



# Adopting a Rescue Pet

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## The Ins and Outs: What to Expect

### IMPROVEMENTS FOR PET ADOPTERS

Changes are coming to Animal Care of Davis County beginning February 1, 2023 to enhance our adoption process and make ACDC even better at saving the lives of dogs, cats, and other adoptable pets. Potential adopters will notice updates in the coming months—all designed to improve the pet adoption process and increase the odds of your family finding the right pet at the right time!

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#### Website Updates

Check out the updated [Adoption Information](#) page on our website that gives in-depth information about the adoption process, adoption fees, and all of our adoption policies, and even allows you to complete an adoption survey in the comfort of your own home before coming to the shelter.

#### Appointments Required

Due to many of these changes to the adoption process, appointments are now required so our Adoption Team can offer a more personalized experience for each adopting family. Schedule an adoption appointment by clicking [here](#).

#### Adoption Survey

Animal Care of Davis County is moving away from the first come, first served model that has been practiced at the facility for over 20 years. Now when you arrive for your appointment, expect to fill out a quick, 60-second adoption survey to receive personalized pet adoption recommendations from our trained staff based on compatibility. This means adopters will see better matches right from the start!

#### Changes to the Kennels

Starting March 1, the general public will no longer need to walk aimlessly through the kennels, hoping to find a match by themselves. Not only do these unscheduled interruptions at all hours of the day impact the animals' stress levels and sleep schedules, but it's nearly impossible for you to truly connect with your perfect pet without knowing the animal's history and behavior. So now, a trained staff member will escort all potential adopters through the dog and cat kennels to provide information about the pets and identify who might be the best fit for your household.

#### Adoption Counseling

After meeting with the pets you're interested in adopting, you'll receive one-on-one counseling in a private space with a member of our Adoption Team to go over all medical and behavioral information we have on the pet you've chosen and answer all of your questions before taking them home. You can expect this process to take about an hour.

## **Adoption Holds**

Also starting March 1, Animal Care of Davis County will be offering convenience holds for stray and adoptable animals that you'd like to adopt for a \$10 non-refundable fee.

## **Stray Holds**

Animals that come into our facility as strays typically become the custody of Animal Care of Davis County at close of business on the last day of the pet's state-mandated stray hold period of five business days. We are now allowing placement of pre-adoptive holds on stray animals to expedite the process of getting them into a new home should no owner claim them.

Please note that when you place an adoption hold on a stray animal, although you've confirmed the adoption, there is always the possibility that the animal may still be reclaimed by its owner, which naturally voids your adoption. In this event, you'll receive a phone call notifying you that the animal was reunited and is no longer available to adopt.

If the pet is found to have a microchip or other identification, or if ACDC has identified a possible owner, the hold time for the pet may be extended and you'll be notified that your adoption may be postponed. In this case, you'll become the legal owner only after the adoption process is finalized at the end of your pick-up appointment.

## **Adoption Holds**

On March 1, we'll also be offering a 24 hour convenience hold for any adoptable pets in our care that are ready to go home. This hold will allow time for you to have additional family members meet your new pet, let you run to the pet store to get supplies, and prepare for its homecoming! If your adoption is not completed within the 24 hour period, the pet will go back up for general adoption.

## **HOW IT WORKS:** What happens once I arrive at the shelter?

1. The Front Desk will ask you to fill out a quick adoption survey to know your needs and wants.
2. The Adoption Tech will then provide private consultation of the available pets, really honing in on your preferences and requirements to find the animal that'll be the best fit for you.
3. Next, the fun part! You'll be introduced to the pet with a meet and greet, and you'll be allowed to spend some alone time with the animal in one of our play yards.
4. Once you choose the animal you want to take home, the Adoption Tech will go over the adoption paperwork and provide helpful guidance for bringing your pet home, as well as any medical information or waivers that need to be discussed. (If the animal is on pre-adopt, you can either foster it until it is adoptable or leave it with us until it is spayed or neutered.)
5. The Front Desk will complete your adoption contract and collect payment.
6. Congratulations, you're all set, but don't leave before we snap a picture of you and your new bundle of joy!

## **GET READY FOR MORE TO COME!**

These changes are just the beginning. We'll be making constant improvements to Animal Care of Davis County in the coming months, so be sure to stay tuned. It's going to be an exciting year!