

Support Adopters During and After the Adoption Process

If you need to create or enhance your adopter support system, ask staff and volunteers to come up with a list of common challenges and questions from adopters.

Visit animalsheltering.org/counselorinfo to find a list of websites that include online and printable information about common pet care issues.

Next, collect a list of related resources from your organization and your community along with details like where to find supplies and what adopters can expect to spend on them, if they aren't free. Consider all options, including retail stores or donations centers attached to local animal welfare organizations that stock common pet-related items. Some organizations also offer rentals for supplies like dog crates.

Finally, prepare cheat sheets that staff and volunteers can use to offer consistent assistance and be sure to keep them up to date! (Collecting and preparing these details can be a great service learning project for area students.) Use the following examples to help you brainstorm.

Adopter's challenge: Keeping a new cat indoors

Helpful options	Where to find	Approximate cost	Additional notes
Tips on indoor enrichment	indoorpet.osu.edu/cats/	Free	Look under the "For Pet Owners" tab
Toys cats like to hunt	Local shelter's retail store All local pet supply stores Online	\$7+	Some favorites are: Treat-dispensing toys Fishing rod toys Interactive toys
Cat harness	Local shelter's retail store All local pet supply stores Online	\$10+	
Making cat-friendly changes to your home	<i>Catification: Designing a Happy and Stylish Home for Your Cat (and You!)</i> , a book by Jackson Galaxy	\$17+	Includes ideas that range from cheap DIY to professional remodeling

Adopter's challenge: House-training a new puppy or dog

Helpful options	Where to find	Approximate cost	Additional notes
Tips on house-training	Find house-training tips at humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips	Free	HSUS online tip sheets can be copied and pasted into a document with your agency's contact info. Simply credit The HSUS as the source.
Crates	Shelter crate rental program	Refundable deposit	Allows exchanges for larger sizes when needed.
Baby gates	ABC Hardware Online	\$25-\$100+	Google "baby gates" and "dog gates" for a variety of options.
Enzymatic cleaners	Shelter retail store All local pet supply stores Online	\$5-\$35+ (depending on size)	Google "enzyme cleaners" for options.



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