

Corporate Policy and Procedure



Policy No. 08-02-01
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Effective Date 2011 06 23
Supersedes 2001 08 15

TAB: COMMUNITY SERVICES
SECTION: ANIMAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: PET ADOPTION AND FOSTERING

POLICY STATEMENT Animals may be fostered and/or adopted from the City of Mississauga's Animal Services Shelter.

PURPOSE The City of Mississauga wishes to encourage members of the public to foster and/or adopt homeless pets. This policy outlines the steps that will be taken to ensure the protection of these animals.

SCOPE This policy applies to all animals under the control of the City of Mississauga's Animal Services.

Wildlife, exotic animals and pit bulls may not be adopted or fostered by a member of the public. The Manager of Animal Services is responsible for taking all reasonable steps to place exotic animals with an approved zoological park or an approved animal sanctuary. The release of wildlife conforms to current Ministry of Natural Resources guidelines. For example, native birds are released only to recognized licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

APPLICATION The Manager and Supervisor of Animal Services, as well as Animal Shelter Officers, have the authority to approve the fostering or adoption of animals by suitable individuals. Prospective foster parents and/or adopters are required to complete an application form and attend an interview. Animal Services may also conduct a home inspection concerning the following:

- the suitability of the environment into which the pet will be placed;

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- the amount of space available indoors and/or outdoors for the pet;
- the individual's purpose for adopting or fostering an animal; and
- the individual's history as a pet owner.

CONDITIONS OF FOSTERING

All foster parents must agree that the animal will be returned to the shelter for adoption, by a specified date. If the animal becomes ill, it should be returned to the shelter for treatment or euthanasia; the City will not reimburse the foster parent for any veterinary charges incurred, unless the charges were pre-approved by the Animal Shelter Supervisor.

CONDITIONS OF ADOPTION

All prospective adopters must agree that they will not turn over to any animal research facility any animal adopted from the City of Mississauga's Animal Services.

Animal Services staff are required to inform adopters that the animal adopted qualifies for a low cost spay/neuter procedure by a participating member of the Mississauga Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

All adult members of the household (homeowner, spouse, principal caregiver) will be contacted by Animal Services staff to confirm their consent to the adoption.

FEEES

Fees are neither charged nor paid for fostering a pet. A fee is charged for the adoption of all dogs and cats in accordance with an amount approved by Council. Fees for adopting animals other than dogs or cats are determined by the Animal Service's Shelter Supervisor.

REFERENCE:

GC-0512-2001 - 2001 08 15 (Amended July, 2007 – housekeeping)
2011 06 23 – Administrative update – added pit bulls

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LAST REVIEW DATE: May, 2011

CONTACT: More information on the City's pet adoption and pet fostering programs can be found on the City's web site, or by contacting Animal Services, Enforcement Division, Transportation and Works Department.