Virginia Tech Animal Adoption Policy

No. 13036

Policy Effective Date:
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Last Revision Date:

Policy Owner:
Dan Sui

Policy Author: *(Contact Persons)*
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Affected Parties:
Undergraduate
Graduate
Faculty
Staff

1.0 Purpose

To outline the procedures by which ownership of dogs and cats used in teaching or research activities is transferred from Virginia Tech to an external party ("Adopter"). The transfer of ownership is referred to under this policy as "adoption".

2.0 Policy

2.1.1 Approval of Adoptions

All requests for adoption must be approved by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) Attending Veterinarian.

2.1.2 Animals Eligible for Adoption

1. Dogs and cats must be healthy and of good temperament as determined by a Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) or Animal Resources and Care Division (ARCD) veterinarian.
2. Some animals may not be suitable for adoption as determined by the Attending Veterinarian.
3. Dogs fostered by the VMCVM under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an animal shelter and utilized in the veterinary student curriculum are owned by the shelter. Shelter dog adoptions are managed by the individual animal shelter.

2.1.3 Veterinary Care Prior to Adoption

1. Dogs and cats shall be neutered prior to adoption by a VMCVM veterinarian consistent with standard veterinary surgical procedures under the program of veterinary care. Ownership and transfer of the animal cannot occur until it has fully recovered from surgery, including healing of surgical incisions and removal of external sutures or staples, typically accomplished a minimum of 7 days post-operatively.
2. A subcutaneous microchip will be placed in the animal for permanent identification. Detachable animal identifiers, such as collars, shall be removed from the animal prior to transfer of ownership.
3. Prior to adoption, animals must be current on species-specific core immunizations consistent with current VMCVM standards and practices.
4. A summary of the animal's clinical veterinary medical history is generated by the VMCVM or ARCD veterinarian, reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian or his/her delegate, and provided to the adopter. Research related information is not considered part of an animal's medical history.
5. The adopter is not charged for any pre-adoption veterinary care, neutering or immunizations.

2.1.4 Adopters

1. Adopters shall be individuals who can demonstrate that they can provide species appropriate and humane living conditions for animals, and that they desire to adopt the dog or cat for companion purposes.

2. Adopters must intend to house the animal in a home or outdoor setting appropriate for the species.

3. Upon transfer of ownership, the adopter is responsible for all medical and other care consistent with responsible pet ownership appropriate for the species. The University shall have no responsibility or liability for the animal, its actions, or use, once ownership has transferred.

4. Adoptions are permanent. If the adopter is no longer able to provide humane living conditions or appropriate veterinary medical care of the animal, the adopter commits to make a reasonable attempt to place the animal in a suitable home or place the animal in an appropriate shelter.

5. Adopters must agree that the animal shall not be sold, used for human or animal consumption, used for any commercial purpose including breeding or exhibition, or used in any illegal or other activity that may be harmful to the animal's health or well-being.

3.0 Animal Adoption Process

1. A VMCVM or ARCD veterinarian submits a completed Animal Adoption Request Form to the Attending Veterinarian. The form documents the following information: a. confirmation that the Principal Investigator releases the animal for adoption;

    a. confirmation that the Principal Investigator releases the animal adoption;

    b. the adopter's name, address, and the housing situation for the animal;

    c. the animal's clinical history, research or teaching use, current health status, and suitability for adoption; and

    d. confirmation that the adopter met with a VMCVM or ARCD veterinarian to discuss the adoption and address any species-specific animal husbandry, welfare, or veterinary care questions.

2. The Attending Veterinarian reviews the form and either approves or denies the adoption. The denial of an adoption is not an appealable decision.

3. Signed adoption request forms are maintained in the ARCD Administration files for a minimum of 5 years and signed copies provided to the VMCVM.

4. Pre-adoption veterinary care is provided as set forth in Section 2.1.3 herein.

5. A completed Animal Adoption Agreement, which is appended to the policy, must be executed by a VMCVM or ARCD veterinarian and the adopter prior to the animal being transferred from the Virginia Tech housing facility and released to the adopter. A copy of the fully executed agreement is maintained in the ARCD Administration files for a minimum of 5 years and signed copies provided to the VMCVM.

4.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved January 31, 2022 by the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Daniel Sui.

Animal Adoption Agreement
OVPRI, Animal Resources and Care Division

I, _____ , am adopting the animal described below from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
(Name of Adopter)
State University ("Virginia Tech") and accept full responsibility for its care and welfare once ownership has been
transferred to me. I have met with a University veterinarian, been provided a summary of the animal's medical
history, and had the opportunity to ask any health and care related questions and those questions were answered to my
satisfaction. I understand and agree to the following stipulations and disclosures.

1. The animal may have been a subject of a research study or used for instructional purposes.
2. I am accepting the animal "as-is". I understand that although the animal has been examined by a University
   veterinarian and appears to be in good health and suitable for adoption, Virginia Tech makes no promises,
   warranties, or guaranties regarding the animal's physical condition or temperament.
3. The animal shall not be sold, used for human or animal consumption, used for any commercial purpose
   including breeding or exhibiting, or used in any illegal or other activity that may be harmful to the animal's
   health or well-being.
4. This adoption is permanent. If I am no longer able to provide humane living conditions or appropriate
   veterinary medical care of the animal, I will make a reasonable attempt to place the animal in a suitable home
   or a species appropriate shelter.

By signing this agreement, and in consideration of the transfer of ownership of the animal without any cost to me, I,
for myself, my heirs and assigns, hereby release and hold harmless Virginia Tech and the Commonwealth of Virginia,
and all respective its, officers, employees and agents from any and all liability and expenses resulting from the transfer
of ownership of the animal or any act of the animal post-adoption, for any and all expenses incurred (including
attorney's fees) resulting from the transfer of ownership of the animal or any act of the animal post-adoption. Further, I
understand and acknowledge that Virginia Tech shall have no liability for the animal's care or veterinary treatment, or
for any damages arising from my ownership of the animal once ownership has been transferred to me and has been
removed from the Virginia Tech facility.

By signing below, I agree to be legally bound by the terms and conditions set forth in this Animal Adoption
Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to do so.

Animal ID: _____ Species: _____

Breed: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Adopter's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Virginia Tech Witness

VMCVM/ARCD Veterinarian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____