

Comptroller's Critters Dog Care Tips:

MEALS—

- Puppies (8-12 weeks old) - Four meals a day
- Up to six months - Three meals a day
- Up to one year - Two meals a day
- Over one year - One meal a day. Large dogs or those prone to bloat should have two smaller meals a day.

Clean water should always be available. Food and water dishes should be washed frequently.



GROOMING—

Brush frequently to reduce shedding. Warm weather requires daily checks for fleas and ticks. Bathe the dog a few times a year, thoroughly rinsing soap out from its coat to prevent dirt from sticking to soap residue.

EXERCISE— Daily exercise stimulates mental and physical well-being. Breed type, age and health status will determine the proper amount of exercise for your dog.

Comptroller's Critters Cat Care Tips:

MEALS—

- Kittens (6-12 weeks) - Four meals a day
- Up to six months - Three meals a day
- Over six months - One large or two smaller meals a day

Clean water should always be available. Food and water dishes should be washed frequently.

GROOMING— Brush frequently to keep your cat's coat clean, reduce shedding and decrease the occurrence of hairballs.

EXERCISE— Cats enjoy toys that jump and/or dance around, providing a life-like appearance. Their predator instincts make this play time an enjoyable exercise.

LICENSES and VACCINATIONS— Check with local governing authorities and abide by

licensing regulations. Make sure to ask the shelter if the animal has been spayed or neutered, and what kind of vaccinations they received. The animal should have subsequent annual visits to a veterinarian to receive exams and shots.



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COMPTROLLER'S CRITTERS



Uniting Pets with People!



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Dear Constituent:

I am thrilled today to announce the resurrection of the Comptroller's Critters Program! Once again, the Illinois Office of the Comptroller will help find loving forever homes for all our beloved animal friends.

In re-launching this program, it is impossible not to remember someone very special to me, and the best friend a four-legged critter ever had, the late Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. First through her Treasured Pets Program, and later with Comptroller's Critters, Comptroller Topinka assisted in finding loving homes for thousands of cats and dogs. In addition to those very successful programs, she also often hosted or partnered with shelters and other elected officials to organize pet adoptions, promote micro chipping and foster parenting, and offer discounted spaying and neutering. To paraphrase an old saying, "You can judge a person's true character by the way they treat their fellow animals." By this measure, Comptroller Topinka was a true Saint Francis of Assisi. I am proud to say that our office will honor her legacy in carrying on the tradition of helping animals throughout this great state.

I encourage everyone to visit the Comptroller's Critters web site, find the perfect cat and/or dog at the shelter nearest you, and welcome a new family member into your home today! As Comptroller Topinka would say, "By adopting an animal, you will experience the love and devotion of a special companion that will last a lifetime."

Sincerely,

Susana A. Mendoza

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller



How does the Comptroller's Critters Program work?

- Comptroller Mendoza has offered her website to animal shelters throughout the State of Illinois to assist in finding homes for abandoned pets.
- Participating Comptroller's Critters shelters post photos and descriptions of pets waiting to be adopted on the Comptroller's website, www.illinoiscomptroller.gov, to provide maximum exposure for animal friends in need of homes.
- A brief description of participating organizations, along with their logos and contact information, is listed on the Comptroller's website. By clicking on an organization, site visitors will find photos and descriptions of available animals.
- Each pet adopted is awarded a commemorative certificate signed by Comptroller Mendoza to recognize and welcome the animal into the program alumni.
- When a pet is adopted, the shelter notifies the Office of the Comptroller and supplies photos and descriptions of more animals waiting to be united with a new loving family.



PLEASE NOTE: The Illinois Office of the Comptroller is not involved in the licensing of animal shelters. Partnerships have been made between the shelters and the office voluntarily.



How can I become a Comptroller's Critters shelter?

- Contact Chuck Hagopian with the Illinois Office of the Comptroller at (312) 814-1053 or by email Charles.Hagopian@illinoiscomptroller.gov.

Comptroller Mendoza encourages all shelters throughout Illinois to participate in our program, so together we can find the lovable critters new homes.

Why Adopt?

- **SAVE A LIFE:** Thousands of pets throughout the State of Illinois are without a loving home and in danger of being euthanized. It is a common misconception that animals end up in shelters because they've been abused. In fact, most animals are given to shelters because of "people reasons," like a move or financial constraints.
- **HEALTHY PETS:** Most shelters examine and give vaccinations to animals when they arrive, and many spay or neuter them before adoption. In addition, some shelters screen animals for specific behaviors to make sure each family finds the right pet for its lifestyle.
- **FISCALLY SMART:** Pet overpopulation leads to additional animal control costs for taxpayers at a state and local level. In many cases, adopting a pet from an animal shelter is less expensive than buying a pet through another source.
- **CONVENIENCE:** Comptroller's Critters offers constituents the opportunity to find that special pet in the comfort of their own home. With participating shelters from across the state providing information through the Comptroller's website, the perfect pet companion may be only a click away.

How to Adopt?

- A directory of participating shelters along with contact information is available by clicking on the Comptroller's Critters tab on the Comptroller's website at illinoiscomptroller.gov
- Site visitors can then scroll through the list of participating shelters and click on the links to view the many different animals that are available for adoption.
- **If you see an animal that you are interested in,** contact the shelter and explain which animal you would like to adopt. It is that easy, and your new companion will soon be in your warm loving home!
- **If you don't see an animal you are interested in,** check back to the site often, as the pictures are regularly updated when an animal is adopted!

