

Idaho Humane Society Mission Statement

The mission of the Idaho Humane Society is to advocate for the welfare and responsible care of animals, protect them from neglect and cruelty, and promote humane education, awareness and compassion.



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Director of Volunteer Services

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Idaho Humane Society

4775 W. Dorman St., Boise, ID 83705
(208) 342-3508

Hours of Operation:

- The IHS Shelter is open 7 days a week, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.
- The IHS Veterinary Medical Center is open 7 days a week, 7:30 am – 6:00 pm. The Shelter and Veterinary Medical Center are closed on major holidays.
- Volunteers are welcome to volunteer as early as 8am. Please check with the Volunteer Director for building access information.

Volunteer Commitment

Any time volunteers can share with IHS is valuable and appreciated.

- There are positions that require a weekly or monthly time commitment and also positions that can be filled whenever you are available.
- If you commit yourself to a specific event please plan on volunteering your entire scheduled shift or let the Volunteer Director know in advance if you're unable to attend.
- After 12 months of inactivity, you will be removed from the volunteer roster. To continue as an IHS Volunteer you will need to complete a new volunteer application and orientation class.

Communication

- Email is the primary method of communication with volunteers. Monthly updates, requests for help at events, or special needs at the shelter are all emailed to volunteers.
- If you do not have email please check in frequently with the Volunteer Director.

Volunteer Policies

- Please wear a volunteer nametag and your volunteer shirt.
- Always wear closed toe shoes.
- Please do not bring young children or pets when you volunteer.
- Always practice excellent customer service.
- As a representative of the Idaho Humane Society, please dress appropriately when you volunteer.

Age Requirements for Volunteers

- The minimum age for IHS volunteers is 12 years.
- Children ages 12 to 16 are required to volunteer with an adult volunteer (both are required to complete an application, attend the volunteer training and volunteer together).
- Children ages 16 years and older can volunteer without an adult, can work alone in the cattery and can handle a dog on leash.
- Youth volunteers under 18 years must have their volunteer application signed by a parent or guardian.

Disabled/Special Needs Volunteers

- People with special needs are welcome to volunteer as long as they are accompanied by their caregiver, PSR worker, or equivalent who also meets the requirements of an IHS volunteer.
- Special needs volunteers and their caregivers must fill out volunteer applications and attend orientation and animal handling classes prior to volunteering.
- The ratio of special needs volunteer to caregiver must be 1:1. The caregiver must handle animals if the special needs volunteer cannot maintain sufficient control of the animal.
- The caregiver must be with the special needs volunteer the entire time they are volunteering.

Volunteer Training

- All volunteers must attend New Volunteer Orientation before attending any other volunteer training classes. The link to the online volunteer class schedule is here: http://www.supersaas.com/schedule/IHS_Volunteer_Program/New_Volunteer_Classes
- Volunteers wishing to work with cats and/or dogs, must attend Cattery and/or Dog Kennel Skills classes.
- Please check the Volunteer Opportunities Calendar for additional volunteer training classes here: http://www.supersaas.com/schedule/IHS_Volunteer_Program/Volunteer_Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Dog Handler**
 - Take dogs out for a walk, playtime and a potty break, mobile adoptions.
- **Cat Handler**
 - Help socialize cats and maintain cattery kennels.
- **Adoption Assistance**
 - Help adopters find the perfect animal for their lifestyle.
- **Greeter**
 - Greet visitors to the shelter, answer questions and direct them to various areas of the shelter.
- **Answer Phones**
 - Answer incoming calls, retrieve voicemail messages.
- **Mobile Adoptions**
 - Prepare paperwork, setup, tear down, wrangle dogs and transport them to and from the event, handle the dogs at the event, answer potential adopters' questions, and fill out adoption paperwork.
- **Special Event Support**
 - Represent the Idaho Humane Society at various community events; set up and tear down, traffic control, check in/out, raffle ticket sales, packet preparation, server, ticket takers, etc.
- **Inmate Dog Alliance Project of Idaho (IDAPI)**
 - Assist with transporting dogs to the prison. Handle the dogs when they return to the shelter and introduce them to their adoptive families.
- **Pet Food Pantry/Meals on Wheels**
 - Assist with distribution of free pet food to needy pet owners, maintain inventory, prepare and deliver pet food to Meals on Wheels recipients.
- **Fostering**
 - Take animals home to socialize, heal and train them to become good family pets. Meet with prospective adopters and facilitate the adoption process.
- **Veterinary Medical Center Administrative Support (Must be 16 years of age)**
 - Retrieve phone messages. Morning preparation and evening clean up. Provide customer service and return animals to the customers. Sterilize surgical instruments (must be 18 years of age). Note: Volunteers do not assist with medical procedures.
- **See Spot Shop Sales**
 - Provide customer service and stock shelves.
- **Aluminum Can Recycling**
 - Collect from Zamzow's collection sites, or help sort and crush aluminum cans for recycling.
- **Other opportunities**
 - Filing
 - Mailings
 - Data Entry
 - Newspapers
 - Cat Blankets
 - Laundry

