WANTING TO ADOPT A PET? HERE'S WHAT TO DO!

Pets in RPM's Program

Are you interested in adopting a pet from RPM's (Rescued Pets Movement) program? Here's what you need to know:

1. RPM's Adoption Policy
    - RPM typically does not adopt pets locally. When RPM rescues an animal, there is usually a plan for their transport to rescue partners up north, where they often even have a forever home waiting. Breaking this arrangement would disrupt these established plans and damage the relationship we have with our partner groups that allow us to continue saving lives.
2. Houston's Overpopulation Crisis
    - Houston faces severe pet overpopulation. To address this, RPM focuses on transporting pets to regions with lower animal populations and more families looking to adopt, therefore helping to alleviate the crisis locally.
3. Alternatives for Adopting Pets
    - Most animals in RPM's program come from local shelters, like BARC (Houston's city shelter). If you fall in love with an RPM pet already slated for transport, consider visiting local shelters to find a similar pet needing a home.

Adopting from Public, Taxpayer Funded Shelters

Local shelters in Houston are overwhelmed and urgently need adopters. Here's why adopting from them is beneficial:

- Comprehensive Vetting: Pets come fully vetted, including spay/neuter surgeries, vaccinations, and microchips. However, heartworm treatment, if needed, is generally not included.
- Affordable Fees: Adoption fees at city and county shelters, such as BARC and Harris County Pets, are very affordable ranging from $20 to $80.
- Please see page 4 for a list of public shelters across Houston

Adopting from Rescue Groups

If public shelters aren't your preference, consider the numerous local rescue groups and private shelters:

- Detailed Pet Profiles: Rescue groups can provide more detailed information about a pet's behavior and temperament, often through foster homes.
- Specific Needs: If you have specific requirements (e.g., a dog that doesn't bark or is good with kids), rescue groups can better match you with a suitable pet.
- Fully Vetted: While adoption fees may be higher when adopting from a private rescue instead of a shelter, these animal receive extensive vetting beyond just the basics that shelters provide.

Treatment for heartworms and many other common illnesses have been treated by the rescues, and pets have generally had all of their rounds of vaccines. That being said, many pets in rescues are completely healthy! Do not assume you need to avoid adopting in order to get a healthy pet; that is far from the case!

- Foster to Adopt: Adopting a pet is a significant commitment and responsibility. If you're uncertain about making a long-term commitment, many rescue groups offer a "foster-to-adopt" option, allowing you to care for a pet before deciding to adopt permanently. This process involves taking the pet home and caring for them on a temporary basis, giving you a chance to see if they fit well into your lifestyle. If they aren't a good fit, just foster until they find another family who is the perfect match! Foster homes often have the first option to adopt the pet if they decide they want to keep them. Each rescue group has its own policies, so it's important to check with them about how their foster-to-adopt program works. Fostering provides a "test run" to ensure the pet is a good match for your home and family. Additionally, rescue groups typically offer support and resources to foster homes, including supplies and veterinary care, allowing you to help a pet in need without the immediate pressure of a lifelong commitment. To get started, contact local rescue groups and inquire about their foster-to-adopt options. Make sure to understand the process and prepare your home to welcome a pet, even temporarily. Fostering is a great way to see if you're ready for the responsibilities of pet ownership while providing a temporary home for a pet in need. It's a win-win situation for both you and the animal!
- See page 3 for a list of rescues.

Breed-Specific Adoptions

Interested in a specific breed? Shelters and rescue groups have purebred pets too. Here's how to find them:

- Breed-Specific Rescues: Houston has many breed-specific rescue groups. Search on Facebook and Google "Houston rescue groups for _____ breed" for a comprehensive list!
- Search Websites: Use websites to search for specific breeds available for adoption in local shelters and rescue groups such as Petfinder.com and 24PetConnect.com
- Set Alerts: petplace.com/pet-adoption/ allows you to set up email alerts for when a specific breed becomes available! Simply run a search for what you are looking for, then click "Create Search Alert"

Adopting Directly from Individuals

There are many websites where current pet owners needing to rehome their pets can post. You may find this to be a viable option for bringing home your new pet! A few websites to check out are:

- Rehome: by Adopt a Pet: rehome.adoptapet.com
- Home To Home: home-home.org
- Rehome Your Pets: rehomeyourpets.com

HOUSTON-AREA ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS

Please note, this list is in no way comprehensive. There are truly hundreds of rescue groups and private shelters across Houston with pets looking for forever homes! Be sure to search social media and Google for more options.

