

CAPITAL AREA RESCUE EFFORT, INC.
GENERAL ADOPTION POLICIES

If you are considering adopting one of our dogs or puppies, please note our policies regarding placement. C.A.R.E. takes its responsibility to each dog's future very seriously. Each animal we serve has come to us seeking a permanent home. In many cases the dogs have been affected by lack of security, consistency, training and basic needs. Our responsibility is to ensure the proper placement of each dog for their future well-being, and our interaction with the dog, our veterinarians, and our policies govern the decisions that we make as an organization.

We reserve the right to decline any adoption that we feel is not the best placement for the dog being considered. Any and all adoption decisions are in the sole discretion of C.A.R.E. and its committees.

INITIAL VISIT - Before we start any adoption procedure, interested families are required to participate in a private meet-and-greet to meet the dog you wish to adopt. Outdoor meetings are generally held at a park or park-like venue with a covered pavilion, making meetings during inclement weather possible and ensuring that we at C.A.R.E. do our best to ensure everyone's safety. After viewing our dogs available for adoption on Petfinder, interested adopters should email C.A.R.E. at carerescue@aol.com. From there, we will pre-screen potential adoption candidates and schedule a private meeting with those who qualify. After meeting our dogs, we will invite folks to then apply for adoption.

C.A.R.E. believes that the decision to adopt a particular dog needs to be made with thoughtful deliberation that cannot take place simply from viewing a picture or talking about the dog on the phone or through email. Nothing replaces seeing the animal with one's own eyes, interacting with him or her, and making sure there is a connection.

VETERINARY REFERENCE - We ask for, and strongly consider, a veterinary reference, and this is the first step of the application process. We ask all potential adopters to contact their veterinary offices ahead of our call to let the office staff know they are applying to adopt a dog, and to give permission for the staff to share information. Your current or previous vet can tell us that you are a responsible pet owner, that you keep your animals' vaccines and heart worm prevention up-to-date, have them spayed or neutered, and maintain their health as recommended. If we are unable to collect appropriate information, or if the veterinary office shares information that does not align with our adoption requirements, we may disqualify the applicant and the application at this point. We do not adopt to persons under 21 years of age, in homeless situations, or to those who are not totally self-sufficient.

HOME VISITS - Applicants with good veterinary references are contacted to schedule a home visit, and a home visit is required for all adoptions. Our goal is to find responsible pet owners with safe environments for their families and animals. This visit allows C.A.R.E. the opportunity to establish that the potential home is a safe place for the dog, and it allows adopters the opportunity to see the dog in their home. We do NOT adopt to homes in which people smoke. Second hand smoke is equally dangerous to people and pets. We reserve the right to

refuse any adoption based upon any factor we deem as unsatisfactory for our rescued animals. Every adoption decision is in the sole discretion of C.A.R.E. and its committees.

Our goal is to complete adoptions within the week of the private meeting if references are satisfactory and C.A.R.E. approves the adoption. We do not hold dogs for adopters as rescue space is extremely important to dogs in shelters at risk of euthanasia. We encourage people not to adopt just before a vacation or major life change. Please be mindful of a new pet's need to adjust to its home and get comfortable with you.

ADDITIONAL ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

FENCING – We require homes with constructed fenced yards. If you are interested in applying to adopt one of our dogs, please consult with C.A.R.E. or one of our adoption advisors to discuss our fencing requirements for particular dogs. We do not consider invisible fencing products adequate or appropriate, and we strongly believe that constructed fences serve several purposes. Primary of those is to help eliminate unwanted people and animals from your dog's environment. This extra layer of security is very important in the initial month or two after adoption when dogs are likely to look for opportunities to run out of doors around the legs and feet of their owners or visitors to the home. For these same reasons, we require, at all times, a fenced yard for adoptive homes with children, or homes where children frequently visit.

PUPPY POLICY - For small dogs and puppies, we require homes without larger animals or preschool aged children. We cannot risk accidental injury to our vulnerable friends. Puppies are adopted only to homes with adults who are home most of each day for socialization and training. A family who works away from the home 40+ hours a week cannot provide consistent socialization and training for a puppy, and studies prove that puppies have stronger mental and emotional skills when given this type of early intervention.

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS - We do not guarantee the health of any animals offered for adoption. Any time you adopt an animal, you should take it to a licensed veterinarian as soon as possible. The dog you wish to adopt is, to the best of our knowledge, healthy, but will need to be started immediately on a program of preventative veterinary care. Be aware that the animals available for adoption are rescue animals that have often been exposed to a variety of diseases in shelters and on transports. Like human illnesses, these disorders can have an incubation period of up to several weeks. If the animal you adopt shows signs of illness at any point, please take it promptly to the vet for treatment. All of our adoptable animals receive the following medical care prior to adoption (based upon their age and our veterinarians' recommendations):

- Health screening and veterinary examination
- Spay/Neuter
- Distemper combination vaccinations
- Rabies vaccination
- Microchip
- Heartworm test and preventative medication
- Deworming for intestinal parasites

TRAINING POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS – Consistent with many veterinarians and animal welfare organizations, C.A.R.E. recognizes that aversive training methods and punishment-based training can be detrimental and have a negative impact on animals. C.A.R.E. strongly disapproves of any and all such training methods and techniques, including but not limited to the use of any aversive devices (including electrical collars or shock collars, choke collars, pinch collars, prong collars, etc.) or any confrontational or physical methods of training (including the use of force, scruffing, growling, muzzling, jowling, shaking, staring dogs down, etc.). In the event that the dog you wish to adopt would benefit from training, you agree not to utilize any of these aversive training methods under any circumstances. If C.A.R.E. at any point learns that any such methods are being used, C.A.R.E. reserves the right to terminate the adoption and require the adopter to return the dog to C.A.R.E. immediately.

ADOPTION FEES - Adoption fees vary by animal. Adoption fees for mixed-breed dogs are \$275, and dogs believed to be purebred or that are in high demand are \$375. Senior dogs are \$125. Our vets are consulted and assign breed and age designations, and even though they make their educated guess, neither can be guaranteed and C.A.R.E. makes no representations as to dogs believed to be purebred. C.A.R.E., in its sole and exclusive discretion, further reserves the right to determine whether a particular dog or breed is in high demand for purposes of assigning adoption fees.