Dog Walking Safety Procedures

- Must be 16 years of age to handle a leash.
- Closed toed shoes required to handle dogs.
- Take the yellow kennel card with you on the dog walk.
 - If someone from the public asks for information about the dog, you have the pet personality information with you.
 - Allows the dog to be returned to the correct kennel.
- **Gone for a walk** card should be placed on the kennel. If anyone is looking to adopt this dog they'll know to look for it outside.
- **Kennel Jumper**: always look for the words "kennel jumper" written on the yellow card. These dogs HAVE to stay on leash their entire walk, including the off-leash kennels.
- Always put a dog back in the correct kennel. If you are not CERTAIN of the dog's kennel, check with the customer service desk.
- Never take a dog that is too big or strong for you to realistically handle.
- Please do not take any puppy under **6 months old** to the back yard due to Parvovirus risk. This virus is deadly to dogs that are not fully vaccinated (like puppies) and it can live in the grass for many months.
- Use the guillotine door in the kennel to separate two dogs in order to get one out or return to the kennel. This will prevent the second dog from escaping. When returning dogs, open door unless the Animal Care Attendants (ACA's) are cleaning. Be aware of what is happening in the kennels.
- Ask ACA's or the Customer Service Desk if you need help getting a dog out of its kennel or returning it to its kennel. If no workers are in the kennels or at Customer Service, the front desk staff can radio someone to meet you at a certain kennel.
- Please do not walk a dog through ANY chained off area where kennel workers are cleaning! Harsh chemicals are used to clean the floors and are harmful to the dogs. For your safety don't walk on the slippery, wet floors.
- Do not drag, pull, or push the dog if it is not walking. Use caution when picking up small dogs. Not all dogs like to be picked up.
- Give each dog at least 20 minutes outside of their kennel. This allows time for them to potty, run, and get some love. CAUTION: If temperature exceeds 90 degrees or below 32 degrees, then limit walks to no more than 5 minutes.
- Only take one dog at a time (even if they are kennel mates). They need your undivided attention!
- Allow every dog to have some time in an off leash area. Some dogs won't potty on leash and this gives them time to run off some energy, unrestrained by a leash.
- Please do not let dogs touch nose to nose; keep at least 3 feet between the dogs. Dogs are not allowed to interact on leash or off-leash (off-leash areas are one dog only). This will help reduce kennel cough.
- Always walk with dogs in yard. Run/play with dogs in off leash areas.

- Keep dogs away from urinating on plants in the yard.
- Please use mutt mitts to clean up poop messes. Deposit used mutt mitts in proper receptacles.
- ‘Clean dog toy’ and ‘dirty dog toy’ barrels are located near the back door to the yard. After playing with the dog, place the dirty toys in the ‘dirty toy’ barrel. Do not let the dog take the toy to their kennel. Do not try to pull a toy from a dog’s mouth. Offer a treat to see if dog drops the toy.
- Use positive reinforcement at all times when working with dogs.
- If a dog appears sick, inform the kennel staff.

Dog Bites and Fights

- **If an animal bites and breaks the skin:** Report the incident immediately to the Customer Service Desk or Animal Control. Reporting a bite is extremely important to make sure that no one else is injured.
- **IF A DOG FIGHT OCCURS, DO NOT REACH IN OR ATTEMPT TO BREAK-UP THE FIGHT!**
- Failure to report a bite or reaching into a dog fight may be grounds for termination of your volunteer status.
- Although dog fights can seem very scary, they are rarely deadly for the dogs involved. Dog fights tend to look and sound much worse than they really are. Try to remain calm and go for help.
- If a dog fight breaks, alert shelter staff! The customer service desk or any animal care attendant working in the kennels have radios to quickly get more assistance.
- Tell everyone in the yard to go inside the building or away from the area where the dogs are fighting.

