

DO YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE YOU ADOPT

Protect yourself and your future pet by adopting from a responsible and transparent shelter

ARE PETS SPAYED/NEUTERED BEFORE ADOPTION?

State law requires all adopted pets be spayed/neutered *prior to* adoption unless an individual medical waiver is obtained from PACFA for specific medical purposes. The shelter should cover the cost of spay/neuter services up front.



IS THE FACILITY PACFA CERTIFIED AND IN GOOD STANDING?



The Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) Program is a licensing and inspection program for pets in Colorado. View PACFA certified facilities, complaints, and more at their website: ag.colorado.gov/ics/pacfa.

DOES THE SHELTER VACCINATE ALL PETS AND PROVIDE MEDICAL RECORDS AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION?

A key to preventing illness in shelters and pets is a responsible vaccination process. Adopters should receive vaccine and any known medical history before adopting.



DOES THE SHELTER PROVIDE KNOWN HISTORY OF THE PET?

Request the pet's background, such as whether it was brought in by an owner, found as a stray, or transferred from another shelter. If the pet's history is unknown or if it came from out of state, has the pet been properly quarantined and tested for diseases?



DOES THE SHELTER FOSTER ONGOING COMMUNICATION?

What is the shelter's policy if you have questions or concerns about your new pet or need support with the pet's transition into your home?



DOES THE SHELTER HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION?

Ask your friends and neighbors for a recommendation when looking to adopt a new pet. Check out reviews of the shelter online, look into what industry associations it belongs to, and ask which organizations it collaborates with. If it doesn't work with reputable groups in the area, that may be a warning sign.



From your friends at

