

## **FAQs: Adoptions**

### **What are your adoption hours, fees, location?**

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 12 PM to 7 PM.

Saturday and Sunday 12 PM to 5 PM.

Closed Wednesday and county holidays

Fees and included items: See fee sheet

Location: 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood, MD 20855

Closest cross-street is Shady Grove Road/Airpark Drive

### **Are you open on the weekends?**

Yes. Saturdays and Sundays 12PM to 5 PM.

### **What are the accepted methods of payment?**

We accept cash, check or credit/debit cards.

### **I want to adopt. What kind of animal/breed/species would you recommend?**

The best thing to do is come in to the shelter and have a look at the animals. You may also make an appointment to speak with an Adoption Counselor.

### **Why are you closed on Wednesdays?**

Since we are open to the public on the weekends and every other weekday, we use Wednesdays for administrative catch-up and to focus on enrichment and behavioral training with the animals.

### **If I come to adopt an animal, can it go home with me today?**

In many cases, your new pet can go home with you the same day. You should come prepared to take your animal with you, so bring a plastic carrier or sturdy leash for transport.

In some cases, the animal you choose may need to be held for up to 48 hours to complete any outstanding requirements.

**Do I have to live in Montgomery County to adopt a pet?**

No. Adopters are not required to be residents of Montgomery County

**Do I have to live in the state of Maryland, to adopt a pet?**

No. Adopters are not required to be residents of the state.

**Can I bring the animal back if the adoption does not work out?**

Yes, if any adopter is unable to care for an animal adopted from MCASAC at any time, they are encouraged to return the animal to MCASAC. We will accept any animal back regardless of the reason or the time passed.

**I am looking for a specific breed/species of animal. Do you have any?**

When we have pure breed animals or rare/exotic species, they often go fast! You should come in to the shelter and fill out an application ASAP if you have seen a specific animal on our website that you are interested in.

While MCASAC cannot guarantee any specific breed or species of animal will be in our shelter at any time, you may come in to the shelter and fill out a pre-adoption form so we may place you on our Wish List contact list. When your preferred breed/species comes into the shelter you will be contacted.

We keep our website (web address TBD) regularly updated, and every animal that passes through the shelter has a picture and description posted there. While we cannot guarantee any animal on the website is still in our facility, as adoptions can happen very quickly, you can check the site regularly to get a good idea of the kinds of animals we have at any time.

**I am not sure about adopting. Can I foster before I decide to adopt?**

Yes, you may apply to be a foster parent through the MCASAC volunteer program, process TBD.

### **I saw a specific animal on the website, can I come see him?**

While we keep our website (web address TBD) regularly updated, we cannot guarantee any animal on the website is still in our facility, as adoptions can happen very quickly.

We can check our database to tell you the current status of the animal at this moment, but of course there are no guarantees about the animal's continued availability.

### **Can I adopt more than one animal?**

Yes. Sometimes animals come in as bonded pairs, and are best adopted together.

Two animals who have not been designated as a bonded pair can also be adopted at the same time, as long as the MCASAC staff believe the animals are a good match.

### **May I call if I am having trouble with my pet?**

Of course! You may call MCASAC with questions about your pet. You will also be given lots of helpful resources at the time of adoption. New pets may take some time to adjust to a new environment, so please be patient.

If you are experiencing behavior issues, we have training classes available onsite.

If your pet is in an emergency situation, call your veterinarian.

### **Can I make an appointment?**

Yes! Adoption appointments are always welcome and encouraged, especially during busy times (like weekends).

### **What are the requirements for adopting an animal? What should I bring with me?**

- You must be at least 18 years old

- You need to bring a valid photo ID
- All adults in your household must agree with the adoption, so they must meet the animal in-person, or send along written approval
- If you rent, you will need to provide verification that you are permitted to have the type of animal you want to adopt
- You will need to fill out a Meet Your Match survey (for dogs and cats) or a Small Animal Application onsite or on our website and meet with an adoption counselor here at the shelter
- Some animals may have additional requirements based on their needs
- In case your new pet is available to go home the same day, it is a good idea to bring the equipment necessary to safely transport your new pet to your home (e.g.: plastic cat carrier, sturdy collar and leash)

### **Is a home visit required for an adoption?**

A home visit is not generally required, except for some higher needs dogs.

### **I already have an animal at home. Can I adopt another one?**

Yes. If you are worried about integrating a new pet into your home with your current animals, our Adoption Counselors have information that can help make the transition easier. Would you like to make an appointment to speak with an Adoption Counselor?

### **Does my current pet have to meet the potential adoptive pet before I can adopt?**

This is dependent on the species of animals. Please come in and speak with an Adoption Counselor regarding Meet and Greet appointments.

### **Should I bring my current dog/cat with me when I come to visit with the animal(s) I may want to adopt?**

No. Once you have decided on an animal to adopt and the adoption has been approved, a Meet and Greet amongst potential-adoptive and currently-owned dogs can be scheduled to take place here at the shelter.

Meet and Greets are not recommended for cats.

If you proceed with an adoption, Adoption Counselors will provide you with information to help you integrate your new pet into your home.

**What kinds of dogs/cats/other animals do you have?**

All kinds! Dogs, cats, small mammals, reptiles, birds and barn animals. Our animal population varies day-to-day.

We keep our website (web address TBD) regularly updated, and every animal that passes through the shelter has a picture and description posted there. While we cannot guarantee any animal on the website is still in our facility, as adoptions can happen very quickly, you can check the site regularly to get a good idea of the kinds of animals we have at any time.

You cannot reserve an animal from our website, as applications can only be submitted in person, but if you fill out a Meet Your Match application through our website it can expedite the adoption process.

**What is Meet Your Match?**

MYM is the program we use to help identify dogs/cats that will be the best match for your preferences and lifestyle. You fill out a short survey about what you are looking for in a dog/cat, and your survey results are used to match you with dogs/cats that have been assessed for personality type compatible with your expectations.

**How long does it take to complete an adoption?**

The length of time it takes will vary depending on the type of animal you want to adopt, the number of animals you choose to visit with, and the time it takes to verify required items. We recommend that you set up an appointment to avoid wait time.