**ADOPTION PROTOCOL:**

The Ontario Rescue saves animals in danger of being euthanized from both city and county shelters. We take in animals that have been abandoned, neglected, or surrendered to us by their owners. We are devoted to finding loving, lifetime homes for every rescued pet and place a high emphasis on matching the right animal with the right family to ensure a fulfilling relationship for all involved. Our experienced adoption coordinators are here to guide you in finding your best match.

You are welcome to visit our available animals after an application has been submitted and approved. All adoptions are done by appointment only. We encourage you to spend as much time as you can with the animal you are interested in. Depending on age, a pet can be a commitment of 15 years or more.

Our adoption process includes an application, and a home visit (because of COVID we need pictures of the home instead), if adopting a dog then pictures of the entire backyard are needed along with pictures of any gates that lead out to the front yard. We welcome videos too.

What do I need to adopt?

• You must be 21 years or older.

• Please bring a valid photo I.D. card with your current address, if your current address is not on the I.D. bring proof of address. Ex: utility bill, lease, or mortgage statement.

• Rent? Provide your landlord’s name and contact information or a copy of the lease stating that pets are allowed.

• Own? Provide a copy of your deed, mortgage payment book, or property tax bill.

**Adoption Timeline**

Due to our application process, we do not do same-day adoptions. The process typically takes 2-3 days.

**Adoption Area:**

Adoptions of young kittens or puppies that are too young to be spayed/neutered by our rescue before the adoption will be the responsibility of the Adopter, if the Adopter lives an hour or more away from our facility. Through experience and negativity, our rescue wants the adopter to acknowledge this policy before an adoption application is submitted. Spaying or neutering an animal is already traumatizing for the animal and we want the animal to be as comfortable as possible after spaying/neutering. Putting an animal through a long car ride after being spayed or neutered is very stressful and painful for the animal. Our rescue prefers to do adoption to local families. But if an adopter wants to adopt from our facility and understands this policy we will continue with the adoption as long as the Adopter acknowledges that it is their responsibility to have the animal spayed/neutered, vaccines completed, and the animal is to be microchipped. Proof of this must be submitted to our rescue before an adoption can be made complete. The adopted animal belongs to our rescue until the items on the adoption contract are completed.

**Adoption Fees**

Adoption fees are $115 for adult cats and $125 for cats under 1 year of age. Dog adoption fees **start** at $200 for adult dogs and $350 for puppies. The adoption fee goes toward care, boarding, food, vaccines, grooming, and surgeries. The adoption fee goes beyond the needs of your new pet. Adoption fees usually do not cover the cost it takes to care for each animal. When you provide one animal with a loving home, your adoption fee contributes toward the work done by our rescue.

Any swimming pool must be secured. If your home has a swimming pool, it must be inaccessible to your new pet by being fenced or completely covered.

We do not disclose reasons for declining an application. We carefully review each application to match our animals to the right home. We do not provide specific reasons if an application is declined.