



# AnimalFriends | We're Thinking Outside the Cage

Caryl Gates Gluck **Resource Center** | 562 Camp Horne Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15237 | 412.847.7000 | [www.ThinkingOutsidetheCage.org](http://www.ThinkingOutsidetheCage.org)

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Animal Friends. Following you will find information regarding the availability of kennel space in our resource center, the procedure for admitting an animal, general guidelines for admittance, and alternatives to placing with us.

## **Kennel Availability**

Animal Friends is a No-Kill shelter, which means we do not euthanize animals to make room for other animals. Adoptable animals are at the shelter until they find a permanent home, which may be a matter of days, or much longer. Therefore, space is limited and becomes available as animals are adopted. Large dog space (over 40 lbs.) becomes available with less frequency than small dog/puppy cages because it usually takes longer for them to be adopted. Available cat/rabbit kennels are always at a premium. Animals that are already spayed or neutered and vaccinated may be admitted more quickly. Because they already have many of the requirements for adoption, they can potentially be adopted more quickly and therefore provide more available space.

Because of these factors, we are very seldom able to admit animals on a walk-in basis or with short notice and we cannot give you a time frame for possible admission of an animal into our facility. We understand if it is important to you to place your animal in a no-kill shelter. However, if you are unable to wait for available space, please know that there are other options. We review some of these options later in more detail.

## **Admission Procedure**

Please complete the enclosed application regarding your animal/animals and **return to the Admissions Department at the address listed above**. We ask you many questions to determine if the animal is appropriate for a kennel setting and for adoption. Once this form is returned to us, our admission counselors will date and review it. Returning the appropriate forms does not automatically guarantee the animal will be admitted to the shelter. If your animal is appropriate for admission, you will be contacted to schedule a date and time for admission. After the admission is scheduled, behavioral staff will assess the animal's behavior. If the animal demonstrates appropriate behavior, we will be able to admit it to our facility. If the animal is not appropriate for admission to our shelter, we will contact you via phone or mail with that information, and you may pursue other options. We do make every effort to admit animals as quickly as possible.

We request a donation of \$20 for admission of an animal to the shelter, and \$35 for litters of puppies, kittens and rabbits.

## **Admission Guidelines**

Animals are not required to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated or tested for contagious disease, but as noted above, those that are can often be admitted more quickly.

**Cats:** We do not accept cats that test positive for feline leukemia, a contagious and fatal disease. If the cat you are requesting to admit is not tested, we will test at the shelter for a small fee. If the cat is positive, we will not be able to admit it, and you will be informed of your options.

We do not admit feral (wild) cats that cannot be handled or that need to be trapped. They are not adoptable, and do poorly in kennels.

(OVER)

**Rabbits:** Only domestic rabbits will be considered for admittance.

**Dogs:** our Behavioral Team assesses dogs behaviorally for admission. If there is concern of or evidence with aggression issues either toward people or other animals, the dog may not be admitted.

**Strays:** We request that people who find stray animals call their local animal control for placement or pick-up. The reason for this? Owners who are attempting to find their pets will be referred there by their local police, municipalities and shelters. They will also be referred to their local shelter that may take the municipality strays. Seldom do lost pet owners think that their pet will be at our facility. Many dogs are not returned home if the system does not function appropriately from the finder's end. We do work with various animal control facilities to admit adoptable animals if the owners are not found. We also encourage people to attempt to find the owner in the area from where they retrieved the animal prior to admitting it into a shelter. This can be done through posters, door-to-door inquiry, or an ad in the local paper. Call the local animal control, police, and shelters to report a found animal.

**General:** Dogs and rabbits over a certain age that may vary by breed often do poorly in shelter settings. These animals can decline quickly in health and behavior going from a long time home situation to a kennel environment. They are usually the last to be considered for adoption, making their shelter stay longer and continuing the decline. We ask that people seriously consider the negative effects that placing them in a kennel environment can have prior to their decision. A counselor will be happy to discuss these issues and other options with you.

## **Placement Options/Alternatives**

### **Animal Friends Home to Home Placement Program**

Through the program, members of the public "place" cats and dogs up for adoption via the Animal Friends website but are solely responsible for adopting their pet into a new home. This program helps bring together owner and adopter, on their own terms, in their own communities, outside the traditional shelter environment. This is a helpful alternative for animals that would not do well in a shelter setting and owners who are able to retain the animal until a home is found.

### **Animal Friends Behavior Helpline**

If you are considering placement of your dog or cat because of behavioral issues and have not consulted anyone yet, we have a Behavior Helpline 412-847-7070. You can discuss the issue with trained professionals that may be able to offer suggestions that will help you to keep the pet in the home.

### **Breed Rescue Groups**

There are many purebred rescue groups that will accept placements. We often work with them if there are pure-breeds that need placement from our shelter. It is best for you to contact them yourself. Listings for Southwestern PA can be found at [www.pghdogs.com](http://www.pghdogs.com).

