



Tips for Owners

We have created this “Tips for Owners” sheet to help you screen your potential applicants and find the best new home possible for your pet.

1. Don't be shy. Ask as many questions as needed to feel comfortable about your pet's future.
2. Not all applicants will be suitable for your pet. Don't be afraid to say no. It is suggested that you match your pet to the applicant and not on a first-come-first-served basis.
3. It is recommended that you require several visits to interact with your pet before you consider finalizing the adoption. This may not be necessary for some of the smaller species, but consider doing so anyway if you have any doubts.
4. All members of the immediate family should be available for at least one visit. The primary caregivers should be available for all visits.
5. Look closely at body language; both from your pet and the applicants. Your pet may not be comfortable at first. However, with proper handling they should become accepting of the applicants.
6. Your applicants should show an interest in knowing as much as possible about your pet. Please take into account that some people are uncomfortable meeting others and may actually end up being your best choice.
7. Ask about their experience with your type of pet. Keep in mind that it isn't always about the length of experience but the quality.
8. An applicant's "over-confidence" can be just as concerning as having no confidence. Some applicants will be more experienced than others, but all should understand their limits and have a reliable resource they use to help with problems.
9. It is not always necessary to ask for proof if an applicant or a family member states they have experience in an area. Many times you can judge the fact by simply letting them talk and watch how they handle your pet.
10. Ask what their expectations are from your pet. Do most of those expectations mirror the personality of your pet?
11. Talk to them about their lifestyle. Is their daily life and housing compatible with your pet?

12. If they rent, ask for proof that they can have a pet.
13. Be sure they can afford your pet. Any financial arrangements you make are strictly between you and the adopters. However, costs do not stop after the initial adoption. It is best to get any agreements you make, financial or otherwise, in writing.
14. Consider the option of requiring periodic follow-ups for at least one year. You may want to consider the stipulation that they return your pet to you or surrender to Wings of Hope if the adoption does not work out.
15. Be sure that your applicants come to their visits with a proper carrier in which to transport your pet if you do not already have one. Having an improperly restrained pet in the car can be dangerous to both the people and the pet.
16. If your adopters live in NJ and your pet is a bird other than finches, canaries, budgies, and cockatiels, they will be required to contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife to register and obtain a license for your pet. Also, many townships and municipalities throughout the country have individual laws concerning the types and number of pets allowed by a resident in certain zoned areas. There may also be restrictions as to the type of bird that can legally enter certain states (i.e., Quaker Parakeets are illegal to own in PA). It is strongly advised that you require your adopters to know their state and local ordinances.