

DAW ADOPTION INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES



Thank you for your interest in adopting a rescue dog/cat instead of buying from a backyard breeder.

With shelters over-flowing with unwanted animals, adopting a puppy, kitten or adult from a shelter is a responsible choice, making a life's difference.

However, there are important elements to have in mind before making the commitment of adopting an animal, so please take the time to read carefully the information provided below:

Things to know before adopting:

- **Do you have the time to love and care for an animal?**

This includes play, training, simply spending time with him/her. Dogs for example are social animals and unlike cats or other pets do not do well for long periods alone and can develop behavioural problems if neglected or not trained. Rescued dogs may or may not have had basic training thus they must be afforded the time and understanding with special help to help with issues like separation anxiety or previous abuse.

- **Can you afford a dog/cat?**

It's not just the cost of adoption to consider, there may be vet fees, medication, flea treatments, emergency care in case of accidents and there are no guarantees what other type of long-term care may be needed i.e. diabetes, cancer, hip dysplasia or other conditions.

- **Are you able to properly home a dog/cat?**

Individuals in rental accommodations should verify if their landlords accept pets and ensure they have written permission to own a pet in the home. Consideration should be made before adopting a rescue dog/cat to where it will be allowed in your home and whether there is proper space inside with the family.

Additional information on adopting a rescue animal:

➞ **Puppies and kittens:**

- Puppies/kittens can't be adopted if they will be left alone at home with no form of human companionship or that of another animal or for more than 4 hours a day. Puppies up to 6 months need to be fed 3 times a day.
- If you have a pool it has to be enclosed, covered or fenced in to ensure the puppy / kitten doesn't fall in and drown, when puppy / kitten is around the pool there has to be 24-hour supervision.
- Puppies have got a window period for learning between 8 weeks and 6 months, right up to a year old thus choosing to take them to puppy classes as well as socialization classes, obedience training, owner & dog communication workshops etc; may result in them never developing behavioural problems or aggression toward other dogs, people and children.
- All puppies / kittens that are adopted under the age of 6 months have to be returned on their due date when 6 months old to be sterilized and ensure their vaccinations, de-worming and flea treatments are kept up to date *(see more information below in the "Adoptions Costs" section).*



➤ **Adult Dogs:**

- Can't be adopted for sole use as guard dogs, this fuels aggression in them and our rescue dogs are made for families filled with love and affection not cold nights alone barking profusely at strangers to protect your property.
- Generally, we prefer all dogs to become a part of the family and be seen as a family member and thus we can't see some of our dogs being outside dogs. We do have dogs who independently choose to sleep outside and this is fine but if the dog(s) you choose will sleep outside it has to be in a covered, warm kennel either by the back door or patio area, but they must be allowed inside to bond and be a part of their new family. On thunderstorm evenings and when firecrackers are shot or it's extremely cold outside, we prefer them to be inside with you.
- Adopt only if you can cater for that dog's specific needs i.e. very energetic and needs to be exercised, walked and run every day, dogs with physical disabilities, health problem etc.

➤ **Adult Cats:**

- Adult cats need their diet altered as they grow older, chat to your vet about any ageing concerns.
- Check out that you are fully aware of having the knowledge needed about Feline Leukemia, Feline AIDS and Feline Enteritis and how important vaccination against these fatal and painful diseases can be avoided.

❑ **Adoption Terms and Conditions**

- 1) In order to be considered for an adoption, you must:
 - ✓ Be at least 18 years of age.
 - ✓ Have the knowledge and consent of all adults living in your household.
 - ✓ Have the landlord's consent to bring an animal onto the property.
- 2) Puppy/kitten or adult has to be given a 14 days chance to settle and get to know their new family, their new boundaries, new home and environment and new ways. They will be unsettled and consider their Haven their home so when moved they are unsure, become stressed and need reassuring thus a 14 days chance will give them the time to adapt.
- 3) With our dogs/pups/cats/kittens that might be adopted to homes with already unsterilized pets, we will advocate on the importance of sterilization as our belief of the importance of sterilization is not only from a breeding perspective but also for all the health benefits of having your pets sterilized.
- 4) When the animal is no longer wanted they have to be returned to us, as you are their adoptive family but they still belong to DAW and therefore cannot be handed down to family members or friends, or sold, or given away to other organizations including SPCA or just any person.
- 5) All our animals do not get adopted on a "whoever chooses the pet first will get it" but it is rather the best home for that animal that will be chosen first.
- 6) Animals can't be adopted as gifts for families, friends or children. Children are only allowed pets as long as their parents remain responsible until the child is old enough.
- 7) We reserve the right at any time during the adoption process to decline an application, without explanation.

Please do understand adopting a rescue dog or cat or other animal is for life (10-15 year commitment), not a few days, weeks or months, it is FOR LIFE! So, make sure you are ready for this commitment.



