

# Animal Adoption Policies

## What About Microchip Identification?

In an effort to reduce the number of unclaimed strays and abandoned animals in our community SPCA Tampa Bay implants all adopted dogs, cats, rabbits, and ferrets with an identifying microchip.

This microchip is implanted under the skin, between the animal's shoulder blades. The microchip provides permanent identification for your pet should it ever become lost or stolen.

## How Can You Update Your Pet's Microchip Address?

Keeping your pet's microchip information current is important, and can literally make the difference between finding a lost pet or losing them forever. All address updates for your pet are handled through the microchip company that holds your pet's registration. There is no charge for changes made in your first year of pet ownership.

If you need to transfer ownership of your pet to someone else, move or change your telephone number, please be sure to notify the microchip company. Your pet's microchip company information is included at the back of this booklet along with your adoption papers.

Updates and changes that occur after your first year of pet ownership will cost \$50 and are payable to the microchip company. SPCA Tampa Bay is not responsible for the cost.

## What About County License Tags?

Pinellas County adopters receive a Pinellas County license at the time of adoption. Canines and felines under four months of age receive an application for Waiver of License Fee that allows them to waive the \$20 license fee.

Adopters residing outside of Pinellas County receive proof of rabies vaccination. Adopters residing outside of Pinellas County are responsible for acquiring appropriate licensing required by their local laws. See your local Animal Services for details about county requirements. Ferrets receive only proof of rabies vaccination whether they will be living in or out of Pinellas County.

SPCA Tampa Bay accepts approximately 9,000 dogs, cats, puppies, kittens, rabbits, ferrets, birds and pocket pets - hamsters, Guinea pigs, mice and rats - into its care each year. The majority of these animals are surrendered by their owners.

1. Adopter applications are considered on a "best fit" not a "first come" basis.
2. Adoption fees will vary based on species, special needs, size and seasonal promotions.
3. Animals may be categorized as having special needs due to age, temperament or a medical or behavioral condition. Because these animals may have had complex medical procedures during their stay at SPCA Tampa Bay, they may require special care in the future. In some cases potential adopters may be required to have both a property check and an assessment from their veterinarian before the adoption can be completed.
4. The SPCA team does their best to provide you with helpful information regarding your new pet. To ensure a smooth start in your home, we ask that you take your new pet to the veterinarian of your choice for a first exam within five days after adoption. This is part of our adoption contract with you.
5. Adopters should be prepared to provide and pay for any necessary medical treatment from the first day that they take their new pet home. Please note that SPCA Tampa Bay will not be responsible for any charges for care after adoption. This is why the free 30-day 24PetWatch Insurance program is so important!
6. If you decide the animal you adopted is not a good match for your family, please call us to schedule an appointment to return the pet, 727-568-3591, extension 114, SPCA Tampa Bay is a non-profit organization and is unable to refund adoption fees.