Dog Kennel Card - Front

3 Kennel Number *312*

Release Date: 1/6

Date on Floor: *1/8*



Adoption fees include vaccinations, microchip, rabies vaccination, and spay or neuter.

A dog license will be purchased at the front desk for an additional charge.

Login No.	21765841	Adoption Fee	\$75.00
Age	10 Mos. 1 Wks. 3 Days	Sex	Male
Breed	Pitbull Mix	Color/ Markings	Tan/White.
Rabies No.	<i>340046</i>	Microchip No.	
Weight	53 pounds	Spay/Neuter Date (if not previously altered)	<i>1-7-14</i>



Date Given	Vaccination Given	Vaccine Due	Vaccine to administer
12/31/2013	Kennel Cough Vaccine	6/30/2014	Kennel Cough Vaccine
00/00/00		00/00/00	Holiday Canine Vaccination 3yr
00/00/00		00/00/00	Holiday Clinic Feline Leukemia 1year

Medical Notes
 Behavior & additional personality notes on other side
 Personality Profile from previous owner attached

Behavior	Yes	No	Unknown	Behavior	Yes	No	Unknown
Good w/ toddlers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Housetrained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good w/older children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crate Trained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good w/other dogs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rides okay in car?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good w/cats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other none	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good w/chickens?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Additional Notes: *Kids older 6yrs-*

Energy Level: High Medium Low

In Play Groups: Yes No Unknown

Dates/Promotions:

_____ Pet of the week/Idaho Statesman
 _____ Boise Weekly/Idaho Press Tribune
 _____ Channel 2 or Channel 7
 _____ Website/Facebook

Volunteers:

- Gentle on leash
- Pulls on leash
- Needs to be exercised daily
- Needs more leash training

Dog Kennel Card – Back

Behavior Notes:

Brady is a social boy who needs some direction from an owner willing to work with a PUPPY! He is a happy and goofy boy who loves everyone he meets. He is good with other dogs for on leash introductions but can be a bit manner less so one with his exuberance will be best. He is also very food motivated and will already sit and down for a treat. Brady will need some work on his leash manners and his enthusiasm for jumping up while greeting new people. Please give this boy the direction he needs to be a wonderful family companion.

PERSONALITY & OBEDIENCE KNOWLEDGE EVALUATION
 KENNEL ID NUMBER 21745544 BREED BULL PIT
 Obidience classes are always recommended to help the owner and the dog bond better and build self-confidence in the animal. Ask the Front Desk for information about Dog Training Classes at the IASHO Humane Society.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Level <u>High</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Easily Distracted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Playful	<input type="checkbox"/> Timid/Shy	<input type="checkbox"/> Looking for Someone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attentive/Makes eye contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonds Easily	<input type="checkbox"/> Stressed during test
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loving	<input type="checkbox"/> Submissive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Huggable
<input type="checkbox"/> Gentle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easily Excited	

OBEDIENCE TRAINING KNOWLEDGE OR ABILITY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trains Easily Using:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fetches
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treats	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Ball
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Downs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Toy
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Leash Trained	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vocal Praise	<input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pulls back on Leash	<input type="checkbox"/> Shakes Paws	<input type="checkbox"/> Begs/Sits Up
<input type="checkbox"/> Walks nicely on Leash	<input type="checkbox"/> Stay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Willing to Please
	<input type="checkbox"/> Come	

but corrects quickly
 MANNERS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jumps on you	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Takes treats nicely	<input type="checkbox"/> Whines/Barks
<input type="checkbox"/> Crate Trained	<input type="checkbox"/> Reactive to other dogs	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend name change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lays quietly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crate training recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Mouthing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appears to be house trained	

RECOMMENDED GROOMING AND CARE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash & Wear Coat	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Grooming	<input type="checkbox"/> Brush First-Then Wash
<input type="checkbox"/> Trim Nails Regularly	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

OTHER INFORMATION

Recommended for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Family with	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Toddlers	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Home	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young Children		
<input type="checkbox"/> Older Children		

