

Do you have time for a pet?

Pets cannot be ignored just because you are tired or busy. They require food, water, exercise, care and companionship every day of every year. Many animals end up in shelters because their owners didn't realize how much time it took to properly care for them.

Will you be a responsible pet owner?

Having your pet spayed or neutered, obeying community leash and licensing laws, and keeping identification tags on your pets are all part of being a responsible pet owner. Of course, giving your pet love, companionship, exercise, a healthy diet and regular veterinary care are also an essential part of caring for a pet.

Finally, are you prepared to keep and care for the pet for their lifetime?

When you adopt a pet, you are making a commitment to care for the animal for their lifetime.

Important Telephone Numbers

- Animal Management Division (301) 780-7200
- Prince George's County Spay Spot. . . (301) 254-8151
- Commission for Animal Control. . . . (301) 883-6009
- Health Department —
Animal Bites (301) 583-3750
- Poison Center (800) 492-2414
- Prince George's County
SPCA/Humane Society. . . . (301) 262-5625, press 6
- Washington Humane Society
Spay/Neuter Clinic. (202) 882-5837

Animal Management Division
3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
Phone: (301) 780-7200
www.princegeorgespets4us.com



RUSHERN L. BAKER, III
County Executive



Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr.
Director

Guide to Pet Adoption



**Prince George's County
Department of Environmental Resources
Animal Management Division**

The Department of Environmental Resources' Animal Management Division (AMD) is pleased to provide you with this Guide to Pet Adoption. The information contained in this Guide will help you in completing the adoption process as well as answer many questions about your new pet. Whether it's a kitten or an adult dog, we hope you will enjoy your new life together. For more information, please call us at (301) 780-7200.



**Pet Adoption
Adopt a Pet for Life!**

If you are considering adding a pet to your family, we welcome you to visit the animals at the Animal Services Facility. Our expert and friendly staff are available to assist you with any questions you may have and to give you as much information as possible.

Before adopting a pet, you must first complete an application. It will be necessary to bring your entire household in to choose a pet. After you have made a decision, you will have a chance to interact with the animal. If applying to adopt a dog, this interaction must include any dogs you may currently own. Upon submission of your application, an Adoption Counselor will conduct an interview. Once all required documentation has been received, your application will be approved or denied.

Before the animal can be taken home, a Heartworm or Feline Leukemia test will be performed. If the test is negative, the Counselor will contact you to sign a contract, pay all applicable fees and schedule an appointment to have your pet spayed/neutered. Once this has been done, you can take your pet home.

Although it may seem time consuming, screening benefits you as much as it does the animal. It will increase the chances that you leave the Facility with a pet that is just right for you!

You can visit the animals at the Facility on the following days and hours:

Hours*

- Monday, Tuesday, Friday 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Closed on Thursday and Sunday

Residents may also come to the Facility to purchase licenses during the following days and hours:

Administrative Hours*

- Monday, Tuesday, Friday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Closed on Thursday and Sunday

Adoption Fees

Dogs	Cats
Adoption Fee \$25	Adoption Fee. \$25
County License \$5	County License \$5
Microchip Fee \$15	Microchip Fee \$15
Heartworm Test \$15	Leukemia/Aids Test. . . \$20
Rabies Shot \$20	Rabies Shot \$20
Distemper Shot \$10	Distemper Shot \$20
Bordetella Shot \$10	Spay/Neuter. \$45
Spay/Neuter \$100	
Total. \$200	Total. \$150

License Fee for Animals	Dogs	Cats
Spayed or Neutered	\$5	\$5
NOT Spayed or Neutered	\$25	\$25

* All adopted pets will receive a microchip before leaving the Facility. The tiny microchip, which is injected under the skin of your pet, contains a personal one-of-a-kind identification number that will distinguish your pet as a special member of your family. It will help us to identify your pet in case it should get lost. The microchip is a great way to protect your pet for life!

Adoption Rules

The objective of the Animal Management Division (AMD) is to place pets from the Facility in the most suitable home available for both the pet and family. Our adoption policies and procedures are designed to ensure that the animal's new home is secure, loving and permanent. Consequently, we reserve the right not to place an animal, to refuse or deny any application, or to recommend another selection.





