

Small Animal Adoption Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your interest in adopting an animal from Brampton Animal Services. We would like to take a few minutes to explain our adoption program to you. Please read the below carefully before you proceed with completing the attached application form.

Adoption Questionnaire

This application is completed to assist the staff in finding the most suitable home for our animals. Our decision will be based on the best match for the pet and the family. The first thing that you will need to do is to fill out a questionnaire telling us about yourself, your home, what (if any) experience you have with pets, how many people will live in the same house as the pet and other related questions. This information is gathered confidentially to assist our adoption counselors in selecting the right animal for you. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire. Once you have completed the application, an adoption counselor will process your application. An application will be deemed approved, declined, or pending. Please note that in the event of a pending application, the animal(s) of interest will not be placed on "hold".

In order to be considered for an adoption today you must be:

- At least 18 years of age
- All household members must meet the pet prior to adoption
- Provide valid identification with your current address
- Interact with the animal outside of its kennel

Please note if you have any questions or need assistance with this application please feel free to ask the staff for help at any time.

Health and Veterinary Care

The Brampton Animal Shelter is a municipal pound; therefore we receive animals of all backgrounds and types with unknown histories. They may be sick or injured, have external or internal parasites, or be harbouring a virus that could lay dormant for weeks that will only surface when the virus reaches advanced stages or is triggered by some type of stress, such as moving to a new environment like your home. Stray animals are kept for a very short period of time before being placed for adoption. During the holding period, the animal is given a physical exam by a veterinary technician, if the animal is displaying signs of illness it is treated, during this time.

If the animal you adopted is found to be in poor health by the veterinarian, you have the option of returning it to the shelter for a full refund provided that you have proof that the animal was examined by a veterinarian (an invoice is preferred). **THE BRAMPTON ANIMAL SHELTER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MEDICAL COSTS INCURRED AND WILL NOT PAY THEM.** If your animal is found to have a health problem but you do not wish to return it to the shelter, you are responsible for any costs incurred.

Fleas

Animals from the shelter have been checked for fleas upon arrival, and treated for fleas if necessary. Please be aware that it is very difficult to control fleas during the summer months given the high population of animals in the shelter. We recommend that you start a preventative flea control program in your home; your veterinarian can help you choose the type of program that is right for your pet. We cannot guarantee that the animal you are adopting is free of fleas and we are NOT responsible for any treatments required.

Refunds and Exchanges

We encourage you to carefully consider your decision to adopt before taking on the responsibility of pet ownership. Animals require a large investment of time and money in exchange for priceless rewards. It is very difficult for animals to adjust to new environments, and it can be stressful for an animal to be returned after adoption. For these reasons, **we do not offer any exchanges or refunds for any reason except for health problems diagnosed by a veterinarian during the first exam within 2 weeks of adoption.**

Zoonotic Disease Risks

As previously mentioned, most of our animals have completely unknown histories. Animals have the potential to carry diseases or parasites that can be transmitted to humans (zoonotic diseases). These risks can be significant for immune-compromised individuals such as the elderly, HIV positive, those receiving steroid therapy or chemotherapy, and children under 5 years of age. If a member of your household falls under one of these categories, please speak to your doctor prior to adopting an animal.

SECTION 1

Please place a check mark beside the animal you would like to adopt. Read the following description of the animal chosen so that you have a better understanding of the pet's behavioral and nutritional requirements.

Rabbits

Rabbits are adorable companion animals that can live up to 8-12 years of age, but require special care such regular nail clippings and grooming. Sometimes, being picked up can be frightening to a rabbit and dropping or squeezing them can cause. It is best to only have older children and adults picking up rabbits. Younger children can add a lot to a rabbit's life just by providing the petting! They like to play with toys. Did you know that a bunny's teeth never stop growing? They need extra things to chew on such as apple twigs and unlimited amounts of Timothy hay and rabbit pellets ($\frac{1}{4}$ cup per 5lbs body weight) daily to help control the growth of their teeth. As well, they need fresh dark green vegetables daily such as romaine lettuce, parsley and swiss chard. A rabbit should never be given iceberg lettuce and cabbage. They need to have their nails trimmed on a regular basis. The cage should be large enough for a litterbox (rabbits like to keep their environment tidy) and room for them to stretch out is a must. It is important to give a rabbit time out of its cage for daily exercise. Rabbits should never be left unattended as they can chew on electrical wires and furniture.

