

From AWLA Website:

What to Expect

Surrendering ownership of your pet

The League accepts owner surrenders from residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. If you reside in another jurisdiction, call your local animal shelter or humane society first. We may not have the space to accept surrenders from people residing in other jurisdictions.

In order to best help your pet, we conduct an interview with the owners of all incoming animals. The staff who do these interviews are available from 9am-7pm weekdays and 9am-4pm on weekends. During this interview we gather all the information a future adopter might need about your pet. We also determine if your pet is a good candidate for our adoption program. We will not place an animal for adoption that is a danger to the community.

Please call us during the previously mentioned hours at 703-931-9241 to discuss surrendering your pet. You will need to bring a photo ID with your current address and your pet's medical records. You will be required to sign a release form giving the League legal ownership of the animal. Once you have signed the release statement, you may not reclaim your pet, so please be sure that you have made the right decision for you and your pet. You are welcome to call the League to check on the pet's status.

Pet's medical records

It is extremely important for you to bring any medical records you have for your pet. A lack of medical information can delay the time it takes to evaluate your pet, and thus delay its availability for adoption.

Pet personality profile

We will ask you to fill out a "personality profile" about your pet. The information about its health, behavior, habits, likes, and dislikes is really helpful to people considering your pet for adoption and helps us decide what kind of home would be best for it. You can [download the surrender profile](#) and bring it in with you.

Please be honest when answering these questions; let us know if your pet has a history of biting, refuses to use the litter box, has a serious or chronic medical condition, or any other problem. Your answers help to determine whether or not your animal should be put up for adoption. It is unfair to pass on severe behavioral or medical issues to another family.

Animal control SOPs

Picking Up Owned Companion Animals – Surrender

The caller should be told to bring the animal to the Shelter during normal business hours for surrender. However, **if the owner lacks transportation, or is not capable (elderly, handicapped or indisposed)** of, or, if in the staff's judgment, the animal is at risk, an officer may pick up the animal and have the owners sign a release, making sure they understand they cannot reclaim the animal.

It's important to obtain a pet personality profile (see example of personality profile in *Forms Section*) if the animal appears adoptable.

Officers must advise the owner that there is a possibility the pet may be euthanized. If there is no doubt about euthanasia (for example, if the animal is extremely ill with a chronic problem or in cases of severe aggression), that must be made that clear to the owner. The release slip should be amended to state that the animal will be euthanized and they are to understand that this is an OWNER REQUEST EUTHANASIA; this is to be read to the owner by the ACO/staff member picking up the animal and the person relinquishing must sign it

Safekeeping

Residents of Arlington County or Falls Church City who are experiencing a crisis, may request that the shelter house their pets on a short-term basis. Eviction is not considered a crisis as residents are given ample notice to make arrangements for their pets. **SAFEKEEPING MUST BE APPROVED BY AN AWLA DIRECTOR. If an Arlington County resident does not have transportation to bring the pet in, an officer may be dispatched to pick up the animal and to have the owner sign a safekeeping agreement (see example of safekeeping agreement in *Forms Section*).**

Small dogs can ride the Metrorail (subway) and Metrobus with their owners as long as they remain locked in their pet carriers. Arlington Red Top Cab will transport people with their pet at no addition fee. Both **Uber** and Lyft let the decision to allow dogs in their cars rest with the drivers. This means that some drivers may decline you while others would be happy to oblige to your **dog-friendly** ride request.