### **Local Shelters and Groups**

If you need to place your animal before we have space available, there are open-admission shelters in Allegheny County and surrounding counties that accept animals on a walk-in basis or with little notice. There are also other rescue groups and shelters that operate on a waiting list basis. There is a limited listing of these enclosed.

### **Local Paper Advertisements**

You may advertise your animal in the paper to a good home, but we caution not to advertise "Free". Many people who want animals for motives other than as a pet will answer these ads. Be sure to screen prospective adopters and follow your instincts. A small fee will not discourage good pet owners from seeking out your animal.

Thank you, and if there are any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Admissions Department  
412.847.7078  
[admissionsinfo@animal-friends.org](mailto:admissionsinfo@animal-friends.org)

# AnimalFriends | We're Thinking Outside the Cage

Caryl Gates Gluck **Resource Center** | 562 Camp Horne Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15237 | 412.847.7000 | www.ThinkingOutsidetheCage.org



## Admission Statement

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Dog Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Cat Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbit Breed \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I own, have assumed responsibility for or have no knowledge of any other owner of this animal prior to this admission. The information I have given Animal Friends, Inc. about this animal's age, health and disposition is correct. I have truthfully acknowledged any dangerous behavioral characteristics and any past history of biting or aggressive behavior. If, in the sole opinion of Animal Friends, Inc., any of the above statements are incorrect or if the animal reacts negatively to the shelter environment, Animal Friends, Inc. may notify me to reclaim the animal.

I hereby surrender all my interest in this animal to Animal Friends, Inc. I request and understand that the decisions regarding this animal's care while sheltered and placement into an appropriate home will be as Animal Friends, Inc. deems advisable. I understand that I have no recourse in these decisions, unless recommended or required by Animal Friends, Inc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## FELINE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Cat's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Breed/Color \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female Check one:  Neutered  Spayed  Not sure  Pregnant

Is this cat de-clawed (check all that apply)?  Yes  No  Front paws  All 4 paws At what age?

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Surrender \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: moving, financial, allergies, illness, housebreaking, biting etc.)

If this is for cat waiting list admissions, how long do you have until you must place the cat? \_\_\_\_\_

When was the cats' last visit to the veterinarian? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Most Current Vaccination Dates:

FVRCP \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Rabies \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ FELV \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Medical records attached?  Yes  No Is the cat micro-chipped?  Yes  No

Has the cat been tested for FELV and FIV?  Yes  No  Not Sure

What were the results? **FELV**  positive  negative **FIV**  positive  negative

Your Vets Name \_\_\_\_\_ Vet's Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

How long has this cat lived with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the cat adopted from Animal Friends?  Yes  No

If not, how did you obtain the cat?

- Another Shelter  Found/Stray  Newspaper
- Breeder/Pet Shop  Friend/Relative

If the cat was a stray when/where was it found? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you file a lost and found report?  Yes  No

Is the cat:  Indoor only  Outside only  Outside on leash  Indoor/Outside

List age and sex of people that the cat has lived with \_\_\_\_\_

How was the cat's behavior around children? (Check all that apply)

- Friendly  Afraid  Too much for small children
- Playful  Aggressive  Never been with children
- Tolerant  Loves Children
- Shy  Hides

How does this cat react to visitors? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe your household environment?

- Active  Noisy  Quiet  Average

Which words describe this cat? (Check all that apply)

- Playful                       Affectionate                       Lazy                       Shy  
 Rambunctious                       Vocal                       Aggressive  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Aloof                       Lap Cat

List Age/Sex/Breed/Size of animals the cat lived with or "None": \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these animals did the cat get along with? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this cat use the litter box ***consistently***?       Yes                       No

If you answered No, has the cat been examined by a veterinarian to rule out physical problems? \_\_\_\_\_

How often does the cat have accidents in the house?

- All the time                       Once a day                       Once a week                       Never

Is the cat spraying or urinating outside the litter box?                       Yes                       No

When did this behavior begin? \_\_\_\_\_

What has been done to correct the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the cat have accidents? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of litter box is the cat used to?

- Open                       Covered                       Self-Cleaning

What type of litter is the cat used to?

- Clay                       Clumping                       Pine  
 Scoopable                       Recycled newspaper

Does the cat have any physical issues/allergies/medical problems? Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the cat need any medication or special diet?                       Yes                       No

If Yes, Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

What type of food does the cat eat?                       Dry                       Canned                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

What brand of food does the cat eat? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the cat eat treats?       Yes                       No      Favorite treat \_\_\_\_\_

When is the cat fed?                       AM                       PM                       Free Fed

Approximately how many hours a day did the cat spend unsupervised? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the cat destructive?                       Yes                       No

If so, please describe (scratches furniture/walls, chews wires/cords, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

What has been done to correct the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

