



Department of Agriculture

Cayman Islands Government

Animal Welfare and Control Unit's

Animal Adoption Policy & Procedures

Summary

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Purpose

A primary responsibility of the Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare and Control Unit is the rehoming of eligible animals to suitable forever homes. This policy serves to outline the processes through which eligible animals may be adopted from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture, in compliance with the Animals Act and regulations.

Eligible Animals

Primarily, animals available for adoption are canines identified as such by the Senior Animal Welfare Officer, a Veterinary Officer, or their designate.

Other species will be considered for adoption on a case by case basis by the Veterinary Services Unit in collaboration with the Animal Welfare and Control Unit.

Adoptable dogs are those which are:

- Older than 6 weeks of age;
- Behaviorally/temperamentally sound, as identified on temperament testing;
- Bright, alert, and friendly;
- Medically fit for adoption, as determined by a Veterinary Officer;
- Not listed as a Prohibit Breed (in accordance with the Prohibited Dog Regulations 2014);
and
- Legally available for adoption.

Animals not meeting the above criteria will not be eligible for adoption.

Animals are available for public viewing at the Department of Agriculture's Animal Pound from **12:00pm-1:00pm and 3:30pm-4:30pm Monday thru Friday (excluding Public Holidays)**. Potential Adopters can use these time periods to acquaint themselves with an animal.

Eligible Adopters:

Animals will only be adopted to responsible owners, wherein it is believed that the person(s) will treat the animal with appropriate care and diligence. Individuals seeking to adopt must be:

- At least 18 years of age with a valid photo identification;
- Living in accommodation which permits pets;
- Financially able to provide for a pet;
- Have no history of animal abuse or neglect;
- Have no history of repeated straying incidents;
- Willing and able to meet the medical, nutritional, shelter, and socialization needs of the pet.

Persons previously convicted of animal welfare, animal cruelty, or animal neglect offences will not be eligible to adopt. Individuals whom are currently under investigation pending resolution of cases involving animal cruelty, animal abuse, or animal neglect are not eligible to adopt. Individuals who have a history of repeated straying of canines will not be eligible to adopt. Neither will any animal be adopted for the purpose of animal fighting, nor for breeding.

Persons who have previously surrendered an animal, and are now seeking to adopt a new animal will be considered on a case by case basis.

The Adoption Process

Step 1: Potential adopters should identify the animal wish to adopt by visiting the Animal Pound during designated visiting hours. Animals available for adoption will be identified by a Department of Agriculture Officer.

Step 2: Once an animal has been selected, the potential adopters will then complete the Adoption Contract and agree to the stipulated requirements. Potential adopters will be briefed on animal care requirements.

Step 3: The selected animal will be placed on a '**reserved**' status, pending the completion of a home visit by the Senior Animal Welfare Officer or their designate.

Step 4: The home visit by the Senior Animal Welfare Officer or their designate is conducted to ensure that the requirements of care of the animal can be met. At this time, the potential adopter may choose to foster the dog in question for a period of not more than one week to ensure the animal is suitable with their lifestyle (optional).

Step 5: Subsequent to passing the home visit, the potential adopter will have three working days to pay the prescribed fees and collect the animal from the Animal Pound. After three working days, the '**reserved**' status will be discontinued.

Step 6: Prior to going home, adopted animals will be microchipped with a 15 digit ISO-compliant microchip. Dogs will be licensed in accordance with the law in the name of the adopter. An appointment will be made for sterilization (spay/neutering) of intact animals prior to the animal being released from the DOA. Adopters are required to maintain this appointment, and provide proof of the sterilization of the animal to the Department of Agriculture within 60 days of adoption completion. Exception may be made in writing regarding the spay and neuter provision on a case

by case basis (e.g. in the case of exceptionally young animals, animals in ill health, animals heavily pregnant, or otherwise).

Step 7: Adoption completed!

Note - The Senior Animal Welfare Officer or their designate may conduct a follow up visit to the premises where the animal is being kept to ensure the animal is being cared for in the prescribed manner. If it is found that the animal is not being cared for in accordance with established animal welfare principles and the Law, the animal may be seized without compensation.

Adoption of Animals with Behavioural or Medical Issues

On occasion, potential adopters may see an animal in ill health but still wish to adopt it. Where it is in the best interest of the animal, and the owner is deemed capable of providing the requisite care, such an animal may be adopted out to approved adopters providing:

- The potential adopter is made aware of the health status as it is known to the Department of Agriculture at the time of adoption; and
- The potential adopter agrees to provide all necessary follow-up care

On occasion, potential adopters may see an animal with behavioral issues but still wish to adopt it. Where it is in the best interest of the animal, the owner is deemed capable of providing the requisite training, and the animal is not deemed a threat to public health, such an animal may be adopted out to approved adopters providing:

- The potential adopter is made aware of the behavioral status as it is known to the Department of Agriculture at the time of adoption;
- The owner is an experienced dog handler and demonstrates capability to handle the requisite animal;
- The animal in question does not have a history of aggression and does not pose a risk to the public; and
- The potential adopter agrees to provide all necessary follow-up training and care.


In cases of animals with behavioural and medical issues with simultaneous dual interest from a non-governmental organisation and an individual adopter, priority will be given to which placement is in the best interest of the animal in question. In the event that a healthy animal has simultaneous interest from a non-governmental organisation and an individual adopter, priority will be given to the individual adopter unless not in the best interest of the animal.

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to deny an adoption if they feel it is in the best interest of the animal or the Potential Adopter. The Department of Agriculture will accept the return of any animal adopted from the Animal Pound if the adopter is unable to continue care for the animal. Adoption fees are non-refundable.

AWCU Animal Adoption Policy and Procedures

Authorizations:

This policy has been approved by:

Name:	Mr. Brian Crichlow	Signature:	
Title:	Director of Agriculture		
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