

P_{et}
A_{doption}
W_{ithout}
S_{urrender}

Helping People
Re-Home their Pets.



Amazing Things Happen at
MVHS
Minnesota Valley Humane Society

1313 Highway 13 East, Burnsville, MN 55337
952-894-5000 fax: 952-894-6669 www.MVHSpets.org

Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program

The Minnesota Valley Humane Society is an open-admissions shelter serving the southern Twin Cities Metro Area. Our facility has room for 40 to 45 dogs, 60 to 78 cats, and 10 to 15 small animals at one time. We do not have time limits at our shelter, and an animal that remains healthy and behaviorally sound can stay on our adoption floor indefinitely. Because we will always accept any owner-surrendered animal, even when we are full, we must euthanize animals that are not found to be adoptable. In 2005 we took in 4,247 animals, and we were able to find homes for 2,901. Then in 2006 we took in 3,801 animals, and were able to find homes for 2,480. That's an average of 67% of the animals surrendered to us adopted back out of the shelter. Also in 2006, 90% of the animals in the PAWS Program found a new home.

Many animals have a greater chance of being adopted from their own home than from a shelter setting. The stress of being around other animals and the separation from their family often change their demeanor in a way that makes them less appealing. Despite the efforts of our staff and volunteers, many animals undergo drastic personality changes while in a shelter environment.

Most pet owners would prefer that their animal never set paw in a shelter. Therefore, we have created the PAWS Program. By enrolling your pet in the PAWS Program, you will have the opportunity to be involved in choosing your pet's new owner. The Minnesota Valley Humane Society helps by providing a kit that shows you how.

Your initial package will include helpful information on preparing your pet for adoption, screening potential adopters, and advertising your pet. Additionally, you will have access to Minnesota Valley Humane Society's outreach network. Your pet's picture and information will be posted on our website (visited approximately 150,000 times each week) and prominently displayed in our shelter's adoption area. When callers or visitors are interested in a PAWS Program animal, we provide your information so they can contact you directly. Program participants also receive special discounted services such as obedience training, microchip implants and ID tags.

The PAWS Program is ideal for people who must give up their pets, but are not in circumstances requiring the pet to be immediately surrendered, or with health or behavior problems. The PAWS Program is only effective if you have the time and energy to devote to finding a good home for your companion animal. Through effective preparation, advertising and screening, you can play a critical role in finding a life-long home for your pet.

Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program Disclaimer and Release

I have read the enclosed information and have decided to use the
Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program to find a new home for:

Name and Breed of Pet

I am aware of and agree to:

- The Minnesota Valley Humane Society makes no guarantee that my animal will find a new home through the PAWS Program.
- The Minnesota Valley Humane Society does not make any representation as to the temperament, health or disposition of any animal that is adopted through the PAWS Program.
- The Minnesota Valley Humane Society does not represent any person or persons seeking adoption for a companion animal, and will not be held responsible for any meeting in your home or away from your home. All appointments and meetings are set between PAWS Program participants and potential adopters. Any and all actions made by potential adopters and PAWS Program participants are the sole responsibility of PAWS Program participants.
- The Minnesota Valley Humane Society is unable to screen potential adopters for the PAWS Program as thoroughly as people who adopt animals from Minnesota Valley Humane Society's shelter.
- If my animal is not adopted through the PAWS Program, I must still pay the designated surrender fee if I surrender my animal to Minnesota Valley Humane Society.
- If my animal is adopted through the PAWS Program, and is subsequently surrendered to the Minnesota Valley Humane Society by the new owner, I will not be notified.
- My animal, and any new owner met through the PAWS Program, are not eligible for the same benefits as an animal adopted from Minnesota Valley Humane Society's shelter.
- My animal's information will be placed on Minnesota Valley Humane Society's internet site, as well as an in-shelter bulletin board, for a period of two months (starting from the first day the information is posted). Unless I contact Minnesota Valley Humane Society, the information will be removed from the post sites after this period.
- I authorize Minnesota Valley Humane Society to give my contact information out to interested parties.
- Should this animal bite a person or another animal at any time while enrolled in the PAWS Program, I will immediately contact Minnesota Valley Humane Society. I understand that this animal will be withdrawn from the program for a quarantine period of at least 10 days, and may not be readmitted.
- I will contact the Minnesota Valley Humane Society as soon as my animal is no longer available for adoption.

- I certify that this animal is sterilized (spayed or neutered). I am including proof of sterilization, as well as his or her current vaccination record.
- I agree to respond to phone calls and e-mails from potential adopters in a timely manner. (Doing this could speed up the process of your successful adoption.) If the Minnesota Valley Humane Society receives reports that I am not responding to inquiries from potential adopters, my pet **will** be removed from the program.
- I agree to use the Adoption Agreement provided by the Minnesota Valley Humane Society, and to inform MVHS when my animal is no longer available for adoption.

