

Oswego Animal Shelter's Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What do you do and what areas do you serve?

We are a municipal animal shelter that takes in strays and unwanted animals from the City of Oswego, New York. We also contract with and house stray dogs for several townships in Oswego County.

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. Our volunteers primarily walk dogs and help socialize cats. All volunteers must be 18 or older. Please contact us at 343-1803 for more information.

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

A: As long as we have the space to house them and can keep them happy and healthy, our animals remain with us until they find new homes. Animals with aggressive tendencies cannot be placed up for adoption. We also work with many local animal rescues as well as breed specific dog rescues in order to get as many animals adopted as possible.

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

A: If you wish to reclaim your lost dog, you need to provide identification and proof of ownership, such as licensing papers. All dogs must have an up to date rabies vaccination in order to leave the shelter, and must be licensed in the city or town in which you reside. This is a state law and there are no exceptions. The only time that a dog does not need a rabies shot is if it is under 3 months of age. Rabies vaccines can be given by a licensed veterinarian here at the shelter. Our veterinarian can administer the vaccine for a fee, or you are welcome to call your own veterinarian to come to the shelter.

If your dog was picked up by another township, you will need to redeem your dog through your town clerk.

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

If you wish to reclaim your lost cat, you need to provide identification and proof of ownership such as veterinary paperwork. All cats must have an up to date rabies vaccination in order to leave the shelter. This is a state law and there are no exceptions. The only time that a cat does not need a rabies shot is if it is under 3 months of age. Rabies vaccines can be given by a licensed veterinarian here at the shelter. Our veterinarian can administer the vaccine for a fee, or you are welcome to call your own veterinarian to come to the shelter.

All cats must be registered in the city of Oswego if you wish to let them outside. Only spayed or neutered cats are eligible to be registered as outdoor cats. Registration must occur before your cat can be reclaimed from the shelter.

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 a minimum of 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: Is there a screening process for potential adopters?

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, and you will also need to fill out an adoption application.

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 \$100.00 and \$160.00.

Q: Are animals given veterinary care before going up for adoption?

A: Yes, all animals are given necessary vaccines, dewormed, given flea medicine if necessary, and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Cats are tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV. Dogs are tested for Heartworm. The only exception to this is with kittens and puppies that are too young to be fixed or given specific vaccines. If you adopt a puppy or kitten from the Oswego Animal Shelter, you have the option of obtaining a spay/neuter certificate from Paws Across Oswego County.

What animals do you offer for adoption?

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

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

A: Unfortunately, no. Less than 50% of dog owners will claim their dogs from us, and less than 10% of owners claim their cats.