



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL

Jan H. Gardner  
County Executive

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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center Announces New Adoption Policy**

FREDERICK, MD -- Change is coming to the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. Starting February 1, 2017, the center will be implementing a new adoption application policy. While two applications will still be taken for every animal, it will no longer be a first come, first served process. Staff will select the best fit for each animal similar to the existing “puppy process.” It is the hope that this new process will help the center fulfill its mission to place pets into safe and loving environments while reducing the number of animals returned to the shelter.

Take Rocco for example. Rocco is a 13-year-old cat who requires a special diet and has a history of being fearful of small children. If the center received an application from a family of five with three children ages three, five and eight and a second application from a family familiar with special dietary needs of older pets and a quieter home environment, that second application would be the best placement for Rocco.

Just because an application was not chosen for one animal does not mean that applicant is ineligible to adopt from Frederick County Animal Control. If that same family of five that was interested in Rocco came back and put in an application for another animal, it may be selected as long as it is approved and an appropriate fit for that pet.

If the center receives two applications for an animal and both are approved, the first applicant will be chosen to adopt the animal.

The application process will still take two-to-five days to complete and the center will not necessarily wait for animals to receive second applications. If the first application is approved and a good fit for the animal, the center will move forward. If the first and only application is not a good placement for a specific animal, the center will reserve the right to reject the application out of a commitment to shelter animals in placing them in the best situation possible.

The center’s “puppy process” remains the same. The center will accept up to four applications for each of these animals and select the best fit. Applicants who are chosen to adopt will receive a phone call to schedule an adoption interview. Applicants who are not chosen will receive an e-mail.

The adoption center looks forward to utilizing this new process in a continuing effort to best serve shelter animals, potential adopters and the citizens of Frederick County.

For more information or to find out how to adopt a pet, contact the Animal Control Center at 301-600-1546 or via e-mail at [animalcontrol@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@FrederickCountyMD.gov). Or, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/AnimalControl](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/AnimalControl).

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