

The Adoption Process

The Adoption process at the Toronto Humane Society consists of 4 steps:

Step 1 - Adoption Questionnaire

When a potential adopter is interested in an animal, they are asked to complete an application questionnaire. The application entails questions about the person's situation, lifestyle and expectations as well as specific questions about the care needs of the species they intend to adopt, such as diet, housing, enrichment and socialization, training and veterinary care. This application helps our staff see if your lifestyle and expectations are a good match with the individual animal and what aspects of care or behavior we should provide additional education about.

Step 2 - Conversation

Once we have read through the application, an adoption counselor will have a conversation with the potential adopter to find out more information about them and what they are looking for. We will also provide advice about care and behavior training at this time, as well as additional information about the animal you are interested in. This conversation is a good opportunity for us to get a sense of whether the animal is a good match for the potential adopter and to ensure that both the adopter and animal will be happy together.

Step 3 - Meet and Greet

If the adoption counselor feels that the potential adopter is likely a good match for the animal, we will introduce them to the animal. Animals housed in the shelter can be introduced to people the same day, but with facilitated adoptions, we will ask the potential adopter to return to the shelter on another day that is convenient for you, the potential adopter, and the Toronto Humane Society adoption counselor. You will bring your animal in to meet the potential adopter and our adoption counselor will observe their interaction. Dogs can be taken for walks in order to allow the potential adopter to see how they are on a leash and for the adoption counselor to observe the potential adopter's handling of the dog.

The meet and greet will involve all members of the potential adopter's household, as well as any currently owned dogs if applying for a second dog or rabbits if looking for a bonding partner for a currently owned rabbit. It is important that everyone in the household is a good match for the animal, as well as any current animals living in the home, to ensure that the adoption goes as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Step 4 - Finalizing the Adoption

If everything goes well at the meet and greet and both the potential adopter and the adoption counselor feel that the animal is a good match for the home, we will finalize the adoption.