I have read the above statements pertaining to the PAWS Program, including the Minnesota Valley Humane Society's statement that it cannot make any guarantees or representations, and understanding all of the statements. I voluntarily release and forever discharge Minnesota Valley Humane Society, and its volunteers, employees, agents, and representatives from liability for any and all injuries and/or damages to any person or property caused before, during, or after any animal adoption using the PAWS Program, and from any and all claims and causes of action of whatsoever kind and nature arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen physical and mental injuries and consequences suffered by my using the PAWS Program to find a home for my companion animal. I understand that I assume all risks and responsibilities for any and all damages, injuries, or losses that I or others may sustain or incur because of my companion animal.

Upon signing and returning this PAWS Program disclaimer and release to the Minnesota Valley Humane Society, along with a non-refundable fee of \$40 (forty dollars) I have permission to use any and all of the PAWS Program documents. However, any use of PAWS Program documents, without express permission of the Minnesota Valley Humane Society, renders these documents null and void.

I certify that my companion animal has not bitten anyone in the last 10 (ten) days, and that I am over the age of 18 years. I hereby accept full responsibility for any and all damage or injury caused by my companion animal that may be incurred before, during, or after adoption. I hereby agree that the responsibility of interviewing prospective adopters is solely my own, and that any and all repercussions arising during or after any such interviews are solely my responsibility.

The Minnesota Valley Humane Society reserves the right to deny admission into the program. If my pet is denied admission to the program, my \$40 fee will be refunded at the discretion of MVHS staff.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail (optional): _____

PAWS Program Enrollment Form

Yes, please enroll me as in the Minnesota Valley Humane Society PAWS Program. I have read and signed the disclaimer, and am enclosing payment of \$40.00 (forty dollars). Please send a PAWS membership kit to the address stated below.

Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Telephone Number you would like released to potential adopters: _____

E-mail Address you would like released to potential adopters: _____

Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Yes_____ No_____

Companion Animal's Name: _____ Age: _____

Species and Breed: _____

Sex: _____ Sterilized?: _____

Where did you obtain the animal: _____

Reason for re-homing this animal: _____

Payment:

- I am enclosing my \$40.00 non-refundable enrollment fee for the PAWS Program.
- I would like to make an additional **tax-deductible** donation to the
Minnesota Valley Humane Society in the amount of \$_____.

Check #: _____ *Please do not send cash*

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover *Please circle one*

Credit Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____

PAWS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST

Please be sure to include the following:

- ✓ Your signed Disclaimer
- ✓ Your signed Behavior Tracking Form
- ✓ Your completed PAWS Program Enrollment Form
- ✓ Proof of sterilization and current vaccination record
- ✓ Your non-refundable \$40.00 payment
- ✓ Your completed Behavioral Profile for your dog or cat. Please include a short paragraph describing your pet's behavior and personality.
- ✓ A color photo of your pet. We are also able to accept digital photos. Please e-mail them to DanielleV@MVHSpets.org. or Paws@MVHSpets.org

Proof of Sterilization and Current Vaccinations

All animals participating in the Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program must be sterilized and current on recommended vaccinations. Please provide the following with your enrollment paperwork:

For vaccinations:

- A copy of your pet's vaccination record. You can have your vet fax a copy to us at 952-894-6669, attention Danielle.
- Dogs must have proof of up-to-date: Rabies, Distemper, & Bordatella
Cats must have proof of up-to-date: Rabies & Distemper

Proof of sterilization:

- A copy of a vet bill from sterilization surgery, or
- A copy of adoption paperwork stating the animal is sterilized, or
- A copy of your pet's veterinary records that states that he or she is sterilized.

Proof of sterilization is required for all dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, rabbits and ferrets enrolled in the PAWS Program. Sterilization is not required for birds or other small animals.

PLEASE also make us aware of any health-related issues your animal may have, i.e. allergies, arthritis, etc.

Behavior Tracking Form

The Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program is designed to place adoptable animals into new, loving homes. Some behavior problems make it difficult, and sometimes inadvisable to rehome a pet. If the animal you wish to enroll in the PAWS Program exhibits any of the following behaviors, you must first speak with our Behavior and Training Specialist for approval. She can be reached at 952-894-5000, extension 23, or IngaF@MVHSpets.org.

If you sign this form and we later learn that your pet has or is demonstrating any of these behaviors, they will be removed from the PAWS Program, and your fee will not be refunded.

1. Aggression

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Ever having bitten a person or other animal
- Nipping
- Scratching
- Growling, snapping, or being overly protective of food, toys or the home environment
- Growling or snapping at strangers
- Chasing anything on wheels, cats or small children

2. Separation Anxiety

Does your pet exhibit any of the following behaviors when left alone?

