



## **Adopting A Pet**

If you meet an animal at the Dubois County Humane Society and are ready to make a lifetime commitment, we'll be asking you a lot of questions and asking you to think about a number of things (see our "Before You Adopt" page).

Our process is generally as follows:

1. You and your entire family should come to the shelter to meet the pet. Why? Because everyone in the household needs to be committed to the pet and comfortable with the decision.
2. If you're considering a dog, we'll ask if you have a dog at home already. You'll be asked to bring your current pet to the shelter to meet his or her prospective new friend on neutral turf.
3. If you're considering a cat, we'll also ask about your other pets. If it seems like a good match, we'll give you advice about introducing a new cat to the household.
4. We will call your past or present vet to be sure that you've been providing regular vet care to your pets, and that any current pets are spayed or neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations.
5. If you rent, we will need a copy of your lease agreement and possibly to speak to your landlord before we let you take the pet home.
6. We'll ask you to fill out an application, which includes the above questions and a few more. We'll then review that application with you to ensure that it's complete and accurate.

Why do we go through all these steps? Our goal at the Dubois County Humane Society is to match pets with a loving permanent home. The cute kitten you think you want may not fit with your lifestyle, or the active untrained lab may need a fenced yard. By going through this process, we're doing our best to ensure a good match for both your family and the pet.

What does it cost to adopt a pet from the Dubois County Humane Society? The animal itself is free, but in order to pay for food and veterinary care, we charge a fee of \$100 for dogs and \$55 for cats.

Finally, the Dubois County Humane Society reserves the right to refuse to adopt to any applicant. By requesting information on an animal and initiating the application process, you are not guaranteed that any particular animal is yours to adopt. Your application is only the first stage of the adoption process. We don't place our animals on a "first come, first served" basis. Instead, we work to place our animals in the best possible home.