

Information on the Adoption Feria

The adoption fair will be held monthly on the last Saturday of each month, starting at 9 am and ending around 2 pm. It will be held at the Municipality Building undercover.

We will be inviting any of the Rescue Groups in a 15 K radius to bring their healthy, animals to be offered for adoption.

Should there be a shortage of animals from our local area we will reach out to the communities who have a need to find homes for their animals.

The Groups will be allowed to ask for donations, and offer gifts or services for those donations. They will also be encouraged to have available information for raising the pets as well as meeting medical needs, grooming needs, socialization and housing. They will be required to have an adoption form that will be filled out by the applicant and carefully checked to see that it meets the requirements for a responsible adoption. PVPM can help with this if needed.

There will be certain requirements that will need to be met in order to participate:

- The animals must be safely and comfortably contained in a cage that is of adequate size or in a secure exercise pen.
- Fresh water must be provided throughout the day as well as any nutritional needs met, especially for puppies that require 3 meals per day.
- Cages must be kept clean and sterile
- The animals must be at least 9 weeks of age
- They must be in good health and have received two sets of required shots
- They must be clean and flea free
- They must be of sound temperament
- They must have been examined and deemed healthy enough for adoption
- They must be placed on the condition that the animal will be sterilized at the earliest appropriate age
- There should be an adoption fee attached. This fee can offer a certain amount of refund upon proof that the dog or cat has been sterilized, certified in the form of a letter from a Vet.
- These refund amounts must be kept in a separate account in escrow by PVPM or in an agreed upon account
- Each group should follow up on the adoptions periodically to see that the family and their new pet are living together happily.
- There should be a filing system and intake form that keeps accurate information on each animal.

Upon leaving the Adoption Fair everyone is responsible to clean their area, and wipe up the floors as needed. The Municipality is kind enough to let us use this facility so we should keep in mind that it should be as clean as or cleaner than when we arrived. Our continued use of the facility will be decided in part by how we leave it. Groups that habitually leave their mess to be cleaned up by others will not be invited to participate in the future.

Education

Education is a big part of responsible Pet Ownership. Many make mistakes because they simply do not know better. i.e....Spanking you pet with a newspaper as punishment. Many of the ways we treat our animals are taken from our childhood and the way animals were treated in our homes. We have learned there are much better methods of

disciplining, and correcting and training our pets. Even better methods will come in the future. WE ARE ALWAYS LEARNING and we need to keep an open mind about newer methods that are proven to work.

PVPM would like to take the opportunity during these Adoption Fairs and any of our other events to educate people about responsible pet ownership. Therefore we would like to offer some form of a learning experience with each event. It may be in the form of a talk about proper grooming of the pets to proper medical care and signs that a pet is not well. We may have Puppy Socialization classes which also included some methods of play training younger dogs.

There are so many ways to educate not only the public but also the people working in Animal Welfare. We can never stop learning about animals. Each animal will teach us many lessons in one way or another and we need to know how to react to these lessons!

We hope that each of you will provide a program occasionally that will help with this education process. We suggest that at each Fair there be a set time to offer these programs so that the public will know when to expect them. This will be something we can all discuss with some different ideas about what to offer.

PVPM hopes that you will all participate in this effort to find responsible owners for unwanted and abandoned pets. We will all want to make some adjustments as the program develops and we see what is needed to keep this a project that maintains the public interest and participation as well as the groups that are working in Animal Welfare in the Grecia area. It will be important that everyone agrees on adoption fees as well as the help that will be given to temporary foster homes. Pura Vida para Mascotas will offer some financial help to foster parents of pets that are participating in the program. This will be dependent on funds being available. The people performing rescues need to consider the adoptability of any pets they choose to rescue. The pets must be deemed adoptable by PVPM and intake information as well as a medical and social evaluation will help determine the adoptability. We will need to have records kept on each animal with the forms being provided to the Rescue Groups and Foster Parents. This information will be invaluable to anyone caring for or adopting the animal.

All of the above ideas are subject to discussion and to change as we all put this program together. We at PVPM are looking forward to working with each of you to try and make a better life for the pets of Costa Rica! Let's work to make this event something that the public will look forward to each month so that we can draw the people of Grecia into a solution to the overpopulation problems here.