

## Finding a Forever Home for your Special Adoptable

- 1 **Adopters go through the CAHS adoption application process.** Do not tell anyone that they are approved for adoption until they come to the shelter and are officially approved by CAHS.
- 2 Potential Adopters will be referred to you so you can tell them about the animal – you know the animal better than anyone else since it is living in your home. After speaking with a potential adopter, you may work with Lisa Duckworth to introduce the animal to interested families on neutral ground or at CAHS. We cannot allow dogs to go to homes on a trial basis. Not for 1 day or 1 hour. This is a liability issue. Before an animal is left in the care of a new home, they **MUST** have a signed adoption contract.
- 3 The adoption fee for Special Adoptable animals includes sterilization, all vaccinations and heartworm test/preventative.
- 4 It might be a good idea to send some food that your Special Adoptable has been eating with the new family when he/she is adopted. This will help with the transition.
- 5 As a participant in the Special Adoptable program, you will be invited to attend adoption events with your animal. If your Special Adoptable animal has temperament issues, he/she must be approved by CAHS staff to attend an event. If your animal does not have temperament issues, it is up to you to use good judgment in determining whether or not your Special Adoptable is prepared to attend an event. You are responsible for controlling your animal and keeping him/her safe at an event. If you think your Special Adoptable needs to be socialized more slowly and is not ready for crowds – **DO NOT BRING HIM/HER.** By bringing an animal who is not ready to an event, you put yourself, event attendees and the animal you are dedicating so much love and energy to at risk! If an animal is not ready and bites someone, there is risk of euthanasia. Please be smart about events.
- 6 You will be provided with an “adopt me” bandana for use on your Special Adoptable. We encourage you to keep this bandana on your animal anytime you have him/her out for a walk, at the park, an event, etc.
- 7 The animal in your care will be listed on the Special Adoptables page of the CAHS website. Any inquiries sent through the website will be directed to you for response. It is important that you respond to all inquiries in a timely manner.

### Teach your Special Adoptable dog to be a great companion and polite family member!

Special Adoptable animals are eligible for free dog/puppy training classes through the Capital Area Humane Society. Classes are held once a week for six consecutive weeks.

In addition to learning basic commands such as sit, come and stay, you will learn aspects of animal behavior to understand, prevent and correct problem behaviors.

For more information on bringing your Special Adoptable to classes, see our website at:  
<http://www.caHS-pets.org/Services/training.htm>

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR SPECIAL ADOPTABLE THROUGH TRAINING CLASSES. THE CLASSES ARE PROVEN TO INCREASE A DOGS CONFIDENCE AND HELP THEM TO FIND THEIR FOREVER HOMES.



# Special Adoptables Guidelines

## What is a Special Adoptable

Special Adoptable animals are animals who cannot be cared for in the shelter environment. They are animals with special needs. Just because an animal cannot be cared for in the shelter, does not mean that the animal can not have a successful life in an adoptive home, it simply means they're special and need special placement.

Some common reasons Special Adoptables need to be cared for in a home:

1. They are frightened and need some confidence building
2. They need to be socialized with people and/or other animals
3. They need a special diet
4. They are mouthy, unruly, or maybe a little growly
5. They are older and would do best being placed as a special adoptable
6. They have a mild health condition, heart murmur, chronic URI, etc.
7. They have a behavior issue such as destructive behavior

Important thoughts to consider when taking on a Special Adoptable animal:

1. The animal cannot be returned to the shelter at any time for any reason without risk of euthanasia
2. CAHS will provide routine medical treatment – vaccinations and heartworm preventative for the animal, but additional expenses may be required to be paid by you or euthanasia may be considered (spay/neuter surgery will be provided by CAHS)
3. CAHS will provide food and supplies to the best of our ability if you cannot provide it yourself, but we will not be able to accommodate all requests
4. The animal you are bringing into your home will require special treatment/care and that animal is counting on you to care for and love him/her until they can find a forever home
5. There is nothing more rewarding and fulfilling than placing your Special Adoptable in his/her forever home and knowing that smile on his face is a huge thank you for YOU!

## Tips on caring for your Special Adoptable

1. Special Adoptable animals should have an ID and rabies tag on at all times. You might want to buy a tag with your contact information on it and use it for each animal you care for. Or, we can give you a tag with CAHS contact info.
2. Any dog needing medical treatment should see the CAHS vet only. Please call Processing or Medical 777-7387 x224 or x210 if your animal needs medical care.
3. Heartworm prevention should be given monthly to your Special Adoptable. CAHS will provide you with tablets.
4. Take a photo of your animal asap and send to the CAHS Special Adoptables page on the website.
5. When you receive inquiries about your Special Adoptable and feel comfortable with the person inquiring, you may have them meet you at CAHS with the animal during open hours.
6. When transporting your Special Adoptable, always use either a gentle leader, harness or martingale (no slip) collar. CAHS can provide these items for you. Please be very careful when transporting animals, many of these animals are in the Special Adoptables program because they are shy or nervous and we want to keep them safe. Please leash any animal you are transporting in a car with a seatbelt or a crate. CAHS can provide these items if needed.

### Contact Information:

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