

HOW TO ADOPT A SHELTER DOG YOU SEE POSTED ON THIS SITE

CONGRATULATIONS – You are interested in saving the life of a shelter dog! HOORAY! A heroic act, indeed! The information below is intended to explain the adoption/foster process as clearly as possible. Please note that Bruised Not Broken is NOT the shelter; nor are we officially affiliated with the shelter. Bruised Not Broken is a posting site that gives exposure to the dogs inside the shelter while helping potential adopters/fosters to “navigate the system”. The policies and procedures outlined below have been designed – and are regulated/enforced –by the shelter.

Aside from cross-posting and sharing dogs’ stories, there are essentially three ways in which one can save a shelter dog posted in this album:

1. **OPTION 1: DIRECT ADOPTION FROM THE SHELTER** (the simplest & most advisable approach). *Read below for details
2. **OPTION 2: ADOPTING WITH THE AID OF A RESCUE GROUP** *Read below for details
3. **OPTION 3: FOSTERING WITH THE AID OF A RESCUE GROUP** *Read below for details

OPTION 1: DIRECT ADOPTION FROM THE SHELTER

While we explain the ‘gist’ of the adoptions process below, please also be sure to view the shelter’s website: <http://www.nycacc.org>

Shelter Hours:

- The shelter is open 7 days per week from 8:00AM-7:00PM (except on National holidays). The Adoptions Center opens at 12:00PM and closes at 7:00PM (note: you must arrive by 6:30PM if you plan to start the adoption process THAT DAY). You can meet a dog and visit the facility between these hours as well.

Adoption Process:

- The shelter requires that you pay an adoption fee. The exact amount will vary depending on the dog’s age, breed, and behavior rating. The adoption fee for Pit Bull-type dogs will typically fall between \$75 and \$150. The adoption fee covers pre-adoption medical care, vaccinations, heartworm test, spaying/neutering, NYC license for NY residents, and ONE free visit with a vet enrolled in the shelter’s program.
- You must be 18 years of age or older
- You must have valid photo identification on you at the time of adoption
- You must provide proof of your current address and, if you rent, your landlord's contact information
- If you have children living in your home, it is strongly advised that they participate in the adoption process. The staff reserves the right to not approve an adoption if there are young children in the family who have not met the dog.
- If you have another dog(s) living in your home, it is strongly advised that they participate in the adoption process and come to meet the potential new furbaby. The

- staff reserves the right to not approve an adoption if there are other dogs in the home who have not met the dog.
- The shelter is required by law to spay/neuter the dog before leaving the shelter (assuming they are healthy & able to undergo surgery). Thus, once you've adopted you will need to come back the next day (typically) to pick up your pup.
 - Should the dog have kennel cough at the time of adoption, he/she will NOT be spayed/neutered before leaving the shelter. Thus, you will be required to leave a REFUNDABLE spay/neuter deposit of \$150, which you will get back once you've had your dog fixed & provide verification to the shelter (*the procedure must be done within 60 days of adopting the dog in order to receive your deposit back).
 - IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT KENNEL COUGH: Kennel cough is extremely common in shelter environments! The shelter will give you medication to take home (although, as always, it is recommended that you take the dog to your vet to ensure that the prescribed dosage & diagnosis is correct). Kennel cough is typically very easy to treat (with antibiotic) and usually goes away within 7-10 days. However, kennel cough is contagious to other dogs; please take this into consideration if you have other dogs at home. If your resident dogs are up to date on their Bordetella shot, they are likely protected against kennel cough (though best to confirm with your vet). If possible, an advisable option is to keep the new dog separate from the resident dogs until the kennel cough has cleared up.
 - If you adopt a dog from the shelter and are experiencing issues, do not panic! Please contact "Pets for Life", which is a service that works to help new adopters & dogs work through their issues. "Pets for Life" can be reached at the following number: 917-468-2938. The initial phone consult is FREE.

Important points to note:

- The shelter will NOT accept "over-the-phone" adoptions; meaning, they will not PROCESS an adoption over the phone. You can, however, call the shelter to notify them of your intention to adopt, assuming you are planning to go to the shelter to do so.
- The shelter will NOT allow one person to adopt a dog on behalf of another person. This is known as a "fake adoption" and it is prohibited. Thus, the ACTUAL ADOPTER is required to be at the shelter at the time of adoption (unless the adopter is working with a rescue group which will facilitate the adoption on his/her behalf).

OPTION 2: WORKING WITH A RESCUE GROUP THAT CAN "PULL" A DOG FROM THE SHELTER ON BEHALF OF AN ADOPTER.

