

"ASK Nanny Fran" Article
Tropical Breeze - February 2005

Question: Recently I wanted to adopt a dog from a rescue group. The paperwork and information they asked for was incredible. Why are they so very strict with people?

Answer: The answer is very simple. You are a human being whom they know nothing about. The animal you wish to adopt has already had a loving, wonderful "forever home" that went bye-bye. The rescue groups try to insure that each animal adopted out will be in a "forever home". Those homes are tough to find. Births, deaths, divorces, job loss, job transfers, etc. all have contributed to pets that are no longer wanted. In ten years of petsitting I have interviewed hundreds of families prior to taking on the role of caregiver of their pets and protector of their property overall. I take my profession VERY seriously. I view the client's home and pets as if they were my dear ones. I have been disgusted on a few occasions when one of these clients calls me and asks me to find a home for their pet. Their lives now include small toddlers and they no longer wish to take the time required to care for their "first child". There are other reasons too for this request. Job transfers mean arranging for their pets to accompany them. Too much trouble for them...so they call me. I am more than thoroughly disgusted with people who get rid of animals.

Rescue groups also charge a fee for adoption. In many instances animals need to be neutered, spayed and given annual shots. Sometimes a dog has heart worms. If the dog is healthy enough to endure the poison required to kill off the heartworm the treatment will be given. This treatment costs \$1,000.00 or more. The rescue groups never ever have a surplus in their bank accounts. They do not charge \$1,000.00 for a new family to adopt the dear one who needed heartworm treatment. They do charge a small fee simply to engrave in the family's mind and heart that this animal is valuable and wanted in their home. When people receive things for nothing they do not value them.

I personally know a "rescue person" who has spent \$6,500.00 to save the lives of two puppies who are darling mutts. A very expensive and complicated surgery was needed to save the life of one puppy who was hit by a car. This rescue person values all life and was angry that possibly this puppy would be put to sleep because the "owner" was careless and then did not have the funds for treatment. These two puppies are available through a local rescue group. Their adoption fee will be less than \$500. This rescue person will not be able to write this off on taxes. This rescue person is far, far from wealthy. Credit cards are maxed out with this expenditure. This rescue person will move heaven and earth to make sure that the new home will be a "forever home".