

Document Pet Details API

The [Adopt-a-Pet.com](https://adopt-a-pet.com) API will allow partners to query the [Adopt-a-Pet.com](https://adopt-a-pet.com) database and view pet details information including pet photos.

API Features

Retrieve the details for a specific pet

API Design

The API is designed to receive inputs from your custom application using HTTP GET requests that are formatted with a script name and a querystring.

The results of the request will be a text result formatted in one of the available output styles. From there, you can use your own output parser to break the returned data into local data structures, and then process them as you want to.

With the functions [limited_pet_details](#) you will find the detailed information of each pet.

API Updates

October 1, 2025:

The [search_form](#) endpoint returns a new and improved list of breeds which matches the breed list on the Adopt a Pet website (and includes designer breeds such as Puggle, Aussiedoodle, Cockapoo, among others).

The limit for the maximum number of pets returned from the [pet_search](#) endpoint has been raised from 500 to 10,000. There is a limit of 500 pets that can be retrieved at one time using the pagination parameters [start_number](#) and [end_number](#).

The [pet_search](#) endpoint now returns pets from Rehome, Adopt a Pet's private owner adoption program.

The [pet_search](#) endpoint now accepts a [cared_for_by](#) parameter, which filters pets by which types of organizations are caring for the given pets. Valid values are 'shelter', 'rescue', or 'private_owner'.

The [pet_search](#) endpoint now accepts a `sort` parameter to adjust the ordering of the pet results. Valid values are 'nearest' or 'newest'.

The [pet_search](#) endpoint now returns higher quality, better optimized, and better cropped pet photos.

Global Inputs

The following inputs can be submitted with every function call to the API. Globally required inputs are in **bold**.

API Key	key=	A string that identifies your partner account and prevents unauthorized use of the API.
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API Version	v=	A string that indicates what version of the API you expect to be querying. The current version options are "beta", "1" (the default) and "2".
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Global Outputs

Each API query will include a response element called "status" whose value will be "ok" or "fail". If the status is "fail", we will also return error codes and error messages .

Function Name	Inputs	Outputs	Notes
limited_pet_details <i>Get the limited details for a single pet.</i>	pet_id version (default: 1)	See, "Limited Pet Details Output Data Structures"	

Limited Pet Details Output Data Structures

When successful, the [limited_pet_details](#) method returns a structure containing information about the requested pet, as well as info about the shelter that is placing the animal for adoption.

Specifically, a successful response will contain a [pet](#) structure with an extensive list of attributes and values for the pet and its shelter. Additionally, if and only if the pet has any associated photos, the [pets](#) structure will also contain an [images](#) sub-structure with its own attributes and value pair(s) related to the pet photo(s).

The tables below describe the fields that may be returned in the [limited_pet_details](#) response:

pet Structure version 1

Name	Type	Description	Example
primary_breed	String		American Bulldog
species	String		Dog
act_quickly	Boolean	If it's important to adopt this pet soon	0
addr_city	String	Shelter address	Los Angeles
addr_state_code	String	Shelter address	CA
age	String		Puppy
automap	Boolean	Show a link to a map of the location	0
color	String		White
hair_length	String		Long

pet_details_url	String	URL of official pet details page	https://www.adoptapet.com/pet/625204-richmond-indiana-beagle-mix
pet_id	Integer	Internal unique identifier	67616
pet_name	String		Fluffy
purebred	Boolean		1
secondary_breed	String		Shih Tzu
sex	String		Female
size	String		Med. 26-60 lbs (12-27 kg)
special_needs	Boolean		1
images	Structure	One photo for the pet – see below	See images Sub-Structure

pet Structure version 2

Name	Type	Description	Example
primary_breed	String		American Bulldog
species	String		Dog
act_quickly	Boolean	If it's important to adopt this pet soon	0
addr_city	String	Shelter address	Los Angeles
addr_state_code	String	Shelter address	CA
age	String		Puppy
automap	Boolean	Show a link to a map of the location	0
color	String		White
hair_length	String		Long
pet_details_url	String	URL of official pet details page	https://www.adoptapet.com/pet/625204-richmond-indiana-beagle-mix
pet_id	Integer	Internal unique identifier	67616
pet_name	String		Fluffy