Search available pets at all local shelters and rescues by visiting Petfinder.com and 24PetConnect.com

1. Special Pals
specialpals.org

2. Catie's Foster Fam - Rescue
Specializes in: medical cases, purebred dogs
caitiesfosterfam.org

3. CAMO Rescue
Specializes in: small breed dogs and small breed medical cases
camorescue.com

4. Animal Justice League
animaljusticeleague.org

5. K-9 Angels Rescue
k-9angelsrescue.org

6. Adopt A Rescued Friend (AARF)
aarfhouston.org

7. Houston Boxer Rescue
Specializes in: Boxer breed only
houstonboxerrescue.org

8. Golden Beginnings Golden Retriever Rescue
Specializes in: Golden Retriever breed only
gbgrr.org

9. Basset Buddies Rescue of Texas
Specializes in: Basset Hound breed only
bassetbuddiesrescue.org

10. Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP)
cap4pets.org

11. Scout's Honor Rescue
scoutshonor.org

12. Houston SPCA
houstonspca.org

13. Houston Humane Society
houstonhumane.org

14. Mutts & Meows Rescue
muttsandmeows.org

15. All Texas Dachshund Rescue
Specializes in: Dachshund breed
atdr.org

16. Homeless Pet Placement League
Specializes in: Foster care and adoption
hppl.org

17. Honoring Hope & Faith Rescue
hhfrescue.org

18. Three Little Pitties All Breed Rescue
threelittlepittiesrescue.org

19. Houston Pets Alive
houstonpetsalive.org

20. Friends For Life Animal Shelter
friends4life.org

21. Blue River Animal Rescue
blueriveranimalrescue.org

22. A Smart Rescue
Specializes in: cats of all ages and health statuses!
smartpetz.com

23. Cypress Lucky Mutt
cypressluckymuttrescue.org

24. Gulf Coast & Southern Texas Animal Rescue- STARS
gulfcoaststars.org

25. Pup Squad Animal Rescue
Specializes in: Rescuing orphaned puppies, and nursing litters
pupsquad.org

HOUSTON-AREA PUBLIC SHELTERS

Below is a list of all public, taxpayer-funded municipal animal shelters. Please note, there are several private groups with a shelter facility listed on the "Houston-Area Animal Organizations" sheet as well. Search available pets at all local shelters and rescues by visiting Petfinder.com and 24PetConnect.com

BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions (City of Houston)
2700 Evella St. Houston, TX 77026
713-837-0311
houstontx.gov/barc/

Baytown Animal Control
705 N Robert C Lanier Dr. Baytown, TX 77520
281-422-7600
baytown.org/1160/Animal-Services
animalcontrol@baytown.org

Bellaire Animal Shelter
5110 Jessamine St. Bellaire, TX 77401
713-668-0487
bellairetx.gov/1039/In-Our-Pound

Bunker Hill
713-464-9762
bunkerhilltx.gov/citizens/animal-services

Deer Park Animal Shelter and Adoption Center
4213 Luell Avenue Deer Park, TX 77536
281-478-7274
deerparktx.gov/490/Animal-Control
animalshelter@deerparktx.org

Fort Bend County Animal Control
1210 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-342-1512
fortbendcountytx.gov > "Animal Services"

Harris County Pets
612 Canino Rd. Houston, TX 77076
281-999-3191
countypets.com

Humble Animal Control
240 Dennis St. Humble, TX 77338
281-446-2327
cityofhumbletx.gov/animal-services/

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This handout is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute veterinary, legal, medical, behavioral, or other professional advice. Individuals are solely responsible for evaluating their circumstances and taking appropriate action. Rescued Pets Movement (RPM) assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss, damage, claim, or outcome resulting from the use of information contained in this handout or any referenced resources.

Jacinto City Animal Control
713-453-7411
jacintocity-tx.gov/animal-control/
publicworks@jacintocity-tx.gov

LaPorte City Animal Control
10901 Spencer Highway La Porte, TX 77571
281-471-3811
laportetx.gov > "Animal Shelter & Animal Control"

League City Animal Care
755 West Walker Street League City, TX 77573
281-554-1377
leaguecitytx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Care

Missouri City Animal Control
1923 Scanlin Rd. Missouri City, TX 77489
281-403-8707
missouricitytx.gov/92/Animal-Services
animalservices@missouricitytx.gov

Montgomery County Animal Shelter
8535 State Hwy 242 Conroe, TX 77385
936-442-7738
mcaspets.org

Pearland Animal Control
8311 Freedom Dr. Pearland, TX 77581
281-652-1970
pearlandtx.gov > "Departments" > "Animal Services"

Rosenberg Animal Control
1207 Blume Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
832-595-3490
rosenbergtx.gov > "Community" > "Animal Control"

Seabrook Animal Shelter
1100 Red Bluff Rd. Seabrook, TX 77586
281-291-5644
seabrooktx.gov > "Department" > "Police Department" > "Animal Control"

Sugarland Animal Control
101B Gillingham Ln. Sugarland, TX 77498
281-275-2364
sugarlandtx.gov/220/Animal-Services