Comments: ever byrs

RECOMMENDATION READING

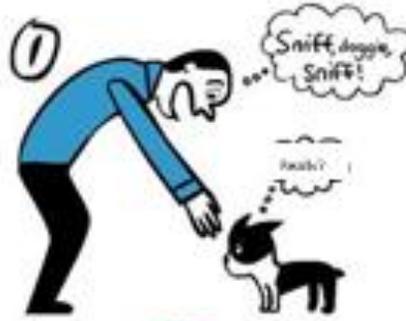
Book on specific breed

Other Book Suggestions:

Evaluator: [Signature] date: 1-2-14

HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



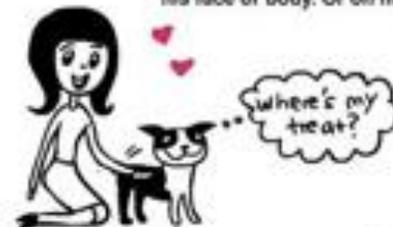
DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

THE CORRECT WAY:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.

www.doggedrawings.net *Lili*

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"

look away/head turn



STRESSED

yawn



STRESSED

nose lick



"PEACE!"

sniff ground



"RESPECT"

turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"

whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED

scratching



STRESS RELEASE

shake off



RELAXED

soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT"

offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE

curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"

round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"

belly rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU"

greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY"

play bow



"READY!"

grey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS

head tilt



HAPPY

(or hot)



OVERJOYED

wiggle



"MMMM..."



"I LOVE YOU, DON'T STOP"

Positive Reinforcement

Give something Good
give a treat, give attention

no jumping is encouraged



Negative Punishment

Take Away something Good
take away your attention

jumping is discouraged



Positive Punishment

Give something Bad
give a bump on the nose,
push dog down
jumping is discouraged



Negative Reinforcement

Take Away something Bad
stop pushing the dog down

no jumping is encouraged



dog-training-excellence.com

Cattery Procedures

- Volunteers keep the cats happy and content through interaction and enrichment. This helps the cats become more adoptable when meeting the public.
- Always sanitize your hands before handling any cats at the shelter and between handling different cats.
- **CAUTION:** You are always taking a risk when you handle a shelter cat. Shelter cats are different from your cats at home. They are more stressed, so handle them accordingly. Spend time petting a cat before you attempt to pick it up. Some cats prefer to only be petted in their kennel.
- Cats located in any area other than the main Cattery cannot be handled for any reason without permission from a staff member.
- Below are several ways volunteers help in the cattery:
 - **Interaction:** Interact with the cats in a loving way by petting and socializing them, only holding them if they tolerate being held.
 - **Litter boxes:** Cardboard litter boxes and wood pellet litter can be found in the Holding area. Clean boxes should be stacked on the stainless steel counter and used to replace soiled litter boxes in cat kennels.
 - **Newspapers:** The floors of all shelter cat kennels should be lined with newspaper. A supply of newspapers is in Holding.
 - **Water:** Refill water dishes for cats. Kittens tend to knock over their water, so use non-tipping dishes
 - **Food:** Shelter cats are fed twice a day. Please do not refill food dishes unless asked by a cattery staff member.
 - **Dirty Kennels:** If a cat has a used litter box or torn and spoiled newspaper lining their kennel, clean up the mess to help the cattery stay more pleasant for felines and humans. Used litter boxes should be thrown away in the trash can in Holding.
 - **Empty Trash:** Take the full trash to the dump truck in the ACO lot.
 - **Restock Supplies:** If shelves are empty, restock.

Cat Kennel Card

- More info on back of card
- I can go home today!
- I need to stay the night and be spayed/neutered.

20962776 deserey

Microchip #: 982000356273754

Animal Description:

Stage: Available

Date to Floor: 9-13-2013

Location: K# 04
(Found)

Adoption Price: \$ 50.00

Intake Type: Stray Owner Donate Intake Date: 9/12/2013 17:32

Breed: Shorthair, Domestic Age: 12 Mos. 0 Wks. 0 Days Sex: Spayed Female

Color(s): black/grey/white Markings: Weight: 0

Rabies Tag:

Declaw Front Both None Medical Release

Dewormer Ivermectin Revolution Easy Spot Combo Test/neg

Medical Summary:

<u>Date Given</u>	<u>Vaccination Given</u>	<u>Vaccine Due</u>	<u>Vaccine to Administer</u>
00/00/00	FVRCP Second Booster	1/21/2014	FVRCP Second Booster

Common Diseases

The risk of diseases spreading increases in a shelter environment because of the numbers of animals living in close proximity, animals with different levels of immunity, or animals that may be incubating diseases. In addition, animals are stressed from being in a noisy, strange place.

