

# Selecting an Animal Rescue

Congratulations on deciding to bring a new family member into your home! There are many animal rescue organizations to choose from. So that you have the best experience possible, consider the information below when selecting an animal rescue from which to adopt.



## General Information and Acquisition of Animals

- The rescue is organized as a 501(c)3.
- The rescue primarily sources local animals from within 500 miles of the rescue's headquarters, preferably from local open-admission shelters.
- The rescue or shelter takes great care to pull behaviorally healthy animals from shelters, or those with the potential to become behaviorally healthy with reasonable behavioral support.
- Animals posing atypical public safety risks, with or without a bite history, are not pulled from shelters, nor adopted out.
- If foster homes are not available, or adequate space is not available, the rescue does not pull from a shelter. Overcrowding or hoarding is carefully avoided.



## The Adoption Experience

- If an adopter wants to return the animal at any time post-adoption, for any reason, the animal is taken back into the care of the rescue but does not require the animal be returned to that specific rescue or shelter.
- The rescue provides post-adoption support to owners, including referrals to local, certified, experienced, qualified, reputable, humane, and ethical trainers.
- The rescue provides adoption counseling in order to assist owners in finding companion animals that fit their lifestyle, but does not raise unreasonable barriers to adoption.
- During adoption counseling, the rescue strives to ensure the humane treatment of the animal once in the home, which means that the animal will not be left outside for extended periods of time, and that humane equipment will be used – that is, the rescue does not recommend shock collars (e-collars), prong collars (pinch collars), nor choke chains.



## Approach to Animal Behavior

- Behavioral support is provided by certified, experienced, qualified, reputable, humane and ethical trainers. The rescue staff are careful to avoid trainers who use punishment or aversive tools.
- The rescue is willing to euthanize a dog who is unsafe with humans or other animals, and does not place one dog's life over the lives and safety of others in the community.



## Approach to Animal Care

- The animals have regular care from a vet and emergency care is provided. All animals are vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and a "normal" level of additional veterinary care is provided. Measures that go above and beyond what a typical owner might spend on their own dog are not employed. Medical decisions factor in the financial well-being of the organization, as well as the long-term potential outcomes for the animal, once adopted.
- Humane and reasonable euthanasia decisions are made, when necessary.