

12 Frequently asked questions:

Q: Is there a screening process for possible animal owners?

A: Yes, if you wish to adopt an animal from the Animal Shelter you will need to be at least 18 years of age, have a verifiable identification with your birthday, and you will also need to fill out an application form.

Q: How can the community become involved at the Animal Shelter?

A: If you want to be involved with the Animal Shelter, there is a volunteer program that you may join. Most importantly, the people of the community must understand that being a responsible pet owner is a tremendous help. By tagging your pet with identification tags and by spaying or neutering your animal, you are helping to lessen the number of stray animals.

Q: What do I need to reclaim my lost animal?

A: If you wish to reclaim your lost dog, you need to have identification that proves it is your pet, such as licensing papers, and if the dog was not previously licensed, it must be licensed at the time the animal is reclaimed; dogs must have a license tag on its collar. If you wish to reclaim your lost cat, you need to have the cat registered. If it is not, then you must register the pet before you can reclaim it.

Q: What does it cost to adopt an animal?

A: To adopt a cat, the cost is anywhere between \$70.00 and \$105.00 For dogs, the cost ranges anywhere between \$107.50 and \$155.00

Q: What happens to animals that aren't adopted?

A: Unfortunately animals that are not adopted are put to sleep.

Q: What do I do if I find a lost animal?

A: If you find an animal, report it immediately to the Animal Shelter by calling 343-1803. From there, we will hold the animal for five days, to give the owner a chance to retrieve his or her pet: if the owner does not come, the animal will be put up for adoption.

Q: What animals do you offer for adoption?

A: We mainly offer cats and dogs for adoption, but occasionally, we will offer rabbits, ferrets, and guinea pigs.

Q: Do you spay or neuter the animals at the shelter?

A: No, we do not spay or neuter the cats and dogs here. Hopefully in the future, we will be able to provide this option for the community. But, as of right now, if you want to spay or neuter your cat or dog, call your local veterinarian.

Q: How long do cats and dogs stay at the Animal Shelter?

A: Whenever a cat or dog is brought to the Animal Shelter, we hold the animal for five days, without putting them up for adoption: this gives their owners the chance to reclaim them. If the owner does not do so, we will then put them up for adoption and they will stay here for up to eight months, if room is available.

Q: Do the owners' of lost cats and dogs always reclaim their pets?

A: No, in most cases the pets' owners do not reclaim them. Only about 2% of cat's owners will reclaim their pet and only 20% of dogs owners will reclaim them.

Q: Where can I make a donation?

A: There is a new program called Paws Across Oswego County. PAOC plans to assist local animal shelters through donations and voluntary services, to ensure that all cats and dogs are spayed and neutered when they are adopted, to control breeding ordinances, and to provide a low-cost spay/neuter clinic that is available to Oswego County residents. If you would like to make a donation please send a check or money order to:

*Paws Across Oswego County
c/o Marg Wentworth
2035 County Route 1
Oswego, NY 13126*

Q: Where can I find out further information?

A: You can contact The Shelter by phone at 343-1803 or by e-mail at dogs@oswegony.org. The Animal Shelter is located at 621 East Seneca Street, Oswego, New York 13126.