Some of the diseases of most concern to the Shelter are:

Dogs:

- Parvovirus
- Kennel Cough
- Parasites

Cats:

- Upper Respiratory Complex
- Feline Leukemia
- Parasites
- Feline AIDS
- Panleukopenia
- Ringworm

Control Measures: KEEP CLEAN

- Cleanliness is extremely important for removing all sources of disease and controlling its spread. It is important for volunteers and all others to take special care with cleanliness.
- Wash or sanitize your hands between handling different animals. This can mean the difference between life and death for these animals.
- Use toys and brushes with only one dog or cat and then place in used toy bin to be sanitized.
- Parvovirus and Panleukopenia are all spread orally through feces. Handling an animal that may have walked through feces in its kennel or kennel makes you the possible source of infection to the next animal you touch.
- If you handle a sick dog or cat by mistake, wash your hands immediately and don't handle any other animals! Let a staff member know which animal you handled.
- If you see a kennel that has feces with blood in it, let a staff member know right away.
- Keep your shoes clean. Wear rubber-soled shoes that cover your entire foot.
- Stay out of the quarantine and isolation areas.
- If you have a sick animal at home (especially Parvovirus), please do not handle any shelter animals.

Basic Dog Adoption Information

- **Visit the Kennels:** Potential adopters are encouraged to visit the shelter dogs in the public kennels. Kennels A & B are closed to the public because they contain the stray dogs that are held for 7 days before they go up for adoption.
- **Walk a Dog:** If potential adopters see a dog they are interested in, they can go to the customer service desk in the kennel hallway or the front desk to receive a leash and rules for walking dogs. Then they can walk the dog outside or into the Get Acquainted Rooms in the kennel hallway.
 - Dogs under 6 months of age cannot go outside for a walk.
 - Outside of their kennels, all dogs must stay on a leash unless they are in the off-leash runs in the dog yard.
 - No children under 16 should be handling the leash.
 - Those handling the leash should be wearing closed toe shoes.
- **Adoption:** When someone is ready to adopt a Shelter dog they need to take the dog's yellow kennel card and the dog to the front desk to complete the adoption paperwork. Since the adoptable Shelter dogs are all spayed/neutered and vaccinated; they can go home the day they're adopted.
- **Didn't Find The Right Dog:** If potential adopters didn't find the dog that suits them in the kennels remind them that we get in new dogs everyday.
 - There are also dogs in foster care that they may be interested in adopting. They can find out about available foster dogs on the bulletin board in the kennel hallway and on our website at www.idahohumanesociety.org.
 - They can also visit our other location at the **PetSmart Everyday Adoption Center** on Milwaukee. The bulletin board by Customer Service in the kennel hallway has pictures of our dogs at PetSmart.

FAQ About Dog Adoption

- **How much does it cost to adopt a dog?**

The Idaho Humane Society's adoption fees for dogs vary from \$30 to \$300. Large breed dogs over the age of 8 years that come into the shelter already spayed and neutered usually have a lower fee and purebred or small breed dogs often have higher adoption fees, up to \$300.

- **Why are some dogs so expensive?**

Dogs with higher adoption fees are purebreds or small sized dogs that are in high demand. They are quickly adopted, even with their higher fees. Their adoption fees allow them to act as benefactors to other dogs. Their fees can help give other dogs more time or special medical care and a better chance at adoption.

- **What does a dog's adoption fee cover?**

The adoption fee includes a dog's spay or neuter surgery, first set of shots, including rabies, and an identification microchip. The dog's license fee and sales tax must be paid in addition to the adoption fee.

- **Do you ever get a certain breed of dog or small dogs?**

The Idaho Humane Society has had nearly every purebred dog imaginable go through the Shelter, even many examples of less common breeds. Anyone interested in a less common breed can fill out a Special Request Form. We suggest that you check the shelter frequently for the dog that matches your lifestyle.