□ Adoption Procedure

- 1) If you have thought about it and are ready to adopt, you first need to **decide which one of our rescues you would like to adopt**. Pictures of our animals up for adoption are advertised on the DAW Facebook page and additional pictures can also be sent upon your request.
- 2) Of-course **you can always come to the farm to choose and/or meet your future furry friend**. In this case please note that **all pre-adoption visits can take please by appointment**. We kindly ask you to make an appointment by emailing info@deanimalswalking.co.za or WhatsApp Richelle on 0722989086.
- 3) Once you have made up your mind on which animal you would like to adopt, we will only consider your home for adoption after we receive an application. For this reason, we ask you to **fill in the Dog/Cat Adoption Application Form, initial each page, sign on the last page and email it to deanimalswalking@gmail.com**.
- 4) The **Adoption Application Form needs to be approved by Richelle**, Director of DAW. This might be the opportunity for her to ask additional questions if she feels the need to make sure that your current lifestyle and living environment will suit the needs of the animal that you would like to adopt.
- 5) Once the Adoption Application Form is approved, **a site visit is then organized**, as we want to ensure that the future home is set up for the same energy levels or medical needs that your future pet may or may not have (i.e. a dog that can't climb stairs, dog that jumps walls, open pool etc.) and that in general your home will be the best fit for your future companion.
- 6) Once the site visit is approved, **and all parties are happy with the information provided**, an appointment is arranged for you to come and collect (or we can drop off) your new furry friend.

Although it sounds like a lot of steps, the adoption process generally won't take anything longer than 5-7 days, and please understand that these steps are important in ensuring that we are finding the proper home for the pet to be, **FURever!**

WHOEVER SAID
MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS
HAS NEVER PAID AN ADOPTION FEE



Adoption Costs or Name Your Fee Adoption Fee – any donation will help!

All our adoption fees are not for profit but rather to recover actual vet costs and rescuing.

Puppies and kittens often have higher fees because they may need more veterinary care and often come across deadly diseases (parvo, corona, snuffles...) with their low immune systems, so please keep this in mind.

➤ **Adult Dogs (>6months) Male/Female** - Adoption fee is R400 or donate 2 x 25kg bags of adult food, the adoption includes:

- up to date vaccinations
- deworming and de-fleaing before leaving (we tend to use Revolution or Advocate)
- sterilization
- basic medical care

➤ **Puppies (<6months) Male/Female** - Adoption fee is R600 + R450 compulsory sterilization fee or 3 x 25kg bags of puppy food + sterilization fee, and this includes:

- 1st vaccinations (sometimes 2nd & 3rd depending how long they stay with us) to build immunity against deadly & infectious diseases such as parvo, distemper, corona etc.
- deworming and de-fleaing (Revolution or Advocate) before leaving the shelter
- sterilization when reaching 6 months age : ***you can of course decide to get it done through you own vet, but we can have it done for an extra R450 if you bring the animal back to us at 6 months and we cover the other R450 from our side***, we will arrange to get him/her sterilized at our own vet clinic.
- Microchip

Special note on puppies' vaccinations:

Puppies need to get 3 vaccine injections before they reach 6 months age:

1st vaccination: for parvo, distemper, corona etc. + kennel cough (you need to ask for this last one) at **8 weeks**

2nd vaccination: for booster normal vaccine and booster kennel cough + 1st rabies at **12 weeks**

3rd vaccination: for booster normal vaccines, booster kennel cough (if vet says so) + booster rabies at **16 weeks**

For this reason, if you adopt a puppy under 6 months, we will make sure that he/she got the last inoculation due to his/her age at the moment of the adoption, **but all following treatments then become your responsibility and are at your own cost.**

➤ **Adult Cats (>6months) Male/Female** - Adoption fee is R200 and includes:

- up to date vaccinations (for normal vaccination, leukemia, snuffles and rabies)
- deworming before leaving the shelter
- sterilization
- basic medical care

➤ **Kittens (<6months) Male/Female** - Adoption fee is R250 and includes:

- 1st vaccinations for normal vaccine, leukemia and snuffles at 9 weeks
- deworming and de-fleaing before leaving the shelter
- sterilization when reaching 6 months age : ***you can of course decide to get it done through you own vet, but we can have it done for an extra R130 if you bring the animal back to us at 6 month***, we will arrange to get him/her sterilized at our own vet clinic.

Special note on kittens' vaccinations:

Kittens need to get 3 vaccine injections before they reach 6 months age:

1st vaccination: for normal vaccine, leukemia and snuffles at **9 weeks**

2nd vaccination: for booster normal vaccine, leukemia & snuffles + 1st rabies at **13 weeks**

3rd vaccination: for booster rabies at **17 weeks**

For this reason, if you adopt a kitten under 6 months, we will make sure that he/she got the last inoculation due to his/her age at the moment of the adoption, **but all following treatments then become your responsibility and are at your own cost.**

