

Information on Adoptions @ HSHV

- How many animals are typically available for adoption at a given time?
 - We typically have fewer animals available for adoption during the winter months and more animals during the spring, summer and fall. After a [Love Train](#) transport arrives during the summer, we can have upwards of 70 dogs/puppies and 70 cats/kittens available for adoption, but during our slower season we could have as few as 2-5 dogs/puppies and 20-30 cats/kittens available. Of course, this doesn't include all the other animals we're caring for who aren't available for adoption.
- How long are animals available before they are adopted?
 - Animals at HSHV do not have time limits; thanks to our supporters, we are a no-kill shelter, and animals have as long as they need to find their forever homes! Some animals, like kittens and puppies, can have a very short shelter stay, getting adopted within just a few days of arrival. Other animals like seniors, animals with special medical needs or animals with complicated behavior needs may stay longer. And when animals don't thrive in the shelter environment—thanks to an amazing network of foster parents—they can be placed in a foster home until they are adopted.
- What does a normal day at the shelter look like?
 - Each department at HSHV has their own “normal day.” For instance, the Adoptions staff come in each morning to feed and clean the adoptable animals before the shelter opens at 11. During the rest of the day, they assist customers with animal visitation, facilitate adoption matches, and clean and socialize the animals as needed.
- Is there training available or some sort of other process that is taken when an animal at the shelter has behavioral problems?
 - Yes! We have behavior staff who work directly with the animals as well as help train volunteers to work with animals with special behavioral needs. HSHV only supports positive reinforcement and behavior training. All of our dogs work on basic manners during walks and visitation. As needed, we use a combination of behavioral intervention and medical intervention to help each animal work towards finding their forever home. If an animal has an identified behavior issue, we create an individual behavior modification plan, and that animal is not available to the public. Once an animal

begins improving and the behavior staff sees progress, they can then be made available for adoption.

- How many animals are adopted from HSHV each year?
 - In 2018, HSHV reached a record of 5,304 adoptions. With a save rate of over 95%, we hope to continue the crucial work of connecting the homeless animals of our community with loving adopters.
- How can someone adopt an animal at HSHV?
 - HSHV supports a positive and barrier-free adoption process because we believe there is a good companion animal for every good person! We work hard to help people find the right furry friend for their situation and lifestyle. The adoptions process usually takes between 1-2 hours to complete, and we try to facilitate same day adoptions whenever possible. Families first complete an adoption survey, then visit with animals they're interested in adopting, and finally, sit down with an adoption counselor to help them get up to speed on the animal's physical and mental needs.