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Rescued Pets Looking for Forever Homes ASAP at East End Petland

By Britt Reints

Animal lovers looking for a pet of their own are consistently given one piece of advice: adopt, don't shop. For most people, that means skipping the pet store and heading straight to local animal shelters or scouring online rescue sites. But for Pittsburgh pet seekers, there's an additional option: head right back to the community pet store! Since 2010, Petland Pittsburgh Village of East Side has helped over 1500

rescued animals find forever homes through ASAP, their Animal Shelter Adoption Program.

The mission of the program—and the entire store—is to “match the right person with the right pet, and meet the needs

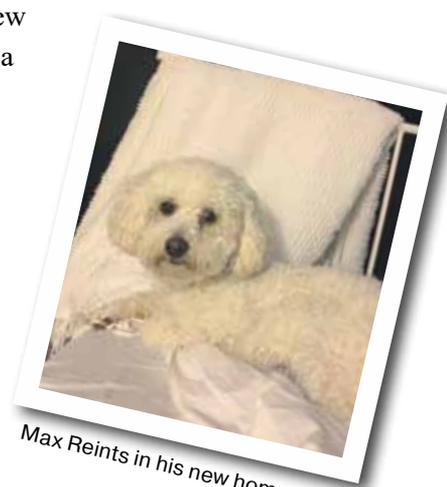
of both,” says co-owner Marci Caplan. To that end, a highly trained staff with an average of 9 years experience in the industry is on hand to provide insight to prospective owners and first-rate care to waiting pets. After adopting a pet through ASAP, new owners receive a 20% discount on all of the supplies they'll need to get their home animal ready, as well as a complimentary visit to Point Breeze Veterinary Clinic.

The adorable dogs and cats that can be seen frolicking in store windows come from several rescue organizations in the area, including Raleigh County Humane Society and Operation Underdog. Co-owner Eric Caplan personally makes the drive to pick up rescued animals from shelters in West Virginia a few times a month. Once the animals come to Petland, they are seen by a vet, micro-chipped, vaccinated, and spayed or neutered if old enough.

If you're looking to adopt, you can stop into the store at 6401 Penn Ave. or check out the adoptable animals at petlandvillageofeastside.com. On the day of adoption, you'll need a valid ID and proof of home ownership or permission to have pets from your current landlord. It's also a good idea to bring any current pets and all family members to meet any potential new addition. Fair warning: a trip “just to look” may lead to a connection you can't ignore and an inevitable adoption, as this writer learned while researching this article!



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Max Reints in his new home