- **Is a dog housetrained or good with kids/cats/other dogs?**

Owners are encouraged to fill out a questionnaire describing the behaviors and personality of the dog when dogs are relinquished.

When a dog comes into the Shelter as a stray we usually don't know very much information about them. Sometimes their behavior at the Shelter can tell us whether a dog is good with other dogs or likely housebroken. Any information we know about the dog is found on the dog's yellow kennel card. If there's no card on the kennel the customer service or front desk can look up this information on the computer.

- **Are there discounted adoptions for seniors adopting a dog?**

The IHS does have a discounted adoption program for qualifying seniors. Check with the front desk for the current policy.

- **What happens if the dog doesn't work out in my home?**

Adopters can always return their adopted dog to the IHS. If they return the dog to the Shelter within 30 days they can get a refund for the amount of their adoption fee (but not for any additional veterinary procedures the owner chose to do).

Basic Cat Adoption Information

- **Visit the Cattery:** Potential adopters are encouraged to visit the cattery. The cattery's entrance is located near the front desk. The public is not allowed in the kitten room. A staff/volunteer will get a kitten out for the potential adopter.
- **Get Acquainted with Adoptable Cats:** Potential adopters in the cattery are welcome to open kennels, pet and hold cats that they are considering adopting. To cut down on the spread of cat diseases they must wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) before handling cats in different kennels. Some cats welcome being picked up while others may scratch if stressed and handled. Anyone handling cats should be gentle and use caution. The Shelter is a stressful situation for all the animals.
- **Adoption:** When someone is ready to adopt a Shelter cat they need to bring the cat's kennel card to the front desk to complete the paperwork. If the cat is not already spayed or neutered, it will stay the night to have that surgery done. The adopter can pick up the cat at the Clinic front desk between 4:30-5:30 pm the following day.
- **Didn't Find The Right Cat:** If potential adopters didn't find the cat that suits them in the cattery; remind them that we usually get dozens of new cats in each week.
 - There are also cats and kittens in foster care that they may be interested in adopting. They can find out about available foster cats on our website at www.idahohumanesociety.org.

FAQ About Cat Adoption

- **How much does it cost to adopt a cat?**

The Idaho Humane Society's adoption fees for cats vary.

- **What does a cat's adoption fee cover?**

The adoption fee includes a cat's spay or neuter surgery, first set of shots (does not include Feline Leukemia or Feline AIDs), rabies vaccination and an identification microchip. Additional expenses to be expected with adoption include sales tax and any additional veterinary services the owners may choose.

- **Do you ever get a certain breed of cat or type of cat?**

The Idaho Humane Society has had nearly every type, size, age, color or pattern of cat imaginable go through the Shelter, even less common breeds. Some breeds do come in less frequently, but someone interested in a less common breed or type of cat can fill out a Special Request Form so they can be contacted if that type of cat arrives at the shelter.

- **Is a cat litter box trained or good with kids/dogs/other cats?**

Owners are encouraged to fill out a questionnaire describing behaviors and personality of the cat when cats are relinquished.

Generally a cat only goes into the cattery if it is using its litter box. Any information we know about whether the cat is litter box trained or good with kids, cats, or dogs can be found on the reverse of the cat's card if the owner filled out a pet personality profile. If there's no card on the kennel ask the cattery mentors or cattery staff.

- **Are there discounted adoptions for seniors adopting a cat?**

The IHS does have a discounted cat adoption program for qualifying seniors. Check with the front desk regarding the current policy.

- **What happens if the cat doesn't work out in my home?**

Adopters can always return their adopted cat to the IHS. If they return the cat to the Shelter within 30 days they can get a refund for the amount of their adoption fee (but not for any additional veterinary procedures the owner chose to do).

- **Can I get my cat declawed at the Shelter?**

No. Declawing a cat is considered an inhumane practice that can be painful to the cat and cause behavior problems such as biting and not using a litterbox. However, we frequently receive adoptable cats that have been previously declawed.

General Shelter FAQ

- **Off-Limit Areas of the Shelter:**

- The public is not allowed in the back areas (stray kennels, spline, behind front desk, incoming cats & dogs, etc.) of the Shelter without being accompanied by a staff member.
- With staff permission, volunteers are allowed in non-public kennels, incoming dog kennels, the wild cat room, and back areas of the Clinic.

