

Some Differences Between Shelters and Rescues

SHELTERS: Shelters are government funded. This means that all expenses like vaccines, worming, flea, heart guard prevention and spay/neuter are paid for at a low cost by the government. When an animal at a shelter becomes ill, the only outcome is euthanasia. This is to prevent the spread of disease in the shelter. It's less costly to just "get rid" of the problem than to treat.

The government simply does not allow the funding to treat all of the animals in need. The term "dog pound" is usually more closely associated with a town's animal control office, and often houses dogs that have been seized for whatever reason, or picked up as strays. "Animal shelter" covers pounds and animal control offices as well, and is a much friendlier term without all the negative connotations that "dog pound" has.

RESCUE: an individual or group of individuals who take in unwanted, abandoned animals and provide them with needed vet care, preventative care (vaccinations), sterilization (spay/neuter) and house them in private homes (foster homes) until a suitable match can be made with parties interested in adopting. The fees for adopting usually do not cover even 1/2 the bills the animal incurred.

Foster care usually lasts for at least 2 weeks to 2 months, depending on the condition of the dog, before the dog is advertised for adoption. During this time, the foster family has time to evaluate the dog's behavior in many situations and has possibly done some basic obedience training or crate training. Dogs fostered by rescue groups are usually spayed or neutered. Dogs are adopted out with contracts that are often backed by a two week "evaluation" period - during which the dog can be returned to rescue if things don't work out. Rescue-placed dogs are usually backed by a local group of people happy to help you smooth out the adoption and coach you as you prepare for your new dog.