



Marion County Dog Services

Adoption FAQ

I found a dog I'm interested in. What do I do next?

At the shelter:

- All dogs have a card with a number on the front of their kennels. Bring that card to the front desk and let a staff member know you are interested in adopting.
- If the dog is still available, a front desk customer service member will give you an adoption questionnaire to complete (if one is not already on file), and will explain the shelter's adoption process.

Searching online:

- Take note of the dog's name and breed
- Come to the shelter and present the dog's information to a front desk customer service member.
- If the dog you have chosen has already been adopted, look around; we have other dogs waiting to find their forever home!

What does the adoption fee include?

All kinds of great things!

- Pre-paid spay or neuter. All adopted dogs are altered prior to going home. If your new dog has not yet been altered, arrangements will be made before you take him/her home.
 - Most dogs are altered while they are waiting to be adopted.
 - If we alter the dog after you start the adoption process, surgery will be scheduled typically within a day or two.
- Initial vaccinations, flea control, deworming, and other medical services.
- One-year license for dogs living in Marion County.
- Microchip identification and registry with a national database.
- Free health exam with a participating local veterinarian (see ***Veterinary Partnership Program***).

What do I need to take my new dog home?

You need a leash and collar or a crate to use on your trip home.

- There may be inexpensive leashes and crates you can buy at the shelter. ***Please ask our customer service staff members prior to your scheduled pick up time.***

Why do the prices sometimes vary?

Adoption fees help to assist with the care of our dogs. Variable pricing on our highly adoptable dogs allows us to house and assist the dogs that take a little longer to find their new home.

Why can I not adopt over the phone?

Permanent home placement is our goal. Adopting in person helps to make sure that the dog you selected is the right fit.

Why can't I put a hold on a dog over the phone?

Putting a dog on hold over the phone limits a dog's chances of finding its forever home. Please work with a customer service staff member or manager if there are other circumstances that need to be considered for your adoption.

Why does my adopted dog have to be microchipped?

Marion County Dog Services' policy is to microchip all adopted dogs due to the high rate of animals that are lost, stolen or found at large. It is a lifesaving tool that stays with the dog wherever they go so they can be identified and returned to their family quickly. The more dogs that are returned home, increases the shelter's availability for other unidentified incoming dogs.