- House destructiveness, including becoming frustrated by barriers such as doors, gates, or kennels
- Urinating or defecating
- Trying to "escape" from a kennel—digging, chewing metal, drooling in the kennel

3. Litter Box Issues

This includes any cat that has a history of urinating or defecating outside of his or her litter box. Even if the issue is caused by an underlying medical condition, the arrival of a new baby, or a second pet being added to the household, you must contact our Behavior and Training Specialist prior to enrolling your pet.

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the animal I am enrolling in the Minnesota Valley Humane Society's PAWS Program has never exhibited any of the behavior problems stated above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner's Name (printed): _____ Pet's Name: _____

Dog Behavior Profile

DOG'S NAME: _____

BREED: _____

SEX: _____ **SPAYED/NEUTERED**

CURRENT AGE: _____ **MICROCHIPPED? YES/NO**

REASON FOR SURRENDER: _____

ABOUT YOUR DOG'S HABITS AND BEHAVIORS

Where does your dog spend the day?

- Inside, unconfined
- Outside, unconfined
- Garage or basement
- Inside, confined to a room
- Outside, in fenced yard or dog run
- At doggie daycare
- Inside, confined in a crate
- Outside, on a rope or chain lead
- At work, with owner
- Other: _____

How many hours per day is your dog alone? _____

Where does your dog spend the night/sleep? _____

What is your dog's exercise routine?

- Run/long walks daily
- Run/long walks weekly with short walks daily
- Short walks daily
- Spends time in the yard, no walks necessary
- Lap dog
- Other: _____

Has your dog ever had experience with children? Yes/No

Lived with children Ages: _____

Regularly visited by children Ages: _____

Infrequent contact with children Ages: _____

No experience with children

Negative experience with children (please explain): _____

Would you recommend your dog be placed in a home with children?

- Yes, any ages of children
- Yes, but only with children older than _____
- No

What brand of dog food does your dog eat? _____

How much does your dog eat? _____

When does your dog eat? _____

Is your dog housetrained? Yes/No

- Has occasional accidents
- Has frequent accidents

Under what circumstances might your dog have an accident? _____

How does your dog let you know it has to go outside? _____

Has your dog been through any obedience training (please explain, i.e. home training, classes, etc.) _____

What commands does your dog know? _____

Has your dog ever been introduced to a crate? Yes/No

How did they react to the crate? _____

Has your dog ever been professionally groomed? Yes/No

If yes, how do they tolerate it? _____

Is your dog allowed on the furniture? Yes/No

Has your dog ever escaped from your yard? Yes/No (If yes, check all the following that apply)

- Door Dashed
- Broke Fence or gate
- Chewed or broke rope or chain
- Jumped or climbed over fence (indicate height and type of fence): _____

Has your dog lived with other animals? Yes/No (if yes list what types) _____

Was your dog good with the animals? _____

Does your dog have any fears? Yes/No

If yes, of what? _____

What does your dog do when frightened? _____

What are your dog's favorite toys and activities? _____

What is your dog's personality like? (Check all that apply)

- Shy
 - Active
 - Quiet
 - Friendly
 - Playful
 - Outgoing
 - Obedient
 - Easygoing
- Other/More:

CAT BEHAVIOR PROFILE

CAT'S NAME: _____

BREED: _____

SEX: _____ SPAYED/NEUTERED

CURRENT AGE: _____

DECLAWED?

- Front only
- Rear only
- All four
- Not declawed

REASON FOR SURRENDER: _____

ABOUT YOUR CAT'S HABITS AND BEHAVIORS

Where does your cat spend most of his time?

- Indoors only
- Outdoors only
- Indoors at night
- In barn or shed
- Indoors with access to outdoors
- In garage or basement
- Other: _____

What kind of litter does your cat prefer? _____

Where is the litter box kept? _____

What brand of cat food does your cat eat? _____

How much does your cat eat? _____

When does your cat eat? _____

Has your cat ever had experience with children? Yes/No

Lived with children Ages: _____

Regularly visited by children Ages: _____

Infrequent contact with children Ages: _____

No experience with children

Negative experience with children (please explain): _____

Would you recommend your cat be placed in a home with children?

- Yes, any ages of children
- Yes, but only children older than _____
- No

Has your cat ever lived with other animals? Yes/No

- Other cats only
- Dogs only
- Rodents

Would you recommend your cat be placed in a home with other animals?

- No
- Other cats only
- Dogs only

Hints for taking your pet's picture

1. No distractions – especially if you want to take posed pictures. If your pet has been fed and is in a happy mood, it will be easier for you to get the picture you want.
2. Use props. Allow your pet to play with or be around the prop, such as a bone or basket, for a few days so he becomes familiar with it.
3. Good lighting. Be sure the area is lighted well or that your flash is working. Some flashes cause red dots in the eyes so take more than one shot at a time from different angles. Make sure your pet's coat shows up against the background colors of your picture.
4. Look at the Birdie! Get your pet to look at you when you take the picture. The most successful pictures are those where the animal is looking at the viewer, forming a bond between the two.

