

Welcome to Pets of Dreams Multi Shelter Adopt-a-Thon!

- Where are the pets located? How do I find adoptable pets closest to my home?
 - Please visit www.petsofdreams.org for locations with available pets.
- What services are provided prior to adoption?
 - All pets are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped and initial vaccinations are given before going home.
 - Each pet will have a variety of services preformed prior to adoption. Please ask the agency for further details on services your pet has already received.
- What is the discount offered?
 - At the Pets of Dream event at Clackamas PetSmart, all shelters are offering dogs and adult cats for \$25 and kittens for \$50.
 - All other adoption locations and shelters will be offering a 50% off discount for cats and \$50 off dogs. Prices vary depending on each agency's standard adoption fee.
- Where do I go for follow up questions after adoption?
 - Please contact the shelter or organization from whom you adopted your new pet.
- What can I expect during the first few days after adoption?
 - The first few days are a transition period for you and your new pet. Your new pet is getting used to the sights and smells of your home, the sound of your voice, and the gentle touch of your hand. You will want to help make this transition smooth by providing plenty of water and food, a comfortable bed, toys for them to play with, and a clean litter box, or plenty of bathroom breaks. Ideally you will want to visit your pet often with short visits at first. Talk calmly to your pet and let your pet come to you. In time you will be best friends. Once you and your pet make a connection you can move forward with training and more vigorous play.
- How do I introduce my new pet to other household pets?
 - With cats we recommend that you keep them in a safe room for at least 14 days. A safe room is a room that is only for the cat/kitten. This can be an office, a bedroom, a bathroom, etc. During the first 2 weeks this room should not be used by other animals in your home, and in this time they will get used to their room and will form a bond with you and other family members. Cats are curious so don't be surprised if you see a paw under the door or hissing from the other side of the closed door. Once the 2 weeks pass you can slowly introduce them to other

pets in your home. If you have a dog we recommend that you crate your dog and let the cat slowly approach. Never leave a cat alone with another animal when slow introductions have not been done. Injury can occur. If your dog tolerates the cat and the cat doesn't seem to mind you can bring the dog out of the crate on a leash and let them get a little closer. They may not bond instantly so know that this process can take days or weeks. Always provide a place for the cat to get away from your dog. Tall scratch posts are ideal. When introducing cats to other cats you can do a similar introduction by putting your house cat in a crate or carrier and then letting them meet through the crate front. Remember that cats will make a little bit of a fuss which is okay, but you never want to let it escalate to a fight. Your new pet should always be allowed to retreat to his/her safe room.

- Dogs should be carefully introduced in a neutral but confined area, such as a *fenced* yard. It is best to have the more dominant or larger dog on leash and the more submissive one loose to prevent leash-tangling aggravating a potentially tense situation. Allow the more timid dog to approach the leashed dog and encourage sniffing, but do not encourage play. Keep things quiet and soothing until you have a good feel for how the dogs react to each other. Often there will be some initial “huffiness” that will resolve within 5-10 minutes.
- Where do I go for ongoing medical care for my new pet?
 - Visit www.portlandvma.org/members.php or www.oregonvma.org/vetdirectory/index.asp
- What are the costs of pet care each year?
 - Pet costs are highly variable depending on the species, breed, health and age of the pet but one should expect to spend at least \$30-60/month on food and supplies, and veterinary care can range from \$200-\$300/year for routine care and for urgent medical needs costs can range from \$500 and up.
- How do I introduce my new pet to kids?
 - Always allow the new pet to approach the children rather than having the children approach the pet, so that it is not startled or intimidated. Have the children stay quiet and calm during the introduction and watch the pet closely for signs of nervousness or fear, and remove it from the room if any anxiety is noted.
- Why should I adopt from a shelter?
 - By adopting a pet from a shelter or rescue group you are giving it a second chance at the life it wants and deserves.
 - Your new pet will already be spayed or neutered so they will not add to the pet overpopulation problem which plagues our area

- By adopting one pet you are actually saving 2 lives; the pet you take home and the one which will take their place in our shelter
- You are making a difference!