



INDIAN RIVERS HUMANE SOCIETY

PO Box 264 Aylett, VA 23009 • 804-885-3109

ANIMAL INTAKE POLICY

Effective January 2026

Indian Rivers Humane Society (IRHS) places animals in foster homes while they await adoption and manages a feral cat colony. Because we do not operate a physical shelter, our capacity to accommodate animals depends on the availability and suitability of foster homes, which can vary for both dogs and cats.

When a foster home is available, IRHS acquires animals through the following channels:

- Transfer from another Virginia Releasing Agency: As our service area encompasses King William, King & Queen, and Essex Counties, we source animals from King William Regional Animal Shelter and Tappahannock-Essex County Animal Shelter.
- Owner Surrender: This option is reserved exclusively for individuals who previously adopted the animal from IRHS and are no longer able to provide care.
- Stray or Abandoned Animals: This category is limited to cats, which are typically identified as feral. After being altered, these cats are placed within a managed feral colony. In some cases, such as when a mother cat and kittens are involved, the kittens may enter our adoption program. Occasionally, cats initially considered feral may be determined to be suitable for adoption. We encourage members of the public to report stray or abandoned animals to their respective Municipal Shelters and to surrender them there when appropriate.

We do not accept animals:

1. From owners who did not adopt the animal from us.
2. Seized lawfully by an Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer, or Humane Investigator.
3. Involved in a Bite Case Quarantine.
4. From out-of-state Releasing Agencies.
5. When there is no available foster home.

APPROVED BY:

Benjamin Shumaker

Benjamin Shumaker, President IRHS

December 19, 2025

Date