



OUR MISSION

The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement is a professional network that develops and promotes industry **best practices**, cultivates **collaboration**, and **brings out the best** in animal welfare leaders.

The Association for
**Animal Welfare
Advancement**

Adoption Best Practice



Brad Shear, CAWA
Executive Director
Potter League for Animals



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About Best Practices

"A procedure that has been shown by research and experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed as a standard suitable for widespread adoption."

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary



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About Best Practices

Best Practice
Vs.
Minimum Standards



Five Freedoms

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress



Staff and Volunteer Training

- Initial training
- Shadowing
- Ongoing training

"Policies and practices must be documented to ensure adoption staff and volunteers are up-to-date on any organizational changes to policy or procedures..."



Pre Adoption

- Marketing
- Request Lists
- Animals Not Yet Available

"Organizations must actively market their animals available for adoption in a manner that provides the best opportunities for placement."



Adopter Experience

- Physical Design
 - Animal Housing
 - Consultation Space
- Kennel Cards
- Disclosures
- Holds
- Fees

"The effect of a positive or negative experience on a potential adopter can have an exponential impact on an organization...."



Adopter Experience

- When to Deny an Adoption
- Do Not Adopt Lists
- Alternate Placement
- Foster to Adopt

"Placement programs are focused on creating outcomes that are positive for both people and animals"



Completing Placement

- Adoption Agreement
- Paperwork/Process
- Document Delivery

"Organizations must be transparent about an animal's behavior and medical needs."



Final Steps

- Identification
- Transporting Animals Home

"Microchips must be registered in a national database that is linked to the American Hospital Association's microchip lookup tool."



Post-Adoption

- General Approach to Returns
- Accepting Returns
 - Tracking Returns
- Adopter Support
 - Behavioral Support
 - Financial Support
 - Sterilization Compliance
- Adopter Follow up
- Return to Owner

"Returns must be accepted without judgement to encourage the adopter to provide the best possible information on the animal and guidance on future placement"



Other Considerations

- Collaborative Relationships
 - Veterinary Care
 - Licensing
 - Insurance
 - Food
 - Training/Behavior Consultation

"Organizations should seek out these relationships and collaborate when a program fits the mission and needs of the organization"



Attachments

- Adoption Agreements
- Adoption Disclosures
- Adoption Forum 2



Committee Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Anne Johnson | Beau Archer, CAWA |
| Lauren Lipsey | Graham Brayshaw, DVM |
| Jan McHugh-Smith, CAWA | Cary Lieberman, CAWA |
| Jenee Shipman | Jerrica Owen, CAWA |
| Britney Wallesch | Lisa Pedersen, CAWA |
| Jon Cicirelli, CAWA | Matt Pepper |
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Questions?

<https://theaawa.org/general/custom.asp?page=Bestpractice>

theaawa.org

- Resources
- Industry tools
- Best practices

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