- **Lobby:**

- Animals in the lobby area must be restrained for safety reasons. Please offer a leash to customers who come in the front door with an unleashed dog. If someone enters the Shelter holding a cat that is not contained in a carrier ask them to put it in an empty shelter kennel in the lobby before taking their place in line.
- Encourage any customer who needs to speak with front desk staff to stand in line starting in the rope dividers.
- Use caution in talking to customers at front desk. You do not know the situation as to why they are there.

- **How do I surrender my animal to the IHS?**

Owners relinquishing their animal must sign the animal over to the Shelter and pay a drop-off fee. Drop-off fees help pay for the care of the animal at the shelter. Check with the front desk regarding current fees.

Owners must sign a form to verify that the animal has NOT bitten in the last 10 days and relinquishes the animal to the Shelter to be disposed of in any manner—adoption or euthanasia. NEVER promise or guarantee to an owner that their relinquished animal will not be euthanized. The IHS **does not** notify owners if their animal is scheduled to be euthanized.

- **How do I turn in a stray animal that I found?**

When a stray animal is found call Animal Control (343-3166) or bring the animal to the Shelter. Finders can leave the animal at the Shelter or take it home to care for while trying to locate the owner. The finder should bring the animal to the Shelter to be scanned for a microchip, have a picture of the animal taken and file a found report so that the finder's contact information is on file.

- **What do I do if I am missing my pet?**

It is the owner's responsibility to make sure a lost pet is returned home. The owner should come to the IHS daily to search all kennels for dogs or the cattery. An Animal Care Attendant (ACA) will need to take the owner through Kennels A & B or to the cats not in the main cattery.

If the animal is not there, they will file a lost animal report with the front desk.

- The owners may call every day and have the front desk search their lost report to look for any close matches.
- Due to the high number of animals coming to the Shelter, the owners should physically look for their animal at the Shelter kennels as frequently as possible!
- Dogs are held as strays for 7 days; cats are held for 3 days before being considered for adoption.

A lost report doesn't guarantee that an owner will receive a call if their animal does come into the Shelter. The way an owner describes their animal can be different than the way the Shelter

describes the animal. A collar and identification may come off or be removed while the pet is lost. Owners should microchip their pet and be diligent about keeping their contact information current. Pet owners need to call the shelter and remove their lost report when they have found their missing animal.

- **Is a pet I saw on the website/television/paper available?**

Check the kennels or cattery to see if the animal is there. If the visitor does not see that animal they should check with the Customer Service Desk or the Front Desk; it is possible the animal went into foster care or is at an event. If they have the login number that is very helpful.

- **Does the IHS euthanize animals?**

The IHS euthanizes animals for a variety of reasons. Some animals are euthanized for behavioral problems, aggression, health concerns or advanced old age. Because the IHS does not turn any animals away the Shelter may find itself beyond capacity. The IHS tries to find other avenues, such as foster care, to alleviate the need to euthanizing for overcrowding.

- **How long will the shelter keep this dog or cat before it is euthanized?**

There is no pre-set amount of time an otherwise healthy, adoptable animals can stay at the Shelter; it simply depends on the space available.

A NOTE ABOUT EUTHANASIA & ADOPTIONS: Volunteers are not to explicitly tell or subtly hint to customers that an animal may be euthanized. It is the IHS's policy to encourage adoptions that are a good match for the adopter and the animal. Most people are not prepared to handle the reality that animals at the shelter may be euthanized. They are likely to make poor, rash decisions about adopting an animal only on the basis that it MAY be euthanized.

- **Can I license my dog at the IHS?**

The IHS sells licenses for Ada County and the cities of: Boise, Meridian, Kuna, Garden City and Eagle. The prices of licenses vary. Licenses are more expensive for a non-spayed or non-neutered animal. Customers can purchase their license at the front desk or at the clinic.

- **Can I donate towards an animal's adoption fee?**

Donations can be made to decrease the amount of an animal's adoption fee. A customer wishing to donate towards an adoption fee can take the kennel card to the cashier to apply the donation to that animal.

- **How do I report a problem animal (barking, bite, neglect, abuse) that I've seen in my neighborhood?**

Ask the customer to wait in the lobby. Go to Animal Control and ask an offer to meet the customer in the lobby. Please do not take the customer back to the Animal Control Office.