Please keep the following rules in mind when adopting:

- ▶ There are no immediate adoptions. An application must be submitted and approved prior to selecting a pet. A processing time of seven business days may occur.
- ▶ Animals are placed as household pets, not to work as guards, hunters or mousers.
- ▶ All female pets must be spayed and all male pets must be neutered. In accordance with County law, your pet must be spayed or neutered before it leaves the Facility and the operation must be paid for in advance.
- ▶ All family members living within the household must agree with the selection of the pet. A responsible adult must sign the adoption agreement and accept responsibility for the pet.
- ▶ Those residing in rental housing must have written approval from the landlord that the adopted pet is acceptable (approval will be verified by AMD).
- ▶ The animal must be maintained in accordance with all applicable laws of the community in which it resides. As required, routine and emergency veterinary care must be provided.
- ▶ Adopted animals may not be transferred to another owner or otherwise disposed of; they must be returned to the Facility if no longer wanted.
- ▶ A representative of the Facility may make periodic inspections before and after the animal is adopted.

Licensing

County law states that no person shall own, keep or harbor any dog, cat or ferret over the age of four months, unless the animal is licensed. Failure to license your pet is a violation of County law and is subject to fines. Licenses must be obtained within thirty days after residency is established. Animal licenses are good for one year from the date of purchase and must be renewed every year. The annual license fee for animals that are spayed or neutered is \$5.00, and for unaltered animals the fee is \$25.00. A valid certificate of rabies inoculation issued by a licensed veterinarian must accompany your license application.

Additionally, anyone who keeps or harbors five or more animals, with a limit of ten, larger than a guinea pig over the age of four months must obtain an Animal Hobby Permit. The fee for a permit is \$5.00. This does not apply to licensed animal holding facilities, licensed veterinary hospitals, circus or traveling animal exhibitions, or the keeping of farm animals, fish or birds. An Animal Hobby Permit does not exempt the owner from licensing each animal individually.

Dog, cat and ferret licenses may be obtained from the following locations:

Animal Management Division, Licensing Section
3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Phone: (301) 780-7251

Note: Walk-ins must pay by cash or Discover card (\$3.00 fee).

Bowie City Hall
15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716
Phone: (301) 262-6200

College Park Municipal Center
4500 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20740
Phone: (301) 864-5585

Note: All locations require rabies certification and spay/neuter information.



Rabies Shots

All animals adopted from the Facility must be inoculated against rabies. Puppies and kittens less than four months old are generally considered too young to receive the shot. Once your pet has reached four months of age, take it to one of the veterinarians listed below with your adoption package. There is no additional charge if a participating veterinarian is used. Once the rabies shot has been given, bring or send a copy of the vaccination certificate, the pink copy of the Notice to Comply Form and the appropriate fee to the Facility to receive your pet's license. Failure to obtain and maintain shots and licenses is a violation of County law and subject to fines.

The initial rabies vaccination is good for one year and boosters are good for one or three years.



The following is a list of animal hospitals that have agreed to give free rabies shots:

Al-Lynn Animal Hospital
6904 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746
Phone: (301) 449-8822

Animal Medical Clinic
60 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Phone: (301) 249-3030

Beltsville Animal Hospital
4246 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 937-3020

Coolridge Animal Hospital
6801 Old Branch Avenue, Camp Springs, MD 20748
Phone: (301) 449-1610

Considerations Before Adopting

If you are like most of us, falling in love with a pet is easy to do. They can give us unconditional loyalty and acceptance, and provide constant companionship. However, adopting a pet is a big decision. Being a responsible pet owner requires time, money and commitment. A pet can be rewarding but only if you have thought through the decision carefully.

Questions to Consider Before Adopting

Why do you want a pet?

It's amazing how many people fail to ask themselves this simple question before they adopt a pet. Adopting a pet just because it's "the thing to do" or because the kids have been asking for a pet usually ends up being a big mistake. Don't forget that pets may be with you for over 15 years.

