



Adoption FAQ's

If you're thinking about adopting a pet, you have many questions on your mind. The staff at the **Animal Rescue League of Boston** is dedicated to finding the perfect match for you and your family and answering any questions you may have. Here are a few frequently asked questions.

Q. What is the adoption process like at the Animal Rescue League of Boston?

A. Our priority is to help you find the pet that matches your lifestyle. All you have to do is visit one of our three adoption centers, take a look at our available adoptable animals, and if you're interested in meeting one of our four-legged pals, then we will set you up in a visiting room with him or her.

If you're a first-time pet owner, you'll be briefed on just about everything there is to know about owning that type of animal. Depending on the individual animal, the animal may or may not be ready to go home the same day. It is important to us that this is a successful process and pleasant experience for you and your new pet. Visit <http://www.arlboston.org/our-shelters/> to learn more about our adoption centers.

Q. Will I find out everything about the animal I am interested in ahead of time?

A. The Animal Rescue League of Boston has an extensive and thorough evaluation process for all of our animals. Each animal is evaluated medically and behaviorally. Everything we know about the animal's health status and behavior will be disclosed to the adopter. Our goal is to make the adoption process a successful one.

Q. What are the requirements to adopt an animal at the Animal Rescue League of Boston?

A. Once you and our staff and/or volunteer make sure the animal is the right match for your lifestyle, we will finalize the adoption. We do require a valid form of identification, whether it is a passport, state ID, or driver's license. We also require that our adopters are 18 years of age or older. If you are interested in adopting a dog and already own a dog, we recommend a dog to dog introduction. Prior to sending birds and small animals home, we ask that you bring a photo of the cage/habitat the animal will be living in.

Q. What is the cost of adopting an animal at the Animal Rescue League of Boston and what does the fee include?

A. The cost of adopting an animal depends on the species and the age – the younger the animal, the higher the fee (see the adoption section of our website for fees- <http://www.arlboston.org/adopt-pets-now>). The fee includes initial health and behavioral screening, some medical procedures that need to be completed before adoption (ie. Dental extractions, spays, neuters, etc.), updated vaccinations, a microchip, and a starter bag of cat food.

Q. What if it doesn't work out with my new pet?

A. If the newly adopted pet doesn't seem to be the right match for you and your home, it is okay. While we work hard to ensure good matches and to disclose everything we know about the animal, sometimes it just isn't the right match. We welcome back animals we have adopted out and will continue to work with you to find a successful match. An adoption staff member or volunteer can discuss this with you in detail.

Q. Do you require a fenced yard to adopt a dog from the Animal Rescue League of Boston?

A. No, a fenced yard is not a requirement to adopt a dog from us. There are plenty of well cared for dogs that live in apartment-type homes or single family homes who are leashed-walked daily and live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. We expect that adopters will take into consideration the leash laws and other laws of their city or town.

Q. What else can you tell me about adopting an animal from the Animal Rescue League of Boston?

A. The Animal Rescue League of Boston is happy to have an open adoption philosophy where we work with our visitors to make the adoption process pleasant and successful. If you feel you will be a good home to an animal and that the animal will be valued by you and your family, then we want you to adopt from us!