



## Why We Charge an Adoption Fee

Dog Speed Animal Rescue charges a standard adoption fee of \$320 for all dogs, and \$160 for all cats we take into our rescue, regardless of how much we have spent on helping that individual animal. Here are the reasons why:

1. In many cases we pay out more money than the adoption fee brings in by the time we pay for a vet exam, microchip, spay/neuter, etc. Neglected or abused animals usually also require additional veterinary care, so it helps balance out when some animals don't require as much vetting (i.e. already spayed/neutered or in good health when they come into rescue) than those that do. We do not want to have to pass on the extra expenses incurred on individual animals or they might not be adopted.

For example, a basic vet exam for a dog is approximately \$75, spaying starts at \$350 and for large/giant dogs it can be in excess of \$600, microchipping starts at \$70, etc. We will not adopt out any animals who have not had an exam, been microchipped and spayed/neutered. There are other costs we pay for in addition to veterinary, such as occasional kennelling if no foster homes are available, and the purchase of pet food, crates, collars, etc. if not provided by the surrendering owner.

2. Since we are rehoming animals who have already suffered homelessness, neglect or abuse, we want their new home to be a good and forever home, which includes the ability to provide for that animal's needs financially. If the adopter cannot afford the adoption fee then perhaps they might find the ongoing veterinary and food costs challenging, thus we would not be providing as secure a home as we would like for that animal. It would further impact the animal if surrendered back to us due to financial considerations.

3. Reputable rescues do not undercut other rescues. The average rescue will charge \$300 - \$400 adoption fee - some charge even more. To charge less means the rescue is likely paying out of their own pockets and may not be able to sustain their rescue (or perhaps they have extraordinary fundraising abilities). Dog Speed is a Not-for-Profit Registered Canadian Charity and all our members are unpaid volunteers. A fee reduction would also mean less funding available for helping other animals, who might get turned away for lack of sufficient funds.

4. Charging a fee dramatically reduces the chance of unscrupulous abusers misrepresenting themselves in order to obtain that animal. For example, dog fighting rings seek unwanted pets as bait dogs, usually duct taping their muzzles and then throwing them into the ring to "train" their fighting dogs. Unethical exotic snake owners will misrepresent themselves to get live kittens to feed their snakes, dog brokers & bunchers gather dogs to fill their orders for lab research dogs, and of course there are cruel people out there who just want an animal to abuse. All the above culprits are not likely to pursue a pet that has a fee, detailed adoption process, contract and follow-ups. Never advertise 'free to a good home' and avoid on-line advertising i.e. Kijiji, Craigslist, etc.

5. We have learned that it is human nature to place more value on something we have spent money on - when things are free or inexpensive many people don't value them as much.