



## Jacksonville Humane Society

### 4-Step Guide to Adopting a Pet from JHS

#### Step 1: Preparing for your new pet

Just like any of life's big events, the first step involved with adopting a pet is to properly prepare for your new furry friend. One way to begin this step is to make a list of everything and everyone that your new pet will come in contact with, be affected by and/or have an effect on. We suggest you:

- Contact your landlord or homeowners association regarding any pet policy or restrictions.
- Prepare your home by setting up its bed, food & water bowls, etc... ahead of time.
- Bring in all family members and/or roommates that will come in contact with your new pet.
- If adopting a dog, bring in any current resident dogs for an initial meet and greet. (Visiting pets must be up-to-date with their vaccinations.)
- Be prepared to spend at least one hour with a counselor to process the adoption.
- Bring an approved leash and collar (for dogs and puppies) or an approved carrier (for cats and kittens). These items can be purchased in our boutique during the adoption checkout process.

#### Step 2: How to find your new best friend.

Once you've made your way down to our location and inside our adoption center ([view hours & directions »](#)) the next step is to begin looking for your perfect match. Feel free to walk through our facility to see the many wonderful pets we have available for adoption. You may stop at our boutique counter at any time to ask questions. (Don't forget to [view our off-site events calendar](#).)

### **Step 3: Get to know each other.**

Once you find a pet that you are considering to adopt, return to the boutique area where you will be asked to complete a brief adopter profile sheet and a counselor can be assigned to help you. The counselor will meet with you to discuss your adopter profile, the pet's history and background, tell you a little about its personality and then give you a chance to spend time with the animal.

If your potential new best friend hasn't completely convinced you by this time, we offer commitment-free sleepovers on most pets.

### **Step 4: Making it official.**

Once you are confident that you've found the right pet, the counselor will assist you by processing the adoption paperwork and updating the pet's microchip registration records. You'll get an "important paper packet" containing a welcome sheet, training tips, records of the pet's history and vaccinations, and other helpful paperwork. In most cases, you can take your new pet home with you the same day you come in.

### **Once you get home, remember to:**

Set an appointment with a veterinarian for your pet's next round of vaccinations. Additional resources can be found on our [Pet Tips](#) page.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns about your pet once you get home, please don't hesitate to call us. Our **Adoption Support Team** is here to help – just call 904.725.8766, option 2.