

Fee-Waived Adoptions

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) supports the use of fee-waived or reduced fee adoptions.

Summary

- Waived or lowered adoption fees can increase adoption rates without compromising an animal's welfare, by drawing attention to shelter animals and ultimately allowing for shelters to intake more animals.
- Animals adopted with waived or decreased fees are cared for and valued by guardians, and just as likely to remain in their homes.

Rationale

- Promoting adoptions through reduced or waived fees allows for animals to find homes sooner, and thus face less risk of illness or euthanasia in shelter.
- Increasing adoptions with reduced or waived fees creates shelter capacity for other animals who require care.
- The removal or lowering of fees does not eliminate regular adoption processes which aid in an adoption's success, such as conversations regarding an animal's history and needs, and post-adoption support.
- The ability to pay a higher adoption fee does not guarantee an animal will receive higher quality care, be more valued by their guardian, or prevent them from being returned to an animal shelter.
- Free and lower cost animals are available in the community through other sources and may not undergo similar adoption or medical procedures that animals from an animal shelter would. Adopting from a reputable animal shelter or rescue allows for adopters to receive an animal who is vaccinated, microchipped, spayed/neutered, and connects adopter to resources regarding responsible pet ownership, even at a reduced fee.
- Waiving or reducing fees can attract new adopters or incentivise people who have been considering acquiring a new animal but have not yet done so.
- Reduced fees can encourage the adoption of animals who are often overlooked, such as senior animals, those with higher behaviour or medical needs, and animals with long lengths of stay in shelter.
- Research has shown that:
 - animals being adopted at a full versus decreased fee show no significant difference in whether they remain with their original adopter.
 - eliminating adoption fees does not decrease guardian attachment, nor lessen the animal's perceived value by their guardian.
 - there is no significant difference in veterinary care received after adoption between fee-waived and non-fee waived animals.

References

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