



# 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)

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_





## CANINE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male Female Neutered/Spayed: Yes No At what age: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Current Vaccination Dates: DHLPP \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Rabies: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (records must be attached)

List Any Serious Injuries or medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Is this Dog on Heartguard? \_\_\_\_\_ Day of Month Given: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Example: moving; financial; family has allergies or illness; animal has illness; housebreaking; biting, etc.)

✦ Where did you get this dog?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Friends, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Breeder/Pet Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/Relative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Another Shelter      | <input type="checkbox"/> Found            | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper       |

✦ Dog's approximate age when you got it? \_\_\_\_\_ # of homes prior to yours: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ How many hours a day was the dog kept outside? \_\_\_\_\_ In the house? \_\_\_\_\_

✦ List age and sex of **people** who **lived with** this dog: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Your dog's behavior around **children** that **lived with you?** (check all that apply)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly/Playful         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chases/Herds         | <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive towards          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle/Affectionate      | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumps on/Knocks over | <input type="checkbox"/> Too much for small children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerates (puts up with) | <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid of            | <input type="checkbox"/> Never lived with children   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoids                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Snappy with          |  |

✦ Your dog's behavior around **children out of the home?** (check all that apply)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly/Playful         | <input type="checkbox"/> Chases/Herds         | <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive towards          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle/Affectionate      | <input type="checkbox"/> Jumps on/Knocks over | <input type="checkbox"/> Too much for small children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerates (puts up with) | <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid of            | <input type="checkbox"/> Never been around children  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoids                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Snappy with          |  |

List types, ages, sexes and sizes of **animals** that **lived with** this dog: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ This dog's behavior around other **dogs in the home?** (check all that apply)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly/Playful  | <input type="checkbox"/> Curious         | <input type="checkbox"/> Growls/Bares Teeth        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle/Submissive | <input type="checkbox"/> Dominant        | <input type="checkbox"/> Frightened of             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roughhouses       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ignores         | <input type="checkbox"/> Has never lived with dogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shy               | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks at/Lunges |  |

✦ Your dog's behavior around **dogs outside of the home** (check all that apply)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly/Playful  | <input type="checkbox"/> Curious         | <input type="checkbox"/> Growls/Bares Teeth     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle/Submissive | <input type="checkbox"/> Dominant        | <input type="checkbox"/> Frightened of          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roughhouses       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ignores         | <input type="checkbox"/> Never been around dogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shy               | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks at/Lunges |   |

✦ Please describe your dog's behavior around **cats** the dog has **lived with** (check all that apply)

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Chases             | <input type="checkbox"/> Has killed                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ignores            | <input type="checkbox"/> Frightened of             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curious  | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks at/Lunges at | <input type="checkbox"/> Has never lived with cats |

✦ Is the dog 100% housebroken? Yes No Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ If not **housebroken**, where does the dog have accidents? (check all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on carpet    | <input type="checkbox"/> Defecates on carpet    | <input type="checkbox"/> Marks indoors                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Defecates on furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Relieves itself in owner's sight     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates on tile      | <input type="checkbox"/> Defecates on tile      | <input type="checkbox"/> Relieves itself out of owner's sight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urinates - In crate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Defecates - In crate   |   |

✦ How have you dealt with this problem?

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crate Training    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yelled at                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hit with newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Training    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kept outside only          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubbed nose in it | <input type="checkbox"/> Only allowed in some areas |   |

✦ Is the dog crate trained? Yes No

Is the dog destructive? Yes No Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: when alone only; chews; escape from crate; housebreaking issues; destroys owner's personal items)

✦ On Average, how many hours a day does the dog spend unsupervised? \_\_\_\_\_

✦ How is your dog confined in your yard? \_\_\_\_\_ ft. fence Other: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Does the dog repeatedly escape from your yard or house? Yes No

If so, how?

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbs fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Busts/chews through fence | <input type="checkbox"/> Chews/eats through fence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jumps fence  | <input type="checkbox"/> Charges open gate         | <input type="checkbox"/> Squeezes through fence   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Digs out     | <input type="checkbox"/> Opens gate                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bolts through front door |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:       |  |   |

✦ What type of training has the dog had?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Training        |
| Where? _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional/Private |
| How many? _____                            | With whom? _____                              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> None                 |

✦ How does your dog behave in the car? Enjoys Tolerates Gets Sick

✦ How does your dog behave during grooming (bathing, brushing, clipping nails, etc.):

- |                                       |   |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scared       | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirmy                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calm/Relaxed | <input type="checkbox"/> Mouthy (bites hands/brush) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hates water |

✦ Has your dog ever (check all that apply)

- |  |                                  |                                 |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growled                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Bitten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other displays of aggression: _____ |                                  |                                 |

✦ If so, at whom (check all that apply)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults in home     | <input type="checkbox"/> Children out of home | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs in home     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adults out of home | <input type="checkbox"/> Strangers at door    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs out of home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children in home   | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinarian/Groomer |   |

Please describe the above circumstances in detail: \_\_\_\_\_

✦ Do you feel the dog is protective or possessive (check all that apply)

- |                                  |                                  |                                    |                                       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Of food | <input type="checkbox"/> Of toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Of people | <input type="checkbox"/> Of territory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other   | _____                            |                                    |                                       |

✦ Regarding the above, please describe the behavior with the following

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collects its food/toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Snaps                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Charges front door                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hovers/Guards          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunges/Bites              | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks/growls at uniformed people   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growls/Bares Teeth     | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks/growls at strangers | <input type="checkbox"/> Barks/growls at unfamiliar animals |

✦ Food - Brand your dog eats: \_\_\_\_\_ (Purina, Alpo, Dads, Iams, etc.)

Type of food he eats: Canned Dry Moist Other: \_\_\_\_\_