



## **So you want to adopt from Arfnets? Here's how!**

### **Communication**

You can email or call the foster parent of the animal of interest to ask any questions you may have about the animal that were not covered on the website. If you would like to meet the animal before filling out an application, we hold two adoption events a month in Maryville, TN. You can check the website for upcoming events.

### **Application**

The application can be filled out before or after you talk to the foster parent. This is a quick interview that gives the foster a general idea of your pet experience and your home life. Please be sure to include names of previous or current pets as well as the name and phone number of your most recent or current veterinarian's office.

### **Veterinarian Reference**

In order for ARFNets to ensure that our pets go to good homes, we call the former or current vet and check on shot records and spay/neuter history. If you have vaccinated your pet anywhere else other than the vet clinic, please include this in your application. If your pet history isn't impeccable, please let the foster know any possible reasons for that in the application before they call the vet. If you have any current animals they must be spayed or neutered and/or up-to-date on vaccinations, you must do so before ARFNets will adopt to you. Dogs and cats must be vaccinated annually for rabies. If you have an indoor and outdoor cat, they must test negative for feline leukemia and also have an annual feline leukemia vaccine in addition to the rabies. The only exception to this is if the animal is too old or debilitated for vaccines or has had adverse reactions to the vaccines as documented by the vet.

### **Home Visit**

The home visit occurs after your vet history has been approved. The foster will bring the animal to your home in order for you and any current pets or children to interact with the animal. This also allows the foster to check your home for any potential hazards and to determine the security and integrity of a fence, if applicable. If adopting a dog, a fence is most likely required for active dogs and medium to large dogs. If a dog is able to climb your fence, dig under your fence, or fit through gaps in your fence it is not considered secure. The foster has the ultimate decision on the security of a fence.

## **Adoption**

If after the home visit you are approved to adopt the animal, the foster will do any necessary vaccines or procedures before bringing the animal back to your home. The foster will provide you with "Foster Facts," a description of the animals behaviors and schedules, either at the time of adoption or before via email. At this point you will sign an [Adoption Agreement](#), agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth by Arfnets. You will also provide the **adoption fee** at this time (see below). You will have a trial period, normally lasting between 7-10 days, to decide if you want to keep the animal. If you decide to return the animal within the trial period you will be refunded your adoption fee when the foster picks the animal up. If you decide to keep the animal, you must transfer the vet records from ARFNets' vet to your vet office. Your foster may bring you a small sample of the food the animal has been eating. This should be mixed with the food you have purchased for the first few days to aid digestion. Your foster may also bring an old blanket or toys in order to make the transition into a new home easier.

## **Adoption Fees**

ARFNets pays for all vet care including spays/neuters, vaccinations, flea treatment, deworming, heartworm prevention, and any other needs while the animal is in foster care. Individual fosters cover the costs of food and shelter for the animal while it is in their care. Adoption fees help us pay for the veterinary care, but we depend on donations to cover a majority of the cost. Because each animal has different vet requirements, adoption fees will vary. Generally, the adoption fees for a dog are between \$150 - \$200, and cat adoption fees are between \$75 - \$150. The adoption fees rarely cover the costs ARFNets incurs. Arfnets spends an average of \$175 per dog and \$110 per cat in foster care. Additionally, we also cover the vaccination and spay/neuter costs for feral cat colonies.

## **Dog/Puppy Kit**

If you are adopting a dog you will need food, water, bowls, leash, collar, training crate, brush, bedding, and chew toys. Tennis balls are also greatly appreciated. Please try to purchase name brand foods that are appropriate for your dog, such as large breed specific food.

## **Cat/Kitten Kit**

Before bringing home a new cat you will need to purchase food, water, bowls, grooming kit with nail trimmer and brush, safety collar, scratching post or pad, litter, and a litter box. Even if you already have a cat, it is a good idea to have additional litter boxes. Also, please buy name brand foods that are appropriate for the cat, such as indoor kitten formula versus senior cat formula.

## **After Adoption**

Routine vet care is not only expected, but is part of the contract you sign. Kittens and Puppies need vaccines at 2, 3, and 4 months of age, and then annually. They also need flea and tick prevention. Dogs require monthly heartworm prevention. Your foster may check up on the animal by checking the vet records of the adopted animal.

### **Out-of-Towner's**

If you live out of the area ARFNets can still work with you. We would require a strong vet history and since a home visit is not possible we may require proof of fencing and digital photographs of your home. Since ARFNets is made up of volunteers who have jobs and other obligations, we are not able to transport an animal very often. If you are interested in an ARFNets animal but live far away, you will have to arrange for the pet's travel yourself.

### **Returns**

If for any reason you are not able to keep the animal due to unexpected circumstances or if you decide you don't want the animal anymore, he/she must be returned to foster care. This is also part of the adoption agreement. If you have surpassed the trial period, a refund will not be given. However, if the animal passes away due to illness within 6 months of adoption, you may receive a refund, if it is determined to be a pre-existing condition.

**Arfnets not only tries to find *good* homes for all foster animals, we try to find the *right* home.**

**Please keep in mind if you are not approved, this does not always mean that we think you would be a poor pet-owner. It may just mean that based on our experience with the animal we think it has certain needs that would be better met in a different home.**