

“Pet Tinder”

Sprint #1: Research

Adoption Process

How does one apply to adopt? The process.

There are many shelters out there, and the process varies with each one. However, it follows similar principles:

1. Pick your pet.
2. Meet the pet.
3. Meet a counselor.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until satisfied.
5. Fill out the application for the pet.
6. The approval process.

How does one apply to adopt? The application.

The application form is what varies most between shelters. You may be asked:

- Your name.
- Your age.
- Rent or own your home.
- Other animals in the household.
- The reason to adopt an animal.
- Other members of the household.
- Other questions specific to the animal you want.

How does one apply to adopt? Documentation and interview.

When meeting with the counselor, you may need a few things.

- ID with information on your place of residence.
 - Lease info and/or a letter from the landlord.
 - Proof of ownership.
- Documents for your current pets.
- Photos of the enclosure if the pet you want needs one.
- List of references. Vets are a good reference.

There is typically an interview with the counselor. This is their opportunity to determine if you will take good care of the animal, and for you to learn more about the animal as well.

How does one get approved?

The approval process is done by the shelter you are adopting from. The foster family of the animal would have a say in the decision as well, if the pet is being fostered.

You get approved if the shelter and adoption committee are confident in your ability to care for the animal.

The shelter and committee may also recommend to take some courses to better care for the animal.

What do people look for when adopting?

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Things to consider when choosing a pet:

- Breed: Pure, mixed, non shedding
- lifestyle needed for breed
- size
- temperament
- health issues or future health issues
- medical history
- special needs
- spayed/neutered
- Age

People's opinion on the adoption process.

Pro's:

- Saving a animal
- Building a special bond
- Cost effective
- Compassionate

Con's:

- Unreliable and competitive
- Medical issues and expenses
- Behavioral issues
- Time commitment
- Costs
- Limited selection

Foster Process

What does a Foster Parent do?

As a Foster Parent you:

- Help pets who need additional care beyond what can be offered in a shelter setting
- Take animals into your own home and provide primary care, including exercise, food, grooming, and love. This includes providing special care such as medications, socialising, or training.

As a result, Foster societies tend to provide all supplies and vet care needed for your foster animal.

What do you need as a Foster Parent?

As a foster parent, you will be working with the shelters to prepare yourself and your house. To start:

- Items the pet requires
 - This will depend on the animal and its needs as well as if the shelter provides any of these items.
- Nutritional aspects
 - This would be food similar to the food given at the shelter, or any dietary or allergic restrictions that would be important to know.
- Return visits
 - Any checkups or vet appointments
- A basic knowledge of animal care and behaviour along with a willingness to attend further training if its required.

Conditions to become a Foster Parent:

Each application approval is determined overall by the shelter/rescue but a few conditions to be aware of are as follows:

- You must be of legal age
- Any other animals in the household must be up to date on vaccinations and be spayed/neutered
- You must have reliable transport
- Ideally if you are fostering dogs, you should have a enclosed yard
- You must be committed to the duration of the time the animal is in foster care (it could be 2 week to 4 months; This will vary depending on the animal and time of year)
- Have a signed waiver and release form to start fostering

What do shelters look for in Foster parents

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Shelter's seek out and prefer the following qualities in potential foster parents:

- Responsible ownership
- Compatibility
- Financial stability
- Commitment
- Safe environment

Applying to become a Foster Parent

Each application to Foster can vary between each rescue/shelter but overall you may be asked:

- For contact info such as your name, email address, and phone number
- Whether you are a Resident or Citizen
- If you've had any prior knowledge of pets/handling
- If you have a means of transportation and a valid licence
- If you've fostered in the past, and if so, for which rescues/shelters
- If you have any current pets, and if so if their upto date on their vaccinations
- For a backup caretaker
- If through fostering, you would want to adopt
- About your home/living condition
- How you will provide exercise and enrichment to your fostered animal
- Any medical questions regarding animal medical needs/appointments
- For emergency contacts
- To do a criminal background check
- And if you have a preference in animals to foster

Why should you Foster?

- Fostering means more animals are rescued
- You get to teach your foster pet what it's like to have a loving family
- It's fun!
- Human interaction helps foster animals who come from neglectful or abusive situations
- Fostering increases the likelihood of adoption and reduces the chances of an animal being returned
- If you already have one or more animals, one more won't make a difference to you, but it will make a difference to the animal that otherwise may not have a second chance at life.
- It's animal companionship without a lifetime commitment.

What Our Competitors Do

PetFinder

- Basically, the same as the idea we are pursuing but when looking for animals it is again like shelter sites, just lots of pictures of dogs and it doesn't really give you a chance to see what all of them are about but just click on ones you like.
- Shows users lots of different animals as well as different shelters
- Gives info on adoption process
- Uses purple and white with a very clear focus on the animals everywhere you look
- Uses a modern design that is up to date with current standards
- Easy user navigation

BarkBuddy

- Uses exact same swiping actions and similar interface to tinder
- Mobile only
- Only for dogs
- Let's you see stats of what type of dog you liked best
- Doesn't help facilitate the adoption but just finding the animal
- Uses mostly white with some blue accents
- Uses very similar layout to real dating apps
- Very simple easy to use layout that allows you to get to exactly what you want easily

