

H. Pet Adoption Policy

In order to allow enough room in the Clinic for patients boarding or hospitalized, we limit the number of adoptions that can be accepted. Once this limit has been met, no further adoptions can be accepted until a pet has been adopted. **Currently the adoption limit is 1 dog cage and 2 cat cages (a litter of puppies or kittens equals 1 pet cage) up for adoption at any given time except as noted below.** The pet must currently be owned by one of our clients in which the pet has a history of services at our clinic. This helps us identify the pet's vaccination history and any medical and/or behavioral problems. No pets owned by nonclients will be accepted. No stray (whether found by a client or nonclient) will be accepted unless clearly identified as belonging to one of our clients as noted below.

For those pets that may potentially be accepted for adoption, it is important to explain to the client our adoption service is a paid service and a doctor must see the pet before accepting. ***The client will need to schedule an appointment for the pet to be seen by the doctor. This is a no charge consultation and examination.*** Above all, it is the doctor who decides whether the pet is accepted or not. **The doctor will determine if the pet is adoptable based on the health and behavior of the pet. If the pet has a medical condition, it will be the decision of the doctor whether to deny accepting the pet or offer for the client to pay for treatment.** If accepted, the person will need to pay the adoption fee and sign a "Release of Ownership" paper which can be found in the receptionist file drawer. When invoicing in the client's account, use the description "Release Pet Ownership" based on pet's weight.

When accepting a pet for adoption, we make every effort to keep the pet until we find it a home. However, at times this is not possible in the case of a severely ill or aggressive pet—in which the doctor may feel it necessary to euthanize the pet. (Hopefully, by having the doctor see the pet before approval we can avoid such a situation.) Therefore, it is important not to promise the person we will keep the pet until it has a home, but that we will make a reasonable effort to find it a good home.

EXCEPTIONS

- Exception to the above is when a person has found a pet that is one of our patients and is identified as such (such as pet identification and/or rabies tag). In such cases, we will take in the pet until we can contact its owner.
- Pets will not be accepted for adoption during the following months:
 - October—too close to Halloween to accept cats (dogs may be accepted with doctor's approval)
 - November—need to reserve space for Thanksgiving holiday boarders
 - December—need to reserve space for Christmas holiday boarders
 - January 1st – 15th—need to reserve space for New Years boarders
 - March—need space for Spring Break boarders
- For people wanting to surrender a pet for adoption during the months listed above, advise them they may check two weeks after the holiday(s) to see if room is available.

NOTE: Only a doctor may make an exception to one or more of the guidelines listed above.

If a person calls or comes into the Clinic with a stray pet or nonclient pet to place for adoption, advise them they are welcome to post the pet's information on our bulletin board. If the person places info on board, please make sure the person has indicated information about the pet such as breed, color, age (or when born if puppies or kittens). Also, please date the person's paper so we can keep it current. Notices more than 30 days old should be called to see if still current. Notices more than 60 days old need to be removed to make room for others.

The **person adopting** the pet needs to sign the Adoption Agreement form (located in receptionists file drawer) and pays an adoption fee based on the pet's sex and age (use description "Adoption..." in IntraVet to invoice client). See IntraVet for services included in adoption and prices. The adoption fee includes wellness services for the first year from the date of adoption.

* Pre-operative bloodwork normally required on all anesthetic procedures; however, is optional on Clinic adoptions since not included in price of adoption. New owner may have pre-operative bloodwork done for a fee.

Please note that some adoptions may remain in the clinic's care for extended periods of time. In such cases, these pets are considered "foster pets" and are still available for adoption.

End of Section