

Adopter Eligibility Policy

Definitions:

Proper veterinary care is defined as an animal being current on age-appropriate core vaccinations (rabies, canine distemper/parvo or feline panleukopenia) and sterilized.

Neglect or abuse of animals or children is defined as a guilty plea or conviction in a judicial court to a charge of violation of Pennsylvania legal code regarding animals or children.

Policy:

Animal Protectors of Allegheny Valley strives to place resident shelter animals into the most appropriate adoptive and foster homes possible. Towards this end, all prospective adopters and fosters must submit an application detailing relevant information that also serves as a starting point for counseling and education on responsible pet care. As a means of verifying the information on the application, all prospective adopters or fosters must also consent to a background check. This check will be done by Animal Protectors to ensure the veracity of the application and that animals are placed in accordance with organizational values.

As part of the application process, Animal Protectors seeks to identify the following:

- Identity of the applicant, confirmed through production of a photo ID card
- Confirmation that the applicant resides at a physical address, confirmed through satellite imagery maps
- Confirmation that the property owner of the applicant's residence consents to the adoption or fostering of the pet
- Proper veterinary care for current or past pets, confirmed through veterinary reference
- Any history of neglect or abuse of animals or children, as confirmed through a case search on the publicly available web portal of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania¹

Even if the above information is confirmed, Animal Protectors reserves the right to deny any application. This may be based on applicant interactions with the animals or staff, their resident pet's interactions with the shelter animals, or consultation from agents acting on behalf of the organization such as volunteers or retail location staffing.

Every applicant must consent to these policies in writing as part of the application submission. Failure to assent to the application process is considered withdrawal of application for a particular animal. Applicants that have withdrawn or been denied previous applications may apply for a different animal after 30 days and are subject to the same approval process.

¹ <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/CaseSearch> N.B. This database does not show records that have been formally expunged. That information is only available to law enforcement officers