Many rescue groups have been approved to "pull" dogs from the shelter & facilitate adoptions for people who cannot get to the shelter to adopt directly. A partial list of approved groups can be found on this link. PLEASE TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CONTACT THESE GROUPS IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF THEIR ASSISTANCE: <http://www.animalallianceny.org/aboutus/apos/atoz.htm>

If you choose to work with a rescue group that agrees to "pull" for you, then you must work within their guidelines and according to their terms.

- Rescue groups will typically "pull" for someone who cannot get to the shelter within a reasonable time frame to adopt, and the dog's life is in immediate danger.

- Rescue groups will only “pull” for someone whom they have screened and approved. Most rescue groups will require the following (though each group has its own set of terms, so best to check with each group individually):
 - You speak with a member of the rescue group (not just via email, but on the telephone as well);
 - You complete their application in full;
 - You agree, time permitting, to have a home inspection done to ensure that your home is suitable for a new furry addition;
 - You help to figure out transportation if you are long-distance;
 - You donate a “fee” to their organization (much like an adoption fee). This is in lieu of the adoption fee to the shelter.

IMPORTANT: Please note that when a rescue group “pulls” a dog from the shelter, the group is forever responsible for that dog. Thus, groups cannot pull dogs for every single person who puts in a request. Most NYC-based rescue groups will not pull a dog for folks living outside of the East Coast region, as they must be able to easily access the dog should an unforeseen problem arise. However, many rescue groups have affiliates in other parts of the country and MAY, therefore, be able to pull for someone in a more distant location. It will depend on the rescue group, the person/people/household applying for adoption, and the specific dog. Definitely worth reaching out to as many groups as possible!

Connecting/applying with rescue groups NOW (in advance of adopting):

If you know that you’ll likely be adopting a dog from this shelter in the future and will require the assistance of a rescue group, it is highly recommended that you begin filling out applications in advance. Begin contacting rescue groups NOW so that when you are ready to adopt, and seek their assistance, you will have already been screened and approved.

OPTION 3: FOSTERING

If you are not in the position to adopt a dog but are interested & able to provide safety and love for an extended period of time, fostering is a TERRIFIC way to help! Not only does it save the dog you plan to foster, but it also opens kennel space in the shelter; thereby decreasing the euthanasia rate.

In order to foster a shelter dog, a rescue group is required to “pull” the dog from the shelter and facilitate/oversee the arrangement.

- Rescue groups will only “pull” for someone whom they have screened and approved. Most rescue groups will require the following (though each group has their own set of terms, so best to check with each group individually):
 - You speak with a member of the rescue group (not just via email, but on the telephone as well);
 - You complete their application in full;
 - You agree, time permitting, to have a home inspection done to ensure that your home is suitable for a new furry addition;
 - You help to re-home the dog.

Responsibilities of a foster parent:

Fostering a shelter dog provides the opportunity for the dog to recover (emotionally, psychologically, and physically) from the trauma of shelter life.

- In addition to providing day-to-day care of the dog (i.e. feeding, exercising, administering medication if the dog is sick, etc.), foster parents are often asked to help correct any problem behaviors that may exist. The purpose for this is to help make the dog more “adoptable” so that a suitable forever home can be found, and a successful adoption can ensue.
- Foster parents should participate in the re-homing process & be available to speak with potential adopters interested in learning more about the dog.

Financial obligations:

Rescue groups will typically cover all costs associated with veterinary care throughout the foster period. However, it is recommended that you discuss specific terms with rescue groups prior to committing to fostering, as requirements and terms vary with each group.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will the shelter allow me to adopt if I live out of state?

Yes, out of state adoptions are welcome! The best method is to go to the shelter and adopt in person. If you cannot get there, contact rescue groups (see link) and fill out applications with them. If you are approved, a rescue group will facilitate the adoption process and help to provide transport (depending on your exact area).

2. If I make a donation over the phone, or offer to pay for kennel cough medication, will that save the dog from being put down?

Unfortunately, making a donation to the shelter will not save a dog from being put down. The only action that will save a dog from being put down is adoption/foster.

3. I'd like to adopt a dog on tonight's euthanasia list. Will the shelter hold the dog for me until I can get there to pick him or her up?

