

Roanoke Valley SPCA Intake & Return Policy

Our goal at the Roanoke Valley SPCA is to always act within the best interest of an animal to prevent suffering. As with most non-profit organizations, we must meet our goals within the confines of our resources.

Intake Policy

The Roanoke Valley SPCA receives animals from a variety of sources but, primarily from owner relinquishments and transfers from other releasing agencies or rescue groups.

The Behavior & Intake Coordinator coordinates all intakes and transfers, typically Monday through Friday.

Owner Relinquishment appointments are handled on a case-by-case basis. Dogs and cats (including prior RVSPCA pets) are required to schedule their intake by appointment and must be behaviorally evaluated prior to intake and cats must be FeLV/FIV negative.

Transfers from other agencies are coordinated as space allows. Prior to transfer, dogs and cats are behaviorally evaluated and cats must be FeLV/FIV negative. Dogs brought in from out of state must also test Heartworm negative and be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian and receive the appropriate Health Certificate for travel. Cats are not received from out of state.

Return Policy

The Roanoke Valley SPCA will accept returned animals within 30 days of adoption at any time, for any reason, with no exceptions.

Animals returned after 30 days will receive an appointment for assessment for return when space is available. Such animals will be examined by the veterinarian and intake coordinator to determine the current needs of the animal and if the RVSPCA is able to meet these needs the animal will be accepted. The animals that are accepted on return will either enter the adoption program or be placed in a foster home for appropriate medical/behavioral care.

If the RVSPCA is unable to meet the needs of the animal the owners will be educated about other options including RVSPCA programs to assist with food expenses, medical care and temporary sheltering.

A note about stray animals

The Roanoke Valley SPCA does not typically admit stray pets into our center for the following reasons:

- Guardians who have lost their pets need a central location to find them, and that is the local municipal agency (pound). If your beloved pet were ever lost, you would want to be able to look in one central location for him/her instead of checking every shelter within your community.
- Under state law, stray animals must be held for a mandatory stray period in order to provide guardians adequate time to locate their lost pets. As a safe shelter, the Roanoke Valley SPCA must fully utilize all available shelter space to save as many lives as possible. This is best achieved by allowing animal control agencies to perform the function of impounding stray pets as is required of them by law.