



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: 1st Sergeant Kim D. Chinn
Phone: 703.792.7245
e-mail: kchinn@pwcgov.org
FAX: 703.792.6510

Officer Erika Hernandez
703.792.4159
emhernandez@pwcgov.org
703.792.4077

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October is “Adopt a Shelter Dog” Month

October is “Adopt a Shelter Dog Month” and men and women of the Animal Control Bureau, in conjunction with the Prince William Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PWSPCA), encourages people who are looking for “man’s best friend” to check out the dogs at the Animal Shelter.

To help celebrate this nationwide observance, the Animal Control Bureau and the PWSPCA are holding the 4th annual Pet Adopt-a-Thon and Expo on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 at the Sean T. Connaughton Community Plaza from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include rescue and Animal Shelter adoptions, animal-related vendors, contests for pets, rabies vaccination and microchip clinics, live entertainment, activities for children, refreshment booths, a dog walk, and other fall festivities.

Additionally, a representative from the Animal Shelter will host a talk on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, at Bull Run Regional Library in the Manassas area, explaining the steps involved in finding and caring for “man’s best friend.” This event requires advance registration, so contact the Library for more information.

Responsible pet ownership requires more than simply agreeing to take an animal into your life. The potential adopter should be ready to make a commitment that will enhance the lives of both the human and the animal.

The PWSPCA and the Animal Shelter advise people to consider the five questions below before they adopt a dog:

1. Am I ready to make a long-term commitment? Adopting a pet means being responsible for its health and happiness for the rest of its life, which could be up to 15 years for dogs.
2. Is the animal right for my household? A strong, active pet may be too much for a young child or elderly person to handle. Small pets may be too delicate for rough play with children. Always make sure that everyone in the household agrees to adopt an animal.
3. Who will be the primary caretaker for the animal? One adult in the home should be designated as the primary caretaker so that the pet’s needs do not become lost in the shuffle of busy schedules.

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4. Can I afford the animal? The cost of a pet is more than just the purchase price or adoption fee. Remember to include the cost of food, pet supplies, veterinarian bills and training.

5. Am I ready to commit to making this dog a good canine citizen? A well-trained dog is a pleasure and is welcome in public parks, on walks, and as a visitor. Research shows that people who take the time to train their dogs are more likely to keep them longer than people who don't.

Looking for a dog to add to your family? Consider adopting a shelter dog!

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