



Every dog should have its day, so let the cat out of the bag

Visit Griffin Pond Animal Shelter's site
and make two (or more) lives better

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but there is a change you can make in your life that will leave you feeling fulfilled, and it can be tricky. Adopting a pet from a shelter will bring joy into your life, and that of the animal you welcome into your home.

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter's website, griffinpondanimalshelter.com, is a good place to start if you want to enrich your life with a four-legged companion. It's a small site packed with everything you need to know about adopting a pet in need of a home.

On the home page you are greeted by a slide show and video montage of adorable cats, dogs and rabbits tugging at your heart strings. There are also links to donate, a featured pet of the week (which is also carried in *The Sunday Times*) and a calendar of upcoming shelter events.

The menu bar at the top of the page provides links to other areas of the site. The Adopt section explains how the process works and provides application forms. It also features a photo gallery of adoptable cats and dogs at the



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shelter. Clicking on an animal's picture brings up a profile with details such as age, gender, breed, personality and more. Some profiles include additional pictures and video of the animal.

The Donate and Sponsorship links have information on different ways you can help the animals. You can make monetary donations of any amount. Or, there are three levels of membership you can purchase for \$30, \$50 or \$100. There are also four levels of sponsorship, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, that come with varying levels of public recognition and perks. Sponsoring a cage costs \$25 a month or \$300 a year. Use the Amazon smile link and the online retailer will donate a portion of your purchase to the shelter. First-time orders placed on Chewy.com will be rewarded with a \$20 donation to the shelter from Chewy.

Griffin Pond also accepts non-cash donations, such as food, bedding, cleaning supplies, kitty litter, pet toys and more. Or you can donate your time. The shelter needs volunteers to help care for the animals, clean up after them, take them for walks, play with them and even to foster them in a home to help prepare them for adoption.

The site has pretty good bones for a small, non-profit organization. The overall navigation, organization and aesthetics are like a pedigreed pup. But as you dive a little deeper it becomes a bit of a mongrel. The visual unity of the typography starts to stray, and some of the color choices are strictly for the dogs.

But who doesn't love a mutt? The site is the cat's meow where it counts and it's for a good cause. If you have the love and commitment needed to adopt a sheltered animal, don't be a scaredy-cat — be a lucky dog and adopt one. Remember, happiness is a warm puppy.

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