purebred	Boolean		0
secondary_breed	String		Shih Tzu
sex	String		Female
size	String		Med. 26-60 lbs (12-27 kg)
special_needs	Boolean		0
images	Structure	One photo for the pet – see below	See images Sub-Structure
experienced_adopter	Boolean	Whether or not this pet needs an experienced adopter (version 2).	0
family_label	String	This will either be 'breed' or 'species' depending on the type of pet. (version 2)	Breed

images Sub-Structure

Name	Type	Description	Example
thumbnail_url	String		https://s3.amazonaws.com/pet-uploads.adoptapet.com/e/2/5/92794427.jpg
thumbnail_width	Integer		125
thumbnail_height	Integer		75
original_url	String	URL to largest available version of the image	https://s3.amazonaws.com/pet-uploads.adoptapet.com/6/f/3/92702234.jpg
original_width	Integer		300
original_height	Integer		250

It is possible that pet details could be requested for a pet which has become unavailable. In this case, a successful response will still be returned, but the pet structure will simply contain one attribute/value pair: "pet_state: unavailable".

A note on the **family_label** field: When displaying a pet's details the primary_breed and secondary_breed might contain a species of animal instead of a breed for some types of animals

(e.g. small_animal: hamster or farm_animal: sheep). For those type of animals (small_animal, reptile and farm_animal) the family_label field will be set to the string 'species' and for the rest it will be 'breed'. When displaying primary_breed and secondary_breed, you should label it with family_label to be most accurate.

Sample Request - Response

Request limited_pet_details:

/search/limited_pet_details?key=bf650513c89d8132d9a1d2888973198d&v=1&pet_id=27750126

Response:

```
"status": "ok",
"pet": {
  "primary_breed": "Chihuahua",
  "species": "Dog",
  "act_quickly": 0,
  "addr_city": "Atascadero",
  "addr_state_code": "CA",
  "age": "Senior",
  "automap": 0,
  "color": "Tan/Yellow/Fawn",
  "hair_length": null,
  "pet_id": 27750126,
  "pet_name": "Diego ",
  "pet_code": "1441471",
  "last_modified": "2020-02-12T17:14:59",
  "purebred": null,
  "secondary_breed": "Dachshund",
  "sex": "Male",
  "size": "Small 25 lbs (11 kg) or less",
  "special_needs": null,
  "images": [
    {
      "thumbnail_url": "https://pet-uploads-staging.adoptapet.com/8/e/e/466182578.jpg",
      "thumbnail_width": 125,
      "thumbnail_height": 167,
      "original_url": "https://pet-uploads-staging.adoptapet.com/5/8/e/466182576.jpg",
      "original_width": 247,
      "original_height": 329
    }
  ],
  "video_url": "https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2j3po8Edfo",
  "pet_details_url": "https://www-staging.adoptapet.com/pet/27750126-atascadero-california-chihuahua-mix"
```

Error Codes

API function call responses will always include a top level attribute of `status` and a value of `fail` in the event of an error. A nested `error` data structure will also be included in the response, and it has the following attributes:

- `code` – required, a numeric code from the table below
- `msg` – required, a technical name from the table below
- `details` – optional, additional free-form text explaining the error. For validation errors, we return a data structure with records for "missing," "invalid," and "unknown" elements.

The table below describes failure error codes that may be returned from API function calls:

Error Code	Error Message	Meaning
400	input_invalid	A field had invalid or badly formatted data
401	invalid_key	The API key submitted was invalid, or was submitted from an unauthorized domain
403	access_denied	Your partner account does not have permission to perform the request submitted
412	input_missing	A required field was not submitted in the request.
500	tech_failure	The system was not able to complete your request for some other reason
503	resource_unavailable	The system has received too many requests from you and will not complete your request