Pet adoption checklist

Adopting from a shelter or rescue: what to ask, the papers to take home, getting ready for a home visit and the first days.

Every shelter and rescue has its own process. Ask about theirs, bring this list on adoption day, and take health questions to your vet.

The pet and the shelter

Pet's name

Species, breed or mix

Age

Shelter or rescue

Contact person

Phone or email

Microchip number

Adoption day

Adoption fee

Questions to ask the shelter or rescue

- [ ] How did the pet come in: as a stray, or given up by an owner, and why?
- [ ] Which vaccinations are up to date? Spayed or neutered?
- [ ] House trained or crate trained? What is the daily routine?
- [ ] Which cues does the pet know? How is the pet on a leash?
- [ ] What does the fee cover: vaccines, spay or neuter, microchip, deworming?
- [ ] What happens if it doesn't work out? Do you take pets back?
- [ ] How long has the pet been here or in a foster home?
- [ ] Can I have the full medical records? Any ongoing conditions?
- [ ] How is the pet with children, strangers and other animals?
- [ ] Any bite history, guarding of food or toys, or trouble being alone?
- [ ] What are the steps: application, interview, home visit, contract?
- [ ] Do you offer help afterwards, such as behavior support?

What they told you

Answers to remember

Paperwork to take home

- [ ] The adoption contract, signed, and your copy
- [ ] Spay or neuter record, if it was done
- [ ] The microchip number and which registry it is with
- [ ] The return policy, and who to call with questions
- [ ] Vaccination records and the medical history
- [ ] Medicines the pet is on, with instructions
- [ ] Notes on behavior from the staff or the foster home

Anything else the shelter gave you

The microchip in your name

Registry

Registry phone or website

Your details registered on

Pettify pettifyapp.com

Pettify keeps your new pet's microchip number, your vet, vaccinations with reminders and copies of the shelter's records in one profile.

Your personal checklist, not an adoption contract or a vet record. Shopping lists are on the new puppy and new kitten checklists.

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Pet adoption checklist

Pet's name _____

Before the home visit or adoption day

- [ ] Your lease or building allows pets
- [ ] House rules agreed: furniture, crate, rooms that are off-limits
- [ ] Medicines sealed and out of reach, cleaners in a closed cabinet
- [ ] Everyone at home, and your pets, ready to meet the new pet
- [ ] A quiet room set up for a new cat
- [ ] A photo ID, and proof of address if they ask
- [ ] Who feeds and who walks, and when
- [ ] Garbage out of the pet's reach
- [ ] Your vet's name, if the rescue asks for a vet check
- [ ] A carrier for the ride home (cats)

The first days

- [ ] Bring the pet home when you can be home for a few days
- [ ] A collar with an ID tag from the first day
- [ ] Microchip registered in your name, or one booked
- [ ] A new cat kept in one room at first; other pets met slowly
- [ ] Keep the first week quiet and the routine the same
- [ ] First vet check booked (for a dog, within a week)
- [ ] Spay or neuter booked, if it hasn't been done
- [ ] Patience: settling in can take days, months or longer

First vet visit

Vet clinic	Phone	Booked for

Notes

Anything else to remember

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