**SHELTER INTAKE POLICY Updated 2.26.2020**

**Purpose**: This policy is to outline how Richmond Animal League (“RAL”) intakes cats and dogs, including how staff and volunteers make determinations regarding intake of cats and dogs into the RAL shelter.

1. **Goals/Strategy.** RAL is committed to a strategy whereby it (1) accepts pets from municipal shelters throughout Central Virginia and outside of the area as determined by need and available space, (2) accepts animals who have needs greater than other shelters may be able to accommodate if we believe that we can restore a good quality of life through supportive services, and (3) collaborates with other organizations to improve our collective adoption and foster outcomes. Through this approach, RAL’s goal is to save animals who are at risk of being euthanized and do not have any other rescue or adoption commitments, thereby, reducing the kill rate at municipal animal control agencies. We will continue to accept healthy animals that need only standard veterinary care and/or spay/neuter before they are ready for adoption.
2. **Intake Generally.** RAL populates its shelter by transferring pets at risk of euthanasia from our animal control partners in the Central Virginia region. RAL does not generally take pets directly from the public, including owner surrendered pets and stray pets found by the public; however, exceptions may be made by the Kennel Director depending on the capacity and capabilities of the shelter at the time.
3. **Nondiscrimination on Intake**. RAL does not discriminate against a pet when evaluating it for intake based on age, size, appearance, or supposed breed, and strives to include the most in-need animals in its shelter population. All shapes, sizes and breeds of pets are welcome at RAL.