



# Adopting a Rescue Pet

## Common Issues of Concern

Issue	Agency Policy	Rationale and Comments
<b>Commitment of family and/or other adult household members</b>	We encourage all adopters to ensure that their household is involved with and committed to the adoption of a new pet.	Adopters will receive counseling from the Adoption Team in regards to making sure the household is supportive and ready to participate.
<b>Adopter under the age of 18</b>	All adopters must be 18 or older.	The State of Utah considers animals to be property and 18 is the age one can legally own property.
<b>Adopting for a secondary party</b>	We allow adoptions as a “gift.” Research conducted by the ASPCA in 2013 debunked the myth that pets given as gifts are less loved or cared for. The study, entitled “Should Dogs and Cats be Given as Gifts?” can be read <a href="#">here</a> .	Adopters will receive counseling from the Adoption Team with regard to making sure the animal is a good fit for the giftee. It is always recommended that the person receiving the pet as a gift has made it known that they are ready for the responsibility of pet ownership.
<b>Landlords/Renting</b>	We encourage all adopters to ensure that their property allows them to have the desired animal before adopting.	Adopters will receive counseling from the Adoption Team with regard to understanding your limitations as a renter.
<b>Homelessness</b>	If the adopter does not have a physical address or residence, we cannot adopt the animal to them.	By ordinance, we must enforce the licensing of animals and we cannot license an animal without a physical and verifiable address.
<b>Adoption without ID</b>	A valid ID is required to adopt an animal.	We must verify an owner’s identity, especially if cruelty in the adoptive home is an issue.
<b>Outside-only Dogs</b>	Dogs may be placed with outside-only homes on a case-by-case basis.	Some dogs are accustomed to living outside with proper shelter, or are bred for outdoor work, such as livestock guardian dogs.
<b>Guard Dogs</b>	We do not place dogs for the purpose of being “guard dogs.”	Dogs that would be classified as “guard dogs” are typically not going to be placed in our adoption program. A dog suitable for this type of work won’t be found at our facility.
<b>Littermates (Dogs)</b>	We do not place two puppies from the same litter into the same home.	Littermate Syndrome (also known as Sibling Aggression or Littermate Aggression) is a non-scientific, anecdotal term that refers to a host of behavioral issues that tend to be present when canine littermates are raised in the same household beyond the normal 8 to 10 weeks of age, when puppies are usually placed in homes.
<b>Littermates (Cats)</b>	Kittens are allowed to be adopted in pairs.	Unlike puppies, kittens typically do better in pairs and are not subject to behavioral issues.
<b>Adopting two dogs on the same day</b>	We do not allow the adoption of two dogs on the same day unless the dogs are a bonded pair or came from the same home previously.	Adjustment to a new home is difficult for a shelter dog and can be negatively impacted by another shelter dog going through the same experience.
<b>Adopting two cats on the same day</b>	We allow the adoption of two cats on the same day.	Cats are more manageable in terms of adjusting to a new environment, and can be kept in separate areas of the house during introduction.
<b>Property Fencing</b>	Although it is recommended for your pet’s safety, fencing is not required.	Many adoptions are very successful despite the home not having a fenced yard.

<b>Tethering (Tie outs)</b>	Dogs can be tethered outside for short periods of time if the yard does not have fencing. Tethered dogs must have adequate water and shelter at all times, and their tether must be long enough to allow them an area of at least 6' in circumference. Chains used as tethers cannot be weighted.	Tethering a dog in an unfenced yard for short periods of time prevents the dog from running at large while allowing it to enjoy the outdoor environment. We strongly encourage supervision during this time for your pet's safety as well as that for others in the neighborhood.
<b>Yard Checks</b>	We do not provide yard checks.	Adopters are encouraged to ensure that their yard is free of potential hazards for their new pet.
<b>Outside Cats</b>	Adopters who desire an outside cat will be directed to our Barn Cat program.	The majority of cats in our adoption program are not guaranteed to thrive in outdoor environments, and must be kept inside. However, we typically have a selection of barn cats available for adoption that prefer to live outside.
<b>Inside/Outside Cats</b>	According to county ordinance, purposely allowing your cat to roam is unlawful.	Section 6.04.010, numbers 1 and 6, define "animal" and "animal at large" and Section 6.16.080 prohibits animals at large
<b>Declawing</b>	If potential adopters express their desire to declaw, we will suggest cats in our care that are already declawed. If they plan to declaw a cat with intact claws, we will deny their adoption.	The Humane Society of the United States opposes declawing and tendonectomies except for rare cases when it's necessary for medical purposes. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information about the harm caused by declawing.
<b>Two Rabbits</b>	Rabbits must be adopted individually, unless the rabbits came in together and are already bonded. If a pair are bonded, they must be adopted together.	Rabbit bonding is a delicate and time-intensive process. We cannot guarantee that two rabbits will get along. Rabbits that have already been bonded can experience severe distress, and possibly death, if they are separated.
<b>Pet Limits</b>	We do not adopt out animals to residents of Davis County if the adoption of the animal would place them above the county pet limit.	Please understand that it is your responsibility to be aware of and abide by your city and jurisdictional limitations; we are only able to educate potential adopters about Davis County ordinances.
<b>Licensing</b>	For residents of Davis County, all pets already in the household must be licensed in accordance with county ordinance before we will allow the adoption of an additional animal.	Because our Officers are tasked with enforcing the county ordinance, our entire staff is obligated by law to ensure the legality of the household prior to adoption.