

Adoption Policy

Bright Eyes Care & Rehab Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to animal care and protection. Our goal is to promote responsible animal ownership within the community and to assume those responsibilities when others are unable or unwilling to do so. All of the programs that we offer are supported by contributions from the public and members of our organization. Those programs include pet adoption, humane education, pet therapy, spay/neuter assistance, obedience training, and any information requested by pet owners.

Prior to adopting a pet, please consider the cost of food and health care as well as the time you have available to spend with your new companion. If you have not already done so, consider the needs of your animal as well as your own and the advantages and disadvantages of pet ownership. Please take your time in choosing a pet.

Pets are easily confused by drastic changes in their lifestyles. Habits may change from owner to owner. We ask that you allow a minimum of 21 days for any pet to adjust to a new home. At first they are not sure where they are or how long they will be there. If you cannot commit to providing a lifetime home for a pet, then do not adopt it. Animals need supervision and companionship. Dogs should be secured to prevent them from becoming a nuisance in the community. Chained dogs are often barkers, diggers, and full of pent up energy. Fenced yards are highly recommended. All pets need a secure, loving home where they will be cared for and given the proper nutrition, water, exercise, shelter, and medical care.

The staff of Bright Eyes is trained to assist you in selecting the right pet. Feel free to ask any questions. If you have any problems concerning your companion animal in the future, please don't hesitate to contact us. If we don't know the answer we will research it and get back to you.

Placing animals in new homes is a responsibility we take seriously. You must read and complete the adoption application and sign a legal adoption contract if you wish to adopt a pet from our facility.

The Bright Eyes Care & Rehab Center's goal is to place companion animals in safe, loving, lifetime homes. To meet these goals, we must have basic requirements to help alleviate pet over-population and ensure responsible, caring pet ownership.

Congratulations on your new family addition. Have fun and take advantage of the health support and unconditional love they will give you.

ADOPTION AGREEMENT

1. Animals must be adopted primarily as household companion animals. No dog will be placed as a guard or attack dog, and no cat as mouser only.
2. Only healthy animals that show no aggressive tendencies or other serious behavior problems will be placed.
3. As of 10-01-97, Montana State Law requires all canines and felines adopted from a shelter or pound be altered. This requires that all dogs/cats must be spayed or neutered by a licensed veterinarian within the time limits specified in our legal contract signed by the adopter. All juveniles in the center will be sterilized prior to leaving with a new owner. Those too young will be required to be spayed/neutered when old enough; females, 4 months old, males 6-8 months old. You may not adopt an animal too young to alter if you have an unaltered pet of the same species at home.
4. No pet shall be given away to another home after adoption. If adopters circumstances change, the pet must be returned to the shelter.
5. No puppies or kittens under 8 weeks of age will be adopted. Puppies and kittens must be at least 4 months old to be placed in a home with children under 6 years.

6. No animal will be adopted to anyone with a known history of cruelty complaints against them or previous violations of our contract of policy.
7. All adopters must be 18 years or older. Identification will be required.
8. If an adopter resides in a rental unit, we must have landlord's name and phone number and also his/her approval to a pet living on the premises.
9. Animals cannot be adopted as gifts. Animals shall not be given away or sold to another individual. They must be returned to the shelter if the adopter can no longer keep and care for the animal properly. Gift certificates are available to purchase for someone wanting to adopt a pet.
10. A free veterinarian examination will be given to each animal at the shelter. After adoption, if a health problem is found, the pet may be returned within 10 days. Initial exams will be given when the animal arrives at the shelter and intermittently throughout their stay.
11. The adopter must agree to provide the pet with proper care at all times, including nutritious food, fresh water, weather-tight shelter when outside. Regular exercise and veterinary care, including shots and care to relieve suffering.
12. We encourage all family members to be present at the time of adoption. All household members must want this pet. We also suggest that if you have a pet already at home that you bring it with you.
13. No animal can be adopted strictly as an outdoor pet. Animals need human companionship and must be made part of the family's life.
14. Continuous outdoor confinement on a chain or a small enclosure is not acceptable. If you cannot confine a dog in a fenced yard, then a cable run system is required. The cable run should be positioned so that the dog has access to food, water, and shelter that is appropriate for ALL weather conditions. A fenced yard is ideal for all dogs. This protects the dog from roaming and owners from the liability their loose animals may cause. Chaining, except for brief periods, is not acceptable. Dogs will not be placed in homes where they will be allowed to run at large.
15. Animals will shed. They even wet on rugs, vomit, chew things, and dig in yards. Cats jump up on tables and counters and sometimes scratch furniture. If you cannot tolerate accidents, and you do not have time to train this pet, then please reconsider this adoption.
16. Declawing is prohibited and you agree not to have the cat declawed. Declawing is the painful amputation of the first knuckle of the cat's toe and is an inhumane practice for cats. It may also leave your cat defenseless in an outdoor environment.
17. Your companion animals may live 10-15 years. If you are unable to give this animal a lifetime home, **DO NOT ADOPT IT.**
18. Adoption fees are not charged, although a donation is appreciated. Any sum given to Bright Eyes for the adoption of an animal will be used to help care for the animals at the shelter. All animals will leave wearing a collar with owner identification and city license. Rabies tags will also be issued to those dogs/cats old enough to be vaccinated. If your animal is lost, a tag may be the only way to have your animal returned to you. The fee will also include a care/training packet, food samples, and staff consultation.
19. Bright Eyes Care & Rehab Center has the right to repossess any animal if there is evidence that the adopter has violated any of these policies.
20. We ask that you allow at least 3 weeks for your new companion to adjust to you and its new home.

21. Any person who agrees to these adoption policies may adopt from this shelter. This center has the right to refuse adoption to any person.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THESE ADOPTION POLICIES OF THE BRIGHT EYES CARE & REHAB CENTER, INC.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Employee initial: _____ Date: _____