- **Does the IHS rescue and adopt out horses and other livestock?**

The IHS leases acreage in Boise to shelter, care for and rehabilitate livestock. These animals come to the shelter through abandonment, abuse or neglect cases. Occasionally the shelter does have adoptable livestock available.

- **Does the IHS adopt out other types of small animals?**

The IHS does care for and adopt out various small animals. This includes just about any small domestic animal other than reptiles. Some small animals, like ferrets, often go to a rescue

specifically set up to meet their needs. Small pets that are frequently available for adoption from the Shelter include rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and rats. Visit the small animal room and look online for those that may be in foster.

- **Can I put an animal on hold and come back to adopt it later?**

An animal can be put on a 24-hour hold for \$25. The fee will go towards the adoption price for that animal when you return to adopt it. If you do not return to adopt the animal, the \$25 fee is treated as a donation to the Shelter. An animal can be put on hold by bringing the animal's kennel card to the front desk. Adopters must come to the shelter to place a hold on an animal.

- **What is a foster home? Why do animals go to foster care?**

Foster homes provide safe, temporary shelter, food and lots of extra care to these animals outside of the IHS. Animals go into foster care for various reasons:

- To mature enough for spay or neuter.
- For socialization
- To heal and recover from an injury or medical condition.
- To alleviate kennel stress.

- **How can I become a foster parent?**

Foster parents must turn in an application and attend a foster orientation. There will be a home visit to make sure the home is safe and suitable for foster animals. Volunteers may attend a foster class at the foster office. Contact foster@idahohumanesociety.org for more information.

- **Can the public bring their animals to the Veterinary Medical Hospital?**

The veterinary hospital is available to the public by appointment. It is not an emergency clinic. VMH provides affordable medical care for animals belonging to the public, including discounted spay/neuter surgeries. Payment plans and a sliding scale may be available for qualifying low income owners. Visit the website <http://www.idahohumanesociety.org/page.cfm/veterinarycare/> to see all of the services available.

- **What do I tell someone that wants to volunteer?**

- Volunteers are always needed at the IHS for a wide variety of tasks: walk dogs, comfort cats, staff events, data entry and much more.
- The minimum age is 12 years of age. Between the ages of 12-16 years youth must volunteer accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Volunteer applications are available in the lobby and the website <https://www.idahohumanesociety.org/get-involved/volunteer/ihs-volunteer-application/>. After submitting your application you will receive a link to the online volunteer class schedule.
- Volunteers must take the volunteer orientation class before they are able to volunteer at the Shelter or take any of the volunteer training classes. If a volunteer wants to handle the animals, they will need to take separate kennel or cattery skills classes
- There is a \$10 fee to cover the cost of the IHS volunteer t-shirt and materials.

- **Can I find IHS on Social Media?**

Join IHS on:

- The Website: <http://www.idahohumanesociety.org/index.cfm>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Idaho-Humane-Society/79740954401>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/IdahoHumane>

Benefits of Spaying or Neutering

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives.
- Spaying and neutering can eliminate or reduce the incidence of a number of health problems that can be very difficult or expensive to treat.
- Spaying eliminates the possibility of uterine or ovarian cancer and greatly reduces the incidence of breast cancer, particularly when your pet is spayed before her first estrous cycle.
- Neutering eliminates testicular cancer and decreases the incidence of prostate disease.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for You

- Spaying and neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Neutering cats makes them less likely to spray and mark territory.
- Spaying a dog or cat eliminates her heat cycle. Estrus lasts an average of six to 12 days, often twice a year, in dogs; and an average of six to seven days, three or more times a year, in cats. Females in heat can cry incessantly, show nervous behavior, and attract unwanted male animals.
- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more behavior and temperament problems than do those who have been spayed or neutered.
- Spaying and neutering can make pets less likely to bite.
- Neutering makes pets less likely to roam the neighborhood, run away, or get into fights.

Spaying or Neutering Is Good for the Community

- Communities spend millions of dollars to control unwanted animals.
- Irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks.
- Animal shelters are overburdened with surplus animals.
- Stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people.
- Some stray animals also scare away or kill birds and wildlife.

If you know someone who is unable to spay or neuter their pets due to financial constraints the Idaho Humane Society has resources that can help!

For other Boise area resources for low cost spays/neuters and vaccinations visit www.boiseid.net.