the community you live in, must give permission for your new pet to move in.

If you own your own home, are you willing to provide some form of home ownership verification?
 Yes No

If you do **not** own your own home:

Have you discussed adopting a pet with your landlord/parents/roommates/property managers?
 yes no plan to after choosing a pet

Does your landlord require any pet deposit/fee/rent?
 yes ~ not yet paid yes ~ already paid no unsure

Landlord/parent/roommate/property manager's name(s) & phone** _____

I can provide a copy of my lease/pet agreement

****Must provide name and phone number of landlord or mobile home park property manager.**

Your Household

Number of adults living in the household _____ Number of kids _____

Have all adults agreed to add a new dog to the household? yes no plan to discuss

Does anyone in the household have known allergies to dogs? yes no If yes, plans for coping with new dog are: _____

Ages of children living in the household or visiting frequently _____

Who will be primarily responsible for the care of your new pet? children adults other

What type of exercise will you provide for your dog? _____

Where will the dog stay during the day, and during the night? _____

Employer _____ What do you do there? _____

Amount of time spent at work each day (including travel time) _____

Spouse/Partner's Employer _____ What do you do there? _____

Amount of time spent at work each day (including travel time) _____

Dog Experience

first time owner had 1 or 2 knowledgeable and experienced

Time away from home - *check all that apply*

home all day out part-time away 7-10 hours daily away for weekends frequent trips

What arrangements will you make for your dog while you are traveling? _____

Dog Care

Do you prefer a dog that will enjoy - *check all that apply*

living indoors being outside with supervision coming and going independently
 living outdoors living in a barn or garage

Would you enjoy brushing or grooming a dog? rarely occasionally weekly daily

Are you willing to housebreak a dog? Yes No If yes, using what method?

How will you train your dog? Obedience training Spray bottle Firm verbal commands
 Swat with newspaper

Do you plan on taking your new dog to obedience school? Why or why not? _____

Do you understand and accept that a change in a dog's environment may cause the dog to have accidents, especially in the early days of the adoption? Yes No

What will you do if the dog has accidents in the house? _____

What will you do if the dog chews, digs, or has other unfavorable habits? _____

Home Atmosphere

very active/on the go noisy/a lot of frequent visitors some activity quiet/serene

Please describe the temperament and activity level you are looking for in a dog. *Check all that apply*

zippy/high energy mellow/easygoing very affectionate puppy-like responsive
 independent talkative quiet

Bad dog habits you just can't tolerate are: _____

Have you ever adopted from the Conway Area Humane Society? yes no

Have you ever adopted from any other animal shelter? yes no

If yes, which shelter? _____

Please tell us anything else you would like us to know about you or the dog you are looking for:

Your Pets

Please tell us about the pets you have now or have had in the **past five years.**

Name _____ Type/Breed _____

Age: <6 months 6 mos - 2 yrs 2-7 7+ yrs

Sex: male female

Spayed/Neutered? yes no If no, why? _____

Where does the animal stay? *Check all that apply*

living indoors being outside with supervision coming and going independently

living outdoors living in a barn or garage

Do you still have this pet? yes no deceased went missing re-homed other

Explain _____

Name _____ Type/Breed _____

Age: <6 months 6 mos - 2 yrs 2-7 yrs 7+ yrs

Sex: male female

Spayed/Neutered? yes no If no, why? _____

Where does the animal stay? *Check all that apply*

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Name _____ Type/Breed _____

Age: <6 months 6 mos - 2 yrs 2-7 yrs 7+ yrs

Sex: male female

Spayed/Neutered? yes no If no, why? _____

Where does the animal stay? *Check all that apply*

living indoors being outside with supervision coming and going independently

living outdoors living in a barn or garage

Do you still have this pet? yes no deceased went missing re-homed other

Explain _____

Have you ever taken an animal to a shelter? no yes

Circumstances: _____

Who is your current Veterinarian/Vet Clinic? _____

City _____ State _____ Phone _____

Are your pets current on their vaccinations? Yes No Unsure

Are your pets on a heartworm preventative? Yes No If yes, which one? _____

Please list three references. At least two of them must be non-family members.

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship
1.			
2.			
3.			

Other Questions - Please check the items you would like your matchmaker to discuss with you in detail.

Health: vaccinations diseases fleas worming

Behavior: scratching/digging leash training housebreaking rough play crate training

environmental enrichment jumping barking

Care: feeding grooming ID tags/collar microchipping exercise

Other: fencing - underground, above ground adjustment to a new home dogs & kids

introduction to other pets dog runs/outside kennels training

By signing below, I certify that the information I have given is true. I authorize the CAHS to investigate any or all statements as deemed necessary, including veterinary records. I would be willing to have a CAHS

representative come to my home to check on the well-being of my adopted animals . Further, I understand that this survey is the property of the CAHS, and the CAHS has the right to approve or decline adoptions as it deems appropriate.

I understand that adopting a dog or a puppy may be a 10 to 20 year commitment. I am responsible for assuming the expenses of providing veterinary care, quality food, grooming, and so forth, and if I cannot meet the needs of this dog or puppy, I will return him/her to the shelter.

Signature _____ Date _____

For Staff Use:

Comments:

Landlord/Property Manager:

Veterinarian:

Other References:

Other Comments:

Approved

Denied

Date _____

CAHS Matchmakers _____