



## POLICY

<b>Title of Policy</b>	<b>Animal Adoption</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	3.9
<b>Category</b>	Animal Welfare
<b>Approval Body</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Approval/Effective Date</b>	October 4, 2025
<b>Proposed Date of Review</b>	October 4, 2027

### CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

This policy outlines the process for adopting out animals rescued by or surrendered to Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society. The policy attempts to strike a balance between the desire to treat animals humanely and sympathetically and the necessity for protecting the public interest.

### SCOPE

These guidelines and procedures apply to all volunteers, employees, and board members of Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society involved with the adoption of animals.

### POLICY STATEMENTS

#### 1. Adoption Eligibility

1.1. Animals taken into M2BL care will not be eligible for adoption for at least two weeks post intake. This provides the rescue time to get to know the animal and to determine if there are any health concerns.

1.2 Primarily, only animals in good health will be put up for adoption. If an animal has health concerns, these will be disclosed in the pet's adoption profile, and adopters will receive relevant medical records.

1.3. Animals that have demonstrated aggression or have a history of aggression as indicated by a previous owner will not be adopted out until

they have undergone appropriate training and received clearance from a registered dog trainer. Any known history of aggression must be disclosed to potential adopters.

1.3. Only puppies and kittens older than eight (8) weeks will be available for adoption to ensure proper development and socialization.

## **2. Adopter Responsibilities & Considerations**

2.1. Prior to adoption, Meant 2B Loved staff or representatives will discuss the following with prospective adopters:

- The life expectancy of most dogs and cats is approximately 15 years. Are they prepared for a long-term commitment?
- The financial responsibility of pet ownership, including veterinary costs, food, and supplies.
- The necessity of proper training and socialization, including recommendations for dog obedience classes.
- Compliance with local bylaws regarding pet ownership.

2.2. If a Meant 2B Loved representative is not satisfied that a prospective adopter has sufficiently considered these responsibilities, the adoption may be declined at their discretion.

## **3. Adoption Requirements & Procedures**

3.1. No animal shall be adopted out as a gift for another person. All adopters must be personally involved in the adoption process and meet all requirements.

3.2. Potential adopters must agree to a home visit and provide references as part of the adoption screening process.

3.2a. In most cases, adoption applications will not be accepted until animals are officially posted as “available for adoption” on the Meant 2B Loved website. In some cases, if the foster knows, has vetted and approved of an adopter for an animal in their care and it is not a “high-interest” animal (puppy, unique cat breed, etc), exceptions may be made.

3.2b. All shortlisted adoption applications must be provided to the animal’s foster for review and input prior to a decision.

3.2c. Whenever possible an in-person meet-and-greet will take place between the adopter and the animal before an adoption is approved. In extenuating circumstances, a meeting virtually or by phone may be arranged between the foster and potential adopter if an in-person meeting isn’t possible due to distance or other circumstances.

3.3. Adoption is finalized only after:

- Completion of an adoption application and screening process.

- Agreement to and signing of an adoption contract.
- Payment of the adoption fee, which helps cover veterinary and care costs.
- Provision of a toxic household items handout to the adopter.
- When available, provision of an adoption package with resources, coupons, or supplies.

3.4. Meant 2B Loved reserves the right to deny any adoption application if it is determined that the home is not a suitable match for the animal.

3.5 If the adoption date coincides with the animals spay/neuter surgery, the adoption will be postponed for 3 to 4 days post-surgery so the animal can recover in the foster's home.

#### **4. Post-Adoption Follow-Up & Support**

4.1. The M2BL adoption coordinator will contact adopters within two (2) days of adoption to check how the animal is settling in. An additional follow-up will take place by the foster within two (2) weeks of adoption to check in on the pet's adjustment and offer support or resources if needed.

4.2. If, at any point, an adopter can no longer care for the animal, they must notify Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society immediately and make arrangements to return the pet to the rescue.

4.3. Adopters are encouraged to maintain contact with the rescue and update on the pet's well-being, especially in cases of health or behavioral concerns.

#### **5. Adoption Contract & Compliance**

5.1. Adopters must agree to provide proper veterinary care, appropriate housing, nutritious food, and a safe environment for the pet.

5.2. Failure to adhere to the adoption agreement may result in the rescue reclaiming the pet.

By adopting from Meant 2B Loved Pet Rescue Society, adopters commit to providing a loving and responsible home and ensuring the lifelong well-being of their new companion.