

**Policy Title: Pet Adoption and Fostering**

**Policy Number: 08-02-01**

Section: **Community Services**

Effective Date: **August 31, 2016**

Approved by:

**Council**

Subsection: **Animal Services**

Last Review Date: **March, 2025**

Owner Division/Contact:

**Enforcement Division, Animal Services**

## 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 prohibited exotic animals with an accredited zoo, university or non-retail rescue. Permitted exotic animals will be transferred to participating exotic animal retail facilities, zoos or other facilities approved by the City of Mississauga. 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
- 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 preapproved 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 provide adopters with a list of Mississauga veterinary clinics for spay/neuter procedures and medical care.

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

## Fees

Fees are neither charged nor paid for fostering a pet. A fee is charged for the adoption of all pets in accordance with an amount approved by Council.

## Revision History

Reference	Description
GC-0512-2001 - 2001 08 15	Amended July, 2007 – housekeeping
June 23, 2011 06	Administrative update – added pit bulls
August 31, 2015	Scheduled review; removed reference to Mississauga Academy of Veterinary Medicine
January 31, 2022	Scheduled review. Minor revision to Fees section for clarity.
March 28, 2025	Scheduled review. No revision required.