



***Press Release***  
**Hudson Valley**  
**Humane Society**  
200 Quaker Rd., Pomona, NY 10970  
845-354-3124



*For immediate release*

## **-- Reputable Adoption Organizations --**

### **Tips to Finding the Best Source for You**

Pomona, NY – September 19, 2005: Deciding to adopt a furry friend is a positive step, but how do you identify a good shelter or breed rescue organization? The following points are the first of a series to guide you through the process of finding the perfect pet.

**#1: *When was the organization established?*** The length of time an organization has been in existence is indicative of its stability and probable success record. Most shelters are nonprofit organizations (not funded by local and/or state government) and they must earn the trust of the community for continued financial support. Successful rescue missions and adoptions are key to its success.

**#2: *Cleanliness is next to Godliness.*** What your Mom told you about cleanliness is true. It is a sign that people care about the animals living there and the environment in general. Keeping a shelter clean is a constant challenge due to the number of animals, some of whom may be sick. Shelter buildings may not be state of the art architecture, but an old building can still be a clean one. Plus, this gives you an idea of how well the animals are cared for.

**#3: *References, references, references.*** Shelters and breed rescue organizations should be able to provide references upon request. Yes, privacy of adoptive families should always remain sacred, but often clients will gladly serve as a reference. Just ask.

**#4: *Are they anxious for you to make a decision?*** Anyone in a hurry for you to make a decision that is intended to last for years should not be in animal adoptions of any sort. Most spur of the moment decisions are unsuccessful. Take your time, research the type of pet you are considering and try something the Hudson Valley Humane Society recommends to everyone. Take a 2 week trial period to see how changes will be incorporated into your current lifestyle. Set your alarm for 20 minutes earlier and go walk around the block. This will be your dog's morning walk. If you give up after a few days, you probably are not dedicated to the idea of a pet.

**#5: *No secrets.*** Shelter and breed rescue personnel should be able to share as much information about the pet with you as they know. You should expect to learn how the animal came to live at the shelter, how it has been interacting with the staff and other animals, what are its personality traits, health status, etc.

**#6: *Does the organization offer you support once you take the pet home?*** As an adoptive person, you should be welcome to call the organization and ask for guidance as needed. There will be bumps in the road as you and your new friend become accustomed to each other and patience is key. Accurate and helpful information from experienced personnel can prove a tremendous value. Attend various community events that offer free Q&A forums from the experts.



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**#7: Adoption fees.** There is a wide range of adoption fees in the world of animal adoptions. Choose carefully and make your check payable to the organization and not to an individual. The HVHS has an open fee policy that embraces people of all economic levels. You do not have to be wealthy to have a pet. Yes, there are costs associated with responsible pet ownership and fees for obtaining a pet should not be prohibitive.

**#8: Can you bring the pet back?** This absolutely should not be an issue. If the shelter or rescue group truly wants the best for the pet and it does not work out with your family, they should take the animal back without question. This is directly related to #4 above. If you adopt from the traveling adoption vans that visit communities but are based a distance away, you have the logistical problem of returning the pet. Adopt locally.

**#9: Do your homework.** Take the time and research the type of pet you are considering. If you have an active or sedentary lifestyle, your pet should complement you. If you travel often for work and pleasure, you will need a trustworthy day care and boarding facility. Look into all of these before making a decision to make the best choice for you.

**#10: Be patient.** Getting through the rough spots and integrating your lives will yield a tremendous reward. Families with pets enjoy a loving atmosphere for years to come.

This is a public service message from the Hudson Valley Humane Society. Families considering adoption are always welcome to ask questions and may do so via email [hvhsny@optonline.net](mailto:hvhsny@optonline.net) or 845-354-3124. For further information, please call Ann Marie Gaudio at 845-942-1382.



The HVHS is a private, tax-exempt organization, chartered as a society for prevention of cruelty to animals in New York State and has cared for abandoned, unwanted and abused animals in Rockland County since 1891.



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**-- Reputable Adoption Organizations --**  
**Tips to Finding the Best Source for You**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> of a 3-part series)

Pomona, NY – September 26, 2005: Navigating the pet adoption process should be a fun and exciting decision. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of our series on reputable adoption organizations. Deciding to adopt a furry friend is a positive step, but how do you identify a good shelter or breed rescue organization? The following points are the first of a series to guide you through the process of finding the perfect pet.

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