



Veteran's Pet Adoption Program - Nelson County
Almost Home: Nelson County SPCA
www.nelsonspca.org 434-263-7722
Fact Sheet

Almost Home: Nelson County SPCA is pleased to join other area shelters as a partner in the Veteran Pet Adoption Program sponsored by *Coming Home Well*.

Coming Home Well, a veteran hosted radio show out of Charlottesville, Virginia, takes a holistic view of what is needed to end veteran suicide. Rather than just one particular set of programs, we aim to meet veterans' needs for security, companionship, and purpose, as Captain Bob puts it, "a house, a dog, and a job." Studies have overwhelmingly shown that companion animals can help ease depression and potentially save lives from suicide. It's our goal for every community to offer veterans a free option for a rescue animal, thus saving two lives at once. Below are details of our program.

1. Identification of appropriate companion animals and managing the application process will be handled by the following individuals. Questions should be directed to them:
 - a. Dog Adoptions: Denise Merricks (info@campmerricks.com)
 - b. Dog Adoptions: Fonda Bell (rockfishkayaker@aol.com)
 - c. Cat Adoptions: Bonnie Stevens - contact shelter at 434-263-7722.
2. All branches of the military are eligible for the program and include National Guard and Reserves members. Veteran status will need to provide proof of status and a valid ID (driver's license, state issued ID card, etc.).
3. Veterans are encouraged to visit our shelter and meet all of our animals. Specific canine candidates will be identified, but are not exclusive to the program. If a veteran finds a special connection with a dog not identified for the program, Denise or Fonda (above) will assist with assessing whether the adoption will be successful. Specific feline candidates may be identified, but all felines are available for adoption through the program.
4. Veterans interested in adopting an animal will fill out the standard Almost Home application and will be interviewed and vet checked in the same process as other applicants. One of the individuals identified above will handle the adoption process.
5. Adoption fees for veterans who adopt through the Veterans Pet Adoption Program are waived.
6. Monthly preventives for flea/tick control and heartworm prevention will be provided as quantities allow. At least the first month of preventives will be provided, up to 3 months.

For additional information contact one of the representatives listed above.