It depends on how long you need the dog held. The shelter generally will give an adopter until the end of the day (i.e. dog is scheduled to be put down on Monday, you will have until 7PM Monday night to come adopt). If you are traveling long distance, then you MAY be able to convince the shelter to keep the dog off the list until the following day. Also, please note: THERE ARE NO HOLDS PLACED ON DOGS; meaning, even if you call the shelter to indicate your personal intent to adopt, there will still be a “first come first served” approach. That is, if someone else should arrive at the shelter before you, they would be eligible to adopt even though you placed a call earlier indicating your intent to adopt. Note that you still MUST call the shelter to advise them of your intent to adopt in order for the dog to be removed from the euthanasia list. That is the first step in saving a dog you plan to adopt.

4. Can I call or fax in my adoption application?

The shelter does NOT accept “over-the-phone” adoptions; meaning, they will not PROCESS an adoption over the phone or via fax. You can, however, call the shelter to notify them of your intent to adopt, assuming you are planning to go to the shelter to do so. But in

order to adopt, you MUST go to the shelter (or work with a rescue group that can facilitate the adoption for you).

5. Can my mother/father/neighbor/friend adopt a dog for me?

No, the shelter will NOT allow one person to adopt a dog on behalf of another person. This is known as a “fake adoption” and it is prohibited. The ACTUAL ADOPTER is required to be at the shelter at the time of adoption (unless the adopter is working with a rescue group facilitating the adoption). This policy MUST be taken seriously.

6. Why are so many dogs being put down for kennel cough if it can be easily treated?

There is a serious space situation at the shelter. Simply put: there are more dogs being taken to the shelter than there are being adopted out. But since the shelter is technically not allowed to euthanize a dog due to lack of space (only for “illness” or “temper”), they use kennel cough as “justification” for euthanizing.

7. Why do so many dogs catch kennel cough in the first place?

Kennel cough (Upper Respiratory Infection, “URI”) is an airborne virus that is highly contagious. It can also live on surfaces for a while. Shelter environments are not as sanitized as they should be, and overcrowding also creates an environment in which the dogs get sick more easily.

8. There is a vaccine for kennel cough, so why doesn't the shelter use it on incoming animals?

All dogs are immediately vaccinated upon intake. However, since the vaccination does not typically take immediate effect, the dog is not immunized and often catches it anyway.

9. Why does the shelter euthanize dogs so quickly?

There is simply not enough space to house all of the dogs that come in to the shelter. Unfortunately, euthanized first are the dogs that are ill (even if not serious) or have poor behavior ratings (which are often debatable).

10. Do the dogs you post get along with cats?

The shelter cannot 'cat test' the dogs. The only time we have an indication of how a dog will behave around a cat is if the dog's previous owner states that the dog has lived with cats in the past. Slow and careful introductions are always pivotal to the success of a cat/dog relationship.

11. How will I know if the dog will get along with my children?

If you have children living in your home, it is strongly advised that they participate in the adoption process. The staff reserves the right to not approve an adoption if there are young children in the family who have not met the dog.

Additionally, children and dogs (especially newly adopted dogs) should NEVER be left alone without a supervising adult in the room. Children should also be taught how to safely, carefully, and properly interact with a dog.

12. Do I need to bring my current dog(s) to meet the dog I would like to adopt?

If you have another dog(s) living in your home, it is strongly advised that they participate in the adoption process and come to meet the potential new furbaby. The staff also reserves the right to not approve an adoption if there are other dogs in the home who have not met the dog.

13. Will the dog be spayed/neutered before leaving the shelter?

Hopefully, yes. But if the dog is sick (i.e. kennel cough) and cannot be altered at the time of adoption, you will be required to leave a \$150.00 deposit which will be refunded when the dog is fixed. You can either bring the dog back to ACC to have it done (for no cost), or you may have it done at your own vet. If you choose to have the procedure done at a private vet's office as opposed to the shelter, you must fax in proof of the procedure in order to receive a refund of the \$150 deposit. Note that the procedure must be done within 60 days of adopting the dog in order to receive your deposit back.

14. Will the shelter arrange transport of the dog to me?

No, the shelter does not help with transport in any way. You must come to the shelter to adopt and to pick up your dog; OR, work with a rescue group that may be able to help with transport within a reasonable distance.

15. Why do you wait until the night before to post dogs that will be put down the next day?

The shelter does not release the euthanasia list until the evening before the dogs are scheduled to be put down. We post as soon as we receive the information.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this important information! One more point we'd like to raise: While Bruised Not Broken features dogs in the NYC shelters, there are homeless dogs in shelters all over the world that are in desperate need of safe and loving homes. If you are unable to rescue a dog you see posted on Bruised Not Broken due to distance, do not let this stop you from saving a life. Please visit your local shelters and foster/adopt/rescue TODAY! <3