

Position Statement: Adoption Returns

(Updated April 2015)

The ASV opposes blanket written or unwritten policies that prohibit the return of unsuccessful adoptions to the adopting organization, actively discourage such returns, and/or prohibit future adoption by the relinquishing party. Adopters and returned animals should be evaluated on an individual basis. If, upon evaluation, adoption agencies determine they are unable to admit certain returned animals into the facility, they should first seek out creative strategies and leverage internal resources to maintain their commitment to the adopter and protect the welfare of the animal. When that is not possible, owners of such animals should be provided with alternatives to relinquishment and referrals to other organizations that may be able to meet their needs.