

Barry County Animal Control Shelter Pre-Adoption Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # Home: _____ Cell #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Are you over 18 years of age? *Yes No* Are all other members of household aware that you are considering adopting a pet? *Yes No*

Have you ever adopted an animal from this facility or any other facility before? *Yes No* How long ago? _____

Do you still have it? *Yes No* If no, what happened to it? _____

Is anyone in your household allergic to animals? *Yes No* If yes, what kind? _____

If you are renting, are dogs or cats allowed? *Yes No* Size restrictions? *Yes No*

Manager/Landlord name: _____ Phone #: _____

Pet Information: Have you had pets in the last 5 years? *Yes No* If yes, complete the following chart.

Name	Breed / Type	Spayed or neutered?	Inside or Outside

Current or past veterinarian clinic's name: _____ Phone #: _____

1. Where will pet live?

- Inside only
- Outside only
- Mostly inside
- Mostly outside

2. Where will pet spend nights?

- Inside
- Outside
- Crate
- Garage/barn
- Outside kennel/doghouse

3. Why are you adopting this pet?

(Use space below for any additional information.) _____

READ BEFORE SIGNING!!!

1. I certify that the above information is true and understand that false information may result in nullifying this adoption.
2. I authorize the Barry County Animal Control Shelter (BCACS) to contact my veterinarian(s) to confirm how I have cared for my companion animals.
3. I authorize the BCACS to contact my rental landlord/manager to verify the information supplied on this application.
4. I understand that this pet adoption may be refused or another animal may be suggested to create a better match of pet and adopter.
5. I certify that I have never been convicted of an animal related felony.
6. If I am no longer able to care for this animal and am unable to find a good home, I agree to return this animal to Barry County Animal Control Shelter or another humane organization.
7. I am prepared to give further information on the above questions.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Information To Consider Before Adopting a New Pet

Choosing your pet is a major decision. A lot of thought and advance planning should go into your decision to ensure that you choose a pet that will be best suited to your lifestyle. A pet is a living, feeling creature. A responsible pet owner acquires a pet with the intention of keeping it as part of the family for its natural lifetime. Remember that a shelter is a stressful environment. The way an animal acts in the shelter (shy and withdrawn or very excitable) is not necessarily the way it will act in the home environment. Take the time to get to know the personality of the pet.

A pet needs lots of attention, time and training during its first year. They also need play time and exercise daily. If you are gone most of the day, you may want to consider a friend, relative, a professional sitter, or crate training to help with housebreaking and training of your pet. An older, already housebroken animal would be a better choice if you are gone most of the day. You also would not want a long haired dog or cat that needs daily grooming if you know you wouldn't have time.

You should be comfortable with the financial costs of having a pet. For dogs, the average yearly cost, after the 1st year, is about \$800.00, including food, vaccines and heart worm preventative, vet bills, flea control, and boarding. The average yearly cost for a cat, after the 1st year, is \$525.00, including food, vaccines, vet bills, flea control, litter, and boarding. (The 1st year costs will be higher because the animal will need to be spayed or neutered, more vaccines are needed, and you will be purchasing stuff, like pet toys, a bed, litter box, collar, and leash for your new pet.)

Are there any major family changes planned in the near future, such as a new child, a move, schedule change, that could be stressful for a new family pet? Have you planned who will be responsible (cleaning up, feeding, etc.) for the new pet?

Are you willing to take the time to work with the dog on housebreaking and chewing, or your new cat on litter box use and furniture scratching? If the cat will be spending any time outside, the cat must have claws on all 4 feet. Would you consider obedience training for your new dog? Will you allow your new dog or cat time to adjust to your home?

Larger pets need to live in a large home with lots of room to run. Smaller pets are suitable for apartment life. Some animals must have a fenced yard. Evaluate where you live and the size, activity level and the personality of the pet that will be the best for you.

The number of children you have and their ages are key factors in deciding the kind of pet you should have. Certain breeds are more active and outgoing with children and make better playmates. An outgoing, older pet can be a good choice, also. A family with young children should not choose a shy or aggressive animal. They are best with single or older owners. All dogs and cats should be supervised around young children.

Small, young animals are cute, but how big will it be when it grows up? Do you like big animals or would a smaller one be better?

If you have a toddler, here are some things to consider before bringing a puppy or kitten into your home:

- ✓ Puppies and kittens like to jump and scratch. Toddlers like to “investigate” by pulling tails and ears. Puppies and kittens do not like to be “investigated”!
- ✓ Puppies will have “accidents” on the same carpet your toddler will play on.
- ✓ Puppies will chew toddler’s toys.
- ✓ Puppies will take treats from people of their own height, and toddlers will eat from a bowl that can be reached.
- ✓ Separating the puppy or kitten from the family will cause the puppy or kitten to become upset and unhappy due to lack of attention and exercise.

I have read and understand the above information.

Signature _____ Date _____