Small Rodents (mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs)

Small rodents are fairly easy to care for and are a joy to have as companion animals, especially for people with small living quarters. If handled gently and regularly from a young age, these small rodents will be your best buddy and provide hours of entertainment. Even these small animals need exercise every day! Smaller rodents such as hamsters, gerbils and mice will enjoy exploring your home in a roll-about ball, which gives them room to roam but keeps them safe from other companion animals and getting lost. Guinea pigs and rats are large enough that they do not need an exercise ball when they come out to play. Most small animals are nocturnal and sleep during the daytime, getting most active at night. Some rodents will change their sleep schedule depending on when the family is active. Just like rabbits, small animals can be seriously hurt if squeezed or dropped and should not be handled by small children as they can bite if not handled properly. As well, larger rodents need regular nail clippings and grooming. They always need a supply of rodent specific seed-mix and water. Guinea pigs need a constant supply of alfalfa hay and should be given guinea pig pellets ($\frac{1}{8}$ of cup per day) with vitamin C that has been milled within 3 months. Vitamin C is important to guinea pigs, as they are unable to produce their own (much like humans). Without enough vitamin C in their diets, guinea pigs can become very ill with scurvy.

□ **Parakeets (also known as Budgies), Canaries and Finches**

Parakeets, canaries and finches can be a good choice for a first bird. They are very social, talkative and spunky companions. They are colorful and entertaining to watch. It is very important that any bird's cage is always kept clean. They are delicate creatures who can get sick if left in an unclean environment. Keeping their food, water and cage clean at all times is essential. They require bird specific seed mix, water, cuttlebone and a bird bath. Many birds can learn to talk and to perch on people's hands if you work with them patiently. These little birds can be hurt if squeezed, so be sure to limit the handling of them to older children and adults only. Make sure you keep them away from drafty windows so they don't get a cold!

□ **Small Parrots (Conures, love birds) or Cockatiels**

They are active, cheerful and beautifully decorative. They are capable of mimicking speech, although they can be difficult to understand. They are active and playful and should have a large cage. Opinions on the minimum cage size vary, but a good rule of thumb is at least 20 inches by 20 inches wide and 26 inches tall as a bare minimum. Variety is the key to a healthy diet. Seeds can be a nutritious part of the diet, but are high in fat so should only make up a part of the diet (some experts recommend no more than about 30% of the diet). Pellet diets are often a good choice for birds as they are nutritionally balanced and birds can't pick out their favorite seeds and leave the rest. However, with both seeds and pellets a wide variety of other foods should complement the diet. A variety of fresh vegetables and fruit should be offered, although persistence might be needed before your bird will try new foods (particularly if they are accustomed to an all-seed diet). Chocolate, coffee, and cocoa contain theobromine are all toxic to birds. Do not give these to your birds and do not leave them out where your bird could get a hold of them. Avocado is toxic, particularly to African species, but as a rule should not be given to any bird species.

SECTION 2

Name: _____ Animal I.D.: _____
 Address: _____ Apt: _____
 City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email Address: _____
 Home Number: _____ Work Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

1. Have you adopted from Brampton Animal Services in the past? Yes No
2. Please list the following:
 Number of adults in the household: _____
 Number and ages of the children: _____
3. Do you live in a :
 House Apartment Condo
4. Do you: Rent Own Live with Parents
If you rent, please provide the name and phone number of your landlord/ superintendent/ management company.
- _____

5. Which member(s) of your family will be the animals' primary caregiver?

6. What type(s) of pet(s) do you own, or have you owned? **If you no longer own the animal, please specify what happened to the animal(s).*

Type/Breed	Age	M/F	Fixed (Y/N)	Still Own*	Vaccine (Y/N)

7. Who is your veterinarian?

8. Please tell us why you would like to adopt a pet from us. Check all that apply.
- Companion to a person Breeding For a school or business
- Companion to another pet For a barn For a special needs facility
- For a child For hunting For a retirement residence
- Other _____

9. For whom are you adopting this pet?
 Yourself Gift

10. Do you plan to breed your small animal?
 Yes No

11. How much do you expect to spend within this animals' first year of adoption under your care (i.e. vaccines, food, and medical care)?

12. How often are you prepared to take your pet to the veterinarian?
 Once a year As required

13. Are there any family members with allergies to pets? Yes No Unknown

If yes, how will that affect your animal's lifestyle? (i.e. surrender, give away.)

14. Where will your pet stay while you are on vacation?

Take with you Friend babysit

Hire a pet sitter Boarding kennel

Other _____

15. Have you ever had to surrender an animal to a Shelter or SPCA? Yes No

If answered yes, what were the circumstances?

If you were unable to continue to provide a home for this animal, we require that you return him/her to the Brampton Animal Shelter. **Please initial** _____

SECTION 3

By signing below, I certify that the information I have given is true and that I recognize that any misrepresentation of facts may result in losing the privilege of adopting a pet.

- I understand that Brampton Animal Services has the right to deny my request to adopt an animal.
- I understand that the animal of interest will not be held for any reason.
- I understand that a pending application does not guarantee an adoption.
- I authorize the investigation of all statements contained in this application.
- I understand that this application is the property of Brampton Animal Services.
- I will not sell the animal or profit from the adopted animal.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this adoption application.

The personal information on this form is collected under authority of Section 11 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25.

This information will be used for the purpose of adoption administration only. Questions about the collection of personal information should be directed to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator, City Clerk's Office, 2 Wellington St. W, L6Y 4R2.